

**AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-PERSONAL AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF
CHILD LABOUR IN LUDHIANA (PUNJAB)**

Thesis

**Submitted to the Punjab Agricultural University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of**

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

SOCIOLOGY

(Minor Subject : Extension Education)

DUPLICATE

By

Maninder Kaur

(L-2002-BS-159-M)

**Department of Human Development and Sociology
College of Home Science**

PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

LUDHIANA - 141 004, INDIA

2004

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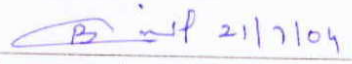
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**Department of Human Development and Sociology
College of Home Science
PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
LUDHIANA - 141 004, INDIA
2004**

CERTIFICATE-I

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, "**An analysis of socio-personal and psychological problems of child labour in Ludhiana (Punjab)**" submitted for the degree of M.Sc., in the subject of Sociology (Minor subject : Extension Education) of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, is a bonafide research work carried out by **Ms. Maninder Kaur** (L-2002-BS-159-M) under my supervision and that no part of this thesis has been submitted for any other degree.

The assistance and help received during the course of investigation have been fully acknowledged.


Major Advisor

Dr. B.R. Jindal


Professor of sociology

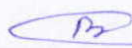
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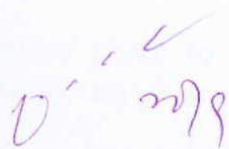
Punjab Agricultural University
Ludhiana - 141004

CERTIFICATE-II

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, "**An analysis of socio-personal and psychological problems of child labour in Ludhiana (Punjab)**" submitted by **Ms. Maninder Kaur** (L-2002-BS-159-M) to the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of M.Sc., in the subject of Sociology (Minor subject : Extension Education) has been approved by the Student's Advisory Committee along with Head of the Department after an oral examination on the same.


Head of the Department
(Dr. B.K. Aggarwal) 13/8/04

 13/8/04
Major Advisor
(Dr. B.R. Jindal)


Dean, Post graduate studies
(Dr. Darshan Singh)

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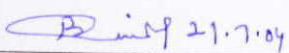
Maninder Kaur
(MANINDER KAUR)


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Abstract

The abuse of child labour is a blot on the name of a nation. India is no exception to this scar and child labour is widely prevalent here due to poverty and illiteracy of the people. The present study was undertaken in Ludhiana district of Punjab state with the specific objective : 1. To identify the types of labour activities performed by the children. 2. To know the socio-personal and psychological problems of sampled labourers. 3. To identify the reasons of employment of children as labourers. 4. To suggest ^{measures} for the amelioration of problems faced by child labourers. All the child labourers of study area were taken as the respondents (90 in all). The respondents were personally interviewed on structured and pretested schedules. Data were analyzed on the basis of percentage, mean score, t-test, chi-square and z-test. The study revealed that majority of the respondents were in the age group of 12-14 years in both i.e. industrial and agricultural sector. Most of the respondents had large families and family size of 6-8 members. Most of the respondents started working from the age of 9-12 years which is tender age to start work. All the respondents perceived the main cause of child employment to be the poverty. The main problems faced by the working children as long working hours, not able to study, unpaid for long time etc. Majority of the respondents were prone to various types of bad habits like using of intoxicants. Most of the respondents did not favour total abolition of child employment as they feel total abolition will give rise to number of social problems. For the amelioration of the problem faced by working children, the study gave certain suggestions like, improve the working conditions of children, there should be fixed working hours, more wages, regular payment etc.

Key words: Child labour, Labour Law, Industrial Labour, Childhood Exploitation


Signature of the major advisor


Signature of the student

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CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

The abuse of child-labour is a blot on the name of a nation. India is no exception to this scar and child labour is widely prevalent here due to poverty and illiteracy of the people. The term 'child labour' is at times, used as a synonym for 'employed child' or 'working child'. But a working child is one who subjects himself or herself to work, paid or free instead of being at the school at a tender and formative stage of his or her life. The Operation Research Group (ORG) in India defined a working child falling within the 5-15 years of age bracket and who is at remunerative work, may be paid or unpaid within or outside the family.

Child labour can broadly be defined as that segment of the child population which participates in work either paid or unpaid. Child labour is mainly necessitated by economic compulsions of the parents. In India, 37 per cent of the population is below poverty line (Bedi and Pattnaik 1998). The problem persists in every state of the country, though its concentration is more in certain castes and states. Ideally, child labour is an evil, outrageous to human conscience and dignity. Its abolition is advocated on moral and ethical grounds but the reality of the situation is otherwise. As long as poverty exists in all its nakedness, child labour is bound to exist in either open or disguised form.

Children are working in all the three sectors of Indian economy i.e. agricultural, industrial and the service sectors. There are several forms of child labour - migrant labour, invisible labour, bonded labour, wage-based labour, self - employed and so on. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has classified child work into three categories i.e. within the family - children helping in the domestic chores or family occupations like - agricultural, pastoral work, handicraft, khadi and cottage industries, etc., within the family but outside home, children do local agricultural work, assist in shops, help in construction, harvesting crops, laundry/recycling of waste, and so on; outside the family, children are employed in bonded work, doing errands for the rich landlord, various works in village industries, skilled trades, industrial unskilled occupations and informal sector work like shoe-shining, car washing, begging, prostitution and so on (Mitra 2003).

The World Bank Report, published in 2000 has revealed that there were sixty million working children in India which was the largest number in terms of any country in the world. Earlier estimates based on very limited statistical information obtained from about 100 countries indicated that there were 73 million working children between 10 and 14 years of age in these countries in 1995 (ILO : Child Labour Surveys : 1996).

One view is that in certain economies, child labour is inevitable and bound to persist as a 'harsh-reality' (Govt. of India 1995) and that the

withdrawal of children from workforce is possible only when the economic-status of the families improve. Legislative measures are unlikely to succeed in this situation and the principle effort would have to be directed towards amelioration of work conditions rather than elimination of child labour. Any effort at eliminating child labour would have to focus on the more - exploitative forms prevalent in the hazardous sectors.

Child labour is a problem with several dimensions. There is no single determining cause for its prevalence. Some of the causes commonly attributed for the continuation of child labour are; (a) poverty, unemployment, unequal distribution of assets and inadequate wage levels of adult workers with more than 30 per cent of them below the poverty line (b) low literacy level of adults in which female literacy is abysmally low, absence of compulsory education, low access to schools along with high dropouts and discrimination towards female education, (c) social and cultural factors which force the continuity of trade and skill in a particular caste or community at an early age, community exploitation resulting in child and bonded labour, social acceptance of child labour, the society showing no general disapproval towards child labour, (d) children constitute cheap labour and they are not able to organize themselves against exploitation, (e) low health care amongst poor-children prevents them from attending school and forces them into child labour.

The number of working children in the country as per the 55th

round of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) survey, 1999-2000 was 20.4 million. The state with the highest child labour population in the country is Andhra Pradesh. Other states having a child labour population of more than a million are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh (Economic Survey 2003).

According to Economic Survey (2003) a majority of the working children are concentrated in the rural areas. About 60 per cent of them are below the age of 10 years and 40 per cent are in age group of 10-14 years. Approximately 41 per cent of working children are employed in rural areas in agriculture and allied activities like livestock, forestry and fisheries. Business and trade absorb 23 per cent while work in households covers 36 per cent. The number of children in urban areas who work in canteens, restaurants, picking rags and hawking goods is vast but unrecorded. Among the more unfortunate ones are those who are employed in hazardous industries. In Punjab, agricultural labourers were 47 per cent, cultivators were 27 per cent, in household industries 19 per cent and in other services includes 7 per cent of the total child workers in Punjab.

The problems faced by the child workers are manifold. For instance, they are subjected to hard physical work, made to work for longer hours and paid very low wages. Over exertion ultimately leads to deterioration in health which may shorten the life span of such children. The child labourers are even employed in hazardous occupations. They work

under humiliating environment without the freedom of expressing their woes. In fact they are deprived of their childhood. The problem of child labour continues to persist in the country, which rightly argued, is a demonstrable violation of our commitment to social and economic justice. The lack of progress in the elimination of child labour problem, over the years, is generally attributed, among other factors to poverty, lack of resources, non-prioritization of resource application, inadequate attention to education and awareness creation.

The government of India has taken various legislative and executive steps to mitigate the evil of child labour by making provision for medical, educational housing and recreational facilities.

In terms of legislative measures, the most significant effort to tackle child labour has been the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986. The Act, by and large, seeks to prohibit child labour (below the age of 14 years) in certain industries designated as hazardous and regulate working - conditions in other areas of employment. Thus it prohibits the employment of children in certain occupations and processes such as cement manufacturing, bidi making, carpet weaving, manufacture of explosives and so on.

