

**CHILD LABOUR AND EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS OF
ZAWLNUAM BLOCK OF MIZORAM: A CASE STUDY**

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment for Degree of Master of
Philosophy in Education**

Submitted by

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DECLARATION

I Lalliantluanga Ralte, hereby declare that the dissertation subject matter of dissertation entitled “Child Labour and education in rural areas of Zawlnuam Block of Mizoram: A case study” is a record of work done by me; that the content of this dissertation 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 dissertation has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other University/Institution.

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This is to certify that the work incorporated in this Dissertation entitled **Child Labour and Education in Rural Areas of Zawlnuam Block of Mizoram: A case study** is a bonafied research work carried out by **Lalliantluanga Ralte** under my supervision for his M.Phil. Degree and the same has not been submitted previously for any degree.

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CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter- I

1.01: Prologue

Both nature and nurture influence children's development. The quality of a child's earliest environments and the availability of appropriate experiences at the right stages of development are crucial determinants of his future. A person's health, emotional wellbeing and success in life, largely depends on childhood environment and experiences. If children get right kind of environment and experiences in the early years, they thrive throughout their school stage and their adult lives. Good nutrition and health and consistent loving care and encouragement to learn in the early years of life help children to do better at school, be healthier, have higher earnings and participate more in society. Early years of childhood form the basis of intelligence, personality, social behavior, and capacity to learn and nurture oneself as an adult.

But unfortunately, many children do not reach their full human potential because of their families' income status, geographic location, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation etc. They do not receive adequate nutrition, care and opportunities to learn. It is their right to develop as well as to survive. This is especially important for children in poverty. A good foundation in the early years makes a difference through adulthood. Educated and healthy people participate in, and contribute to the financial and social wellbeing of their societies.

Child labour is a serious problem through the world. At present, all over the world, around 215 million children work, many of them full-time. They do not go to school and have little or no time to play. Many do not receive proper nutrition or care. They are denied the chance to be children. More than half of them are exposed to the worst forms of child labour such as work in harmful environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities including drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict. In many countries child labour is mainly an agricultural issue. Worldwide 60 percent of all child labourers in the age group 5 - 17 years work in agriculture, including farming, fishing, aquaculture, forestry, and livestock. The majority (67.5%) of child

labourers are unpaid family members. In agriculture this percentage is higher, and is combined with very early entry into work, sometimes between 5 and 7 years of age. Child labour refers to the exploitation of the labour of children who are either too young to work, or are of working age but work under conditions that subject them to risk. Unfortunately it is reality that children worldwide are often forced to undertake work that is physically, psychologically and morally damaging to them. Nevertheless, not all work performed by children is classified as child labour. In fact, some light work that does not interfere with the child's development, their education, or health, such as helping parents around the home, or earning pocket money outside of school hours or on holidays, can be a positive experience for children.

Education is a fundamental right of all children. Each country has a fundamental commitment in common a constitutional, or statutory, guarantee of the right to education. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948.

Article 1 of UDHR states:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2 of UDHR states:

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3 of UDHR states:

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4 of UDHR states:

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 26 of UDHR states:

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Child labour is preventable, may not be inevitable. UNICEF believes that effective action against child labour requires children to be placed squarely at the centre of programmes designed to protect children's rights.

India, as a nation, has recognized the rights of children and the importance of their education for which it has the target of achieving free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years and it was incorporated in the Article 45 of the Constitution of India which was implanted in the year 1950. Article 45 stated: *State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.* Since the target

could not be achieved even by the end of 20th century, the nation enacted **The Right to Education Act (RTE)** on 4 August 2009 for free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 in India. India became one of 135 countries to make education a fundamental right of every child when the act came into force on 1 April 2010.

In spite of provisions and laws, child labour has remained a serious problem in our country. The magnitude and seriousness of the problem varies from region to region and state to state. Mizoram is one of the North Eastern states of the country. The problem of child labour is rampant, more particularly in rural areas. This must be prevented and children must be provided with quality education for the welfare of the society.

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

(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 behavior. Reaching children in a holistic manner and incorporating health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education and interventions that support their full development is crucial.

1.03: Concept of Child Labour

A general and universally acceptable definition of child labour is presently 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 term 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 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.

The term *child labour* is best defined by ILO 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 labor 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 laborers 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.

1.04: The Scenario of Child Labour in India

The scenario of child labour in India can well be judged from the table given below. The table 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. This may be due to expansion of educational facilities by the governments. However, the problem still remains alarming.

Sl. No	Name of state/UT	No. of working children in the age group of 5-14 years	
		Census 2001	Census 2011
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.	Uttarakhan	70183	28098
35.	West Bengal	857087	2354275
Total		12666377	4353247

Table showing State wise details of working children in the age groups of 5-14 years as per Census 2001 and Census 2011(Compiled)

1.05: 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 as a Directive Principle contained in article 45. But, this goal could not be achieved even after 50 years of

adoption of this provision. The task of providing education to all children in this age group gained momentum after the National Policy of Education (NPE) was announced in 1986. The Government of India, in partnership with the State Governments, has made strenuous efforts to fulfill this mandate and, though significant improvements were seen in various educational indicators, the ultimate goal of providing universal and quality education could not be fulfilled. In order to fulfill this goal, it was felt that an explicit provision should be made in the part relating to Fundamental Rights of the Constitution.

In order to make right to free and compulsory education a fundamental right, the Constitution (Eighty-third Amendment) Bill, 1997 was introduced in Parliament to insert a new article, namely, article 21 A conferring on all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years the right to free and compulsory education. As a result, during December 2002 the 86th Amendment of Indian Constitution was made with the following provisions:

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

"21A. 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".

Substitution of new article for article 45:- 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."

Amendment of article 51A: - 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 26th August 2009 and became

effective in all Indian states, except Jammu and Kashmir with effect from 1st April 2010 along with Article 21-A. The RTE Act represents the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21-A, means 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.

‘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. With this, India has moved forward to a rights based framework that casts a legal obligation on the Central and State Governments to implement this fundamental child right as enshrined in the Article 21A of the Constitution, in accordance with the provisions of the RTE Act. It 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 Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), buildings and infrastructure, school-working days, teacher-working hours etc. The RTE Act prohibits physical punishment and mental harassment, screening procedures for admission of children, capitation fee, private tuition by teachers and running of schools without recognition. Besides, It provides for development of curriculum in consonance with the values enshrined in the Constitution, and which would ensure the 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 centered 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.

1.06: Legal provisions and Initiatives for prohibition of child labour in India

The Constitution of India, through various articles enshrined in the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy, lays down that:

- 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 86th 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 undertaken 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*: 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 are 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. More recently, 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;
- *The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act, 2000*: This Act was last amended in 2002 in conformity with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and covers young persons below 18 years of age. 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:* 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 abled children.

An important judicial intervention in the action against child labour in India was the M.C. Mehta case (1996) in which the Supreme Court, 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.

Government policies and programmes: In pursuance of India's development goals and strategies, a National Child Labour Policy was adopted in 1987 following the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The national policy reiterates the directive principle of state policy in India's Constitution. It resolves to focus general development programmes to benefit children wherever possible and have project based action plans in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has been implementing the national policy through the establishment of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) for the rehabilitation of child workers since 1988. Initially, these projects were industry specific and aimed at rehabilitating children working in traditional child labour endemic industries. A renewed commitment to fulfill the constitutional mandate resulted in enlarging the ambit of the NCLPs in 1994 to rehabilitate children working

in hazardous occupations in child labour endemic districts. The strategy for the NCLPs includes the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education and pre-vocational skills training; promoting additional income and employment generation opportunities; raising public awareness, and conducting surveys and evaluations of child labour.

The experience gained by the Government in running the NCLPs over several years resulted in the continuation and expansion of the projects. Most significantly in 2001 - 02 the Government launched the SarvaShikshaAbhiyan or the Education for All Programme which is an effort to universalize elementary education. This programme aims to achieve the goal of universal elementary education of satisfactory quality by 2010. Children in the age group of 5 - 9 years were enrolled directly under the SarvaShikshaAbhiyan or the Education for All Movement. Further, those in the age group of 9-14 were admitted to special schools under the NCLP schemes. Besides such initiatives, components of health care and vocational training were also augmented.

1.07: Backdrop of Zawlnuam RD Block

The state of Mizoram has 8 districts named Aizawl, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Mamit, Kolasib, Serchhip, Champhai and Saiha. According to 2011(P) census the population of the state is 10, 91,014 with 5, 52,339 males and 5, 38,675 females. District wise density of population per sq. km. varies from 28 (Mamit) to 113 (Aizawl) and the literacy rate varies from 66.41% (Lawngtlai) to 98.76% (Serchhip). 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.

There are 26 RD Blocks in the state of Mizoram. Zawlnuam is one of the four RD Blocks of Mamit districts, which is situated in the western part of Mizoram near the boundary of Tripura. There are different sub-

tribes in this area such as Mizo, Bru and Chakma. According to 2011 Census, the total population of the block is 47188, which includes 24477 males and 22711 females and the total literacy rate of the block is 82.61% with male literacy rate of 87.01% and female literacy rate of 77.80%. Among the overall population the total population inhabiting in rural area is 35571 comprising 18454 males and 17117 females. The overall literacy rate of the block is 78.46% with male literacy rate of 84.24 % and female literacy rate of 72.14 %. The urban population of the block is 11617 comprising 6023 males and 5594 females and literacy rate is 94.72% with male and female literacy rates of 95.16% and 94.24% respectively. There are 66 villages in the block and most of the people work hard to earn their livelihood. Major occupations of the people are gardening and jhum cultivation. Other sources of income are small industries, small business, farming, fishery, rubber farming, betel nut farming etc.

Due to poor transport and communication facilities the people of Zawlnuam Block, particularly in rural areas, often ignore child rights in relation to their work and education. Poverty and illiteracy is more among Bru and Chakma sub-tribes in comparison to Mizo. 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.

As revealed from the data given in section 1.03 there were 26265 and 2793 child labourers in Mizoram as per 2001 and 2011 Censuses of India respectively. In every district of Mizoram department of Child Welfare has been set up to undertake care and protection of all children and Child Welfare Network (CWN) and Justice Juvenile Board (JJB) are also established to enforce protection of children from labour. There are also some social activists those who are working in the field of protection of children from labour. However, child labour is more prevalent in rural areas in comparison to urban areas as most of the people who inhabit in

rural areas are uneducated and they are ignorant about the importance of education in modern world.

1.08:Rationale of the Study:

India is a country having numerous diversities. It is disheartening that there is lot of child labour throughout the country in spite of legal provisions and government policies. Most of these children belong to disadvantaged sections i.e. scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, slum dwellers and rural inhabitants. These children use to work under some short of compulsions. Despite a host of constitutional and legal provisions for prohibition of labour by children, 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. It is high time that child labour should be rooted out in every part of our country and all children of school going age must be in the ambit of the schools. In this context, the following *research questions* are raised.

- What is the nature and extent of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block?
- What is the educational status of child labourers in rural areas of Zawlnuam block?
- What are the causes of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block?
- What are the government schemes for prevention of child labour, education and rehabilitation?
- What is about the Government action in Zawlnuam block for prevention of child labour, education and rehabilitation?
- What are the perceptions of parents, teachers and village leaders about the practice and prevention of child labour in Zawlnuam block?

