

# Working Children in Aizawl, Mizoram: A Situational Analysis

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the degree of Master of Philosophy in  
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**Mizoram University**

**December, 2015**

**Declaration**

I, Runremsangi, hereby declare that the subject matter of this thesis is the record of work done by me, that the contents of this thesis did not form basis of the award of any previous degree to me or to do 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.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAY	:	Antyodaya Anna Yojana
APL	:	Above Poverty Line
BPL	:	Below Poverty Line
CRC	:	Conventions of Rights of the Child
DPEP	:	District Primary Education Programme
FGD	:	Focus Group Discussion
GOI	:	Government of India
ICCPR	:	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
IPEC	:	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
NAECL	:	National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour
NCLP	:	National child Labour Project scheme
NCPCR	:	National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights
NGO	:	Non Governmental Organization
NHRC	:	National Human Rights Commission
NIPCCD	:	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development
NSSO	:	National Sample Survey Organization
PRA	:	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
UN	:	United Nations
UNICEF	:	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
YMA	:	Young Mizo Association



This study attempts to find out the demographic profile of working children in Aizawl, Mizoram, the causes and consequences of children working and their environment at work. The study shall also suggest measures for social work intervention and social policy.

This chapter shall discuss the issue of child labour at the international, national and regional level. It shall also delve into the dynamics of child labour and give a conceptual understanding of what is meant by child labour and working children.

Children are the most valuable resource of a nation. Politically, socially and economically children are the seeds of future national growth. Children are the key to national development. Every nation links its future with the present status of its children. Therefore, they need to be protected with care (Khulshrestha, 1978). According to Rao (1974), "Social Justice must begin with children". Unless children are properly tendered and nourished, they have little chance to grow strong and be useful for the nation.

Child labour is a burning problem all over the world, both in developed and developing countries. Though several attempts were made and are being made to eradicate mitigate child labour at national and international levels, yet, the magnitude has been increasing at an alarming rate, particularly in the third world countries. Government has taken various legislative steps to protect children from being harm. But exploitation of children in different ways is still continuing all over the world. In the book of 'Child Labour a Global Challenge,' we see that child labour is a complex socio-economic and universal phenomenon. It is the need of the hour to find out the causative factors leading to child labour in a scientific, rationalist, and pragmatic approach. The intrinsic nature of the worst form of child labour is bearing on socio-economic and other multiple causes are being accepted, and it is a mixture, of both illiteracy and poverty (In Sandilya & Khan 2006).

Child labour is not a new phenomenon in India. In the pre- industrial era also, children were engaged to work in agriculture and trade occupations, cottage industries and in

artisan and craftsmen operations. However, the work performed by them was not so arduous. These works were considered good for their recreation and education. The process of industrialization in India brought about fundamental changes in the mode of production and in the relationship of productive factors. The mechanization made agriculture productive and capital –intensive. The people those who have small and non-viable land holdings had to give up their lands and work for the richer in the village or migrate to cities for their survival. From this purpose, urbanization, unemployment and poverty compelled the whole family. The profit motivated and businessmen began to look for cheap labour. Child labour was found to be cheaper, easily available and dispensable. Children are the cheapest to hire and easiest to fire. Thus began the exploitation of children. The exploitation of children in the labour market continues to go unnoticed and the public apathy allows it to be perpetuated (In Dak, 2002)

ILO (2000) estimated that adolescents aged between 15-17 years engaged in hazardous work were 17.8 per cent. Hazardous work incidence among children age between 5-14 years old was 9.3 per cent. According to their estimate in 2012, out of a total of 47.5 million, adolescents aged 15 to 17 years, 13 per cent were in hazardous work and children aged between 5-14 years engaged in hazardous work was 3.1 percent. According to IPEC (2013), in 2012, the total children in the world are 15, 85,566 from these children; children in employment are 2, 64,427 (16.7%).

Dak (2002) highlighted the characteristics of working condition of working children. According to him, they suffer from low remuneration, excessive hours of work, physical and emotional abuse, malnutrition, poor working and unhealthy living conditions, hazardous work and unsafe working conditions and bonded labour. During bondage, the children suffer multi-dimensional exploitation such as economic exploitation, physical exploitation and social exploitation.

Boyden, Ling & Myers (1998) highlighted several theoretical factors contributing to child labour. They are as follows:

**a) Child labour as a contribution to the family**

According to the theory, most children start to work on command or at least by a request from their family. In many cases children work simply for the reason that they are told to, some voluntary and some against their will. Most children work because the family need help both with contributing to the family income and help with unpaid household work. As children often value themselves as a part of the family unit, most children say that it is plausible to contribute to the household, especially when the family survival depends upon it.

**b) Child labour as a means of self-actualization**

The principal argument of this theory is that many children would want to work to be matured, independent and to enjoy.

**c) Child labour as a consequence of family-dynamics**

According to this theory, child labour is a result of inadequate family decision-making or relationships. Child labour exists because of ignorance of the importance of education and breakdown in values in parents. This theory also explains child labour because of household size, age and gender differentiation in families, and level of education of parents, occupations and single headed households.

**d) Child labour as a result of poverty**

According to this theory poverty is one of the common causes of child labour. A child is more likely to work if he comes from a poor family.

According to Breton (1981) the prime consequences of child labour are absence of a harmonious family life, insufficient spare time for play and cultural activities corresponding to the child's age, exposure to social risks, health risk, lack of opportunities to acquire the basic general and professional knowledge necessary for their normal mental and intellectual

development and to permit them to be successful in their entry into their future professional and social lives. The most destructive consequence of child labour is that it affects the quality of life. It permanently damages the social development skills of the concerned children.

Human Rights Watch (1996) states that there are a number of legal provisions, including laws, acts, declarations, conventions, prohibiting child labour have been made at the international and national levels. The following international human rights conventions prohibit the practice of child labour. India is a party to all of them, and as such is legally bound to comply with their terms. They are:

- a) Convention on the prevention and suppression of slave trade and all forms of slavery, 1926 (Signed at Geneva on 25th September, 1926).
- b) Supplementary Convention on the abolition of slavery, the slave trade, and institutions and practices similar to slavery, 1956. (Done at Geneva, 7th Sept.1956).
- c) International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966 prohibits slavery and the slave trade in all their forms, (UN Doc. A/6316, 1966).
- d) Convention on the Rights of the child, 1989.

A plethora of national laws, some dating back to the 1930s, and offer protection from exploitation to India's working children. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act of 1976 is, for the purposes of this report, the most significant and far-reaching of these laws. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, and the other pieces of protective legislation that apply in varying circumstances to the situation of the child labourer, are betrayed by an extremely low rate of enforcement.

GOI (2002) highlights several constitutional provisions against child labour. Article-23 prohibits traffic in human beings and forced labour. Article-24 prohibits employment of

children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines, or in any other hazardous employment and Article 45 provides for early childhood care and education for children until the age of six years and further Article-21(A) provides for free and compulsory education of children of the age of six to fourteen years. Article-51-A (k) provides for fundamental duties of parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education of children between the ages of six to fourteen years.

In India, there are several legislations pertaining to child labour. The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933 prohibits the making of agreements to pledge the labour of children and the employment of children whose labour has been pledged. Any such agreement is void and penalties would be imposed for violation of the act. The Factories Act of 1948 also prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factory. The law also employs rules on whom, when and how long can pre-adults aged 15–18 years are employed in any factory. The Mines Act of 1952 prohibits the employment of children below 18 years of age in a mine. The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961 defines a child as a person below 15 years and their employment is prohibited. The Apprentices Act, 1961 prohibits person below 14 years to undergo apprenticeship training in any designated trade, unless he is above 14 years of age. The total number of hours for apprentice shall be 42 hours to hours per week, including the time spent on related instructions. The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 prohibits employment of children below 14 years. No young person (below 14 and 18) shall be required or allowed to work except between 6 a.m to 7 p.m.

In 1986, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act was passed. This act prohibits employment of children below 14 years in hazardous occupation. Kesari (2014) however, states that the Act does not apply to the units that employ family labour, and according to the estimates of the Planning Commission, normally 58 per cent of the children work in the family run units. The sub-contracting of the work and mushrooming of home-

based units have resulted in shifting child labour from the organized to the unorganized sector which, at present, does not attract legislative controls or supervision.

Further, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act of 2000 states that child labour is a crime, punishable with a prison term, for anyone to procure or employ a child in any hazardous employment or in bondage. Mehta & Jaswal (1997) has highlighted some of the sections of the Act. Section 2 (d) (i) (a) defines “working child as children in need of care and protection”. Section 23 of the Act highlights “punishment for exposing child to cruelty and causing mental or physical suffering” and punishment is 6 months imprisonment and fine. Section 24 of the Act also include “punishment for employing children” i.e. 3 years imprisonment and fine. It also includes punishment for abetment for begging which is 1 year imprisonment and fine. Further, Section 26 of the Act highlights “Punishment for exploitation of child” in hazardous employment, bondage or withholding of earnings that is 3 years imprisonment and fine. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009 also mandates free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years. This legislation also mandated that 25 percent of seats in every private school must be allocated for children from disadvantaged groups and physically challenged children.