This problem is so widespread and so ugly that it requires a concerted and multi pronged approach. The child, the parents, educational authorities, voluntary organisations, society and state, have to be

simultaneously mobilised to find a solution to this problem. For this we need the help of the community, the media and the government so that we can formulate a campaign and sufficiently motivate all the players.

A positive step is the draft bill for free and compulsory education of children which has provisions for - working children. Such steps are to be welcomed.

The present study has, therefore, been undertaken in Punjab with the following specific objectives :

1. To identify the types of labour activities performed by the children.
2. To know the socio-personal and psychological problems of sampled labourers.
3. To identify the reasons of employment of children as labourers.
4. To suggest ^{measures} for the amelioration of problems faced by child labourers.

CHAPTER - II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Various studies have been conducted on child labour in India in various occupations and processes and these studies are very important so as to know under what circumstances, working conditions and environment, the children have had to work. But no study has been conducted in Ludhiana on the child labour in industrial and agricultural sector.

So in this chapter, a review of related studies has been presented which is directly or indirectly relevant to present investigation. This is likely to provide a glimpse of the problems faced by the child labourers in different occupations and processes.

Benjamin (1990) conducted a case study on the problems of child workers of various canteens in the educational institutions of South Delhi. It was found that mostly the child workers were from Uttar Pradesh and none of them had gone to school. They have had to work for 10-13 hours a day under unfavourable conditions, with only half an hour lunch break. They were getting only Rs. 100 to 200 per month.

Bhangoo (1990) observed the nature of work of child labourers during 1961 to 1981. He found that 41 per cent of them were working as cultivators, 36 per cent as agricultural - labourers, 7.4 per cent were in mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishery, hunting, plantation, orchards

and allied activities. Also 8.87 per cent in processing, manufacturing, services and repairs, 0.57 per cent as construction workers, 1.8 per cent in trade or commerce, 0.36 per cent in transport, communication and storage and 4.23 per cent in other occupations.

Nair (1990) observed that about 20,000 children were working in *beedi* rolling industry. He suggested that a strong public opinion needs to be built up and strong political and legal approach was needed to put an end to the evils of child pledging. Laws alone were not enough.

Sahoo (1990) analyzed the magnitude and problems of child labourers in its various dimensions based on a survey of 100 such workers in industrial and non-industrial sectors of urban area of Smut (Gujarat). It was found that child labour was generally attributed to poverty, illiteracy and backwardness of the society.

Kumar (1991) said that Supreme Court's order banning child labour in "Beedi" manufacturing units is a modest achievement which needs sustained vigilance if it is not to fizzle out.

Prasad and Jain (1991) conducted a study in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh. One hundred tribal child labourers were selected for the study. They found that due to poverty and irrational expenditure pattern, the tribal child labourers fell easy prey to private money lenders who later on used them as bonded labourers.

Das and Sekhar (1992) conducted a survey in one of the

industrial areas of the city of Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. They found that children had to work mainly because of poverty and they had very little say in choosing their occupation. The employer found it advantageous to employ child labourers because of their docility and low wages.

Fernandes (1992) studied the working conditions of child labourers. He had analyzed the process of entry of children into the work force and their exploitation. He found that low wages and to keep children illiterate were the employer's main vested interests. According to him, it was necessary to impose a ban on hazardous industries employing child-labourers. Also, the constitutional directive on the free and compulsory education till the age of 14 years need to be implemented in the right earnest.

Arya and Sonawat (1993) conducted a study in organised and unorganised - sectors in Indore city. Three hundred child labourers were studied. They found that unorganised child labourers were suffering from more psychological problems because they had to work in ill-ventilated, ill-lighted, unhygienic dingy and dirty atmosphere. In organised sector, they got favourable wages. It was concluded that working children have no recreational activities, because of long working hours, they were spending less time with their parents, siblings and friends, their emotional requirements did not get fulfilled. Thus, they also developed emotional problems.

Das (1993) discussed two major topics : The dimensions of

child labour in Indian sub-continent along with status and consequences of child labour. It was brought out that young children in an agriculturally developed village engaged themselves on an average 0.5 to 1.4 years later than those in traditional village.

Saini (1994) said that the problem of child labour in India was very acute. The National Survey (1983) estimated 17.36 million child workers in India in the age group of 5 to 15 years. Most of the children belonged to the families that were extremely poor and moreover they worked in highly stressful and exploitative conditions.

Sundaram (1994) remarked that so far as child labour was concerned, the government had to take bold decisions. One way of tackling the problem was to make primary education compulsory. The move will achieve the laudable objective of universalizing elementary education, besides, reducing the incidence of child labour.

Buddhapriya (1995) examined the nature and extent of child labour in India. The industries in which large number of children were employed included : agriculture, brass wares, carpet weaving, handlooms, match and firework factories, glass industry, diamond cutting and polishing and lock making. He felt that long hours of labour would adversely affect children both physically and psychologically as well.

Bhatty (1996) brought out that child labour was less because of poverty than social attitudes and responsibilities. Learning-skills through

education was a sure way to break the vicious cycle of child labour.

Dass (1996) had concluded that child labour practice was deliberate action on the part of the employers for profit motive. The enforcement of labour laws could control such exploitation of the child labourers to a certain extent. It was observed that the rate of literacy was inversely proportional to the rate of child labour employment.

Panicker (1996) analysed that no simple formulation existed to remove the incidence of child labour. For finding solutions, two factors need to be asserted viz. child labour as a source for contribution to the subsistence of the family and child labour as an apprenticeship to gaining skills and upward mobility in the labour market. The problem of child labour in hazardous industries deserves immediate attention. A better monitoring of the implementation of legal measures - alongwith the emphasis on poverty alleviation programmes are called for.

Patnam and Bhalerao (1996) conducted the survey in slum areas of Parbhani town of Marathwada region of Maharashtra and categorized the child labourers on the basis of type of employment undertaken by them. They found that 11 per cent child labourers were classified as street hawkers, 5 per cent used to sell ice-cream particularly in summer followed by selling bread 6 per cent, 'papad' 2 per cent and meat 2 per cent in retail. About 23 per cent were grouped as hotel workers (17 per cent of them worked helpers or cleaners while the rest worked as cooks in the hotel), 5 per cent worked as

animal-slaughterers in the slaughter houses. Further, 3 per cent were found as rag pickers, 5 per cent were classified as repair mechanics at various car garages and repair workshops, and 6 per cent were employed as construction labourers and the domestic servants.

Sehgal (1996) concluded that child-labour was also prevalent in developed countries. According to a report in the United Kingdom, a reliable estimate available showed that between 15 and 26 per cent children who were 11 years of age were working. Also between 36 and 66 per cent of children of the age of 15 years were also employed.

Tiwari (1996) pointed out the government should work in collaboration with International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other relevant non-government organisations and come out with more effective and successful non-formal education programmes tailored to the needs of particular groups of child workers. There should be national policy for this. Now, as the years are passing by, we must redouble our efforts on behalf of all the children, who continue to be deprived of their most basic rights in many spheres.

Joshi (1997) observed that UNICEF report on child labour in 1997 proposed six key steps that must be taken to address the situation. These included the immediate elimination of hazardous child labour, free and compulsory education for the children, stringent antichild labour laws and their vigorous enforcement, registration of all children at birth, data

collection and monitoring and lastly codes of conduct and procurement policies.

Khanna (1997) quoted that Orissa Government conducted a survey and found that 2,15,222 were working children employed in different establishments. It was found that 23,761 children were employed in hazardous industries while 1,91,461 children worked in non-hazardous industries, including agriculture. They included 1,21,526 boys and 93,696 girls.

Karvnavati (1998) conducted a study on "beedi" making units in North Arcot Ambedkar District of Tamil Nadu. She found that the health conditions of the child workers were rather poor. Their health problems ranged from mild cough to tuberculosis. Nearly, fifty per cent of them had respiratory diseases mainly because of their constant exposure to tobacco, dust and 'beedi' leaves.

Prashar (1998) expressed that the global march - against child labour will enter Punjab through Chandigarh as a part of worldwide effects to raise social consciousness on the issue. Its main objectives was to protect and promote the right of children to receive free, meaningful education. The child labourers should also be emancipated from exploitation which otherwise could damage their physical, mental, moral and social development.

Rao and Rao (1999) conducted a survey for knowing employers'

views on child labour. The respondents perceived poverty, illiteracy and adult unemployment or under-employment as the main causes of child labour. They considered child labour desirable and refuted allegations that these children were exploited by the employers. On the contrary, they felt that employers had contributed to the growth and development of such families and their children.