1.09: Statement of the problem

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. The investigator

being a native of a village under Zawlnuam block has observed closely the intensity of child labour problem in rural areas of the block. It is observed that some parents are not willing to send their children for pursuing education. They used to engage in various works and they are not aware about children labour related laws of our country. Further, in some areas there are no government agents to enforce child labour prevention. The researcher did not find a single study conducted in the state of Mizoram on child labour issues. The researcher had the haunch that research support would be of much help in addressing the problem. To get answers to the questions raised in the preceding section empirically, the following research problem was under taken:

Child Labour and Education in Rural Areas of Zawlnuam Block of Mizoram: A Case Study

1.10: Operational Meaning of Key Terms

Child Labour: 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.

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 without attending the schools.

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.

Case Study: In the present study case study implies analysis and examination of the incidence of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam Block of Mizoram following descriptive survey method.

1.11: Objectives of the Study: The study was under taken with the following specific objectives in view:

- i) To examine the nature and extent of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block.
- ii) To examine the causes of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block.

- iii) To examine the educational status of child labourers in rural areas of Zawlnuam block.
- iv) To examine the Government action in Zawlnuam block for prevention of child labour.
- v) To examine the perceptions of parents, teachers and village leaders for prevention of child labour in Zawlnuam block.

1.12: Hypotheses of the Study: The study was under taken with the following hypotheses in view:

- i) Child labour is a serious problem in rural areas of Zawlnuam block.
- ii) There are socio-economic causes of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block.
- iii) The educational status of child labourers in rural areas is very low.
- iv) There is Government action in Zawlnuam block for prevention of child labour.
- v) Parents, teachers and village leaders have perceptions about the prevention of child labour in Zawlnuam block.

1.13: 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 areas of Zawlnuam block of Mamit District of Mizoram.
2. Conceptually it was limited to child labour and their education in different villages of rural areas in Zawlnuam block.

1.14: 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 introduce

d. Brief profile of Zawlnuam block of Mamit District of Mizoram, rationale of the study, statement of the problem, operational meanings of key terms used, objectives of the study and plan of the report 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. Educational implications, limitation of the study and suggestions for further research will also be presented in this chapter.

A brief summary of the study, list of References and Appendices will follow Chapter V.

CHAPTER-II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Chapter – II

Review of Related Literature

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 work already done are reviewed which are related to the present work and they are presented below keeping in view the perspectives of child labour and their education.

ILO (International Labour Organization) estimates for developing countries indicate total number of working children aged between 5–14 years as 250 million. Of these, 120 million work full-time, and 24 million are below the age of 10. In absolute terms child labour is most prominent in Asia, because about 150 million working children live in Asia. In Asia and Latin America, which are more urbanized, child labour is also considered an urban phenomenon. Child workers are equally liable to the dangers faced by adult workers under parallel conditions, but they are more fatally affected because of their different anatomical, physiological and psychological characteristics. Unlike adults, children do not fight against their coercion through unions. Their poor household, which are living, close to the subsistence level, if are induced to send their children to school instead of work, an exogenous shock (for example, poor harvest) would have an unreasonably harsh impact on their welfare. (ILO, 1992)

According to the statistics provided by **The Government of India** around 90 million out of 179 million children in the 6 to 14 years age group do not go to school and are engaged in some occupation or other. This means that close to 50 per cent of children are deprived of their rights to a free and happy childhood.

According to **UNICEF**, there are about 10 million bonded child labourers working as house servants in Indian families (UNICEF, 1999).

According to the independent study by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development**, an estimated 3.7 per cent of children in the age-group 6-10 and 5.2 per cent in the age-group 11-13 were out of school in

2008. In terms of numbers, about eight million children in the age-group 6-13 are out of school, about 6.7 million in rural and 1.3 million in urban areas (ASER, 2009).

Prohibition and Regulation Act, (1986) defined and identified child labour as the employment of children before attaining 14 years of age. Its objective is to prohibit the engagement of children in certain employment and to regulate the conditions of work or children in certain other employment. It also highlighted that, no child shall be employed or permitted to work in any of the following work - transport of passengers and goods; or mails by railway, work relating to selling of crackers and fireworks in shops with temporary licenses occupations, automobile workshops and garages, handloom and power loom industry, cloth printing, dyeing and weaving., wool cleaning, building and construction industry, automobile repairs and maintenance (namely welding, lather work, dent beating and printing), fabrication workshop (ferrous and non-ferrous), stone breaking and stone crushing, tobacco processing including manufacturing of tobacco, tobacco paste, tyre making and repairing, re-trading and graphite beneficiation handling of tobacco in any form, etc. This act also indicate that penalties for violating the act under Section (3). The culprit shall be punishable with imprisonment which shall not be less than three months and which may extend to one year or with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees which may extend to twenty thousand rupees or with both. Continuing offence under Section (3) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months and which may extend to two years. Any other violations under the Act shall be punishable with simple imprisonment, which may extend to one month or with fine may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both. It also mentions that who can file the persecution.

'Labour welfareism in India problems and prospects' work by **B. D. Rawat, RBSA (1988)**, states that child labour refers to employment of children in gainful occupation and contribution to the income of their family. He also said that children are exploited by being subjected to long

hours of work with least payment, with no rest period or leave provisions. He further stated that child labour plays an important role in economic structure of the developing world and it has to be accepted as a necessary evil. Poverty is the strongest factor responsible for the prevalence and perspectives of child labour. He suggested remedial measures, for instance, provision should be made 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. Although these measures do not at all suffice for the loss already made but it can be a step to improve existing conditions.

In his work '*Welfare of Special Categories of Labour Aspects of Labour Welfare and Social Security*', **A. M. Sharma (1990)** emphasized that child labour refers to employment of children in gainful occupation in order to materially contribute to the income of family. He also expressed that the condition of female labour, contract labour, construction and agricultural labour is very displeasing. He further suggested that the strict enforcement of different act may be the remedial measure for eradication of child labour and efforts should be made to provide non-formal education to those children employed in different field of working areas.

Sahoo (1990) conducted a study named '*Child labour and legislation*', where he expressed that while there have been several acts passed to protect child workers, the overall trends in organization of production in industry and agriculture are such that it assist and perpetuate the exploitation of child labour. To resolve the contradiction between the democratic urge for human development and the employment of children in harmful occupation requires first the solution to the primary problems of stagnant dependence and potholed development of the economy and society at large.

Kumar (1991) conducted a study, '*Banning Child Labour*' highlighting that the order issued by Supreme Court for banning child labour in 'beedi' manufacturing marks a culmination of the sustained efforts made over a decade to highlight the oppression of child workers. These efforts included studies of the conditions of child workers and also legal actions

initiated by individuals and groups. It is a modest achievement, which will need sustained vigilance and struggle if it is not to fizzle out, is instinctive in the courts cautious in- junction to the states giving three years to phase out child labour in the beedi trade.

Bhowmik (1992) performed a study named '*Plantation Labour Act and Child Labour*' and emphasized that employment of adolescent and children in the permanent labour force are a special feature of the plantation industry. This is mainly a result of the pre-independence practice of employing the entire family for plantation work so as to save on recruitment costs. Children and adolescents are paid lower wages than adults. Children are paid half the wages of adults whereas the hours of work prescribed by the act is more than half of that of adults.

Degraffet al., (1993), studied the significance of gender in deciding for the consequence on role played by a child. Gender is a major factor deciding for the kind of work one attends to, male children have higher probability of doing market work, while female children have higher probabilities of being engaged in home production.

The economic value of children and to the structure of the labour market of any country also plays the role of determinant of child labour (**Peek, 1978, Cain and Mozumder, 1980, Bobbet, 1993**).

'National policy on Education an overview' a collaborative work done by **Atma Ram and Sharma (1994)** states that equality in opportunity of Education in particular has been one of the major goals of the country ever since independence. The current status not only from the moral commitment has deprived but also from the view point of the optimal development of all segments of the society. This policy consists of incentives to different families to send their children to school unless they reach the age of 14. Families engaged in unclean occupation and backward blocks are to be given priority in implementing Operation Blackboard. They have suggested that most of children from SC an ST attend school in non-formal education centers and if these children are to

be helped to compete with others at a later stage, the qualities of non-formal education will have to be raised substantially.

Grootaert&Kanbur (1994) analyzed that images of child labour across the globe are upsetting. A common and natural enough, reaction in developing countries has been legislation to ban child labour, following the historical lead of the developed world as it emerged from its period of industrialization. In fact, trade sanctions are being recommended in some developed countries, against the exports of developing countries that use child labour. They also lay emphasis on the factors which make it likely that larger household size increases the probability that a child will work. The structure of the labour market determines the level of wages, which in turn determines the contribution of children to increase household income.

Patrinios and Psacharopoulos, (1995) show that factors predicting an increase in child labour also predict reduced school attendance and an increased chance of grade repetition. The authors estimate this relationship directly and show that child work is a significant predictor of age-grade distortion.

In a study, *Child Labour: Issues, Causes and Interventions*, **Siddiqi&Patrinios (1995)** found that child labour is most concentrated in Asia and Africa, which together account for more than 90 percent of total child employment. Though there are more child workers in Asia than anywhere else, a higher percentage of African children participate in the labour force. Asia is led by India which has 44 million child labourers, giving it the largest child workforce in the world. It was also pointed out that the lack of enforcement of labour restrictions perpetuates child labour. This is manifested in different ways. The number of enforcement officials is very low, especially in developing countries where the immediate priority of subsistence takes precedence over anything else. There are also inconsistencies in legislation, which may pose the problems.

Dessy and Pallage (2000) conducted a study on '*A theory of the worst forms of child labour*' and found that although intuitive and morally

compelling, a ban on the worst form of child labour in poor countries is unlikely to be welfare improving. Unless mechanisms are designed to mitigate the decline in child labour caused by reduced employment options for children, a ban on harmful forms of child labour will likely prove undesirable. Poverty alleviation programmes would eliminate that segment of the worst form of labour.

Poverty is a major factor for child labour. On the basis of different sets of data it can be said that child labour is positively related, with poverty (**Cigno et al., 2001, Kannan 2001, Ramachandran and Massün 2002, Giri National Labour Institute 2000; Basu and Van (1998). Nangia (1987), (Ilon and Moock 1991), Barker and Knaul 1991, Kulshrestha, 1978, Prayas, 2007, Iqbal 2009, Varandani**). Low income of family forces children to enter in labour market (**Patil, 1988**). Poverty, as defined traditionally, usually combines with many children per households, with low literacy and with a horizon of lowly-paid and unskilled jobs, opens to child labour (**Lieten, n.d.**). **Nangia (1987)** states in his study that 63.74% of child labourers said that poverty was the reason they worked.

Illiteracy is also a main cause for forced work of children. According to the **V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (2000)**, literacy is a correlate of child labour. There is the suggestion of an inverse relationship between labour and literacy.