According to GOI (2014), the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, has taken efforts to eliminate child labour. “Children who should have been in classrooms but are instead in the workplace will find their rightful place in schools. While it is true that poverty may still force many parents to think of sending their children to work, it is expected that constitutional obligation of educating our children combined with social schemes like midday meals in schools and rural employment guarantee schemes will have a positive impact on eradicating many social evils including child labour”.

Josh (2015) highlighted various programmes relating to elimination of child labour in India. They are as follows:

- a) National policy on Child Labour, 1987: Here the thrust area is the general development programmes benefitting children wherever possible and project based approach in the areas of high concentration of child labourers in the country.
- b) International programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), 1991: The objective of this programme is to contribute to the effective abolition of child labour in India.
- c) Child labour eradication Programme, 1994: This programme aims to shift child labour from hazardous industries to schools.
- d) National authority for the elimination of child labour (NAECL), 1994: This is one mechanism that lays down the policies and programmes for the elimination of child labour especially in hazardous industries.
- e) Education department and district primary Education Programme (DPEP), 1994: This programme attempts to revitalize the primary education system and to achieve the object of universalisation of primary education for young children.
- f) National child Labour Project scheme (NCLP), 1998: This scheme is meant for establishing special schools for child labour who are withdrawn from work.
- g) National Commission for the protection of child rights (NCPCR), 2007: This Commission protects, promote and defend child rights in the country.

In spite of the various programmes that exist in India, child labour persists abundantly. According to Bhupen & Nirmalendu (2014), child labour is very a serious and enormously complex social problem in India. Children are forced to work for 18 hours a day. They suffer from malnutrition, impaired vision, deformities from sitting long hours in cramped over crowded work places; they become easy preys to deadly diseases, lead solitary lives

away from their families, deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities that could prepare them for a better future. Child labour not only leads to cycles of poverty for a family but also affects the economy.

According to Rustom (1995) "Child labour has become a widespread problem all over the world, including India. India has the largest number of child labourers work in the agriculture sector. Other major areas of work are matches and fire-works factories, bidi rolling, diamond polishing, handicrafts, rag picking, carpet making and the hotel industry".

Child labour is not a matter which can be solved by mere legislation. Most of the acts enacted were only applicable to the workers in organized sectors whereas, the majority of children work in unorganized sector. The committee on child labour observed that "the problem of child labour, by and large, has lost its poignancy in the organized sector of employment but has assumed alarming proportions in the unorganized sector". According to Mendelivich "there is a fact a vicious circle here: on the one hand, child labour increases unemployment among adults and reduces their incomes, on the other, the unemployment and low wages of adults force them to put their children to work in order to boost the family income. Thus, child labour simultaneously increases and reduce the family income, but as it is clear, it reduces rather than increases that income" (In Chenna 2007).

According to 1991 census on child labour 11.28 million children are working out of which 2 million are working in hazardous occupations. Child labour in India is the largest in the world with 5.5 per cent of the total child population working as child labour (In Pachua 2014). According to Sai (2014) "The total number of working children in the country has declined from 1.26 crore as per the Census 2001 to 43.53 lakh as per Census 2011 which shows 65 per cent reduction," According to Census 2001 and Census 2011 in India, the number of working children in the age group 5-14 years are 1,26,66,377 in 2001 and a



43,53,247 in 2011. According to the 2011 Census the 10 highest states in relation to child labour are Uttar Pradesh with 8,96,301 working children , Maharashtra with 4,96,916, Bihar with 4,51,590, Andhra Pradesh with 4,04,851, Madhya Pradesh with 2,86,310, Rajasthan with 2,52,338, Haryana with 2,50,318, Karnataka with 2,49,432, West Bengal with 2,34,275 and Tamil Nadu with 1,51,437.

NIPCCD (2012) reported the distribution of children according to two categories such as main and marginal workers in 2001. According to the report, in Arunachal Pradesh, children who are main workers are 8,347, marginal workers are 10,135 and they total to 18,482. In Assam, main workers are 1,35,677, marginal workers are 2,15,739 and their total is 3,51,416. And in Manipur the main workers are 1,039, marginal workers are 18,442 and they total to 19,481. In Meghalaya, the main workers are 2,548, marginal workers 28,457, and their total is 31,005. In Sikkim, main workers are 6,443; marginal workers are 10,014, which total to 16,457. In Tripura main workers are 9,143; marginal workers are 12,613, and the total to 21,756. Further in Mizoram the main workers are 5,176, marginal workers are 21,089 and their total is 26,265. Last but not the least; Nagaland has 21,527 main workers, and 24,347 marginal workers which total to 45,874.

Lalthangliana (1992), Lalrinmawia (1995), Lalkima (1997), Lalthanga (1999), Lalbiaknema (2000) and Lalrinawma (2005) revealed that in traditional Mizo society, there was no formal education for children. All the children were born to work in the jhum. There was less social institution for education and the 'Zawlbuk' institution (Boys Dormitory) was restricted to males only. Before attaining 13 years of age, children were not expected to work in the jhum for family; however, boys were expected to collect firewood every day for the 'Zawlbuk'. They were often sent on other errands by the bachelors. They spent less time with their family except when it was time to sleep and time for meal. The girls, however, spend more time with the family than boys. Their major work was restricted to household chores

like-carrying water, washing, cooking, and caring babies, sewing, weaving and grinding rice. They had no opportunities to have knowledge other than the household work. They had less free time for recreational activities. In traditional Mizo society, most of the time, parents were not at home and showed little care to their children. Therefore, children grew up without proper parental care and concern. Children, boys and girls, were threatened and ridiculed by adults. In a study conducted by Pachuau (2014) there are few historical evidence about the care and protection of children in Mizoram, there is little data on children in need of care and protection in Mizoram. A comparative analysis on gender is also non-existent.

From the above, we see that, Mizo children worked hard from a very young age in their respective duties. As they were trained to be diligent, their abilities and thoughts were neglected.

According to GOI (2002), in Mizoram, children who are considered as main workers constitute 6391. The marginalized workers constitute 10,020. The total number of working children is 16,411. According to ILO (2007) the number of working children in Mizoram between the ages 5-14 years has been increasing. In 1981 Census, there were 6314 working children and in 1991 Census working children accounted for 16,411 increasing further to 26265 in 2001 Census. The State/UT with the highest share of workers aged 5-14 years in the total population of the State/UT was Mizoram (12.34 per cent). An annual report compiled by SSA, Aizawl District, 2005-2006 shows that the total number of children below 14 years not going to school in Aizawl District is 226 out of which 106 are males and 120 are females. The reasons of dropping out include lack of interest, household work, and migration, earning compulsion, failure and socio-cultural reasons (In Pachuau, 2014).

## **1.1 Concepts**

### **1.1.1 Child**

A child according to the Juvenile Justice (Care and protection of children) Act, 2000 is “a person who has not completed their eighteenth years of age”.

### **1.1.2 Child Labour**

The term ‘child labour’ means different things to different societies. A universally accepted definition of child labour is not available. A distinction is often made between child work and child labour. Child work refers to occasional light work done by children which in most of the societies is considered to be an integral part of the child’s socialization process. While helping parents at home and in family farms, children learn to take responsibility and pride in their own activities, acquire certain skills and prepare themselves for the tasks of adulthood, ‘child labour’ implies something different in which young people are being exploited or overwork or deprived of their rights to health, education or just to childhood. It impairs their health, their overall physical, mental and social growth (I.S.D, 1997).

According to Jayanti (1998), the concept of child labour is complex in its nature. The word ‘child labour’ is a combination of two components, i.e. ‘child’ in terms of his chronological age, and ‘labour’ in terms of its nature, quantum and income generating capacity.

According to V.V Giri (1958) the term ‘child labour is commonly interpreted in two different ways: first, as an economic practice and second, as social evil. In the first context it signifies employment of children in gainful occupations with a view to adding to the total income of the family. It is the second sense that the term child labour is now more generally used. In assessing the nature and extent of social evil, it is necessary to take into account the character of the jobs on which children are engaged, the danger to which they are exposed and the opportunities of development of which they have been denied.’

### **1.1.3. Operational Definition**

In this study 'working children' shall include those children who have not completed their 18 years of age and "pre-maturely leading adult lives, working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful educational and training opportunities that could open up for them a better future"(ILO in Mehta &Jaswal 1997).They are those children who work in or outside the family that involves any kind of activity which affects the all round development of the child concerned(NIPCCD, 2002).

### **1.2Statement of the Problem**

Child labour in India is an issue that needs urgent attention. India is home to the highest number of working children in the world. Therefore, this very fact confirms the need to address the issue of child labour in India.

Children are subjected to conditions beyond their control. When they work, their physical mental and spiritual wellbeing is threatened. They suffer from developmental delay, they are injured and sometimes they even lose their lives either immediately or due to the effects of child labour. The dynamic of child labour is such that it is deeply rooted in the socio - economic lives of families. It is sometimes perceive to be a traditional product or sometimes seen as a positive reinforcement of socialization. Never the less as long as their physical, mental, spiritual development of the child is effected, it is in direct contravention with the rights of the child enshrined in the constitution of India and International Conventions of Rights of the Child (CRC).