Bhandari (2000) found that the children labour problem required a long-term multipronged strategy to be carried out on a continuous basis. This strategy should include enforcement of child labour acts for strengthening of primary education, rehabilitation of the child labourers, improvement of economic conditions of the parents of child labours through various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes as well as prevention of children joining the labour force. The child labour problem is an evil that requires awareness and change of approach among all sections of the society. The government, media and the NGOs should unite together to play a meaningful role in this holistic task.

Sinha (2000) said that child labour is an inevitable consequence of the economic forces. As long as poverty continues to exist it would be difficult to eliminate it. Any attempt to abolish it through legal recourse would, under the circumstances, not be practicable since this would put already poor families under acute economic stress. This assessment of the child labour situation is one which many governments including India have

adopted.

Sharma (2002) thought that social labelling is an initiative introduced in the nineties with a view to eliminating the exploitation of child labour in carpet production in India. The four labelling programmes, viz. RUGMARK, KALERN, STEP and CARE and FAIR are analysed in terms of their mechanisms, approaches, objectives and their effectiveness over 35 villages spread over nine districts in three states in India. It is apparent that the labelling programmes have played a limited role in addressing the problem of child labour in carpet industry.

Yajurvedi (2002) had the view that the presence of child labour is a social stigma on any society. In India too, child labour is widely prevalent and has taken deep roots as a result of poverty and illiteracy. Elimination of this problem at the earliest would require taking harsh and effective steps in a focussed manner. The National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) may prove to be one such alternative in the elimination of child labour problem in the country.

Devi and Meenakshi (2003) conducted a study on working children in Coimbatore city. They found that apart from poverty, there are other factors also playing a role in contributing to the increase in child labour. We need a multi-pronged strategy based on extensive research to fight this problem.

Dhillon and Mehrotra (2003) conducted a study in Ludhiana

district of Punjab. Three villages and three urban localities of Ludhiana district were selected and sample comprised 120 female domestic labourers. Majority of the female children were in the age range of 9-11 years and were illiterate. These children were engaged in domestic work like household cleaning, cooking, dish-washing, washing of clothes, child care etc. The factors that forced female child labourers to joint labour force were price like, economically unsound, irregular income, large family size, drinking habit of the head of the family, chronic illness and forcefulness of parents.

Kumar (2003) observed that poverty pulls them and lack of proper educational opportunities push them - one they enter the quagmire of childhood labour. There are no alternatives and no avenues out of the swamp.

Mitra (2003) said that legislations have failed to eliminate child labour in India. The child labour force is huge in India due to wrong policies adopted by successive union governments. Poverty has been identified as a major factor compelling parents to send their children to work. Lack of awareness and educational opportunity and ineffective enforcement of child labour related laws contribute to the existence and acceptance of this social evil. The improvement in the living and working conditions of parents and improvement in their economic conditions is considered crucial to the elimination of child labour.

Muralidaran (2003) suggested that enforcement machinery must be strengthened to keep children in school. Those out of the formal school

system must get non-formal interventions. Legislation must prevent children from working in hazardous industries.

Singh (2003) was of the view that non formal education can be one of the main planks of strategy for improving the lot of the street or working child. Flexible solutions have to be worked out so that this problem can be tackled without subjecting the families to further economic stress.

Suguna (2003) pointed out that in poverty, the most vulnerable are the most exploited. This group is the girl child labour. She is treated as a commodity or source of unpaid services in situation across the country. The ugliest form of her exploitation is s e x labour in the metropolitans.

Tikoo (2003) felt that neither population problem nor child labour can be solved so long as there is good correlation between these two phenomena.

Arya (2004) said that a little known fact is that the prosperous state of Punjab is one of the largest producers of hand stitched footballs which are made by child workers. Several efforts are being made to ban the use of child labour, specially in the production of goods that are exported to countries that have specific anti child labour laws.

Aggarwal (2004) brought out the there exists considerable variation in India in the age, sector and sexwise distribution of child labour. The study shows that, among other things, poverty and illiteracy have a bearing on child labour. A policy is needed to make education more

meaningful and rewarding so that households are incentivised to send their children to school and keep them there. Measures aimed at poverty reduction and physical and social infrastructure development may also help reduce child labour.

Bahuguna (2004) said that children in difficult circumstances are exposed to a higher degree of chemical and environmental pollutants. Such exposures hazardous for their growth and future development.

Gupta (2004) conducted a study on AIDS and street children. The child on the street is a victim of several social and moral dangers. This study tries to assess the exposure of street children to AIDS and their knowledge of the prevention of this disease.

Mamta and Singhai (2004) conducted a study on 'child workers in scooter workshops' in Punjab. This survey was conducted in three cities of Punjab to study the conditions of child workers in the two wheeler workshops. The findings suggest that there is great scope for social work intervention to improve the lot of such workers.

The above mentioned research studies have made the focus on child labour in various occupations and processes like carpet weaving, beedi making, agriculture sector, garages, slaughter houses, street hawking etc. But no study has been conducted in Ludhiana for child labour in industrial and agricultural sector. So, the present investigation will fill those gaps and would provide a holistic literature on child labour.

CHAPTER - III

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A systematic procedure was adopted for conducting the present study keeping in view the specific objectives. This chapter includes research methodology followed for the study.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

As the child labour is mainly the outcome of poverty, so slum/backward areas in Ludhiana city has been identified with the help of municipal corporation officials and two such areas i.e. areas near railway line of Field Ganj vicinity and one area from focal point were selected. A sample of thirty children-doing different labour jobs in various industrial units of Ludhiana city was selected from each selected area. In agricultural horizon, three villages namely, Pamal, Ayali Kalan and Threekay were purposively selected for the reason that these areas were within the approach of research worker and the respondents were easily accessible from these three villages, a list of all the households having child labour was prepared and sample of thirty children doing agricultural labour was randomly selected. Thus in all, a total sample of ninety child labourers (60 from industrial area and 30 from agricultural area) were taken for the analysis.

DATA COLLECTION

Pre-testing

Before the actual administration of schedule it was pre-tested on ten child labourers of industrial area and five in agricultural area. The pre-testing was very helpful and the changes were incorporated in the schedule accordingly.

The interview schedule was filled through interviewing each respondent personally. The questionnaire were filled by the researcher herself because the respondents did not understand English. The doubts lurking in the minds of respondents were removed before obtaining their responses and they were assured that the information was exclusively required for a research project and no particular name would appear anywhere.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

Data were collected from the respondents on especially designed schedule for the year 2003-2004. Interview schedule comprised two parts. The first part was designed to get the basic information such as name of the respondents, village, age, education, caste, type of family and composition of family etc. The second part incorporated the specific-information on starting of labour job, present age, nature of employment like full time or part time, place of work, basis of employment like daily, seasonal, basis of payment like according to time spent or work done. It also

included the psychological problems like treatment from employer, happiness with the work and various facilities provided by the employer, use of intoxicants and the factors which compelled them to go for labour jobs and the problems faced by such children.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The data were subjected to tabular analysis. The other statistical tools such as mean, percentage, chi square, z-test, t-test were also applied.

ARITHMETIC MEAN

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}{n}$$

\bar{X} = Arithmetic Mean

A.M. = Addition of all recorded observation divided by the number of observations

Percentages

Percentages are calculated to show the distribution of the sampled individual possessing the attribute.

$$p = \frac{r}{n} \times 100 = \frac{\text{Number of individual possessing the attribute in the sample}}{\text{Total number of individuals in the sample}} \times 100$$

Chi-square test (χ^2)

χ^2 - test was used to test the independence of attributes. One attribute was sector of work which was categorized into two categories i.e. industrial sector and agricultural sector and the other attribute(s) like regularity in payment, treatment from employer, happiness with work etc. were categorized into two or more than two categories.

The χ^2 value was calculated as

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(o_i - e_i)^2}{e_i} = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

With $(r-1)(c-1)$ degrees of freedom and the calculated value was compared with the table value for corresponding degrees of freedom to draw appropriate inferences.

Student's t-test

t-test was used to compare means of two populations. The formulae used was

$t = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{\text{S.E. of } (\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2)}$ with $(n_1 + n_2 - 2)$ degrees of freedom where

$$\text{S.E.} = \text{Standard error} = s \sqrt{(1/n_1 + 1/n_2)}$$

\bar{X}_1 = Mean of sample from 1st population

\bar{X}_2 = Mean of sample from second population

n_1 = Sample size from 1st population

n_2 = Sample size from second population

s^2 = Estimate of variance

Z-test

Z-test was used to test the equality of proportion of an attribute in two populations, when the sample size is large.

$$Z = \frac{|p_1 - p_2|}{\text{S.E. } (p_1 - p_2)}$$

Where, $\text{S.E.} = \sqrt{PQ (1/n_1 + 1/n_2)}$

$$P = (p_1 n_1 + p_2 n_2) / (n_1 + n_2)$$

$$Q = 1 - P$$

Where

n_1 = Sample size from 1st population

n_2 = Sample size from IIInd population

p_1 = Proportion of individuals possessing the attribute in the sample from 1st population

p_2 = Proportion of individuals possessing the attribute in the sample from IIInd population

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

1. Child labour

A child falling within the 5-15 age bracket and who is at remunerative work, may be paid or unpaid and busy at any hours of the day within or outside the family.