MC Gupta., K. Chokalingam Jaytica & Gusa Roy Gyan (2001), conducted a study on '*Child victims of crime problems and perspectives*' in which they suggested that India has the largest number of child labourer in the world. The government itself acknowledges that at least 17.5 million children are working. Most of them are working on agriculture, service, and industry and mining sector. They recommended that India needs to enforce constitution, statutory and developmental measures required eliminating child labour. Child labour prohibition Act, 1986, should be imposed strictly to encounter employment of child

labour below 14 years of age in certain fields as port, railways, transport and any other working fields.

In her book '*Child Abuse*' **Arunima Baruah (2003)**, emphasized that there is worldwide awareness regarding child abuse and laws have been enacted to prohibit children from being victim of this practice despite that illegal recruitment of children still continues. There is also a great scope of exploitation and abuse of child. Therefore, government has to fully enforce different laws which ensure protection of children from this.

Rao, D.B. (2003) conducted 'Education for all ' where he stated that Universal Primary education is a mean for drying up the main source of adult illiteracy; the essential consideration by which the success of primary education can be judged are by ensuring access, retention and achievement. He suggest that to improve elementary education – the development of non-formal education will be expand and improve to increase the capacity of education for all.

Chaudhuri (2004) conducted a study on '*Incidence of Child Labour, Free Education Policy, and Economic Liberalisation in a Developing Economy*'. He perceived the desire for consumer goods sometimes contribute to the incidence of child labour. Parental attitudes, reflecting cultural norms, nevertheless play a major role in sending a child to work or to school.

'*Universalizing Elementary Education in India*', book written by **Santosh Mehotra., P.R. Panchamukhi., Ranjana Srivasta.& Ravi Srivasta (2005)** emphasized that one of National flagship programme SSA will cover the entire country before March 2002, and duration of the development in every District Elementary Education Plan(DEEP) prepared by that District. However, the programmed will end in the year of 2010. They suggest that, however if UEE is to be achieved, the efficiency, equity of the entire education system has to be improved. The dropout rates in government are found to be higher than in private

schools. Therefore Government should look into the cause and effects of these issues.

Chatterjee (2006) in his book '*Education for all- The Entire Indian Saga*' expressed that every person child, youth and adult shall be able to benefit from educational opportunities design to meet their basic education. A major initiative has been the move to make free and compulsory education, a fundamental right for all children in the age group of 6-14. He emphasized that Government and local bodies are the main providers of elementary education, one cannot overlook the contribution being made by several NGOs. It is envisaged that with the involvement of NGO on the one hand has enlarged the network of agencies and individual for implementation of education project, it will bring greater flexibility, innovation and effectiveness.

Pradhan, Mishra and Anuradha (2006) studied on perspectives of child labour entitled as "Perspectives of child labour in Koraput district and related issues in education at Primary stage: A case study." They reported that keeping in view the impressionistic present status of implementers; an action plan has been developed for the implementation by the government and NGOs working in this field.

Kantor and Hozyainova(2008) conducted a research in Kabul. "Child labour" is used throughout this study to represent children's work activities, whether paid or unpaid across all levels of risks and hazards. It includes unpaid domestic tasks or paid work inside the home, unpaid work in a family enterprise, or any work outside the household, such as vending, collecting firewood, scavenging, or doing house work for others whether paid or not. This work can be done in combination with schooling or not. Child labourers are defined as those aged 14 and less, working in any type of context (for pay or not, at home or outside), and those aged 15 to 18 working in more hazardous occupations. They said, this study does not aim to locate specific cases representing the most dangerous forms of child labour, or work involving the most risk (sex work, trafficking or smuggling). It aims to understand more usual forms of child labour and how households consider different options when

making decisions about who will work and in what activities. They also cited that factors influencing child labours and had in-depth interview with the child labourer and their parents in Kabul city to find out the real reason for child labour and for remedial measure to stop child labour in the particular areas.

Watson (2008) studied that child labour is a facet of poverty – their connection is well entrenched in the empirical literature. The dilemma is whether this child labour is efficient from an economic point of view, and whether it is a hindrance on the child's achievements at school and personal development. The conventional argument for government intervention in child labour markets is based on the existence of externalities – parents do not fully internalise the positive externalities accruing from higher educational attainment to their children and hence under-provide in terms of education for their offspring. She also emphasize that child labour is harmful to children' development underpins both the theoretical literature and the policy debate. The general consensus is that global returns from the elimination of child labour would be enormous, but as there have been few attempts to quantifiably measure this.

ShobhaKusuma (2011) conducted a study on '*Non-Governmental Organisations and child labour (Case studies in two cities of Andhra Pradesh*' in which she emphasized that the problems of child labour are acute in many of the developing countries. As far as the employment of child labour in the domestic economy is concerned, a vast majority them working in rural areas are engaged in agricultural or similar activities. The State must enforce the legislation preventing the employment of children and it must try to achieve universal literacy. The State will have to provide quality primary education for all and improve enrolment and retention rates. The State must continue to take a proactive role of socio-economic legislation with a view to protect the interests of deprived, reversing historical distortions that have hindered social progress.

BinaPandey (2011) conducted a study on '*Globalization and Child labour in export sector A case Study of Bangalore District*' expressed that child labour has become a global phenomenon these days. Moreover, several of the effects of globalization like increase in poverty, labour downsizing, in formalization of employment, reduction in the several expenditure of the government etc. have indirectly created an environment for the growth of child labour. Therefore, there is a dire need for exploring the possible linkages between globalization and child labour in a systematic way so that required changes in the legal policy frame work are introduced to create a nation which is free of child labour.

AbhayVikram Singh (2013) conducted a study on '*Right against exploitation and Child labour_ a study of Meerut District in human right perspectives*'. This study revealed that mankind owes to the child the best. The child shall enjoy the special protection and shall be given opportunities and facilities by law and other means to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in the health and normal manner and in the conditions of freedom and dignity. India is supposed to have largest concentration of child labour in the world. The Indian government has to implement and enforce laws and specific policies to address the problem of child labour.

'*Crime against Children*' the work by **ArunimaBaruah (2013)** states that according to the constitution of India 'Child' include anyone below the age of 14 years is a child. The UN convention on the rights of the child says, anyone below the age of 18 is a child. Some voluntary groups said that any non-school going child is a child labour. She suggested that poverty and illiteracy join hands with each other to damage the future of the nation builder. Therefore, government should take steps to eradicate child labour completely from our country.

Swain (2014) has done a case study in Odisha on economic perspective of child labour. He stressed on the socio-economic conditions of the child labourers. According to him the main reason which gives rise to child labour is widespread unemployment and underemployment among the

adult poor strata of the population, inter alia, due to sharp growth of population. Large families with low income and often lack of education, illiteracy and ignorance of parents about the importance of education are some of the reasons which breed child labour. He also emphasized that the causes of child labour are poverty, family size, and victims of migration, illiteracy & ignorance of parents, family breakdown, and natural calamities. He also pointed out factors that affect child labour such as over population, urbanization, unemployment of elders, and untimely death of parents. He recommended that the government should facilitate income-generating activities for enhancing poor people's income and population growth needs is to be curbed. Ignorance and illiteracy should be removed through introduction of educational program and providing necessary facilities. People must be educated about the negative impact of child labour upon children's health and future career.

Saini, Vijay Laxmi (2014) conducted a study on "*Child Labour in Small Scale Industrie- A Sociological Study*". This study revealed that the practice of child labour is most prevalent in developing countries. They presumed that the major cause of child labour is poverty and illiteracy. In many parts of the world child labour is preferred as it is cheaper and unorganized. Child labour is an economic practice and a social evil with serious consequences and implications for children, their parents and families. Only cooperation of parents, government and community can effectively address this issue.

Summary and Conclusion:

The first World Summit, in 1990 for Children promised to reduce child mortality and malnutrition, and set targets to be reached by the year 2000. There were no explicit goals relating to child labour, but the targets included basic education for all children and completion of primary education by at least 80 percent of children. Till date the goals have been achieved. It is agreed across the studies that it is the education interventions which can play a key role in the reduction and abolition of child labour. Nevertheless, the importance of other measures like fertility interventions, the adoption of technology, improvements in employment

opportunities for adults, labour market policies, and legislative action can never be underestimated.

Such measures need to be accompanied with efforts at advocacy of the condition of working children, and empowerment of the children and their families.

There is an encouraging consensus emerging both in the literature and in the policies of international agencies concerned with child labour, that effective action must aim in the first place at protecting the children and improving their living and working conditions.

Not much empirical studies are found on child labour to reveal the causes and remedies. Moreover, not a single study is found to have been conducted in Mizoram.

CHAPTER-III

PLAN AND PROCEDURE

Chapter III
Plan and Procedure

This chapter is devoted for the description of plan and procedure followed for the conduct of the study and is organized into seven sections (3.01 to 3.07). The section 3.01 describes research approach and section 3.02 deals with the sources selected 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 any kind of research work, it is very vital to decide about the research approach that the researcher would use 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 nature and extent of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block of Mamit District of Mizoram and their education. Further the study was intended to examine the perceptions of Parents/Guardians, Village Leaders and Station Senior Teachers of the elementary schools and the victims 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.

3.02: Sources of Data

For any kind of research the data must be collected from valid and 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 and causes of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block of Mizoram. Parents /Guardians, Village Leaders, Teachers and the working

children were considered to be the appropriate primary sources for collection of relevant data for the present study.

B. *Secondary sources*: Different National and State survey reports, books and journals and official records, internet, published and unpublished documents are major sources that are of utmost importance for any research. For the present study these sources were also considered important as secondary sources of information.

3.03: Population and Sample

In recent years appropriate techniques for sampling have been increasingly used in education and other social science 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 samples population was representative of the target population.

There were 52 villages in Zawlnuam block at the time of data collection. All child labourers in the 52 villages were the target population of the study. All child labourers in the 52 villages were the target population of the study. However, for the sample of the study, 12 villages were randomly selected out of the 52 villages of Zawlnuam block. With the help of village leaders three male and three female child labourers, from each of the 12 villages, were identified. From each village, the village leader, three male and three female child labourers, three parents/guardians (male/female) of the selected child labourers, and two station senior teachers of each of the 12 village schools were included in the sample. Thus the total sample of the study comprised of 72 (36 male and 36 female) child labourers, 72 parents/guardians, 24 teachers and 12 village leaders. The list of sampled villages is given in Table 3.01.

Table 3.01: List of Sampled Villages

Sl. No.	Name of the Villages
1.	West Sehmun
2.	West Bunghmun
3.	Kawrtethawveng
4.	Tuidam
5.	Sotapa
6.	Mualthuam
7.	Belkhai
8.	Andarmanik
9.	Thaidawr
10.	Kolalian
11.	Luimawi
12.	New Eden

3.04: Tools and Technique used

Every researcher requires 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 the study. In such cases, they have to construct their own. In this case also the researcher did not find the appropriate tools for collecting the data. It was decided to follow structured Interview as the main technique for collection of relevant primary data for the study. As such, the following interview schedules were developed by the investigator for collecting relevant data from the primary sources.

- Interview schedule for child labourers
- Interview Schedule for Parents/ guardians, Teachers and Village Leaders

The interview schedule for child labourers was developed on causes of child labour, working conditions, and education besides some general

information and family data. The interview schedule was got edited by three experts from department of education including Professors and Associate Professors before finalization. It was considered to be valid and reliable. However, reliability of the schedule could not be established empirically. The final interview schedule contained 23 items some of which are of multiple type. A copy of the interview schedule for the child labourers is appended in Appendix-A.