There are some considerable difficulties in doing research into child labour. Firstly, working children are often hidden from the public sphere and are thus hard to find. Secondly, research about child labour can pose a threat to the people benefiting from their work. Finally

research into child labour also challenges governments or organizations which are reluctant to criticize their own policies. It is common for the researcher to be exposed by suspicious and adverse local government officials, parents and managers.

Mizoram is not a stranger to child labour. In traditional times, children were made to work at a very early age, both in the household and in the community. Children worked out of social obligations and social initiations. Traditionally, these activities were seen as positive reinforcement for socializing children. In today's world, Mizoram is over shadowed by globalization. Community has been urbanized and traditional institutions that catered to the simple lives of Mizo people have loss its hold. Sustainability has decreased bringing along with it problems of poverty and unemployment. Due to urbanization, there is an increase in the influx of migrants in urban areas. These lead to an increase in the number of working children over the past few decades.

Though, there are ample evidences of literature at the international and national level, there are very few studies conducted in Mizoram. Only the population of working children exists according to whether they are main worker or marginal workers. There are no studies conducted to understand their situations. Their socio-economic background is unknown, there are no objective evidences of their nature of work, why they work and how they are affected due to this challenge. Therefore, this study will act as a bridge and fill the vacuum of ignorance about child labour in Mizoram. It will attempt to find the socio-economic background of working children, causes and consequences of children working and understand the nature of their work. Further, it also attempts to suggest measure for social work intervention and social policy.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

1. To understand the socio-economic characteristics of working children in Aizawl, Mizoram.
2. To find out the causes and consequences of children working in Aizawl, Mizoram.
3. To explore the working environment where children are found working in Aizawl, Mizoram.
4. To have an in depth study on the lived experience of working children in Aizawl, Mizoram.
5. To suggest measures for social work intervention and social policy.

### **1.4 Chapter Scheme**

CHAPTER I	:	Introduction
CHAPTER II	:	Review of Literature
CHAPTER III	:	Methodology
CHAPTER IV	:	Results and Discussions
CHAPTER V	:	Conclusion and Suggestions

This chapter shall cover various research literatures on child labour available across societies. It shall discuss the views and findings of different study in order to understand the dynamics and multi-dimensional aspects of child labour.

According to Basu&Tzannatos (2003), child labour is a global problem. In the academic as well as popular literature, most see child labour as harming vulnerable members of society by exposing them to dangerous and exploitative work. According to them, child labour also harm children because work interferes with the child's ability to attend school and thus lowers human capital, leading to a reduction in lifetime earnings that can perpetuate across generations.

According to Sandilya and Khan (2006), the problem of child labour is the symptom of the disease which is wide spread due to exploitative structure, lopsided development, iniquitous resource ownership with its co-relates of large scale of unemployment and abject poverty among the countries. The existing international economic order perpetuates this 'harsh reality' because powerful multi-national corporations operate and use child labour directly or indirectly, to maximize profits and minimize costs. The poor third world countries faced with acute foreign exchange crisis permit and encourage export of goods using cheap and vulnerable child labour in the hope of improving their foreign exchange reserves and balance of payments crisis. Some of the Indian industries like-carpet industry, lock industry, gem and precious metals, etc. are practicing child labour.

The ILO observes that, "child workers remain concentrated in agriculture, domestic service and the urban informal sector because there they are most hidden from public scrutiny. The abuse of child labour today depends greatly on the invisibility of its victims; employers

often close their child workers in a tight veil of secrecy and isolation. In many countries, most exploited children are not even covered; they are not reached by enforcement agencies. The essential first step in extending effective protection to these children must be the development of means to discover and reach them". A large number of children of tender age are being exploited, and compelled to work for long hours for low wages and under conditions damaging to their health, and to their physical, social, psychological and mental development. Millions of children are thus being deprived of their healthy childhood. According to ILO, hundreds of millions of children around the world are being forced to work often at dangerous or illegal jobs and a rising number of children prostitutes or drug-runners. Many children are employed illegally in dangerous conditions that maim or kill them, while others grow up without education and are condemned to life-long poverty (In Dak 2002).

Children in hazardous work are 85,344 the percentage is 5.4. About one-tenth of the total child population—i.e. 168 million children aged 5-17 years—was involved in child labour in 2012. The global number of child labourers in this age group dropped considerably, from 215 million in 2008 (13.6 %) to 168 million in 2012 (10.6 %). This estimate reveals some differences by sex in terms of overall magnitude of children in employment and its relative incidence. Boys tend to be more involved in employment than are girls (148.3 million versus 116.1 million for girls). The employment rate was 18.1 per cent for boys compared to 15.2 per cent for girls. Moreover, girls tend to be involved in more dangerous jobs than boys, except for the age group 15 to 17 years. The Asia-Pacific region has the largest number of children in employment (64.4 million) in 2012, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (57.6 million), other regions (13 million, of which 7.1 million for the Middle East and North Africa) and Latin America and the Caribbean (9 million). Reliable survey data were too limited to provide number for the group of industrialized



countries. The study further reveals that child labour is primarily concentrated in agriculture (58.6 per cent). While almost one in-third of child labourers is in services sector, industry accounts for only 7.2 per cent of child labourers. The results concerning agriculture and industry are similar to those obtained in 2008 (60 per cent in agriculture and 7 per cent in industry). In relative terms, there is a net increase of child labour in services sector over the last four years, from 25.6 to 32.3 per cent. However, some of this increase could be due in part to the fact that fewer child labourers are in “not classified” category in 2012, pointing to a better measurement of children in services sector. In absolute terms, boys outnumber girls in all sectors as follows: agriculture (60.7 for boys versus 39.3 per cent for girls), industry (69 per cent versus 31 per cent) and services (55.4 per cent versus 44.6 per cent). According to the new estimates, there were some 11.5 million child labourers in domestic in 2012 (4 million among boys and 7.5 million among girls (IPEC 2013).

The Global number of working children has declined by one third since 2000, from 246 million to 168 million children. More than half of them, 85 million, are in hazardous work (down from 171 million in 2000). Asia and the Pacific still has the largest numbers (almost 78 million or 9.3% of child population), but Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the region with the highest incidence of child labour (59 million, over 21%). There are 13 million (8.8%) of children in child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean and in the Middle East and North Africa there are 9.2 million (8.4%). Agriculture remains by far the most important sector where child labourers can be found (98 million, or 59%), but the problems are not negligible in services (54 million) and industry (12 million) – mostly in the informal economy. Child labour among girls fell by 40% since 2000, compared to 25% for boys (IPEC, 2013).

Webbink, Smits and Jong (2010) conducted a study to investigate two 'hidden' forms of child labour namely housework and family business work on the basis of representative data on 178,000 children living in 214 districts in 16 African and Asian countries. The incidence of these child labour forms varies substantially among and within the countries, with national averages ranging from a few to over 15 hours a week and many children work much more. As expected, girls are more involved in housework and boys more in family business work, but this division is not very strict. Most (70-80%) of the variation in both child labour forms is due to household level factors, with socio-economic variables (like parental education, possession of land/cattle) and demographic variables (birth order, number of siblings, missing parents, grandparents present) playing important roles. Supply of education (indicated by adult schooling level) and national level of development (for housework) are the most important context factors. Result of the study indicates that many children spend time on these tasks and that in part of the countries more than a quarter of children spends more than fifteen hours. These results are important because the involvement in these activities could hamper the development of these children. Socio-economic factors influence the engagement in housework to a large extent. In richer households children spend less time on housework. This is also true for children with educated mothers. However, children with educated fathers tend to work more on housework. If the household owns agricultural land or cattle children both boys and girls work more in the family business and boys also tend to work more in the household. Children to be less involved in housework in more developed areas, as measured by national GDP per capita and the district's educational level. For boys also living in more patriarchal districts reduces their involvement in housework. Children living in districts with a more highly educated population work less in the family business. Hence good educational facilities seem to pull children out of child labour.

A study conducted by Galli (2001) through a review of the empirical literature, a structured picture of what is known and what should be known on the economic consequences of child labour. This study contains a theoretical discussion and a literature survey on the economic impact of child labour. Three main categories of economic impact of child labour are analyzed: 1) the effects of child labour at the micro family level, particularly on family poverty both in the short and in the long run; 2) the effects of child labour on long-run growth and social development through a number of different transmission mechanisms; 3) the international economic effects of child labour particularly on foreign direct investment; and 4) the effects of child labour on adult labour market. From the study, the result shows clearly that poverty is the main determinant of child labour, any effort to reduce child labour should take into account that poor families will not survive without the children's earnings and should take actions to make up for the missing income. In education, it reduced enrolment rates and higher dropout is quite large. On the other hand, there is also evidence of children combining school and work, and of higher school attendance rates reached at cost of a decrease in children's leisure time with marginal decrease in child labour. Most activities performed by children working in industries are unskilled, and that early-age entrance into the labour force does not imply higher earnings. Child labour occurs mostly in the unorganized sector and in small units with simple technology and little capital equipment.