2. Nuclear Family

Nuclear family consists of husband, wife and their unmarried children. It is an independent unit.

3. Joint Family

It is a type of social grouping where parents and their married and unmarried children live under one roof, eat food-cooked at one hearth, hold property in common and participate in common worship.

4. Family Income

It refers to the approximate annual gross income in terms of rupees from all family sources of the respondents.

5. Family Size

Family size is the total number of persons living together, sharing a common kitchen and common purse.

6. Occupation

The term occupation implies as specific activity with a market value which an individual continuously possesses for the purpose of obtaining a steady flow of income to earn a living.

7. Incentives

It is a kind of reward paid to the employee by the employer, in addition to the normal wages, when the former's work was found highly satisfactory.

CHAPTER - IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study have been discussed under the following sub heads :

- 4.1 Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.
- 4.2 Socio-personal characteristics of the child labourers.
- 4.3 Child labour in different income-earning activities.
- 4.4 Extent of various facilities provided by the employer.
- 4.5 Problems faced by child labour
- 4.6 Reasons of employment of children as labourers.
- 4.7 Views of employer regarding desirability of child labour.
- 4.8 Measures for amelioration of problems faced by child labourers.

4.1 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

This part of chapter is related to the socio-demographic - characteristics of the respondents such as place of origin, age, education, caste, type of family and sex.

Age

Age of working child is an important factor to determine that whether the activity in which child is employed is suitable for his age or not.

Table 1: Distribution of children according to their age group, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Age group (yrs.)	Type of child labourers	
	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
8-10	12 (20.00)	7(23.33)
10-12	18(30.00)	7(23.33)
12-14	30(50.00)	16(53.33)
Total	60(100.00)	30(100.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

It is analysed from the study that 50.00 per cent in industrial and 53.33 per cent in agricultural sector of the children belonged to the age group of 12-14 years. About 30.00 per cent and 23.33 per cent in industrial and agricultural sectors respectively belonged to age group of 10-12 and 20.00 per cent children in industrial and 23.33 per cent in agricultural belonged to the age group of 8-10 years. It showed that irrespective of age variation among the children, they are engaged in both industrial and agricultural sector.

Caste

Caste is an important factor. The society is stratified in the form of caste structure. The caste-wise distribution of the working children has been presented in Table 2.

The data furnished with regard to caste revealed that majority (71.67 per cent) children in industrial and agricultural (70.00 per cent)

belonged to scheduled caste and 21.67 per cent in industrial and 30.00 per cent in agricultural sector belonged to backward caste and rest 6.67 per cent in industrial sector belonged to high caste but none belonged to high caste in agricultural sector. This indicated that majority of child labourers come from lower social strata.

Table 2 : Distribution of children according to their caste, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Caste	No. of respondents	
	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Scheduled caste	43(71.67)	21(70.00)
Backward caste	13(21.67)	9(30.00)
High caste	4(6.66)	-
Total	60(100.00)	30(100.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Place of origin

Place of origin is very important because this shows that which place maximum number of child labourers belonged to. It is shown in table 3.

Table 3 : Distribution of children according to place of origin, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Place of origin	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Native	19(31.67)	6(20.00)
Migrant	41(68.33)	24(80.00)
Total	60(100.00)	30(100.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Out of the total respondents both from industrial and agricultural sector, 31.67 and 20.00 per cent respectively were the natives of Punjab. Rest of them i.e. 68.33 per cent in industrial and 80.00 per cent in agricultural sector were migrated workers.

Sex

The data revealed that there were 90.00 per cent male children in industrial and 96.67 per cent in agricultural sector. There were only 10.00 per cent female children in industrial sector and 3.33 per cent in agricultural sector (Table 4).

Table 4 : Distribution of working children according to sex, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Sex	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Male	54(90.00)	29(96.67)
Female	6(10.00)	1(3.33)
Total	60(100.00)	30(100.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Monthly Income

The data in Table 5 shows that 45.00 per cent in industrial sector and 40.00 per cent in agricultural sector, children earned Rs. 900-1200 per month and 38.34 per cent in industrial sector earned Rs. 600-900 per month but in agricultural sector 30.00 per cent children earned Rs. 300-600 per month whereas in industrial sector, 8.33 per cent children

Table 5 : Distribution of working children according to their monthly income, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Monthly income (Rs.)	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
300-600	5(8.33)	9(30.00)
600-900	23(38.34)	4(13.33)
900-1200	27(45.00)	12(40.00)
1200-1500	5(8.33)	5(16.67)
Total	60(100.00)	30(100.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

earned Rs. 300-600 per month. There were only 8.33 per cent in industrial and 16.67 per cent in agricultural sector, the children earned Rs. 1200-1500 per month.

4.2 SOCIO-PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHILD LABOURERS

Family size

The size of the family which is an important criterion to determine the actual burden on working child has been given in table 6.

The data shows that 53.33 per cent respondents in industrial sector and 46.66 per cent in agricultural sector belonged to large family size (8 members and above). Further 36.67 per cent in agricultural sector belonged to the medium size families of 5-7 and rest 15.00 per cent in industrial and 16.67 per cent in agricultural sector belonged to small size families i.e. upto 4 members.

Table 6 : Distribution of respondents according to the size of their family, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Family size	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Small family (upto 4 members)	9(15.00)	5(16.67)
Medium family (5-7 members)	19(31.67)	11(36.67)
Large family (8 and above)	32(53.33)	14(46.66)
Total	60(100.00)	30(100.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Education of the family members

The educated parents and family members are in better position to understand the working child's problem, feelings, emotions, etc. in a proper perspective than the illiterate or less educated ones. Table 7 presents the distribution of the family members of the working children according to their educational status.

Table 7 : Distribution of parent's of the respondents according to their educational status, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Educational status of the parents	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Father's Education		
Illiterate	53(88.33)	28(93.33)
Literate	7(11.67)	2(6.67)
Mother's Education		
Illiterate	58(96.67)	30(100.00)
Literate	2(3.33)	-

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

The table brings out that a majority of the family members of the working children in both industrial and agricultural sectors were illiterates. There were only about 11.67 per cent fathers and 3.33 per cent mothers in industrial sector, literate and in agricultural sector there were only 6.67 per cent fathers and no mother was literate.

Family Occupation and Income

1. Parent's occupation

a) Father's occupation

The fathers of about 83 per cent of respondents in industrial sector and 90 per cent in agricultural sector worked as labourers. The percentage of total respondents whose father engaged in miscellaneous jobs like shopkeeper, rickshaw puller, sweeper, cycle repair, etc. were 13.33 per cent in industrial sector and about 10.00 per cent in agricultural sector. About 3.34 per cent of respondents in industrial sector had father whose profession was agriculture (Table 8).

b) Mother's occupation

The mothers of about 73 per cent and 23 per cent respondents in Industrial and agricultural sectors respectively were unemployed while the mothers of about 27 per cent and 77 per cent children in industrial and agricultural sector were performing labour activities. Table 8 shows that 73.33 per cent mothers of children working in the industrial sector were unemployed while their children were working in some industry, if the

father's earning is inadequate to support the family then it is the duty of the mother to support the family financially and not the child.

Table 8 : Distribution of parents according to their occupation, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Father's occupation	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Labour	50(83.33)	27(90.00)
Miscellaneous (Shopkeeper, rickshaw pullar, gate keeper etc.)	8(13.33)	3(10.00)
Agriculture	2(3.34)	-
Mother's occupation		
Unemployed	44(73.33)	7(23.33)
Labour	16(26.67)	23(76.67)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Total Family Income

It was found that 33.33 per cent industrial and 40.00 per cent of agricultural families had total income in the range upto Rs. 1000 per month.

Those families who had total income in the range of the Rs. 1001 - 2000 per

Table 9 : Distribution of children according to their total family income, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Income per month (Rs.)	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Upto 1000	20(33.33)	12(40.00)
1001-2000	19(31.67)	9(30.00)
2001-3000	12(20.00)	5(16.67)
≥ 3001	9(15.00)	4(13.33)
Total	60 (100.00)	30 (100.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

month were 31.67 per cent in industrial and 30.00 per cent in agricultural

sector. Those with the total family income of Rs. 2001-3000 per month constituted 20.00 per cent in industrial and 16.67 per cent in agricultural sector. While 15.00 per cent in industrial and 13.33 per cent in agricultural sector, families had monthly income of more than Rs. 3001 (Table 9).