The Interview Schedule for Parents/ guardians, Teachers and Village Leaders was also developed following the same procedure. It had contained 18 items 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. A copy of the interview schedule for the Parents/ guardians, Teachers and Village Leaders is appended in Appendix-B.

Further, unstructured interview was also followed to get relevant information from the respondents at the time of collection of data in order to get supplementary information as felt necessary by the researcher. Besides, the researcher had interactions with government officials for collection of information for the study.

3.05: Collection of Data

Collection of data is a necessary and important part of research process. For the present study, data were collected through personal visits to the selected villages. The researcher conducted personal interview with all the selected subjects. Being a Mizo and an inhabitant of the block, he did not find it difficult to establish rapport with the subjects before conducting interview and to get their free opinion and the relevant information.

3.06: Organization of Data

Keeping the objectives of the study in view, the data were organized for the Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Village Leaders as a common tool

was used for them, and separately for the Child Labourers 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 deals with analysis and interpretation of data collected from parents/guardian, village leaders, teachers and child labourers in rural areas of Zawlnuam block of Mizoram. It is organised into two sections- Section A and Section B for analysis and interpretation of data collected through the two tools. Section A is devoted for analysis of data collected from parents/guardians, village leaders and teachers and section B is devoted for analysis and interpretation of data collected from the child labourers as two different interview schedules were used for them. At the end of the chapter the results are presented in a summarized manner for the five objectives stated in chapter I.

Section ‘A’: As described in chapter – III, twelve villages were included in the sample. The total sample of parents/guardians, teachers, and village leaders for whom a common interview schedule was used were 72, 24 and 12 respectively. All the respondents were interviewed through the structured interview schedule with eighteen items. The eighteen items of the structured interview are stated below to facilitate analysis and interpretation.

Items:

- 1) Have you seen children engaged in any kind of job?
- 2) According to your opinion, what are the primary causes of child labour in your locality?
- 3) According to your opinion, what are the primary reasons for the employers for engaging minor children at work?
- 4) 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?

- 5) According to your observation, which are the major fields in which more child labourers are working in your locality?
- 6) According to your observation, child labour practice is more serious in which area?
- 7) Do you feel that child labour is a serious problem in your locality?
- 8) Do you feel that child labour adversely affects the health of the children?
- 9) Do you think that child labourers are being exploited in their work places?
- 10) Do you think that child labour contributes for socio-economic development?
- 11) Do you think that child labour is a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of your locality?
- 12) 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?
- 13) Do you think that child labour is increasing in Mizo society as certain sectarian religious groups prevent children from pursuing education? If so, name them-
- 14) Do you know that there are child labour prevention acts and laws in our country?
- 15) Do you feel the government policies are adequate for eradicating child labour in our country?
- 16) Do you find any government agency in your locality working for prevention of child labour?
- 17) Do you think that child labour should be totally banned in Mizo society?

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

Analysis and Interpretation

The responses of the three categories of respondents- parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders are organised in tabular form in respect of each items in tables 4.01 – 4.18 and are interpreted. In Tables frequencies have been presented along with the percentage in parantheses.

1. *Prevalence of child Labourers-* The first question asked to the respondents was about the prevalence of child labour in their locality. The responses are organized and presented in Table 4.01.

Table 4.01: Prevalence of Child Labour (Item No. 1)

Parents/Guardians		Teachers		Village Leaders	
N=72		N=24		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
72 (100)	-	24 (100)	-	12 (100)	-

From Table 4.01 it is revealed that all respondents had responded “Yes” to the question. This indicates that child labour is prevalent in rural areas of Zawlnuam Block of Mizoram. Further they were of the opinion that child labour is more serious in rural areas than urban areas.

2. *Primary causes of child Labour -* In the second question, the respondents were asked 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. The data is presented in Table 4.02.

Table 4.02: Primary Causes of child labour (Item No. 2)

Causes	Parents/ Guardians	Teachers	Village Leaders
	N= 72	N=24	N=12
Poverty	51 (70.83)	17 (70.82)	11 (91.67)
Large member in the family	3 (4.17)	1 (4.17)	1 (8.33)
Ignorance of adverse effects on child's health	3 (4.17)	-	-
Compulsion of socio-economic disparity	2 (2.78)	1 (4.17)	-
Inadequate income of parents	6 (8.33)	3 (12.5)	-
Broken family	5 (6.94)	1 (4.17)	-
Death of parents	2(2.78)	1 (4.17)	-
Others (specify)	-		-

From Table 4.02 it is found that poverty is considered as the main problem for children being engaged as child labourers as reported by majority of the respondents (70.83% of Parents/guardians, 70.83% of Teachers and 91.67% of Village Leaders). Besides, over population, inadequate income of parents, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health and compulsion of socio-economic factors were also reported to be the causes of child labour in some cases.

3. *Primary reasons for the employers for engaging minor children at work*-The third question asked to the respondent 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, and no trade union. Besides, there was also an open option 'others' to which no one had replied. The data is presented in Table 4.03.

Table 4.03:Reasons for the Employers for Engaging Minor Children (Item No. 3)

Causes	Parents/ Guardians	Teachers	Village Leaders
	N=72	N=24	N=12
Low wage rate	33 (45.84)	10 (41.67)	5 (41.67)
Profit motive	15(20.84)	4 (16.67)	2 (16.67)
Easy to manage	3(4.17)	3 (12.5)	1 (8.33)
Trustworthiness	2(2.77)	1 (4.16)	-
Flexible work `	2(2.77)	3(12.5)	-
Easily available	13 (18.05)	3(12.5)	4 (33.33)
No trade union	4(5.56)	-	-
Others (specify)	-	-	-

From Table 4.03 it is found that ‘low wage rate’ was the primary reason for the employers for engaging minor children at work. Besides, profit motive, easy to manage, trustworthiness, flexibility to work, easy availability and no involvement in trade union were also reported to be the other reasons for engaging minor children at work.

4. *Reasons for Parents to engage their minor children as labourers even knowing its adverse effects on their children’s health and education-* The fourth question was asked to know the opinion of the respondents 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, over population in the family, no source of income of the family, and supplementing the income of the family along with an open option ‘others’ to which no body responded. The data is presented in Table 4.04.

Table 4.04: Reasons for Parents to Engage their Minor Children as Labourers (Item No. 4)

Causes	Parents/ Guardians	Teachers	Village Leaders
	N=72	N=24	N=12
Compulsion of socio-economic	3 (4.17)	-	1(8.33)

disparity			
Poverty	44(61.12)	18(75))	8(66.67)
Divorce of parents	-	-	-
Carelessness of parents	2(2.77)	-	-
Orphan	4(5.55)	-	-
Large member in the family	5(6.94)	-	1(8.33)
Inadequate income of the family	6(8.33)	3(12.5)	2(16.67)
Supplementing the income of the family	5(6.94)	2(8.33)	-
Skill enhancement	3(4.18)	1(4.17)	-
Others (specify) -	-	-	-

From table 4.04, it is revealed that majority of the respondents (61.11% of Parents/guardians, 75% of teachers, and 66.67% of village Leaders) 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. Further, compulsion of socio-economic disparity, carelessness of parents, orphan, over population in the family, no source of income of the family, supplementing the income of the family and skill enhancement are the other factors for engaging their children at work.

5. *Major Fields in which more child labourers are working-* The fifth question was asked to know the major fields in which more child labourers are working in the area for which nine probable fields were mentioned i.e. Home, restaurant, shop, agriculture, food processing industry, oil palm and rubber plantation, harvesting of cocoanuts and betel nuts, quarry, domestic helper. Besides, there was also an open option 'others' to which no body answered. The results are presented in Table 4.05.

Table 4.05 Major working fields of Child Labourers (Item No. 5)

Causes	Parents/ Guardians	Teachers	Village Leaders
	N = 72	N=24	N=12
Home	11(15.28)	7(29.17)	3(25)
Restaurant	19(26.38)	4 (16.67)	4(33.33)
Shop	2(2.78)	2 (8.33)	-
Agriculture	33(45.83)	9(37.5)	4 (33.33)
Food processing industry	1(1.39)	-	-
Oil palm and rubber plantation	2(2.78)	-	1(8.34)
Harvesting of Coconuts and Betel nuts	1(1.39)	-	-
Stone Quarry	2(2.78)	2 (8.33)	-
Domestic helper	1(1.39)	-	-
Others (specify) -	-	-	-

From table 4.05 it is found that agriculture is considered as the largest sector in which more children are engaged in work. Besides, home, restaurant, shop, food processing industry, oil palm and rubber plantation, harvesting of cocoanuts and betel nuts, quarry, domestic helper are also found to be the other working areas of child labourers.

6. *Areas having serious practices of child labour-* The sixth question asked to the respondents were intended to know whether child labour practice is more serious in urban areas or in rural areas of the block. The results are presented in Table 4.06.

Table 4.06: Serious areas of Child Labour Practice (Item No. 6)

Rural/Urban	Parents/ Guardians	Teachers	Village Leaders
	N= 72	N=24	N=12
Rural	72 (100)	24 (100)	12(100)

Urban	-	-	-
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From table 4.06 it is revealed that all the respondents have responded ‘rural’ to the question. This indicates that child labour is more serious and more practiced in rural areas in comparison to urban areas.

7. *Seriousness of child labour practice in the locality*- The seventh question was asked to the respondents in order to know the seriousness of child labour practice in their locality. The results are presented in Table 4.07.

Table 4.07:Seriousness of Child Labour problem in the Locality (Item No. 7)

Parents/ Guardians		Teachers		Village Leaders	
N=72		N=24		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
40 (55.56)	32 (44.44)	14 (58.33)	10 (41.67)	8 (66.67)	4 (33.33)

From table 4.07 it is revealed that child labour practice is serious in the rural areas.

8. *Effects of child labour on their health* - The eighth question was asked to the respondents in order to know their views on the effect of child labour practice on their health. The results are presented in Table 4.08.

Table 4. 08: Effects of child labour on their health (Item No.8)

Parents/ Guardian		Teacher		Village Leader	
N=72		N=24		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
30 (41.67)	42 (58.33)	10 (41.67)	14 (58.33)	5 (41.67)	7 (58.33)

As

revealed from table 4.08, majority of the respondents (Parents/guardians- 58.33%, teachers- 58.33%, and village leaders- 58.33 %) (are of the view that child labour practice affects the health of the children.

9. *Exploitation of child labourers at their work places* - The ninth question was asked to the respondents in order to know their opinion on exploitation of child labourers at their work places. The results are presented in Table 4.09.

Table 4. 09: Exploitation of Child Labourers at work places (Item No. 9)

Parents/ Guardian		Teacher		Village Leader	
N=72		N=24		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
64(88.89)	8(11.1)	18 (75)	6 (25)	10 (83.33)	2 (16.67)

It is revealed from 4.09 that majority Parents/guardians - 88.89%, teachers- 75%, and village Leaders- 83.33%) of the perceived that child labourers are not exploited at their work places. However, in some cases children are exploited.

10. *Contributions of child labour for socio-economic development* - The tenth question was asked to the respondents in order to know their views about the contribution of child labour practices for socio-economic development. The results are presented in Table 4.10.