Patrick (2013) in his study aimed at exploring the feelings of children about domestic work. The study was non-experimental research as the investigations were conducted in Lusaka City of Zambia which is a natural setting and investigate the impact of child domestic work on children's psychosocial wellbeing. In this study, child domestics, parents and key informants were purposively sampled. In his study Snowball sampling was also used since some child

domestics were hard to find only live-out child domestic workers aged between 10 and 14 years were included in the study. Child domestic work is invisible because each child is separately employed and works in the seclusion of a private house, unlike children in a factory or on the street and it is a part of the informal labour market which is unregistered and does not show up clearly in employment statistics. The findings of the study revealed that children strongly expressed sadness and concern that domestic work deprives them of family life, time to play, socialize, and interact with peers. Since child domestics spend most of their time at place of work, they do not have enough time to interact with their peers and be with family members. They skip the stage when they need parental care and learning. So, children are emotional about their isolation from families and friends. The findings of the study showed that children complained of abuses such as physical, emotional and sexual abuse. The findings also revealed that children felt humiliated or degraded because they are shouted at and criticized by their employers for simple mistakes. To this effect, children's emotional wellbeing is affected because they are always worried about the forms of abuse that they experience at work places in these private homes. Children are subjected to poor terms of employment and working conditions that violate their human and labour rights. They work at the mercy of their employers because they do not have terms of agreements and signed contracts, and hence they are not entitled to paid leave days and terminal benefits. In this regard, employers fire children at any time without even prior notice. This is distressing for the children because they are not sure of their future.

According to Khulshrestha (1978), child labour is socio-economic problem. He considered that illiteracy, ignorance, low wages, unemployment, low standard of living, and social life are roots of child labour. According to him, there may be many cause of child

laboursuch as poverty, inadequate income of adult bread earners of the family, large family size, cheap labour, absence of any provision for compulsory education and illiteracy.

According to World Development Report (1998), 'the demand for children can be expected to increase in part due to wealth effect (with higher wages farm families' area able to afford larger families) but largely due to the greater opportunity for child employment on the farm and the higher return of child labour. The marginal productivity of all household members' increases and this has been observed in several agricultural societies in India.

Burra (1995) states that child labour in India is rampant and laws and programmes that exist are not enforced properly. According to her study children in India are engaged in work that is unsafe and unhealthy. They start working at a very young age and work for long hours at a very low wage. They have no other skills and are uneducated.

According to UNICEF, the basic right to education has been denied to millions of children. In developing countries like India, 45 per cent of the children complete the primary education. More than hundred millions children in the age group of 6 to 11 years never got to school and of these 60 per cent were girls. The intervention of governmental and voluntary agencies with regard to education has made very little impact (In Robinson 2003).

The ILO's view that child labour can hardly be legislated away because its roots lie in abject poverty. The causes of child labour are many and interrelated. Poverty is said to be the major factor of child labour, it is not the only factor and the reasons of child labour are clubbed with many factors like family size, economic constraints, case factor, curriculum, infrastructure, distance, psychological. Millions of children all over the world today are working many in servitude and under hazardous conditions. A large number of children of tender age are being

exploited, and compelled to work for long hours for low wages and under conditions damaging to their health, and to their physical, social, psychological and mental development. Millions of children are thus of their healthy childhood (Chenna, 2007).

The most common causes of child labour are poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, ignorance and indebtedness and negligence from the part of their parents/caregivers, the reason for which earning compulsion begins at a very early age. Its nature is such that it deprives the right of the child to holistic development and cripples economic and social advancement. (NIPCCD, 2002)

According to Mishra a former secretary (Labour), Govt. of India, “child labour breeds poverty and poverty breeds child labour”. A child destroyed at a tender age cannot grow up to be a productive member of civil society. According to him, for eradication of child labour, the eradication of the poverty of the parents is very essential. Since 300 million people in India are below poverty line, poverty cannot be eradicated over the night. Kabeer (2001), Kannan (2001), Ramchandran & Massun (2002) studies indicate that poverty clearly has a role to play in explaining the incidence of child labour by means of an absence of demand or the inability to pay for education, it does not constitute an insurmountable barrier noted that income, poverty and female education, fertility rate and agricultural productivity are the important factors to determine the child labour. According to National Human rights commission (NHRC,) child labour is a concrete manifestation of denial of rights of children. Working children are denied their rights to survival and development, education, leisure and play, opportunity for developing their physical and mental talents, and protection from abuse and neglect (In Chhina 2009).

In rural areas it is still an unfortunate reality that the child who does not attend a formal school is a working child. Collection of water, fuel, household chores and taking care of younger

siblings all constitutes important elements of a child's life in such circumstances. Even though they are exclude from the hazardous work, the kind of work children are exposed to interfere with the normal development of the child and in the child's ability to reach his/her true potential in which they violate the convention on the right of the child (Batra, 2004).

According to the Census 2001 figures there are 1.26 crore working children in the age group of 5-14 as compared to the total child population of 25.2 crore. There are approximately 12 lakhs children working in the hazardous occupations/processes which are covered under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act i.e. 18 occupations and 65 processes. As per survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05, the number of working children is estimated at 90.75 lakh. As per Census 2011, the number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years has further reduced to 43.53 lakh. It shows that the efforts of the Government have borne the desired fruits.(GOI 2014)

In 2001, an estimated 1% of all child workers, or about 120,000 children in India were in a hazardous job. UNICEF estimates that India with its larger population has the highest number of labourers in the world less than 14 years of age, while sub-Saharan African countries have the highest percentage of children who are deployed as child labour. International Labour Organization estimates that agriculture at 60 percent is the largest employer of child labour in the world, while United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization estimates 70% of child labour is deployed in agriculture and related activities. Outside of agriculture, child labour is observed in almost all informal sectors of the Indian economy (ILO 2008 & India Census 2001).

A study conducted by Bharati & Kesari (2014) revealed that child labour in unorganized sector in India. Unorganized sector covers about half of the GDP of our country. This study carried out child labor construction workers, agriculture laborers and domestic helpers working

in the unorganized sector in the India. This sector is characterized by seasonal employment (in agricultural sector) contractual work, no social security and welfare legislations, no rights and minimum wages. Lack of skill and education, few new openings in organized sector, unawareness of legal rights, deficient work quality and terms of service draws the labor into the available vortex of the unorganized sector. In India around thirty core people are working in the unorganized sector and the number is on the rise. The meaning of unorganized sector, popularly known as unprotected sector, could be without regular source of income and working throughout the year Here they face problems like poor health conditions, substandard working life, and harassment at work, inadequate and unequal wage structure, long working hours, poor housing facilities, lack of safety measures, and no proper education for children of workers. They constitute the fringes of society and are not getting a chance to be a part of the mainstream economy. From this study we see that many legal protection systems to prevent child labour in India .But child labour increase at time to time in unorganized sector in India. So we can say child labour and unorganized sector are big question marks in India.

Dube (2013),studied child labour in Beedi Industry, this is one of the main unorganized industries where the production process involves less capital, no machinery and is labour intensive, factors which make it highly conducive for involving children in labour intensive process. This is mainly due to the fact that the nature of the industry perpetuates the invisibility of the workers involved in the beedi industry children work as part of the family. This area is the thrust lacking regarding the elimination of child labour. According to a Government report it is observed that “Children are also noticed working in labeling and packing jobs in factories and in beedi rolling in homes, but their employment was not shown in the records, nor the employers of child workers admitted them as workers on the pretext that they were helping their parents”.



According to GOI (2015) working children in the age group of 5-14 years as per Census 2001 and Census 2011 in North East India are presented in the following table.

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
1	Arunachal Pradesh	18482	5766
2	Assam	351416	99512
3	Manipur	28836	11805
4	Meghalaya	53940	18839
5	Mizoram	26265	2793
6.	Nagaland	45874	11062
7	Tripura	21756	4998
8	Sikkim	16457	2704

According to Jha and Jhingran (2002), children helping parents in their work is a social norm in many tribal communities. The involvement of children in livelihood activities – cattle grazing, collection of forest productions etc. – makes it difficult for them to attend school. Girls, apart from taking part in agricultural activities and collection of forest products are commonly engaged in sibling care (In Chhina 2009).