Per capita income of the family

Families with per capita income upto Rs. 200 per month constituted 48.33 per cent in industrial and 66.66 per cent in agricultural sector. The per capita income of Rs. 201-400 constituted 35.00 per cent families in industrial and 16.67 per cent in agriculture sector. Both in industrial and agricultural sector, only 16.67 per cent of the families had per capita income Rs. 401 and above (Table 10).

Table 10 : Distribution of children according to per capita income of the family, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Per capita income (Rs.)	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Upto 200	29(48.33)	20(66.66)
201-400	21(35.00)	5(16.67)
≥ 401	10(16.67)	5(16.67)
Total	60(100)	30(100)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

4.3 CHILD LABOUR IN DIFFERENT INCOME-EARNING ACTIVITIES

This included the different types of activities performed by the working children, nature of employment, place of work, basis of employment and payment, age when started the work and views of the

children on the job satisfaction.

Types of labour activities performed by the children

It was observed that nearly 20.00 per cent in industrial and 26.67 per cent in agricultural sector, the children started the work at the age of 5-8 years and 73.33 per cent in industrial and 70.00 per cent in agricultural sector, children started the work at the age of 9-12 years and rest of the respondents i.e. 6.67 per cent in industrial and 3.33 per cent in agricultural sector started the work at the age of 13-15 years as shown in Table 11. It is evident from the data that majority of the children were

Table 11 : Distribution of child labourers according to the age of starting labour activities, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Age (years)	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
5-8	12(20.00)	8(26.67)
9-12	44(73.33)	21(70.00)
13-15	4(6.67)	1(3.33)
Total	60(100.00)	30(100.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

entering the work life at earlier stage of their childhood in industrial and agricultural sector which is tantamount to denial of the child's right for growth and development.

Identification of types of labour activities performed by the children

Table 12 presents the distribution of children according to type of activities performed by them. It is clear from the table that 43.33 per cent

Table 12 : Distribution of children on the basis of types of activities performed by them, Ludhiana, 2003-04*

Nature of activities	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Industrial Sector		
Paddle making/fitting	26	43.33
Kharad job	4	6.67
Packing	9	15.00
Yarn winding	4	6.67
Cone (yarn) making	2	3.33
Transportation parts making	2	3.33
Thread pulling	1	1.67
Furniture polishing	2	3.33
Polythene printing	1	1.67
Sticker making	1	1.67
Dyeing	1	1.67
Nut bolt making	2	3.33
Spare parts making	2	3.33
Free wheel making	3	5.00
Agricultural Sector		
Tending cattle	16	53.33
Cleanliness of sheds	5	16.67
Milking	1	3.33
Irrigation	13	43.33
Spraying chemicals	3	10.00
Fertilization	2	6.67
Distributing milk	5	16.67
Dusting	4	13.33
Taking meals to farm	5	16.67
Harvesting	3	10.00

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

* Multiple response

of the respondents in industrial sector were engaged in paddle making/fitting followed by 15.00 per cent engaged in packing, 6.67 per cent of the respondents engaged in Kharad job and also 6.67 per cent of the respondents engaged in yarn winding followed by 3.33 per cent engaged in cone (yarn) making and equal number engaged in transportation parts making like train part, bus parts etc. Other respondents 3.33 per cent engaged in nut bolt making, followed by spare parts making. Other activities performed by them were 1.67 per cent in thread pulling and equal number engaged in polythene printing, in sticker making, engaged in dyeing and 5.00 per cent engaged in free wheel making.

In agricultural sector 53.33 per cent of the respondents engaged in tending cattle, followed by 43.33 per cent of the respondents engaged in irrigation and 16.67 per cent of the respondents engaged in cleaning of sheds and equal number 16.67 per cent engaged in distributing milk in taking meals to farm, followed by 10.00 per cent engaged in spraying chemicals and equal number engaged in harvesting. About 13.33 per cent of the respondents engaged in dusting. Only 6.67 per cent of the respondents engaged in the activity of fertilization and 3.33 per cent of the respondents engaged in milking.

Reasons expressed by children

The major reason expressed by all the sample children in industrial and 96.67 per cent in agricultural sector for starting child labour

was poverty. Another major reason expressed by majority (68.33 per cent) in industrial sector and 76.67 per cent in agricultural sector was in need of help at home. Another 21.67 per cent in industrial and 13.33 per cent in agricultural sector of the respondents reason expressed was debt followed by

Table 13 Reasons for starting child labour activities, Ludhiana, 2003-04*

Reasons	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector	Z-value
To learn	3(5.00)	-	1.25 ^{NS}
Poverty	60(100.00)	29(96.67)	1.42 ^{NS}
Educational failure	4(6.67)	2(6.67)	0 ^{NS}
Need of help at home	47(68.33)	23(76.67)	0.82 ^{NS}
No other earner	9(15.00)	3(10.00)	0.6 ^{NS}
Debt	13(21.67)	4(13.33)	0.95 ^{NS}

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

NS = Non significant

*Multiple response

15.00 per cent in industrial and 10.00 per cent in agricultural sector gave reason of no other earner in the home. Only 5.00 per cent of the respondents in industrial sector expressed reason to learn and 6.67 per cent in industrial and equal number in agricultural sector expressed educational failure as a reason of child labour. Test of significance (Z-test) showed non-significant differences. So, similar trend/reasons for child labour exists for both industrial and agricultural sectors. Amongst the possible reason identified, poverty can be delineated as the main reason of child labour in both industrial and agricultural sectors. These families found it difficult to meet

the family's primary needs without supplementary income of their children. So they did not hesitate to send their children for labour jobs. They had inculcated in the minds of their children that their help is needed at home, which ranks second (68.33 per cent and 76.67 per cent) as the prominent reason for starting child labour.

Regularity in payment

It was found that 66.67 per cent in industrial and 86.67 per cent in agricultural sector get regular payment (Always) followed by 16.67 per

Table 14 : Distribution of respondents according to regularity in payment for labour activities, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Regularity in payment	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Always (2)	40(66.67)	26(86.67)
Sometimes (1)	10(16.67)	3(10.00)
Never(0)	10(16.67)	1(3.33)
Mean score	1.50±0.77	1.83±0.46
χ^2 -value	2.16**	

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

** Significant at 5 per cent level

cent in industrial and 10.00 per cent in agricultural who get sometimes. Only 16.67 per cent in industrial and 3.33 per cent in agricultural who never get regular payment (Table 14).

Payment for overtime work

Data presented in Table 15 reveal that only 18.33 per cent of the respondents in industrial sector get payment for overtime work and

81.67 per cent in industrial sector and 100 per cent in agricultural sector were not paid for overtime work. The respondents who were getting extra for overtime, were paid at same rate of normal working hours. Test of significance (Z-test) of difference in proportion showed significant differences in industrial and agricultural sector.

Table 15 : Distribution of respondents according to payment for overtime work, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Payment for overtime work	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Yes	11(18.33)	-
No	49(81.67)	30(100.00)
z - value	2.504**	

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

** Significant at 5% level

Basis of payment

It was found that children enrolled in various income earning activities were either paid according to time spend on the activity or the amount of work done by them. Table 16 indicates that 91.67 per cent of the

Table 16 : Distribution of respondents according to the basis of employment as child labour, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Basis of employment	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Time spent	5(8.33)	8(26.67)
Amount of work done	55(91.67)	22(73.7)
z-value	2.286**	

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

** Significant at 5 per cent level

respondents in industrial and 73.33 per cent in agricultural sector were paid on the basis of the amount of work done by them, whereas the basis for the remaining were time spent on the activity. So, in both sectors i.e. in industrial and agricultural sector, respondents were paid on the basis of the amount of work done by them.

Reasons expressed by children for giving up studies

The major reason expressed by majority respondents (86.67 per cent) in industrial and 80.00 per cent in agricultural sector for not joining the school was their unwillingness to study. The remaining 13.33 per cent children in industrial and 20.00 per cent in agricultural sector were interested to attend the school (Table 17). Of those interested in schooling, poverty came in between their dreams of education.

Table 17 : Reasons for not joining the school

Reasons	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Not willing to study	52(86.67)	24(80.00)
Want to study	8(13.33)	6(20.00)
Why could not study		
Poverty	8(100.00)	6(100.00)
Debt	4(50.00)	2(33.33)
No earner	3(37.50)	1(16.67)
No educational facility	4(50.00)	3(50.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

4.4 EXTENT OF VARIOUS FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE EMPLOYER

The various facilities and their extent provided by the employers in both industrial as well as in agricultural sector have been

demonstrated in Table 18.