Table 4 .10: Contributions of Child Labour for Socio-Economic Development (Item No.10)

Parents/ Guardian		Teacher		Village Leader	
N=72		N=24		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
27 (37.5)	45 (62.5)	8 (33.3)	16 (66.67)	3 (25)	9 (75)

From table 4.10 it is revealed that majority of the respondents (Parents/guardians- 62.5 %, teachers- 66.67%, and village leaders- 75%) were of the view that child labour does not have much contribution to socio-economic development.

11. *Child labour as an obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of locality-* Through the eleventh question it was intended to know the opinion of the respondents if child labour can be considered as a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of their locality. The results are presented in Table 4.11.

Table 4 .11: Child Labour as an Obstacle on the Path of Progress and Prosperity (Item No.11)

Parents/Guardians		Teachers		Village Leaders	
N=72		N=24		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
56 (77.78)	16 (22.22)	16 (66.67)	8 (33.3)	8 (66.67)	4 (33.33)

From table 4.11 it is revealed that majority of the respondents (Parents/guardians- 77.78%, teachers- 66.67 %, village leaders- 66.67%) have perceived child labour as a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of their locality.

12. *Demand on Child Labour due to Adoption of Nuclear Families-* The twelfth question was asked to know the views of the respondents if adoption of nuclear families in their societies has increased the demand for child labour, especially in attending household works. The results are presented in Table 4.12.

Table 4 .12: Demand on Child Labour due to Adoption of Nuclear Families(Item No.12)

Parents/ Guardian		Teacher		Village Leader	
N=72		N=24		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
15 (20.83)	57 (79.17)	6 (25)	18 (75)	5 (41.67)	7 (58.33)

In response to this question, as revealed from Table 4.12, majority of the respondents (Parents/guardians-79.17%, teachers-75%, village leaders-58.33%) have responded negatively. This implies that nuclear family is not a cause for demand of child labour in Mizo society.

13. *Impacts of sectarian religious groups on child labour-* The thirteenth question was asked to know if any sectarian religious groups prevent children from pursuing education and which may result engagement of children as child labourers in Mizo society. The results are presented in Table 4.13.

Table 4 .13: Impacts of sectarian religious groups on child labour (Item No.13)

Parents/ Guardians		Teachers		Village Leaders	
N=72		N=8		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
-	72 (100)	-	8 (100)	-	12 (100)

From table 4.13 it is revealed that all respondents were of the view that no sectarian religious group prevents children from pursuing education in their societies.

14. *Awareness about Child Labour Prevention Acts and Laws-* The fourteenth question was asked to the respondents in order to know if they were aware of the child labour prevention acts and laws of our country. The results are presented in Table 4.14.

Table 4 .14: Awareness about Child Labour Prevention Acts and Laws of our country (Item No. 14)

Parents/ Guardians		Teachers		Village Leaders	
N=72		N=8		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
40 (55.56)	32 (44.44s)	24 (100)	0 -	12 (100)	0 -

From Table 4.14 it is revealed that majority of parents and all teachers and village leaders are aware of existence of child labour prevention laws and acts in our country. However, a good number of parents are not aware of such laws and acts.

15. *Adequacy of government policies for eradicating child labour in our country –* The fifteenth question was asked to the respondents in order to know about their perception on the adequacy of government policies for eradicating child labour in our country. The results are presented in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15: Adequacy of Government Policies for Eradicating Child Labour (Item No. 15)

Parents/ Guardian		Teacher		Village Leader	
N=72		N=8		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
15 (20.83)	57 (79.17)	11 (45.83)	13 (54.17)	4 (33.33)	8 (66.67)

F

From table 4.15 it is revealed that majority of the respondents (Parents/guardians 79.167%, teacher 54.17%, village leader 66.67%) have reported that the government policies are in-adequate for eradicating child labour in our country. They are of the view that some more measures need to be taken for the purpose.

16. *Availability of government agency in the Locality for prevention of child Labour* - The sixteenth question was asked to the respondents in order to know about the availability of government agencies in their locality working for prevention of child labour. The results are presented in Table 4.16.

17. **Table 4.16: Government Agency Working for Prevention of Child Labour (Item No.16)**

Parents/ Guardians		Teachers		Village Leaders	
N=72		N=8		N=12	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
8 (11.42)	64 (88.88)	1 (4.17)	23 (95.83)	-	12 (100)

From table 4.16 it is revealed that majority of the respondents (Parents/guardians 88.88%, teachers 95.83%, Village Leaders- 100%) have responded “No” to the question. This indicates that either there is no government agency in their locality working seriously for eradication of child labour or the activities of such agencies are not spectacular.

18. *Banning of child Labour in Mizo society* – The seventeenth question was asked in order to know the views of the respondents on banning child Labour in Mizo society. The results are presented in Table 4.17.

Table 4 .17 Banning of Child Labour in Mizo society (Item No.17)

Parents/ Guardians		Teachers		Village Leader	
N=72		N=24		N=4	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
55 (76.39)	17 (23.61)	19 (79.17)	5 (20.83)	11 (91.67)	1 (8.33)

From Table 4.17 it is revealed that majority of the respondents (Parents/guardians-76.39%, teachers-79.17%, and village leaders-91.67%) have responded affirmatively to the question. This implies that majority of the respondents are of the view that child labour should be totally banned in rural areas of Zawlnuam block of Mizoram.

19. *Remedial measures Needed for Eradication of Child Labour* – The eighteenth question was asked in order to know the views of the respondents about remedial measures needed for complete eradication of child labour problem in their locality. The results are presented in Table 4.18.

Table 4.18: Remedial Measure Needed for Eradication of Child Labour (Item No.18)

Causes	Parents/ Guardians	Teachers	Village Leaders
	N=72	N=24	N=12
Effective enforcement of Right to Education (RTE) Act	11(15.28)	5(20.83)	2 (16.67)
Poverty eradication programe	35 (48.62)	9(37.5)	7 (58.33)
Effective enforcement of child labour laws	8(11.11)	1(4.17)	-
Development of awareness of people	5(6.94)	6(25)	2(16.67)
Adoption of small family norm	8(11.11)	3(12.5)	1(8.33)
Active role of NGOs like YMA, KTP, TKP, MHIP, MZP, MSU etc	5(6.94)	-	-

From table 4.18 it is found that the respondents feel the importance of poverty eradication programme, effective enforcement of Right to Education (RTE) Act, effective enforcement of child labour laws, development of awareness of people, adoption of small family norm, active role of NGOs like YMA, KTP, TKP, MHIP, MZP, MSU etc for eradication of Child Labour.

Section B: In this section the data collected from 72 child labourers through interview by the researcher with the help of structured interview schedule are analysed and interpreted. The interview schedule has 23 items. Item wise analysis of data has been made and the results are presented in Table 4.19 and are interpreted. In Table frequencies have been presented along with the percentage in parentheses.

Table 4.19: Status of chid labourers (Items 1-23)

Sl. No	Question	Total
		N =72
1.	What caused you to go for your engagement as labourer?	

	Poverty	41(56.94%)	
	Divorce of parents	1(1.38%)	
	Carelessness of parents	-	
	Orphan	-	
	Over population in the family	13(18.05%)	
	No source of income of the family	10 (13.89%)	
	Supplementing the income of the Family	7(9.72%)	
	Skill enhancement	-	
	Others (specify)	-	
2.	Are you staying away from your house? If yes, it was of whose decision?		
		Yes	No
		8(11.11%)	64(88.89%)
	Own decision	3	
	Parents decision	5	
3	How long you have been engaged in the present work?		
	0-6 Months	-	
	6months -1 year	26(36.11%)	
	1-2 years	23(31.94%)	
	2 years & Above	23(31.94%)	
4.	What were you doing before joining the present work place?		
	Pursuing education	52(72.22%)	
	working at another place	20(27.78%)	
5.	What is the place of your work?		
	Home	23(31.94%)	
	Restaurant	4(5.56%)	
	Shop	5(6.94%)	
	Agricultural Farm	21(29.16%)	
	Food processing industry	1(1.39%)	
	Oil palm and rubber plantation Farm	6(8.33%)	
	Harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts	12(16.67%)	
	Quarry	-	
	Others (specify)	-	
6.	Why did you prefer this type of work?		
	Because of parents' persuasion	53(73.61%)	
	Because it is easier than other types of works	15(20.83%)	
	Because of interest of self	4(5.56%)	
7.	How many hours you work per day at your work place?		
	Less than 8hours	37(51.38%)	
	Between 8-12 hours	34 (47.22%)	
	More than 12 hours	1(1.38%)	
8.	What is the nature of engagement?		
	Part Time	66(91.67%)	
	Full Time	6(8.33%)	

9.	Is there any medical support in you working situation in case of exigencies?	Yes	No
		46(63.8%)	26(36.1%)
10	Do you have rest time during the working hours?	Yes	No
		64(88.89%)	8(11.11%)
11.	How much you earn per month?		
	Less than Rs 1000/-	28(38.88%)	
	Between Rs 1000/- and Rs 1500/-	44(61.11%)	
	Between Rs 1500/- and Rs 2000/-	-	
	Between Rs 2000/- and Rs 2500/-	-	
	Above Rs 2500/- i.e. Rs-----	-	
12.	Is there any extra payment for overtime work?	Yes	No
		55(76.39%)	17(23.61%)
13.	Are you given any additional benefits by your employer? If yes, specify	Yes	No
		47(65.28%)	25(34.72%)
14	Have you ever been forced to work by your employer?	Yes	No
		4(5.56%)	68(94.4%)
15.	Have you ever been harassed by your employer physically or mentally? If yes, what type of treatment you have received from him/her?	Yes	No
		-	72(100%)
16.	Are you satisfied with your present engagement? If not, what is the reason?	Yes	No
		3(4.17%)	69(95.83%)
	Low wage	44 (63.77%)	
	Low status of the work	22(31.88%)	
	Long period of working hours	2(2.90%)	
	Health hazard	1(1.45%)	
	Any other (specify)	-	
17.	Do you think that you can fulfill your dreams continuing in your present engagement?	Yes	No
		(11.11%)	64(88.89%)
18.	Were you ever admitted to school?		
	Yes	59(37.5%)	
	No	13 (18.05%)	
19.	In which class did you drop out from the school?		
	Drop out at Class II Standard	1 (1.38%)	
	Class III Standard	16 (22.22%)	
	Class IV Standard	27 (37.50%)	
	Class V Standard	7 (9.72%)	
	Class VI Standard	6 (8.33%)	
	Class VII Standard	1 (1.38%)	
20	How did you leave the school?	By own	By parents

		7 (11.86%)	52(88.1 4%)
21.	Do you still like being in the school?	Yes	No
		52(72.22 %)	20(27.7 8%)
22.	If given a chance, will you go to school?	Yes	No
		25 (34.72%)	47 (65.28 %)
23.	Has any government organization contacted you for pursuing education?	Yes	No
		25(34.72 %)	47(65.2 8%)

1. *Causes of child labour* - The first question was related to the causes of child labour for which 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. Besides, there was also an open option 'others' to which no body responded.