According to a news report in Dimapur in 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010, an estimated 70,000 Nepalese and Bangladeshi children work as bonded labourers in the coal mines of Jaintia Hills district in Meghalaya, northeastern India, according to the Impulse NGO Network. The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) criticised the labour department of Meghalaya, saying: “there needs to be a system to record cases against employers of children in domestic work, hotels, eateries and other establishments, mining and other sectors where child labour is prohibited, and to coordinate with the police and revenue departments for the enforcement of laws”. The situation is not just confined to Meghalaya alone. There have been only 39 inspections between October 2006 and April 2008 in Manipur, where there are five labour inspectors and 28 rural labour inspectors. In Sikkim 60 inspections were carried out where

they have five inspectors. In Mizoram and Nagaland there was no information in official reports on the number of inspections which suggests either that none have taken place or that proper procedure is not being followed in documenting inspections. According to the report, in Mizoram the children deprived of education were mainly concentrated in Lunglei, Lawngtlai and Saiha districts of southern Mizoram and Mamit district in the east adjacent to Tripura. Of the 15,000 illiterate children, 40 percent were school dropouts and the remaining had never been enrolled in schools. In Mizoram, 88.80 percent of the 900,000 people are literate. "The main reasons for staying away from educational institutions were poverty, child labour, absence of schools in their villages and parents' ignorance," the report added. It said: "Majority of the children who are not attending schools belongs to Chakma and Reang (communities) as the two communities are primitive and nomadic tribes and practise 'Jhum Cultivation' (shifting or slash and burn cultivation)." "It is hard to bring tribal children to schools due to their shifting from one village to another frequently,"

A survey on Urban Deprived Children was conducted during Sept- Dec, 2008 by Young Mizo Association (YMA) which revealed that there are 2580 children alone in Aizawl city areas that are deprived of quality education due to various reasons one reason being child labour (In Open Doors, 2010).

From the above literature, we are able to understand child labour as a global problem that persists in all societies including Mizoram.

This chapter shall discuss the methodology used for the study in order to achieve the objectives of the research work.

The study is exploratory in nature using both quantitative and qualitative method of research. The study was conducted among working children in unorganized sectors in Aizawl City. Aizawl city is the largest city in the state. It is located at 3715 feet from the sea level. Aizawl city is governed by Aizawl Municipal Corporation. As per provisional reports of Census India, 2011, the population in Aizawl City is 2, 93,416 with 1, 44,913 male and 1, 48,503 female. The total number of children between 0 to 6 years is 36,012 with 18,159 boys and 17,853 are girls. The sex ratio is 1025 and child sex ratio is 983. Majority (96.3%) of the population are Christians.

### **3.1 Method of Sampling**

Quota sampling procedure was utilized to collect the sample size. The samples were selected based on their occupation that included beauty salon, automobile workshop, restaurant, tailoring, car wash, quarry work and domestic work. For each occupation, 10 children were selected. In all, 70 working children formed the sample size.

### **3.2 Source of Data Collection**

The sources of data were collected from both primary as well as secondary sources. Primary source comprised of data collected from the children through the interview schedule and qualitative techniques of case study, focus group discussions and participatory techniques. Published and unpublished records and statistics from the government and non-government agencies formed the secondary source.

### **3.3 Tools of Data Collection**

The study employed the use of a semi-structured interview schedule as a tool to collect data related to the topic of the research. In-depth interview was also conducted to gather information about the lived experience of the children and these are presented in case vignettes. Focus group discussion and participatory techniques were also conducted to ensure participation of the children and gather information about issues relating to child labour.

The interview schedule was translated in Mizo and pre-tested. Several modifications were made for the final tool.

### **3.4 Data Processing and Analysis**

Data obtained from the semi-structured interview schedule were processed using Microsoft excel, SPSS and Microsoft word and the findings are presented in the form of simple descriptive percentage. Information gathered from the qualitative techniques is also presented.

### **3.5 Ethical Issues**

For ethical considerations, informed consent was obtained from the children and their families after the purpose of the study was explained to them. Those children who did not give consent were excluded. The tools and methods of data collection were made child-centric as far as possible.

In this chapter an attempt has been made to present the results of the analysis of the data collected through interview schedule, focus group discussion and participatory techniques. The information provided by the children is analyzed according to the objectives of the study. This chapter has been presented in different sections and sub sections.

#### 4.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics

This section discusses the findings related to the various demographic distributions of children.

**Table 1: Age**

Sl. No	Age Group	Total	Percent
1	13 years-15 years	43	61.4
2	10 years-12 years	14	20.0
3	16years-18years	13	18.6
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 1 shows the distribution of children according to three Age Group. From this table, we see that children belonging to the age group of 13-15 years constitute the highest percentage(61.4%) followed by those children belonging to age group 10-12 years which constitute 20 per cent of the total sample. Children belonging to the age group 16-18 years constitute 18.6 per cent.

**Table 2: Gender**

Sl. No	Gender	Total	Percent
1	Female	37	52.9
2	Male	33	47.1
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 2 shows that the distribution of working children according to gender. This table reveals that more than half (52.9%) of the children are female followed closely by less than a half (47.1%) of male.

The findings of the study is similar with the study carried out by Dube (2013) among children working in Beedi industry .In his study, there were more females than males.

**Table 3: Sub-Tribe**

Sl. No	Sub-Tribe	Total	Percent
1	Lusei	30	42.9
2	Ralte	16	22.9
3	Paihte	10	14.3
4	Hmar	8	11.4
6	Non-Mizo	5	7.1
5	Lai	1	1.4
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 3 shows the distribution of children according to their sub-tribe. Here, we find that less than half (42.9%) of the children were Lusei followed by children belonging to the Ralte sub-tribe that constitute 22.9 per cent of the sample. Those children belonging to the Paihte sub-tribe constitute more than a tenth (14.3%) of the children followed by 11.4 per cent of children belonging to the Hmar sub-tribe. Less than tenth (7.1%) were non-mizos and a few (1.4%) belonged to the Lai sub-tribe.

**Table 4: Religion**

Sl. No	Religion	Total	Percent
1	Christianity	65	92.9
2	Hindu	3	4.3
3	Muslim	2	2.9
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 4 shows the distribution of children according to their religion. This table shows that almost all (92.9%) of the children are Christians. Only a few are Hindus and Muslims.

**Table5: Denomination**

Sl. No	Denomination	Total	Percent
1	Presbyterian	27	38.6
2	Baptist	20	28.6
3	Salvation Army	11	15.7
4	UPC	7	10.0
5	Others	5	7.1
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 5 shows the distribution of children according to their denomination. From this table, we find that more than a third (38.6%) of the children belong to Presbyterian while more than fourth (28.6%) are Baptist. More than a tenth (15.7%) belong to the Salvation Army and a tenth (10%) belong to United Pentecostal Church and less than a tenth (7.1%) of the children belong to others category.

**Table 6: Educational Level**

Sl. No	Educational Level	Total	Percent
1	High School Level	33	47.1
2	Middle Level	29	41.4
3	Primary Level	6	8.6
4	Higher Secondary	2	2.9
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 6 shows the educational level of the children. All the children were drop-outs. From the table, almost half (47.1%) of the children studied till the high school level while 41.4 per cent of the children studied till the middle school level . Less than tenth (8.9%) of the

children studied till the primary level and only a few (2.9%) of the children studied till the higher secondary level.

In a study conducted by Kielland and Tovo (2006), they found that child labour affects the education of children such as late enrollment, low grades, repetition and early dropout.

**Table 7: Location**

Sl. No	Location	Total	Percent
1	Rural	37	52.9
2	Urban	33	47.1
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 7 shows the distribution of children according to the location of where they live. This table highlights that the children from rural area are more than half (52.9%) of the sample followed by a close 47.1 per cent of children who lives in urban area.

**Table 8: Type of Family**

Sl. No	Type of permanent family	Total	Percent
1	Nuclear	64	91.4
2	Joint	6	8.6
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 8 shows the distribution of children according to the type of family in which they live. Here, we find that majority (91.4%) of the children are from nuclear family while less than a tenth (8.6%) are from joint family.

The findings of the above study correlate with the findings of the study conducted by Raj, (2010) in Shimla. His study revealed that 60 per cent of working children comes from nuclear



family. Similarly, Das (2010) also found that in Silchar, Assam, 94 per cent of working children (Rag pickers) were from nuclear family.

**Table 9: Form of Family**

Sl. No	Form of family	Total	Percent
1	Stable	46	65.7
2	Broken	17	24.3
3	Reconstituted	7	10.0
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 9 shows the distribution of children according the form of their family. From this table, we see that less than third (65.7%) of the children are from stable family and less than a fourth (24%)of the children are from a broken family and a tenth (10%) of them are from reconstituted family.

**Table 10: Family Size**

Sl. No	Size	Total	Percent
1	Medium(4-6)	46	65.7
2	Small(1-3)	18	25.7
3	Large(7 and above)	6	8.6
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 10 shows the distribution of children according tothe size of their family members. From this table, we see that less than a third (65.7%) of the children are from medium(4-6) size family followed by a fourth (25.7%) of the children coming from small (1-3) size family. Less than a tenth (8.6%) of the children are from large (7 and above) size family.

The size of household has an important bearing on the determination of economic conditions of the household .We find similar results in the study conducted by Das (2010) who

conducted a study on Rag Pickers in Silchar District, Assam. The study revealed that majority (63.3 %) of the children came from a medium sized family.

**Table 11: Socio-Economic Category**

Sl. No	Category	Total	Percent
1	Poor	48	68.6
2	Non-Poor	15	21.4
3	Very Poor	7	10.0
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 11 shows the distribution of children according to their socio-economic category. From this table, we find that more than two third (68.6%) of the children are from the poor category followed more than a fifth (21.4%) of the children belonging to non -poor category. A tenth (10%) they are from very poor category.