One day weekly rest

According to the Child Labour Prohibition and regulation Act, 1986, every child-employed in an establishment shall be allowed in each week, a holiday of one whole day. About 93 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 20.00 per cent in agricultural sector got one day weekly rest. Test of significant of difference in proportion showed significant difference between industrial and agricultural sector in one day weekly rest.

Off days with wages

Only 48.33 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 13.33 per cent in agricultural sector got off day with wages.

Kind of help from employer against disease

About 26.67 per cent in industrial and 66.67 per cent in agricultural sector got medical help from the employer and 21.67 per cent children in industrial and 20.00 per cent in agricultural sector got financial help from the employer and other facilities provided by employer in agricultural sector were 36.67 per cent like clothes, shoes etc.

Medical facilities available at work place

There were only 8.33 per cent of the children in industrial and 6.67 per cent in the agricultural sector who got first aid box facility.

Clean drinking water facilities

Majority of the respondents (66.67 per cent) in industrial sector

Table 18 : Extent of various facilities provided by the employer, Ludhiana, 2003-04*

Facilities	Industrial Sector	Agricultural Sector	Z-value
1. One day weekly rest	56 (93.33)	6 (20.00)	7.08***
2. Off day with wages	29 (48.33)	4 (13.33)	3.25***
3. Kind of help from employer against disease			
i. Financial	13 (21.67)	6 (20.00)	0.18 ^{NS}
ii. Medical	16 (26.67)	20 (66.67)	3.65***
iii. Any other	-	11 (36.67)	5.01***
4. Medical facilities available at work place			
i. Doctor's visit	-	2 (6.67)	2.02**
ii. First aid box	5 (8.33)	2 (6.67)	0.28 ^{NS}
iii. Doctor's shop nearby	1 (1.67)	-	0.71 ^{NS}
5. Clean drinking water facilities			
i. No	-	-	-
ii. Well	-	-	-
iii. Hand pump	-	23 (76.67)	7.86***
iv. Taps	40 (66.67)	4 (13.33)	4.77***
v. Stored in a container	17 (28.33)	-	3.24***
vi. Tubewell	3 (5.00)	13 (43.33)	4.48***
6. Educational facilities			
Yes	4(6.67)	-	1.45 ^{NS}
No	56(93.33)	30(100.00)	1.45 ^{NS}
7. Recreational facilities			
i. No	45(75.00)	8(26.67)	4.39***
ii. Go to cinema	6(10.00)	0(-)	1.79*
iii. Television	9(15.00)	18(60.00)	4.39***
iv. Radio	2(3.33)	4(13.33)	1.79*
v. Tape recorder	8(13.34)	6(20.00)	0.82 ^{NS}
vi. Play with friends	0(-)	2(6.67)	2.02**

*Multiple response

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

*** Significant at 1 per cent level

** Significant at 5 per cent level

* Significant at 10 per cent level

NS = Non significant

were getting water from the taps and 76.67 per cent of the respondents in agricultural sector were getting clean drinking water from handpump and also 43.33 per cent of the respondents got water from tubewell. In industrial sector 23.33 per cent of the respondents were getting water from stored in a container.

Educational facilities

Majority of the respondents (93.33 per cent) in industrial and 100.00 per cent in agricultural sector were not getting any educational facility from the employer.

Recreational facilities

Majority of respondents in industrial sector were not getting any recreational facility while in agricultural sector 26.67 per cent were enjoying it. However, 15.00 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 60.00 per cent in agricultural sector were getting television facility.

Treatment from employer

The study has revealed that majority (88.33 per cent) children in industrial and 90.00 per cent in agricultural sector felt that their employer treat them well. However 11.67 per cent in industrial and 10.00 per cent in agricultural sector, children felt that they were not treated well by their employer (Table 19).

Table 19 : Distribution of child labourers according to the treatment from employer, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Treatment	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Good	53(88.33)	27(90.00)
Not good	7(11.67)	3(10.00)
χ^2 -values = 0.0002 ^{NS}		

(Yates Correction Applied)

NS = Non-significant

Views of children on job satisfaction

It was found that 75.00 per cent children in industrial and 70.00 per cent in agricultural sector were completely happy with their work as shown in Table 20. Further 16.67 per cent in industrial and 20.00 per cent in agricultural sector were partially happy with the work. Only 8.33 per cent respondents in industrial sector and 10.00 per cent in agricultural sector were unhappy with the work. Testing the difference in proportion between agricultural and industrial sectors, the differences were found to be non significant for all the categories of happiness with work i.e. complete

Table 20 : Distribution of child labourers according to happiness with the work, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Happiness with work	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector
Completely (2)	45(75.00)	21(70.00)
Partially (1)	10(16.67)	6(20.00)
No (0)	5(8.33)	3(10.00)
χ^2 -value	0.49 ^{NS}	

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

NS = Non significant

happiness, partial happiness and no happiness as most of the children i.e. 75 and 70 per cent respectively were completely happy with their work.

Hours of work

The stipulated hours of work for children was 4½ hours under subsection (2) of Child-Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986.

Table 21 : Distribution according to the length of time of work, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Length of time (hours)	Industrial sector	Agricultural sector
8-10	43(71.67)	12(40.00)
11-12	10(16.67)	8(26.67)
13-14	5(8.33)	7(23.33)
>14	2(3.33)	3(10.00)
Mean length of work time (hrs)	9.78±1.68	11.27±2.10
t-value	3.15***	

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

*** significant at 1 per cent level.

Majority (71.67 per cent) of the children in industrial and 40.00 per cent in agricultural sector worked for the period of 10 hours and 16.67 per cent in industrial and 26.67 per cent in agricultural sector worked for the period of 11-12 hrs and other 8.33 per cent of the children in industrial and 23.33 per cent in agricultural sector worked for the period 13-14 hrs and only 3.33 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 10.00 per cent in agricultural sector worked for the period longer than 14 hours.

4.5 PROBLEMS FACED BY CHILD LABOUR

Table 22 gives the distribution of problems faced by child labourers. The data revealed that 33.33 per cent of the respondents in industrial sector and 13.33 per cent in agricultural sector complained about unpaid for long time. About 56.67 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 60.00 per cent of the respondents in agricultural sector complained of less wages. Thirty five per cent respondents in industrial and 40.00 per cent in agricultural sector said they had to hard physical work beyond capacity. About 60.00 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 63.33 per cent in agricultural sector complained that there were no fixed working hours. About 70.00 per cent in industrial and equal number in agricultural sector said that they were not able to study and about 63.33 per cent in industrial and 6.67 per cent in agricultural sector complained about unhygienic conditions.

They were deprived of entertainment, said 31.67 per cent in industrial and 10.00 per cent respondents in agricultural sector. The problem of exertion and fatigue was reported by 50.00 per cent in industrial and 20.00 per cent respondents in agricultural sector. About 11.67 per cent in industrial and 10.00 per cent in agricultural sector complained about under scolding/ill treatment followed by 18.33 per cent in industrial and none of them in agricultural complained about underfed. The problem of poor quality of work was reported by 31.67 per cent respondents in

Table 22 : Problems faced by child - labourers, Ludhiana, 2003-04*

Problems	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector	Z-value
1. Unpaid for long period	20(33.33)	4(13.33)	2.02**
2. Less wages	34(56.67)	18(60.00)	0.30 ^{NS}
3. Have to do hard physical work beyond capacity	21(35.00)	12(40.00)	0.46 ^{NS}
4. No fixed working hours	36(60.00)	19(63.33)	0.31 ^{NS}
5. Not able to study	42(70.00)	21(70.00)	0 ^{NS}
6. Unhygienic conditions	38(63.33)	2(6.67)	5.10***
7. Deprived of entertainment	19(31.67)	3(10.00)	2.26**
8. Exertion/fatigue due to over work	30(50.00)	6(20.00)	2.74***
9. Under scolding/ill treatment	7(11.67)	3(10.00)	0.24 ^{NS}
10. Underfed	11(18.33)	-	2.50**
11. Poor quality of work	19(31.67)	3(10.00)	2.26**
12. Bad society	10(16.67)	-	2.37**
13. Drug culture	39(65.00)	12(40.00)	2.26**
14. Disease prone	41(68.33)	2(6.67)	5.52***
15. Accidents at work	19(31.67)	-	3.47***
16. Insecurity of job	33(55.00)	6(20.00)	3.16**
17. Punishment for mistakes	21(35.00)	9(30.00)	0.47 ^{NS}
18. Night time work	18(30.00)	3(10.00)	2.12**
19. unpaid for over/night time work	49(81.67)	30(100.00)	2.50***

* Multiple response

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

*** Significant at 1 per cent level

** Significant at 5 per cent level

NS = Non significant

industrial and 10.00 per cent in agricultural sector.