As revealed from table 4.19, poverty 41 (56.94%) is reported to be the major cause of child labour followed by over population in the family 13 (18.05%), no source of income of the family 10 (13.89%), supplementing the income of the family 7 (9.72%) and divorce of parents 1 (1.38%) as the other causes of child labour in Zawlnuam Block of Mizoram.

2. *Living condition of child Labourers* – The second question was asked in order to know if the children are working staying at their homes or outside their homes. It is found from Table 4.19 that out of the 72 child labourers 64 (88.88%) were staying with their families and the rest 8 (11.11%) were staying outside their families. Out of the eight child labourers, who were staying outside their families, five had left their homes as per the decision of their parents but three had left their homes as per their own decision.

3. *Duration of engagement of child labourers in their present work* – The third question was asked to know the period since when the child labourers are engaged in their present work. As revealed from Table 4.19,

out of 72 child labourers, 26 (36.12%) are working since 6 months – 1 years, 23 (31.94%) are working since 1 years – 2 years and 23 (31.94%) are working since more than 2 years in their present work places.

4. *Status of Children before Joining their Present Work* – The fourth question was asked to reveal the status of the child labourers before joining their present work place. As revealed from Table 4.19 out of the 72 child labourers, 52(72.22%) reported that they were pursuing Education but, 20 (27.78%) reported that they were working at other places.

5. *Place of work-* The fifth question was asked in order to know the places of work of the child labourers. As revealed from Table 4.19, out of the 72 child labourers, 23 (31.94%), 21 (29.17%), 12(16.67%), 6 (8.33%), 5 (6.94%), 4 (5.56%) and 1 (1.39%) are working at homes (domestic works), agricultural farms, harvesting of coconuts and betel-nuts, oil palm and rubber plantation farms, shops, restaurants and food processing industries respectively. No one was found working in the quarry.

6. *Reason for preferring the present work-* The sixth question was intended to know what factors were responsible in case of the children to prefer the work where they are working. Out of the 72 child labourers 53 (73.61%) reported that it was their parents' persuasion, 15 (20.83%) reported that they found their present work easier in comparison to other types of work, and 4 (5.56%) reported that it was of their own interest.

7. *Working Hours-* The seventh question was intended to know the working hours of the child labourers per day. Out of the 72 child labourers, 37 (51.39%) reported that their working hour was less than 8 hours, 34 (47.22%) reported that they work for 8-12 hours and 1 (1.39%) reported that they work for more than 12 hours per day.

8. *Nature of engagement in the work* – The eighth question was asked in order to know the nature of engagement i.e. part time or full time. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of the 72 child labourers, 66 (91.67%)

reported that they were engaged as part time labourer and only 6 (8.33) were engaged as full time labourers. This indicates that majority of the child labourers are engaged in their work place on part time basis.

9. *Medical support at the work place* - The ninth question was asked in order to know about medical support available to the child labourers at their work places. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of 72 child labourers 46 (63.8 %) reported that there was provision for medical support in case of emergency but 26 (36.1%) reported negatively.

10. *Duration of rest within working hours*- The tenth question was asked in order to know about rest period available for child labourers during the working hours. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of the 72 child labourers 64 (88.89%) of the child labourers reported that they could enjoy rest hours within their working period but 8(11.11%) of the child labourers reported that they could not enjoy rest hours within their working period.

11. *Remuneration*- The eleventh question was asked in order to know the actual wages earned by child labourers. Out of the 72 child labourers 28 (38.89%) reported that they were earning less than Rs 1000/- per month, and 44 (61.11%) reported that they were earning Rs 1000/- to Rs 1500 /- per month. No body was found earning more than Rs 1500/- per month.

12. *Extra payment for overtime work* - The twelfth question was asked in order to know about payment to child labourers for overtime work. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of the 72 child labourers 55(76.39%) reported that they got an extra payment when they are engaged in overtime work but 25 (34.72%) reported that they were not given any extra payment even if they were engaged for overtime.

13. *Additional benefits* –The thirteenth question was asked in order to know about the additional benefits received by child labourers in their working places. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of the 72 child labourers 47 (65.28 %) reported that they received extra benefits like

bonus in cash and in kind but 25 (34.72%) reported that they did not receive any additional benefit from their employers.

14. *Forced work* – The fourteenth question was asked in order to know if the child labourers were forced by their employers to work. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of the 72 child labourers 68 (94.44 %) of the respondents reported that they were not being forced to work by their employers but 4 (5.56%) reported that they were often forced to work by their employers.

15. *Physical and mental harassment*-The fifteenth question was asked in order to know if child labourers were being harassed by their employers. All the child labourers (100%) reported that they were never harassed by their employers physically or mentally.

16. *Satisfaction on present engagement*- The sixteenth question was asked in order to know about the satisfaction of child labourers in their engagement. Out of the 72 child labourers 69 (95.83%) reported that they were not satisfied with their present engagement but 3(4.17%) reported that they were satisfied with their engagement. The reason for non-satisfaction in the engagement was mainly due to low wages 44(63.77%) followed by low status of work 22(31.88%), long period of working hours 2(2.90%), and health hazards 1(1.45%).

17.*Fulfillment of dreams*- The seventeenth question was asked in order to know about the fulfillment of dreams/of the child labourers through their current engagement. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of the 72 child labourers 64 (88.89%) reported that they would not be able to fulfill their dreams through their current engagement but 8 (11.11%) reported that they were hopeful of fulfilling their dreams through their current engagement.

18. *Educational status*- The eighteenth question was asked in order to know if the child labourers were ever enrolled in the school. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of 72 child labourers, 59 (37.5%) reported that

they were admitted in the school and, the rest 13 (18.05%) reported that they were never admitted to any school.

19. *Stages of drop out-* The nineteenth question was asked in order to reveal the stages of drop out among the child labourers. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of the 59 child labourers who were enrolled in schools, maximum 28 (47.46%) had dropped out at class IV, followed by 16 (27.12%) at class III, 7 (11.86%) at class V, 6 (10.17%) at class VI, and 1 (1.69%) each at both class I and class VII.

20. *Reasons for leaving Schooling-* The twentieth question was intended to know the reasons for leaving the schooling by the child labourers . From Table 4.19, it is revealed that out of the 59 child labourers who left the schooling, 52 (88.14%) reported that they left their schools by their parents decision and the rest 07 (11.86%) reported that they left their schools by their own decision.

21. *Interest for continuing schooling -* The twenty first question was asked in order to know the interest of the child labourers for schooling. From Table 4.19, it is revealed that out of the 72 child labourers, 52 (72.22%) reported that they were interested to be in the schools and the rest 20 (27.78%) reported that they were not interested to be back to schools.

22. *Continuation of Schooling -* The twenty second question was asked in order to know the interest of the child labourers for continuing schooling if given scope for the same. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of the 72 child labourers, 25 (34.72%) reported that they want to continue schooling if they would be given a chance but the rest 47 (65.28%) disagreed to continue schooling due to over age and economic factors.

23. *Governmental actions -* The twenty third question was asked in order to know about the action of government organizations for bringing the child labourers to the purview of education. From Table 4.19 it is revealed that out of the 72 child labourers, 47(65.28%) reported that they were never contacted by any government agency for pursuing education but the rest 25(34.72%) reported that they were contacted.

Summary of the Results:

In the above two sections data were analyzed as per the two tools meant for parents/guardians, village leaders and teachers; and the child labourers. The results are presented below in respect of the five objectives of the study.

i) Nature and extent of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block

- Majority of the parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders reported that child labour is prevalent in the rural areas of Zawlnuam block. Further they were of the opinion that child labour is more serious in rural areas than urban areas.
- It is found that agriculture is considered as the largest sector in which more children are engaged in work. Besides, home, restaurant, shop, food processing industry, oil palm and rubber plantation, harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts, stone quarry, domestic helper are also found to be the other working areas of child labourers.
- Majority of the parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders were of the opinion that nuclear family is not a cause for demand of child labour in Mizo society and no sectarian religious group prevents children from pursuing education in their societies.
- Majority of child labourers reported that their working hour was less than 8 hours.
- Majority of the child labourers reported that they could enjoy rest hours within their working period.
- Majority of child labourers reported that they were engaged as part time labourers at their work places.
- No child labour was found earning more than Rs 1500/- per month.
- Majority of the child labourers reported that they used to receive extra benefits like bonus in cash and kind for over time works and during festivals.
- Majority of child labourers reported that there was provision for medical support in case of emergency

- Majority of child labourers reported that they were not being forced to work by their employers
- All the child labourers reported that they were never harassed by their employers physically or mentally.
- Majority of child labourers reported that they were not satisfied with their present engagement. The reason for non-satisfaction in the engagement was mainly due to low wages followed by low status of work, long period of working hours, and health hazards.

ii) Causes of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block

- Poverty is considered as the main reason for children being engaged as child labourers as reported by majority of the parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders. Besides, over population, no source of income of parents, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health and compulsion of socio-economic factors were also reported by them to be the causes of child labour in some cases.
- As reported by the child labourers, poverty is the major cause of child labour followed by over population in the family, inadequate income of the family, supplementing the income of the family and divorce of parents as the other causes of child labour in Zawlnuam Block of Mizoram.
- Majority of the parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders reported that low wage rate was the primary reason for the employers for engaging minor children at work. Besides, profit motive, easy to manage, trust worthiness, flexibility to work, easy availability and no involvement in trade union were also reported to be the other reasons for engaging minor children at work.
- Majority of the parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders 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. Further, compulsion of socio-economic disparity, carelessness of parents, orphan, over population in

the family, no source of income of the family, supplementing the income of the family and skill enhancement are the other factors for engaging their children at work.

iii) Educational status of child labourers in rural areas of Zawlnuam block

- Majority of the child labourers reported that they were pursuing education before their engagement.
- Majority of the child labourers reported that they were admitted in the schools but few reported that they were never admitted to any school.
- Majority of the child labourers, who were enrolled in schools, had dropped out at either in class III or IV.
- Majority of the child labourers reported that they left schools by the decision of their parents but a few had left their schools by their own decision.
- Majority of the child labourers reported that they were interested to be in the schools but a few reported that they were not interested to be back to schools.
- Majority of the child labourers reported that they were not interested to continue schooling even if they would be given a chance due to over age and economic factors but a few expressed their desire to continue schooling.

iv) Government action in Zawlnuam block for prevention of child labour

- Majority of parents, teachers and village leaders were of the view that no government agency in their locality is working seriously for eradication of child labour and the activities of such agencies are not spectacular.
- Majority of the child labourers reported that they were never contacted by any government agency for pursuing education but few reported that they were contacted.

v) Perceptions of parents, teachers and village leaders for prevention of child labour in Zawlnuam block

- Majority of the parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders opined that child labour practice affects the health of the children.
- Majority of the parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders perceived that child labourers were not exploited at their work places. However, in some cases children were exploited.
- Majority of the parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders were of the opinion that child labour does not have much contribution to socio-economic development.
- Majority of the parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders perceive child labour as a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of their locality.
- Majority of parents, teachers and village leaders are aware of existence of child labour prevention laws and acts in our country. However, a good number of parents are not aware of such laws and acts.
- Majority of parents, teachers and village leaders were of the view that government policies are in-adequate for eradicating child labour in our country and some more measures need to be taken for the purpose.
- Majority of parents, teachers and village leaders were of the view that child labour should be totally banned in rural areas of Zawlnuam block of Mizoram.
- Majority of parents, teachers and village leaders felt the importance of poverty eradication programme, effective enforcement of Right to Education (RTE) Act, effective enforcement of child labour laws, development of awareness of people, adoption of small family norm, active role of NGOs like YMA, KTP, TKP, MHIP, MZP, MSU etc for eradication of Child Labour.
- Majority of child labourers reported that they would not be able to fulfill their dreams through their current engagement.