This finding shows similar results with that of Webbink, Smits and Jong, (2010), who found that socio-economic factors influences the engagement of children into work. Galli (2001) also revealed that poverty is the main determinant of child labour.

#### **4.2 Causes and Consequences**

This section will discuss the findings related to the causes and consequences of the children working in different occupations.

**Table 12: Reason for Working**

Sl. No	Reasons	Total	Percent
1	Lack of interest in Studies	28	40.0
2	Poverty	18	25.7
3	Learning Difficulties	14	20.0
4	Broken family	10	14.3
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 12 shows the distribution of children according to their reason for working. This table shows that less than half (40%) of the children work because they are not interested in studies. A fourth (25.7%) of the children work because of poverty and a fifth (20%) of the children work because they have learning difficulties and more than a tenth (14.3%) of the children work because they come from broken family.

These findings are also consistent with the study conducted by Galli, (2001) among child labour in Switzerland, who found that in his study it was found that lack of interest in studies which leads to drop outs causes children to work.

**Table 13: Effects of Work**

Sl. No	Effects	Total N=70	Percent
1	Physical Health	69	98.6
2	Mental Health	68	97.1
3	Family Relationship	58	82.9
4	Social Relationship	57	81.4

Source: Computed

Table 13 shows the distribution of children according to the effects their work have on them. From the table we see that almost all the children report that their work effects their physical (98.6%) and mental (97.1%) health. Majority of the children report that their work effects their family relationship (82.9%) and social relationship (81.4%).

In a study conducted by Ampomah (2012) in Ghana on health risk of working children, it was found that child hawkers claimed they hawked for long hours sometimes on empty stomach. Lots of these children looked malnourished. They complain that they mostly suffer from bodily pain as a result of carrying heavy goods for long hours hawking from one place to the other in the scorching sun.

**Table 14: Type of Substance Abused because of Work**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Types of Substance Abused</b>	<b>Total N=70</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1	Tobacco	26	37.1
2	Sleeping pills	11	15.7
3	Cough syrup with codeine	8	11.4
4	Alcohol	7	10.0
5	Cannabinoids	3	4.3
6	Solvents	2	2.9

Source: Computed

Table 14 shows the distribution of children according to the type of substances they abuse because of work. From the table, we see that more than a third (37.1%) of the children abuse tobacco and more than a tenth of the children abuse sleeping pills (15.7%) and cough syrup with codeine (11.4%). A tenth (10%) of the children abuse alcohol and less than a tenth of the children reported as abusing cannabinoids (4.3%) and solvents (2.9%).

We find similar results in the study of Das (2010), where the maximum number of child rag pickers used tobacco products. She also found that some children engaged in multiple in the intake of multiple types of substances.

#### **4.3 Working Children and Environment**

This section will discuss the findings related to the working children and their working environment.

**Table 15: Working Age Group**

Sl. No	Age Group	Total	Percent
1	13-15 years	54	77.1
2	10-12 years	8	11.4
3	16-18 years	8	11.4
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 15 shows the distribution of children according to their working age group. This table reveals that majority (77.1%) of the children started working at the age of 13-15 years. A little more than tenth (11.4%) of the children each started working at the age groups of 10-12 years and 16-18 years.

**Table 16: Duration of present work**

Sl. No	Duration	Total	Percent
1	Less than 1 year	36	51.4
2	1 year- 2 years	27	38.6
3	2years -3years	5	7.1
4	More than3years	2	2.9
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 16 shows the distribution of children according to the duration of their present work. From the table, we see that more than half (51.4%) of the children have been working for less than a year in their present occupation. More than a third (38.6%) of the children have worked for 1-2 years and less than a tenth (7.1%) of the children have been working for 2-3 years. Very few (2.9%) children have been working for more than 3 years.

**Table 17: Working Hours in a Day**

Sl. No	Working Hours	Total	Percent
1	8-10 hours	50	71.4
2	Above 10 hours	20	28.6
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 17 shows the distribution of children according to their working hours in a day. From this table, we see majority (71.4%) of the children work for 8-10 hours in a day, and more than a fourth (28.6%) of the children work for more than 10 hours.

We find similar trend in the study conducted by Ahmad, (2012) on child labour in Aligarh City-India which revealed that majority of the children worked for more than 8 hours a day.

**Table 18: Leisure Services**

Sl. No	Services	Total N=70	Percent
1	1 Day Holiday	58	82.9
2	Lunch Break during work	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 18 shows that the distribution of children according to the leisure services they receive at work. From this table, we see that majority (82.9%) of the children are given 1 day holiday in a week and all the children are given lunch break during work.

**Table 19: Monthly Income**

Sl. No	Monthly income	Total	Percent
1	Rs 3000-Rs 4000	25	35.7
2	Rs 2501-Rs 3000	24	34.3
3	Rs2000-Rs2500	20	28.6
4	Above Rs4000	1	1.4
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 19 shows the distribution of children according to their monthly income. From the table, we find that more than a third (35.7%) of the children receive a monthly income of Rs. 3000-Rs 4000 and a little more than a third (34.3%) of the children receive an income of

Rs.2500-Rs.3000. More than a fourth (28.6%) of the children receive an income of Rs. 2000-Rs.2500. Very few (1.4%) of the children receive more than Rs.4000.

Unlike the study conducted by Ahmad (2012), comparatively, we find that working children in Aizawl, Mizoram earn more than children in other parts of India.

**Table 20: Experience of Abuse at Work**

Sl. No	Forms of Abuse	Total	Percent
1	Emotional abuse	43	61.4
2	Physical Abuse	0	0.0
3	Sexual Abuse	0	0.0
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed

Table 20 shows the distribution of children according to the forms of abuse they experience at work. The table shows that more than half (61.4%) of the children experience emotional abuse while no children reported to have experienced physical and sexual abuse.

Patrick (2013) shows similar results which revealed that working children suffer from emotional abuse because they are always worried about the forms of abuse that they experience at work places.

**Table 21: Nature of Emotional Abuse**

Sl. No	Nature of Abuse	Total N=70	Percent
1	Scolded	16	22.9
2	Stigmatized	7	10.0
3	Made fun or Ridiculed	7	10.0
4	Threatened	7	10.0
5	Insulted or Humiliated	6	8.6

Source: Computed

Table 21 shows the distribution of children according to the nature of emotional abuse they experience at work. The table shows that among those who were emotionally abused, less

than a fourth (22.9%) of the children were scolded and a tenth of the children each were stigmatized, made fun or ridiculed and threatened. Less than a tenth (8.6%) of the children were insulted or humiliated at their work place.

The findings are also consistent with the findings of Patrick (2013) who revealed that children felt humiliated or degraded because they are shouted at and criticized by their employers for simple mistakes Kielland and Tovo (2006) also found that children involved in child labour are sometimes humiliated which affects their self esteem and confidence.

**Table 22: Abuser**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Abuser</b>	<b>Total N=70</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1	Employer	27	38.6
2	Children of Employers	9	12.9
3	Customers	7	10.0

Source: Computed

Table 22 shows the distribution of children according to who emotionally abuses them at work. The table shows that more than a third (38.6%) reported that their employers emotionally abused them. More than a tenth (12.9%) reported the child of their employers emotionally abuses them and a tenth (10%) of the children reported that their customers abused them.

**Table 23: Perceived Satisfaction of Work**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Perceived satisfaction</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1	Dissatisfied	36	51.4
2	Satisfied	34	48.6
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Computed



Table 23 shows the distribution of children according to their perceived satisfaction based on two point scale. Here, we see that more than half (51.4%) of the children are dissatisfied with their work while almost half (48.6%) of the children are satisfied.

Similarly, Patrick (2013) in his study revealed that majority of child domestic workers are not satisfied with their job because they receive low wages which do not meet the basic needs of their families. In this regard, children only work because there are no other options or alternatives .

#### **4.4 Findings from Focus Group Discussion**

Focus Group Discussions (FGD) was also conducted among the working children to find out the causes and consequences of child labour. The discussions proved to be very useful, not only in gauging the incidence of their labour, but also as a means of learning more about the children and their working environment. From the discussion, the following information was gathered:

1. The major cause of child labour were poverty, broken family, school dropout, to gain working skills and to be independent.
2. None of them was satisfied with their job.
3. They expressed that their pays were less compared to how much they work.
4. They had low level of education.
5. None of them were involved in any social activity.
6. Some of them had physical health problems like headache, body ache, urinary tract infection, loss of appetite and emotional health problems like sadness, loneliness, anger, anxiety and suicidal ideation.
7. Majority of the children submit their monthly income to their family

8. They were good contributors for their family.
9. Their income was used to meet their personal and family basic needs

#### 4.5 Findings from Participatory Techniques.

Participatory techniques exercise on *Cause and Effect Diagram* and *Daily Activities Schedule* was conducted among the children in order to garner participation as well as qualitative findings from the children.