About 68.33 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 40.00 per cent in agricultural were prone to different diseases. Most of the respondents (55.00 per cent) in industrial and 20.00 per cent in agricultural sector complained about insecurity of job, while majority of the respondents (81.67 per cent) in industrial and 100 per cent in agricultural sector complained about unpaid for over/night time work. Thus, we may conclude that major problem faced by children were no fixed working hours, not able to study, unpaid for over time work, less wages in both industrial and agricultural sector. But there was significant difference between exertion/fatigue due to over work, deprived of entertainment, underfed, disease prone, accidents at work etc. in both the sectors.

Use of Intoxicants

It can be seen from table 23 that majority of the respondents (61.67 per cent) in industrial sector and 60.00 per cent in agricultural sector consumed Jarda and 60.00 per cent in industrial and 36.67 per cent in agricultural sector consumed cigarettes/bidis. Other 56.67 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 46.67 per cent in agricultural sector consumed Pan-Parag. About 40.00 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 16.67 per cent in agricultural sector consumed liquor as a intoxicants. Other 35.00 per cent in industrial and 13.33 per cent in agricultural sector of the respondents used to consume other drugs. Only 35.00 per cent of the

respondents in industrial and 26.67 per cent in agricultural sector were not taking any intoxicants. Z-test showed significant difference between industrial and agricultural sector. The respondents in industrial sector were more prone to bad habits like cigarettes/bidies, liquor, drugs than in agricultural sector.

Table 23 : Distribution of respondents according to use of intoxicants, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Intoxicants	Multiple response		
	Industries sector	Agricultural sector	Z-value
No use	21(35.00)	8(26.67)	0.89 ^{NS}
Cigarettes/Bidis	36(60.00)	11(36.67)	2.09**
Liquor	24(40.00)	5(16.67)	2.23**
Pan Parag	34(56.67)	14(46.67)	0.90 ^{NS}
Jarda	37(61.67)	18(60.00)	0.15 ^{NS}
Drugs	21(35.00)	4(13.33)	2.16**

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

** Significant at 5 per cent level

NS = Non significant

4.6 REASONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AS LABOURERS

It was observed that there were many reasons which compelled the young budding children to go for labour force to support their poor families.

It can be seen from Table 24 that all the working children in industrial sector and 96.67 in agricultural sector were of the view that poverty was the main reason. The second important reason cited was less wages, more work by 70.00 per cent in industrial sector and 73.33 per cent

children in agricultural sector.

The data further revealed that 70.00 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 60.00 per cent in agricultural sector cited inadequate adult employment opportunities as the reason for child labour.

Another 68.33 per cent respondents in industrial and 76.67 per cent in agricultural sector said that family needs was also a reason. Other important reason given by them was to supplement family income by 56.67 per cent in industrial and 63.33 per cent respondents in agricultural sector. Other important reason was illiteracy cited by 65.00 per cent respondents in industrial and 40.00 per cent in agricultural sector. Another 28.53 per cent of

Table 24 : Reasons of employment of children as labourer, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Reasons of child labour	Multiple response		
	Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector	Z-value
1 Poverty	60(100.00)	29(96.67)	142 ^{NS}
2 Illiteracy	39(65.00)	12(40.00)	2.26**
3 Inadequate educational facilities	42(70.00)	18(60.00)	0.95 ^{NS}
4 Inadequate adult employment opportunities	32(53.33)	19(63.33)	0.90 ^{NS}
5 Family needs	41(68.33)	23(76.67)	0.82 ^{NS}
6 No other earning member	9(15.00)	4(13.33)	0.21 ^{NS}
7 Family occupation	17(28.33)	11(36.67)	0.81 ^{NS}
8 To supplement family income	34(56.67)	19(63.33)	0.61 ^{NS}
9 Less wages : more work	42(70.00)	22(73.33)	0.33 ^{NS}

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

** Significant at 5 per cent level

NS = Non significant

the respondents in industrial and 36.67 per cent in agricultural sector said that they were working due to family occupation. About 15.00 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 13.33 per cent in agricultural sector said that due to no other earning member they were compelled to work.

4.7 VIEWS OF EMPLOYER REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF CHILD LABOUR

An attempt was made to find out the employer's opinion on desirability of child employment. The findings revealed that opinion of the employers in this regard were different.

Reasons why the employer consider child employment desirable ?

The employers who considered child employment desirable gave number of reasons which were expressed in table 25. According to them important reasons of child labour was the income of poor families were supplemented in 81.67 per cent in industrial and 80.00 per cent in agricultural sector. In many families they were bread winners of families i.e. 23.33 per cent in industrial and 66.67 per cent in agricultural sector and for certain jobs children were more adopt and efficient i.e. 25.00 per cent in industrial and 6.67 per cent in agricultural sector. Another 21.67 per cent in industrial and 26.67 per cent in agricultural sector, the respondents felt that there was significant contribution toward production. There were some respondents (36.67 per cent) in industrial and 23.33 per cent in agricultural sector, who stated that child employed help in lessening the gravity of adult

unemployment problem.

Table 25 : Reasons why the employer consider child employment desirable, Ludhiana, 2003-04*

Reasons of child labour		Industrial sector	Agricultural Sector	Z-value
1	Income of poor families are supplemented by their earnings	49(81.67)	24(80.00)	0.19 ^{NS}
2	Bread winners of families	14(23.33)	20(66.69)	4.00***
3	More adaptability for certain jobs	15(25.00)	2(6.67)	2.10**
4	Significant contribution towards production	13(21.67)	8(26.67)	0.55 ^{NS}
5	Gravity of adult unemployment is lessened	22(36.67)	7(23.33)	1.25 ^{NS}

*Multiple response

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

*** Significant at 1 per cent level

** Significant at 5 per cent level

NS = Non significant

Reasons why the employer consider child employment undesirable ?

With respect to the undesirability of child employment, 55.00 per cent in industrial and 53.33 per cent respondents in agricultural sector felt that children were deprived of happiness at very tender age; about 46.67 per cent in industrial and 23.33 per cent in agricultural sector felt that child labour hindered the proper growth and development of children, another 23.33 per cent employees in industrial and 20.00 per cent in agricultural sector felt that child employment instead of solving the problem of poverty will only aggravate it in longer run as presented in Table 26.

Table 26 : Reasons why the employer consider child employment undesirable, Ludhiana, 2003-04*

Reasons		Industrial Sector	Agricultural Sector	Z-value
1	Children are deprived of happiness at very tender age	33(55.00)	16(53.33)	0.15 ^{NS}
2	Hinder their proper growth and development	28(46.67)	7(23.33)	2.14**
3	Social evil	8(13.33)	3(10.00)	0.46 ^{NS}
4	Aggravate the problem of poverty in the long run	14(23.33)	6(20.00)	0.36 ^{NS}
5	Children become vulnerable for different kind of exploitation	4(6.67)	0(-)	1.45 ^{NS}
6	Aggravate the backwardness of society	9(15.00)	5(16.67)	0.21 ^{NS}
7	Deprivation of educational/ recreational facilities	12(20.00)	2(6.67)	1.65 ^{NS}
8	Health hazards	10(16.67)	0(-)	2.37
9	Drug/intoxicant hazards	14(23.33)	7(23.33)	0 ^{NS}

*Multiple response

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

** Significant at 5 per cent level

NS = Non significant

4.8 MEASURES FOR AMELIORATION OF PROBLEMS FACED BY CHILD LABOURERS.

Views of employer about the abolition of child employment

Child employment in our country is abolished through legislation only in some occupation and in other only regulation is attempted. However some were of the opinion of totally banning the child employment as they are easily subjected to exploitation. In this context, the employers

Table 27 : Distribution of child labourers according to their opinion regarding the abolition of child labour, Ludhiana, 2003-04

Opinion	Industrial sector (n=60)	Agricultural Sector (n=30)
To be abolished	22(36.67)	12(40.00)
Present practice of partial abolition to be continued	38(63.33)	18(60.00)
Not to be abolished	-	-
$\chi^2 = 0.09^{NS}$		

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

NS = Non significant

were examined to know their opinion about the abolition of child employment. Table 27 illustrates the opinion given by the respondents with regard to the abolition of child employment. Abolition was advocated by 36.67 per cent in industrial and 40.00 per cent in agricultural sector, about 63.33 per cent in industrial and 60.00 per cent in agricultural sector, the employer felt that present practice of partial abolition to be continued. As they think that total ban will give rise to number of social problems.