CHAPTER V

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chapter-V

Results and Discussions

This chapter is divided into seven sections. Findings of the study have been presented in section 5.01 and discussed in section 5.02. Suggestions have been offered in section 5.03. Further, sections 5.04, 5.05 and 5.06 are devoted for the discussion of educational implications of the study, limitations of the study and suggestions for further research respectively. At the end, an epilogue is presented in section 5.07.

5.01. Findings of the study

The major findings are given below in respect of the five objectives of the study.

Nature and extent of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block

- Child labour is prevalent in the rural areas of Zawlnuam block. It is more serious in rural areas than urban areas.
- Agriculture is considered as the largest sector in which more children are engaged in work. Besides, home, restaurant, shop, food processing industry, oil palm and rubber plantation, harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts, stone quarry, domestic helper are also found to be the other working areas of child labourers.
- The working hours of the child labourers are less than 8 hours.
- Majority of child labourers are engaged as part time labourers at their work places.
- No child labour was found earning more than Rs 1500/- per month.
- The child labourers used to receive extra benefits like bonus in cash and kind for over time works and during festivals.
- There was provision for medical support in case of emergency.
- The child labourers were not being forced to work by their employers.
- The child labourers were never harassed by their employers physically or mentally.

Causes of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block

- Poverty was found to be the main reason for children being engaged as child labourers. Besides, over population, inadequate income of

parents, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health and compulsion of socio-economic factors were also found to be the other causes of child labour in some cases.

- Low wage rate was found to be the primary reason for the employers for engaging minor children at work. Besides, profit motive, easy to manage, trust worthiness, flexibility to work, easy availability and no involvement in trade union were also found to be the other reasons for engaging minor children at work.

Educational status of child labourers in rural areas of Zawlnuam block

- Majority of the child labourers were pursuing education before their engagement.
- Majority of the child labourers were admitted in the schools.
- Majority of the child labourers had dropped out at either in class III or IV.
- Majority of the child labourers left schools by the decision of their parents.
- Majority of the child labourers were interested to be in the schools.

Government action in Zawlnuam block for prevention of child labour

- No government agency in the village areas under study was working seriously for eradication of child labour and the activities of such agencies were not spectacular.
- Majority of the child labourers were never contacted by any government agency for pursuing education but few were contacted.

Perceptions of parents, teachers and village leaders for prevention of child labour in Zawlnuam block

- Child labour practice affects the health of the children.
- Child labourers were not exploited at their work places.
- Child labour does not have much contribution to socio-economic development.

- Child labour is a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity.
- Government policies are in-adequate for eradicating child labour in our country and some more measures need to be taken for the purpose.
- Child labour should be totally banned in rural areas of Zawlnuam block of Mizoram.
- Poverty eradication programme, effective enforcement of Right to Education (RTE) Act, effective enforcement of child labour laws, development of awareness of people, adoption of small family norm, active role of NGOs like YMA, KTP, TKP, MHIP, MZP, MSU etc are important for eradication of child labour.

5.02: Discussion

Poverty is reported to be the primary cause of child labour among the various villages inhabiting in rural areas of Zawlnuam Block by parents/guardians, teachers and village leaders and also by the child labourers themselves. It is a fact that people in rural areas largely depend upon agriculture for earning their livelihood and because of the hilly areas they get poor income from the agricultural practices which is not enough to meet their basic needs such as food, cloth and shelters. As such, they are compelled to engage their children as child labourers. Over population in the family is found to be another cause of child labour. It is because in Mizo society majority of the people, more particularly in rural areas consider birth control against religious beliefs. Besides, divorce of parents, death of parents, broken family, inadequate income of parents, compulsion of socio-economic disparity are common features of the traditional Mizo society. Though, there is a decrease in such practices, it is not totally absent.

From the findings of the study it is revealed that agriculture is the main field in which more children are engaged in work. Agriculture in the hilly areas demand more labour for which both male and female members of the families go for work along with their children. As children are well acquainted with the agricultural practices, they are largely engaged in agricultural farms. Further, there are good numbers of restaurants, shops, food processing industries, oil

palm and rubber plantation farms, stone quarries in which labourers are in demand and children are engaged to supplement the income of their families. Children are also preferred to be engaged in harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts, domestic works as they are more active in comparison to older ones.

The study revealed that 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 3rd and 4th which indicate that at around the age of 10, children are engaged in child labour. Because of ignorance of parents/guardians about child labour prohibition acts and laws and also due to poor implementation of such laws child labour is more prevalent in rural areas. The schemes of SSA and RTE are not properly implemented in rural areas.

It is revealed from the study that the child labourers are not ill treated by their employers. It is because Mizo people, by nature are very much affectionate to children.

5.03: Suggestions

- Poverty eradication programmes in rural areas of Mizoram should be undertaken seriously by the government.
- Right to Education Act should be seriously implemented in the state of Mizoram, more particularly in the rural areas.
- Child labourer Acts and Laws should be strictly enforced by the government agencies in rural areas.
- The child labourers need to be brought to the arena of Education.
- The NGO's should play active role in preventing child labour and enrolling the children in the schools.
- Awareness should be developed among the parents and guardians.
- Functioning of schools should be monitored through effective supervision.
- Emphasis should be given for imparting quality education in the schools.
- Hostel facilities with free boarding and lodging need to be provided to children belonging to poor economic status.
- Residential schools need to be established in the rural areas.

- Law enforcing agency should be appointed to control child labour in the study areas.

5.04: Educational Implications of the study

This study has implications for policy makers, officials, parents/ guardians, village leaders, school teachers and all those who are concerned with child welfare and education inZawlnuam Block of Mizoram. Moreover, the NGOs at village levels should be active to prevent child labour practices.

There should be serious efforts by the state government to eradicate poverty and to ensure providing engagement to the adults for earning their livelihood and to support their families. All relevant acts and laws should be strictly implemented.

Parents/ guardians should be made aware of the various laws and acts relating child labour. They should look to better future of their wards and never discontinue the education of their wards. They should support the education of their children at any cost.

Every year, there should be surveys at village levels and support should be provided to needy children by both government and NGOs.

5.05: Limitation of the study

The investigator had tried to be scientific and objective in the process of investigation. However, the study contained the following limitations.

- The sample of the study might have been limited as it was comprised of 72 (36 male and 36 female) child labourers, 72 parents/guardians, 24 teachers and 12 village leaders of Zawlnuam block of Mamit District in Mizoram.
- For collection of data no standardized tool was used. The tool was developed by the investigators himself which might have some defects.
- The data was collected through interview schedule only.

- Due to lack of resources the researcher might not have gone through all relevant literature and research studies.

5.06: Recommendation for further research

- Similar studies may be conducted with larger samples to validate the present findings.
- Similar Studies may be conducted at all the districts of Mizoram.
- Similar Studies may be conducted in all the states and at national level

5.07: Epilogue

Mizoram is a small state having a population of around eleven lakhs. Historically, it was a classless society. People are very tolerant and have closed relationship among each other. There are NGOs which are very active and keep the people united. The future of the state largely depends upon the education of the children. All efforts should be made to implement strictly the RTE Act, 2009 throughout the state and no child should be out of school.

SUMMARY

Summary

Both nature and nurture influence children's development. The quality of a child's earliest environments and the availability of appropriate experiences at the right stages of development are crucial determinants of his future. A person's health, emotional wellbeing and success in life, largely depends on childhood environment and experiences. If children get right kind of environment and experiences in the early years, they thrive throughout their school stage and their adult lives. Good nutrition and health and consistent loving care and encouragement to learn in the early years of life help children to do better at school, be healthier, have higher earnings and participate more in society. Early years of childhood form the

basis of intelligence, personality, social behavior, and capacity to learn and nurture oneself as an adult.

But unfortunately, many children do not reach their full human potential because of their families' income status, geographic location, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation etc. They do not receive adequate nutrition, care and opportunities to learn. It is their right to develop as well as to survive. This is especially important for children in poverty. A good foundation in the early years makes a difference through adulthood. Educated and healthy people participate in, and contribute to the financial and social wellbeing of their societies.

Child labour is a serious problem throughout the world. At present, all over the world, around 215 million children work, many of them full-time. They do not go to school and have little or no time to play. Many do not receive proper nutrition or care. They are denied the chance to be children. More than half of them are exposed to the worst forms of child labour such as work in harmful environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities including drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict. In many countries child labour is mainly an agricultural issue. Worldwide 60 percent of all child labourers in the age group 5 - 17 years work in agriculture, including farming, fishing, aquaculture, forestry, and livestock. The majority (67.5%) of child labourers are unpaid family members. In agriculture this percentage is higher, and is combined with very early entry into work, sometimes between 5 and 7 years of age. Child labour refers to the exploitation of the labour of children who are either too young to work, or are of working age but work under conditions that subject them to risk. Unfortunately it is reality that children worldwide are often forced to undertake work that is physically, psychologically and morally damaging to them. Nevertheless, not all work performed by children is classified as child labour. In fact, some light work that does not interfere with the child's development, their education, or health, such as helping parents around the home, or earning pocket money outside of school hours or on holidays, can be a positive experience for children.

Backdrop of Zawlnuam RD Block

The state of Mizoram has 8 districts named Aizawl, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Mamit, Kolasib, Serchhip, Champhai and Saiha. According to 2011(P) census the population of the state is 10, 91,014 with 5, 52,339 males and 5, 38,675 females. District wise density of population per sq. km. varies from 28 (Mamit) to 113 (Aizawl) and the literacy rate varies from 66.41% (Lawngtlai) to 98.76% (Serchhip). 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.

There are 26 RD Blocks in the state of Mizoram. Zawlnuam is one of the four RD Blocks of Mamitdistrict, which is situated in the western part of Mizoram near the boundary of Tripura. There are different sub-tribes in this area such as Mizo, Bru and Chakma. According to 2011 Census, the total population of the block is 47188, which includes 24477 males and 22711 females and the total literacy rate of the block is 82.61% with male literacy rate of 87.01% and female literacy rate of 77.80%/ Among the overall population the total population inhabiting in rural area is 35571 comprising 18454 males and 17117 females. The overall literacy rate of the block is 78.46% 8 with male literacy rate of 84.24 % and female literacy rate of 72.14 %. The urban population of the block is 11617 comprising 6023 males and 5594 females and literacy rate is 94.72% with male and female literacy rates of 95.16% and 94.24% respectively. There are 66 villages in the block and most of the people work hard to earn their livelihood. Major occupations of the people are gardening and jhum cultivation. Other sources of income are small industries, small business, farming, fishery, rubber farming, betel nut farming etc.