##### 4.5.1 Cause and Effect Diagram

Cause and effect diagram was conducted among the working children of automobile workshop, car wash, quarry work , domestic work, tailoring , beauty salon and restaurants. The diagram is shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Cause and Effect Diagram of Child Labour**

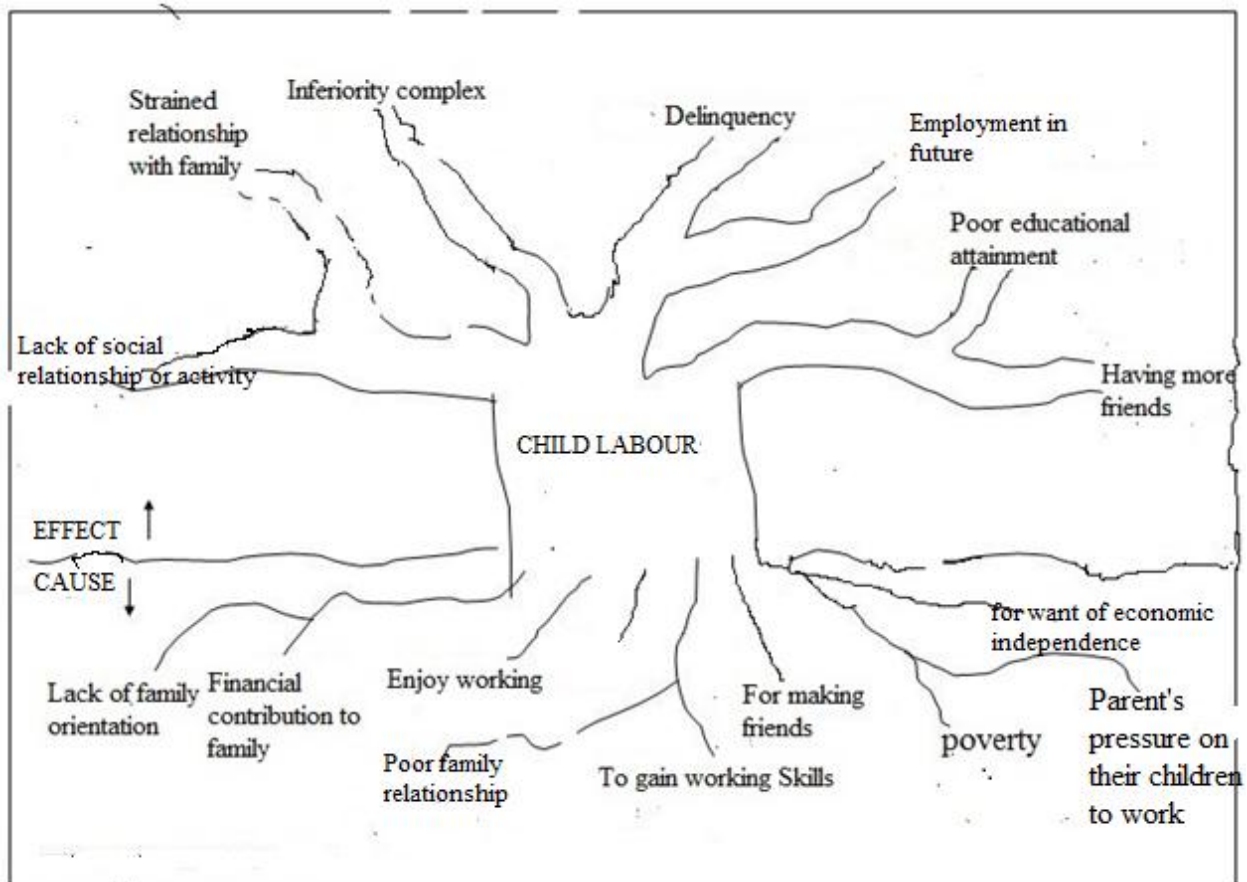













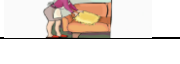


Figure 1 shows the cause and effect diagram of Child Labour. From the figure we find that the causes of child labour are lack of family orientation on their children, need for financial contribution to family, poor family relationship, parent's pressure on their children to work, children's enjoyment on working, for gaining working skills, for making friends, poverty, for want of economic independence, dropping out of schools. The effects as indicated include lack of social relationship or activity, strained relationship with family, inferiority complex, delinquency, employment in future, poor educational attainment.

#### 4.5.2 Daily Activities Schedule.

Daily activities schedule was conducted among the children to explore their activities on a daily basis. This activity was conducted with all the working children. The findings are as follows:

**Figure 2: Daily Activities Schedule of Domestic workers**

Time	Activities	
5:30am	Wake up	
5:40-6:00a.m	Sweeping and mopping	
6:00-7:00a.m	Preparing morning meal	
7:00-7:30a.m	Serving food to children and clearing dishes/washing dishes	
7:30-8:00a.m	Bathing and dressing children for school	
8:00-9:00a.m	Serving morning meal for adults and having morning meal	
9:00-11:00a.m	Laundry	
11:00-12:00Noon	Household chores	
12:00-1:00p.m	Preparing afternoon tea and snacks and serving	
1:00-2:00p.m	Household chores	
2:00-4:00p.m	Child care and household chores	
5:00-6:00p.m	Preparing dinner	
6:00-7:00p.m	Dinner	
7:00-8:00p.m	Child care and household chores	



8:00-9:00p.m	Ironing and tidying up the house	
9:00p.m	Sleep	

Figure 2 shows the daily activities schedule of child domestic workers. From the figure, we find that the children have very little time for leisure. Their work includes multiple tasks from cooking, cleaning the house, washing clothes to preparing food and serving and child care.

**Figure 3: Daily Activities Schedule of Automobile Workshop Workers**






Time	Activity	
6:00a.m	Wake up	
7:00a.m	Morning Meal	
9:00 am	Start Work	
12:00 noon	Tea and snacks	
12:30- 5:30p.m	Work	
5:30 pm	Going home	
7:00p.m	Dinner	
7:30-10:00p.m	Leisure activities	
10:00p.m	Sleep	

Figure 3 shows the daily activities schedule of children working in automobile workshops. As shown in the figure, working children in the automobile workshop work for 8 hours per day. Their whole day is concentrated on their work besides the leisure time they have for afternoon tea and snacks. Their leisure time starts mainly after they go home which is at night.

**Figure 4: Daily Activities Schedule of Car Washers**
















<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	
5:30 a.m	Wake up	
6:00 a.m	Start work	
9:00 a.m	Morning Meal	
9:30 a.m -12:00 noon	Work	
12:00 noon	Tea and Snacks	
12:30-6:00 p.m	Work	
6:00 pm	Going home	
7:00 p.m	Dinner	
7:30-9:00 p.m	Leisure activities	
9:00p.m	Sleep	

Figure 4 shows the daily activities schedule of children working in car wash. The figure shows that children work very early and their leisure time during work is restricted to only an hour during their morning meal and their afternoon tea and snacks. Their leisure time starts after dinner at night.

**Figure 5: Daily Activities Schedule of Quarry worker**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	
6:00 a.m	Wake up	
7:00 a.m	Morning Meal	
9:00 a.m	Start work	
12:00	Tea and snacks	
12:30- 5:00 p.m	Work	






5:00 pm	Going Home	
6:00 p.m	Dinner	
6:30-8:00 p.m	Household chores	
8:00- 9:00 p.m	Leisure activities	
9:00 p.m	Sleep	

Figure 5 shows the daily activities of children working in quarries. The figure shows that the children work for 7 and half hour per day in quarry. Apart from the very little leisure time they have during work, they are also engaged in household chores after going home. Their real leisure time is restricted only at night.

**Figure 6: Daily Activities Schedule of restaurant workers**








Time	Activity	
6:00 a.m	Wake up	
7:00 a.m	Start work	
8:00 a.m	Morning Meal	
8:30- 2:00p.m	Work	
2:00 p.m	Tea and snacks	
2:15- 4:30 p.m	Work	
5:00 pm	Going home	
7:00 pm	Dinner	
7:30-9:00 p.m	Leisure activities	 <small>shutterstock - 165043436</small>
9:00 p.m	Sleeping	

Figure 6 shows the daily activities schedule of children working in restaurants. From the figure we see that children work for nine and half hour per day. In addition, most of these

children work at night to prepare food for the next day. They have no leisure time except for the time given to them for their afternoon tea and snacks and after they go home.

**Figure 7: Daily Activities Schedule of child tailors**





Time	Activity	
6:00a.m	Wake up	
6:30- 7:00a.m	Preparing morning meal	
7:00a.m	Having morning meal	
9:00- 12:00 noon	Work	
12:00 noon	Tea and snacks	
12:30- 5:00p.m	Work	
5:00 pm	Going home	
6:00p.m	Dinner	
6:30- 9:00p.m	Leisure activities	
9:00 pm	Sleep	

Figure 7 shows the daily activities of child tailors. From the figure, we see that work for 8 hours per day. Apart from their occupation, they are engaged in cooking and preparing for the morning meal. They have very few time of leisure during work. Leisure also starts at night after they go home.