Suggestions to improve the working conditions of child labourers

Many children gave the suggestions for the amelioration of their problems. Suggestions given by them are given in table 28. The data reveal that 71.67 per cent in industrial sector and 46.67 per cent in agricultural sector, the respondents gave the suggestions that working hours should be fixed followed by 85.00 per cent in industrial and 93.33 per cent in agricultural sector asked for more wages. Further data revealed that 33.33

Table 28: Distribution of the working children according to suggestions given by them, Ludhiana, 2003-04*

Suggestions	Industrial sector	Agricultural sector	Z-value
1 More wages	51(85.00)	28(93.33)	1.14 ^{NS}
2 Regular payment	20(33.33)	4(6.67)	2.02**
3 Fixed working hours	43(71.67)	14(46.67)	2.32**
4 Recreational facilities of workplace			
i Entertainment	32(53.33)	8(26.67)	2.40**
ii Literature (newspaper, magazines etc.)	4(6.67)	-	1.45 ^{NS}
5 Medical facilities	30(50.00)	6(20.00)	2.74***
6 Extra financial aid in time of mishappening at work place	16(26.67)	5(16.67)	1.06 ^{NS}
7 Organisation of medical camps	9(15.00)	-	2.24**
8 Life insurance on employers cost	5(8.33)	-	1.63 ^{NS}
9 Clean drinking water facilities	29(48.33)	-	4.63
10 Proper light, air at work place	6(13.53)	-	2.10**
11 Well behaviour by employers	19(31.67)	8(26.67)	0.49 ^{NS}

*Multiple response

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

*** Significant at 1 per cent level

** Significant at 5 per cent level

NS = Non significant

per cent in industrial and 6.67 per cent in agricultural sector, the respondents said that payment should be regular, about 50.00 per cent of the respondents in industrial and 20.00 per cent in agricultural sector said that there should be proper medical facilities. Besides these suggestion, some respondents

(26.67 per cent) in industrial and 16.67 per cent in agricultural sector said that there should be financial aid in time of mishappening at work place.

Child labour is a phenomenon of poor socio-economic status of a section of society which cuts across the community. Empirical results of the study confirm that "Poverty" is the major explanatory factor behind the incidence of child labour. So keeping these points in mind following recommendations are given :

- Improve economic conditions of the families of the child labourers through effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes.
- Family planning programme should be implemented strictly.
- The programme of free and compulsory education for children *upto* 14 years should be implemented.
- Social awareness in the public should be created by conducting seminars, symposia and workshops on the problem of child labour.
- Media may effectively be used to create awareness among the mass, of the evils of child labour.
- Leading industrial and social organisations should be motivated to sponsor welfare programmes.
- Rules and Regulations that exists under Indian labour law should be strictly enforced by labour department.

CHAPTER - V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The problem of child labour is now recognised as a global phenomenon. The problem is mostly associated with poverty where households cannot afford to provide proper education to their children or let the children work to supplement the meagre family income. These children are caught in worst terms of exploitation like slavery, trafficking, debt-bondage, prostitution and other forced labour (Pasayat 2003).

The present investigation was therefore, carried out keeping in view the following specific objectives :

1. To identify the types of labour activities performed by the children.
2. To know the socio-personal and psychological problems of sampled labourers.
3. To identify the reasons of employment of children as labourers.
4. To suggest measures for the amelioration of problems faced by child labourers.

Two sectors, namely industrial and agricultural from Ludhiana district of Punjab were selected for the purpose of present study. From industrial sector, 60 child laboruers were selected and from agricultural sector, 30 child labourers were selected from three villages. Thus, the total sample constituted of 90 child labourers. The data were collected through structured interview schedule from the child labourers.

After careful analysis of the facts collected through structured interview schedule, the following findings have been arrived at :

1. The results of the study showed that maximum number of the respondents were in the age group of 12-14 years in both i.e. industrial and agricultural sector. It was observed that majority of the respondents were male i.e. 90.00 per cent in industrial and 96.67 per cent in agriculture sector. Majority of them were migrant labour in both the cases and majority of respondents were illiterate i.e. 86.67 in industrial and 90.00 per cent in agricultural sector.
2. Children constituting 53.33 per cent in industrial and 46.66 per cent in agricultural sector belonged to the large families i.e. family size of 6-8 members.
3. The present study revealed the fact that substantial number 71.67 per cent in industrial and 70.00 per cent in agricultural sector, child labour belonged to lower social strata of society. They were from scheduled caste.
4. Majority of the respondents (96.66 per cent) in industrial and 80.00 per cent in agricultural sector were full time workers.
5. Majority of the child labour (73.33 per cent) in industrial and 70.00 per cent in agricultural sector started working from the age of 9-12 years which is tender age to start work. It is acknowledged that early entry of children into the work force is detrimental to the health and

growth of the children. Moreover, engaged in economic activities at their tender ages, they are deprived of childhood pleasures and education.

6. The children constituting 83.33 per cent in industrial sector and 90.00 per cent in agricultural sector had father working as labourers. The children constituting 73.33 per cent in industrial sector had mother who were unemployed, and 76.67 per cent in agricultural sector had mother who were employed. Majority of child labour had illiterate parents.
7. The children constituting 45.00 per cent in industrial and 40.00 per cent in agricultural sectors were getting wages in the range of Rs. 900-1200 per month and 38.36 per cent in industrial sector in the range of Rs. 600-900 and 30.00 per cent in agricultural sector in the range of Rs. 300-600 per month.
8. Out of total families who had total income in the range of Rs. 1000 per month were 33.33 per cent in industrial sector and 40.00 per cent in agricultural sector. Whereas those families who earned in the range of Rs. 1001-2000 were 31.67 per cent in industrial and 30.00 per cent in agricultural sector. Those who belonged to the family with the total income of more than Rs. 3000 were only 15.00 per cent in industrial and 13.33 per cent in agricultural sector. Those families with the per capital income upto Rs. 200 per month constituted 48.33 per cent in

industrial and 66.66 per cent in agricultural sector. So it is evident from the study that no family had per capita income of Rs. 897.50 which is national per capital income at current prices.

9. Majority of the respondents (73.33 per cent) in industrial and 70.00 per cent in agricultural sector started working at the age of 9-12 years.
10. All the respondents in industrial and 96.67 per cent in agricultural sector perceived the main causes of child employment to be poverty followed by need of help at home.
11. Majority of the respondents (66.66 per cent) in industrial and 86.67 per cent in agricultural sector were getting regular payment from the employers.
12. In industrial sector 71.67 per cent and in agricultural sector 40.00 per cent of the children were working for 8-10 hours a day.
13. Majority of the respondents (93.33 per cent) in industrial sector got one day weekly rest but in agricultural sector children got weekly rest were only 20 per cent.
14. Problem faced by the working children could be listed as : long working hours, not able to study, unpaid for long time, deprived of entertainment, unhygienic conditions, have to do hard physical work beyond capacity, exertion/fatigue due to over work, insecurity of job, undue scolding, ill-treatment and punishment for mistakes.
15. Majority of the respondents were prone to various types of bad habits

like using of intoxicants like cigarettes/bidis, jarda, pan parag, liquor and other drugs.

16. Majority of the respondents considered child employment to be desirable
17. About 63.33 per cent of the respondents in industrial sector and 60.00 per cent in agricultural sector did not favour total abolition of child employment as they felt total abolition will give rise to number of social problems.
18. It was suggested by many respondents that in order to improve the working conditions of children there should be fixed working hours, more wages, regular payment, recreational and medical facilities at work place.

On the basis of the findings of the study, the following conclusions can be drawn :

1. The greater load of labour force appeared to be on the shoulders of young, illiterate low caste children.
2. The size of family of working children was large and majority of the family members were illiterates and unemployed. So, children were forced to take on the burden of their families on their shoulders in too an early age.
3. Major factors responsible for child labour were poverty, irregular income of the family, family needs, inadequate adults employment

opportunities.

4. The major problems faced by the working children were : no fixed working hours, less wages, exertion/fatigue due to over work.

SUGGESTIONS

The child by reason of his physical and mental immaturity needs special safeguards and his work endangers his physical, emotional, social and moral development. Basically, a strong and determined effort by the government will be the key to amelioration of the problem of child labour in India, along with the following measures.

- Improve economic conditions of the families of the child labourers through effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes.
- Family planning programme should be implemented strictly.
- The programme of free and compulsory education for children upto 14 years should be implemented.
- Social awareness in the public should be created by conducting seminars, symposia and workshops on the problem of child labour.
- Media may effectively be used to create awareness among the mass, of the evils of child labour.
- Leading industrial and social organisations should be motivated to sponsor welfare programmes.
- Rules and Regulations that exists under Indian labour law should be strictly enforced by labour department.

- Better working conditions
- Payment should be made regular.

The complete eradication of this evil is possible only when there is tremendous increase in standard of living of people. This is a long term goal, but short term goal is to improve the working conditions.

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