Due to poor transport and communication facilities the people of Zawlnuam Block, particularly in rural areas, often ignore child rights in

relation to their work and education. Poverty and illiteracy is more among Bru and Chakma sub-tribes in comparison to Mizo. 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.

There were 26265 and 2793 child labourers in Mizoram as per 2001 and 2011 Censuses of India respectively. In every district of Mizoram, department of Child Welfare has been set up to undertake care and protection of all children and Child Welfare Network (CWN) and Justice Juvenile Board (JJB) are also established to enforce protection of children from labour. There are also some social activists those who are working in the field of protection of children from labour. However, child labour is more prevalent in rural areas in comparison to urban areas as most of the people who inhabit in rural areas are uneducated and they are ignorant about the importance of education in modern world.

Rationale of the Study:

India is a country having numerous diversities. It is disheartening that there is lot of child labour throughout the country in spite of legal provisions and government policies. Most of these children belong to disadvantaged sections i.e. scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, slum dwellers and rural inhabitants. These children use to work under some short of compulsions. Despite a host of constitutional and legal provisions for prohibition of labour by children, 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. It is high time that child labour should be rooted out in every part of our country and all children of school going age must be in the ambit of the schools. In this context, the following *research questions* are raised.

- What is the nature and extent of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block?

- What is the educational status of child labourers in rural areas of Zawlnuam block?
- What are the causes of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block?
- What are the government schemes for prevention of child labour, education and rehabilitation?
- What is about the Government action in Zawlnuam block for prevention of child labour, education and rehabilitation?
- What are the perceptions of parents, teachers and village leaders about the practice and prevention of child labour in Zawlnuam block?

Statement of the problem

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. The investigator being a native of a village under Zawlnuam block has observed closely the intensity of child labour problem in rural areas of the block. Further, in some areas there are no government agents to enforce child labour prevention. The researcher did not find a single study conducted in the state of Mizoram on child labour issues. To get answers to the questions raised in the preceding section empirically, the following research problem was under taken:

Child Labour and Education in Rural Areas of Zawlnuam Block of Mizoram: A Case Study

Objectives of the study

The study was under taken with the following specific objectives in view:

- vi) To examine the nature and extent of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block.
- vii) To examine the causes of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block.
- viii) To examine the educational status of child labourers in rural areas of Zawlnuam block.

- ix) To examine the Government action in Zawlnuam block for prevention of child labour.
- x) To examine the perceptions of parents, teachers and village leaders for prevention of child labour in Zawlnuam block.

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 areas of Zawlnuam block of Mamit District of Mizoram.
2. Conceptually it was limited to child labour and their education in different villages of rural areas in Zawlnuam block.

Research Methodology

The Research Approach

Descriptive survey approach was followed for the present study. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches i.e. mixed approach was followed for the study.

Sources of Data

A. *Primary sources*: Since the major focus of the study was to find out the status and causes of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block of Mizoram. Parents /Guardians, Village Leaders, Teachers and the working children were considered to be the appropriate primary sources for collection of relevant data for the present study.

B. *Secondary sources*: Different National and State survey reports, books and journals and official records, internet, published and unpublished documents are the important as secondary sources of information for the study.

Population and Sample

The total sample of the study comprised of 72 (36 male and 36 female) child labourers, 72 parents/guardians, 24 teachers and 12 village leaders.

Tools and Technique used

The following interview schedules were developed by the investigator for collecting relevant data from the primary sources.

- Interview schedule for child labourers
- Interview Schedule for Parents/ guardians, Teachers and Village Leaders

Further, unstructured interview was also followed to get relevant information from the respondents at the time of collection of data in order to get supplementary information as felt necessary by the researcher.

Major findings

The major findings of the study are as follows.

Nature and extent of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block

- Child labour is prevalent in the rural areas of Zawlnuam block. It is more serious in rural areas than urban areas.
- Agriculture is considered as the largest sector in which more children are engaged in work. Besides, home, restaurant, shop, food processing industry, oil palm and rubber plantation, harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts, stone quarry, domestic helper are also found to be the other working areas of child labourers.
- The working hours of the child labourers are less than 8 hours.
- Majority of child labourers are engaged as part time labourers at their work places.
- No child labour was found earning more than Rs 1500/- per month.
- The child labourers used to receive extra benefits like bonus in cash and kind for over time works and during festivals.
- There was provision for medical support in case of emergency.
- The child labourers were not being forced to work by their employers.
- The child labourers were never harassed by their employers physically or mentally.

Causes of child labour in rural areas of Zawlnuam block

- Poverty was found to be the main reason for children being engaged as child labourers. Besides, over population, inadequate income of parents, ignorance of adverse effects on child's health and compulsion of socio-economic factors were also found to be the other causes of child labour in some cases.
- Low wage rate was found to be the primary reason for the employers for engaging minor children at work. Besides, profit motive, easy to manage, trust worthiness, flexibility to work, easy availability and no involvement in trade union were also found to be the other reasons for engaging minor children at work.

Educational status of child labourers in rural areas of Zawlnuam block

- Majority of the child labourers were pursuing education before their engagement.
- Majority of the child labourers were admitted in the schools.
- Majority of the child labourers had dropped out at either in class III or IV.
- Majority of the child labourers left schools by the decision of their parents.
- Majority of the child labourers were interested to be in the schools.

Government action in Zawlnuam block for prevention of child labour

- No government agency in the village areas under study was working seriously for eradication of child labour and the activities of such agencies were not spectacular.
- Majority of the child labourers were never contacted by any government agency for pursuing education but few were contacted.

Perceptions of parents, teachers and village leaders for prevention of child labour in Zawlnuam block

- Child labour practice affects the health of the children.
- Child labourers were not exploited at their work places.

- Child labour does not have much contribution to socio-economic development.
- Child labour is a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity.
- Government policies are in-adequate for eradicating child labour in our country and some more measures need to be taken for the purpose.
- Child labour should be totally banned in rural areas of Zawlnuam block of Mizoram.
- Poverty eradication programme, effective enforcement of Right to Education (RTE) Act, effective enforcement of child labour laws, development of awareness of people, adoption of small family norm, active role of NGOs like YMA, KTP, TKP, MHIP, MZP, MSU etc are important for eradication of child labour.

Suggestions

- Poverty eradication programmes in rural areas of Mizoram should be undertaken seriously by the government.
- Right to Education Act should be seriously implemented in the state of Mizoram, more particularly in the rural areas.
- Child labourer Acts and Laws should be strictly enforced by the government agencies in rural areas.
- The child labourers need to be brought to the arena of Education.
- The NGO's should play active role in preventing child labour and enrolling the children in the schools.
- Awareness should be developed among the parents and guardians.
- Functioning of schools should be monitored through effective supervision.
- Emphasis should be given for imparting quality education in the schools.
- Hostel facilities with free boarding and lodging need to be provided to children belonging to poor economic status.
- Residential schools need to be established in the rural areas.
- Law enforcing agency should be appointed to control child labour in the study areas.

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APPENDICES

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS, TEACHERS AND VILLAGE LEADERS

Identification Data

Name of the village:

Name of the interviewee:

Sex: Male () Female ()

Status: Parent/ Guardian () Teacher () Village leader ()

1. Have you seen children engaged in any kind of job?:

Yes () No ()

2. 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) -

3. 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) -

4. 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) -
5. According to your observation, which are the major fields in which more child labourers are working in your locality?
- Home ()
- Restaurant ()
- Shop ()
- Agriculture ()
- Food processing industry ()
- Oil palm and rubber plantation ()
- Harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts ()
- Stone quarry ()
- Domestic helper ()
- Others (specify) -
6. According to your observation, child labour practice is more serious in which area?
- Urban () Rural ()
7. Do you feel that child labour is a serious problem in your locality?
- Yes () No ()
8. Do you feel that child labour adversely affects the health of the children? Yes () No ()

9. Do you think that child labourers are being exploited in their work places? Yes () No ()
10. Do you think that child labour contributes for socio-economic development? Yes () No ()
11. Do you think that child labour is a serious obstacle on the path of progress and prosperity of your locality? Yes () No ()
11. 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 householdworks?
Yes () No ()
12. 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-
13. Do you know that there are child labour prevention acts and laws in our country?
Yes () No ()
14. Do you feel the government policies are adequate for eradicating child labour in our country?
Yes () No ()
15. Do you find any government agency in your locality working for prevention of child labour? Yes () No ()
16. Do you think that child labour should be totally banned in Mizo society? Yes () No ()
17. 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 programe ()
Effective enforcement of child labour laws ()
Development of awareness of people ()
Adoption of small family norm ()
Active role of NGOs like YMA, KTP, TKP, MHIP, MZP, MSU etc ()

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR CHILD LABOURERS

General Information

Name of the Village:

Name of the child labourer :

Age :

Sex : Male () Female ()

Religion : Hindu () Muslim ()

Christian () Any other-

Caste: Forward () Backward () Scheduled Caste ()

Scheduled Tribe ()

Family Data

Family Size:

Types of family: Nuclear () Joint ()

Number of siblings: Brothers () Sisters () Total ()

Main sources of income of the family: Service () Business ()

Agriculture () Labour ()

Any other (specify) -

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 in the family ()

Inadequate income of the family ()

Supplementing the income of the family ()

Skill enhancement ()

Others (specify) -

2. Are you staying away from your house? Yes () No ()

If yes, it was of whose decision? Own decision () Parents' decision ()

3. How long you have been engaged in the present work?
4. What were you doing before joining the present work place?
Pursuing education () working at another place ()

Work place:

5. What is the place of your work?
Home ()
Restaurant ()
Shop ()
Agricultural farm ()
Food processing industry ()
Oil palm and rubber plantation farm ()
Harvesting of coconuts and betel nuts ()
Stone quarry ()
Others (specify) -
6. Why did you prefer this type of work?
Because of parents' persuasion ()
Because it is easier than other types of works ()
Because of interest of self ()
7. How many hours you work per day at your work place?
Less than 8hours ()
Between 8-12 hours ()
More than 12 hours ()
8. What is the nature of engagement: Part time () Full time ()
9. Is there any medical support in you working situation in case of exigencies? Yes () No ()
10. Do you have rest time during the working hours? Yes () No ()
11. 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-----

12. Is there any extra payment for overtime work? Yes () No ()
13. Are you given any additional benefits by your employer?
Yes () No ()
If yes, specify:
14. Have you ever been forced to work by your employer?
Yes () No ()
15. Have you ever been harassed by your employer physically or mentally?
Yes () No ()
If yes, what type of treatment you have received from him/her?
Scolding ()
Whipping ()
Fining ()
Bullying ()
Any other: (Specify)
16. Are you satisfied with your present engagement?
Yes () No ()
If not, what is the reason?
Low wage ()
Low status of the work ()
Long period of working hours ()
Health hazard ()
Any other (specify) -
17. Do you think that you can fulfill your dreams continuing in your present engagement? Yes () No ()

Education

18. Have you ever been admitted to school?
Yes () No ()
19. In which class did you drop out from the school? -
20. How did you leave the school? By own decision ()

By parents' decision ()

21. Do you still like being in the school? Yes () No ()
22. If given a chance, will you go to school? Yes () No ()
23. Has any government organization contacted you for pursuing education? Yes () No ()