**Figure 8: Daily Activities Schedule of children working in Beauty Salon**

Time	Activity	
6:00a.m	Wake up	
6:10 am- 7:00 am	Helping mother to prepare morning meal	
7:00 am	Morning meal	








9:30 am	Start work	
12:00 noon	Tea and snacks	
12:30-5:00p.m	Work	
5:00 pm	Going home	
7:00p.m	Dinner	
7:30- 9:00p.m	Household chores	
9:00p.m	Sleeping	

Figure 8 shows the daily activities schedule of children working in a beauty salon. As shown in the figure, we also see that the children work for long hours and besides their work, they are also engaged in doing household chores. They have very little time for leisure even after they go home.

#### 4.6 Case Vignettes

In-depth interview with three (3) working children were also conducted along with home visits to understand the lived experience of the children and their environment. The findings are as follows:

##### Case 1

Puii (Fictitious) is a 16 years old girl who works as a domestic worker for one family in Aizawl city. Her family lives in one village at Mamit District. She has 3 brothers and 4 sisters and 5 of her younger siblings are still studying. Her mother works as a vegetable vendor. Puii's father passed away when she was born and her mother remarried. Unfortunately, her step-father passed away again when she was 13 years old. With no proper bread earner, they suffered from poverty and she had to drop out from school. She was class 7 when she dropped out.

As she related her past, she said that she was a bright and intelligent student and wanted to become a doctor. Saddened, she feels that her future seems to be far away from her childhood ambition and earning money to support her family's income seems to be the most important



priority for her. As a domestic worker, she works the whole day for her employer and has little time for herself. Whatever she earns, she gives it to her mother. She feels hopeless and her present situation does not permit her to be hopeful about her future anymore.

### **Discussion**

This case reveals the plight of a girl child who because of death of family member and poverty led her to drop out at a very young age and earn to support her family. It also shows how working environment provides no scope for freedom, hope and leisure for a girl who once wanted to become a doctor.

### **Case 2**

Ruata (Fictitious) is a 16 year old boy who works in car wash in Aizawl City. He has one brother. His parents separated when he was 8 years old. The separation led to his dropping out from school soon after, when he was 10 years old and started working in a car wash with his brother. He is confused as to who to be with, whether his mother or grandparents. Sometimes he lives with his mother and at times, he stays with his grandparents.

He suffers from low self-esteem when he sees his old school mates studying in colleges and living a good life. He often feels shy and even angry when he thinks about this change in circumstance. The money he earns, he sometimes submits to his mother and grandparents but mostly, he uses it for his own. When he started to be a teenager, he started having depression and began to take alcohol, smoke cigarette and adhesives to soothe his problem.

### **Discussion case II**

This case depicts a situation of a small boy, who, because of divorce led to multi-dimensional impact upon the boy such as dropping out of school and then being employed as a

car washer at a very young age. All these had led to other mental health problems which ultimately led to substance abuse.

### **Case 3**

Sanga (Fictitious) is a 17 year old boy who works as a tailor in one locality in Aizawl City. His family lives in one community at Serchhip District. He has 3 siblings and his parents are farmers. Since the family suffered from poverty, Sanga dropped out from school when he was 15 years old. He was class 10. He left his home to work in the city. There in the city, he stays with his relatives. Eventually, he had his training in one tailoring shop for six months and started earning from the same shop. He loves to sing and feels contented with his work. Apart from his hectic schedule in work, he also does the household chores for the family he lives with from cleaning to cooking. Apart from his ambition of wanting to be a professional singer, he is not hopeful about his future. He misses his family very much.

### **Discussion case III**

This case highlights how poverty changes the course of a life of a young boy who dropped out eventually to earn a living in the city. Apart from his responsibilities as a worker in a shop, he also has to fulfill other household chores from cleaning to cooking for the family he lives within the City.

### **Analysis of the Cases**

The above three cases reveals the lived experience of working children in Aizawl, their background and the reasons that led to their present situation. Multiple factors such as death of family members, poverty and divorce are found to be the primary factors of dropping out from school and working which ultimately destroys the hope of young children. These factors are seen

to have created other related mental health problems and substance abuse among working children in Aizawl, Mizoram.

This chapter discusses the summary of the study and highlights the major findings. Measures for suggestion are also made in the light of the findings for social work intervention and to impact social policy for children.

According to the National Policy for Children, 2013, children are important assets that require special attention to cater to their overall development. Child protection has become an important priority in India and mechanisms to protect children have been improved through introduction of new schemes namely the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). However, in spite of the efforts undertaken by the government and civil society organizations, child abuse in India still continues to be a major social problem and a threat to society at large.

India has the highest number of working children in the world and the problem of child labour continues to be rampant as a result of various multi dimensional factors such as poverty, broken family, death of parents and rural-urban migration among many others. Mizoram is also beginning to be threatened by the problems of child labour. Traditionally, children were given very little attention by adults and their social significance was not recognized and were best used only at the interest of the adults. Today, as a result of urbanization and other factors relating to modernization and globalization, Mizoram is faced with new problems which have caused a gap between traditional institutions and culture with the changing reality.

Children in Mizoram have become exposed to environments far beyond their ability to cope and as such engage in activities which are detrimental to their overall development. Working children in Mizoram are engaged mainly in unorganized sectors and apart from the little data that exist, there is very few research undertaken to find out the dynamics related to working children

and the problems relating to child labour. Therefore, in the light of these lacunae, the study attempts to understand the socio-economic characteristics of working children, to find out causes and consequences of children working and to explore the working environment of children in Aizawl city. It will also attempt to find out they lived experience of working children and to suggest measures for social work intervention and social policy.

The design of the study is exploratory in nature. Quota sampling procedure was used and 70 working children (female 37, male 33) from 7 unorganized sectors (10 each) were selected purposively and interviewed using a semi-structured interview schedule. Majority of the respondents are 13 years-15 years of age. Data obtained was processed using Microsoft excel and SPSS package. Qualitative methods like focus group discussion (FGD), case study, participatory techniques were also used.

## **5.1 Major Findings**

- Most children were within the age group of 13-15 years.
- There were more girls than boys found working.
- Most of the children are Mizos though there were few non-mizos found.
- All the children were drop outs.
- There were more children who studied till the middle level and high school level.
- More than half of the children came from rural areas. Almost half of the children belonged to urban areas.
- Most of the children came from a nuclear family.
- Medium size family (4-6 members) was most common.
- Majority of the children came from a stable family.

- Majority of the children came from poor families.
- Among the reasons for working, lack of interest in studies seemed to be the most prominent cause followed by poverty, learning difficulties and broken family. The qualitative study also revealed that death of parents, divorce, lack of family orientation, need for financial contribution to family, parent's desire, for want of gaining skills, making friends and independence are some of the causes.
- Majority of the children reported that their physical health, mental health, family relationship and social relationship were being affected because of work. The qualitative study revealed that their work affects their employment in future, their educational attainment and it makes them have more friends and resort to delinquent behaviours.
- Tobacco and other drug related substances were being abused by the children because of work.
- Majority of the children started working when they were within the age group 13-15 years of age.
- More than half of the children have been working for less than a year and more than a third have worked for 1-2 years in their present jobs.
- The working hours for all children are more than 8 hours in a day. The qualitative study also revealed the same.
- Most of the children were provided leisure time during work.
- Most of the children earned between Rs. 2000- Rs.4000 per month. From the qualitative study, the children reported that their pay was less considering the amount

of hours they work. They used their income for their families and at times for personal needs.

- More than half of the children have experienced emotional abuse from their employers, children of employers and customers. They were scolded, stigmatized, made fun of or ridiculed, threatened and insulted or humiliated.
- More than half of the children were dissatisfied with their work while almost half were satisfied.

## **5.2 Suggestions**

1. The socio-economic problems need to be addressed in a more integrated way to improve the economic status of the families to which such children belong. Sustainable income generation programme needs to be initiated.
2. Children working are still found to be a form of socializing children. However, this perception needs to be changed through awareness building.
3. Mechanisms that monitor child labour must be strengthened to reduce the problem. Government and Non-government agencies have to be more pro-active in this regard. This can be done through community based programmes that will impact upon the overall development of the child.
4. Political institutions at the grassroots level needs to be sensitized. Effective use of media to spread awareness e.g.: through TV, radios, public announcements, use of famous personalities and celebrities could be used as a strategy to get attention in this regard.
5. Legal and moral pressure must be made to members of the society so that children are not sent to work. Working children requires co-operation from not only parents but also from civil society organizations. This will help in reducing the prevalence of child labour.

6. Child labour comes under the labour ministry. The labour ministry covers only the organized sector, while children mostly work in the unorganized sector. So child laborers are not looked upon with interest by this Ministry. Child labour should come under either the women and child welfare ministry or the education ministry which can have a separate cell for child laborers.
7. Social Work Intervention through various methods can be used to tackle the problem of child labour in Mizoram. Case Work can be utilized for individual working children; group work can also be used as support entities; community organization and social can touch upon the more macro level of intervention related to policy making. Social Welfare Administration can help in focusing on issues relating to child labour projects in Mizoram. Last but not the least; social work research can enrich quantitative and qualitative data through empirically studying the various multi- dimensional aspects of working children in Mizoram.