

## CHAPTER II: CHILD AND THE CHILD WORKER

### *Who is Child?*

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 Section 2 (k) defines “juvenile” or “Child” as a person who has not completed eighteenth year of age. According to the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 Section 2 (ii) “Child” means a person who has not completed the age of 14 years. As per Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 Section 2 (a) “Child” means a person who, if a male, has not completed twenty-one years of age, and if a female, has not completed eighteen years of age. According to Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 Section 2 (a) “Child” means a person who has not completed the age of sixteen years (Who is a Juvenile?; [http://dpju.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=11](http://dpju.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=11), retrieved 12.09.2013, at 04.20 p.m.). Generally a child is defined using age criterion. However, the socio-cultural meaning of the child is different. In fact, from a little child to aged person everybody is always treated as child by their parents. A ‘child’ as a social being can however not be defined mainly through an age criterion. Childhood has its relevance in terms of persons’ social acceptance as adults; generally by providing a space for participation in social affairs with an autonomous identity. Now the question is whether the ‘participation as an independent identity’ becomes the classifying factor, which in turn, will mean that children cannot participate as independent members?

We know all that determining the basic dividing line between child and adult in terms of characteristics would involve analysis of diverse issues. Some examples are criterions such as puberty, marriage, education, acquiring skills etc. Most of these are very particularistic to culture, and often very difficult to generalize. It is not untrue, that in certain societies, even work is a criterion of deciding adulthood status. Here, it is not argued that our criterion should be education or work or something else to define childhood, but to make a point that a ‘legal’ age-based definition of child exists in a society, where children are viewed from various other perspectives, which all cannot be

ignored. A universalistic way of defining childhood may lead to developing a monolithic concept of childhood, unrelated to social aspects.

Childhood as “a social construct varies over time and space” was never an unacceptable view. But laws have their own strength and limitations. A legal system, with state as an impartial institution, requires a neutral standard to classify all persons into child and adult. This is supported by human obsession with quantification, measurement and precision that there is always a tendency to, in Foucaultian term, ‘mathematize’ social constructs. In the process, any method, other than age criterion, of defining childhood is subjected to a rigorous test of subjectivity and practicability, in which any criterion rooted in social system, will fail.

Therefore, the widely accepted notion of defining children is age criterion, which, however, is also not without problems. As regards to children, especially child labour, the “rigid age criteria are of little help” because the phenomenon of child labour encompasses “(biological) juveniles doing ‘adult’ work and (biological) adults who are still defined in work-relations as minors.... And thus subject to various forms of exploitation and loss of autonomy which social adults do not face”. While, the first case of “biological juveniles doing adult work” requires challenging certain social notions of childhood, the latter of (biological) adults still defined as minors necessitates an analysis because here the biological criterion denies (social) children their identity of ‘child’, and therefore protection.

Another, immediate fallout of classifying persons on the basis of age, or for that matter any classification is the acceptance of a hierarchy between child and adult institutionalised through age-based system. While adults are accepted to be in the state of (human) beings, children are believed to be in the stage of ‘becoming’, with child as an inferior version of the adult “as a lovable, spontaneous, delicate being who is also simultaneously dependent, unreliable and willful and thus, as a being who needs to be guided, protected and educated as a ward”. In other words, the fact that children need protection as well as development was unfortunately based on the premise that childhood

is a perfect transitional stage on the way to adulthood, normality, full socialisation and humanness (Child Rights and You: 2-3).

**Child Population in India:** As per 2001 Census, children in the age group of 0-14 constituted about 360 million and accounted for 35.3 per cent of total population. Children in the 5-14 age group constituted about 251 million and accounted for 24.6 per cent of the population (Table 2.1).

**Table 2.1: Percentage of Children in Total Population**

| Age group | 1991 | 2001 | 2006 | 2011 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| 0-4       | 12.0 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 9.3  |
| 5-9       | 13.2 | 12.5 | 10.7 | 10.5 |
| 10-14     | 11.9 | 12.1 | 11.0 | 11.0 |
| 5-14      | 25.1 | 24.6 | 21.7 | 21.4 |
| 0-14      | 37.2 | 35.3 | 32.1 | 30.8 |

Source: Population Census 1991, 2001 and Population Projections, based on 2001 Census of India (2006) including J & K; cited in Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft), and Census of India 2011.

### **Definition of Child Worker**

In this study, child is defined in terms of age. Only the population aged 5-14 is taken as child population. There is no universally accepted definition of child work/labour. There is also no single opinion as to whether a child engaged in family occupations- full time or part time- but contributing to the family income should be considered as a child labour/worker. Similarly, whether a child engaged in jobs like news paper vending in the morning for an hour or so for a monetary consideration be regarded as a child labour/worker. So also the options differ as to whether the children who are self employment for their own survival, like rag pickers and also the street children who do not have any body to depend on could be brought within the ambit of the term child labour/worker. There is also a difference of opinion as to whether the children not doing anything-neither employed within or outside the family nor going to school could be considered as child labour/worker. The lack of common understanding, agreement on the meaning of the term, and acceptance of varying interpretations of the problem not only

make the task of identifying and determining the magnitude of the problem and the ways and means of tackling/eliminating the problem onerous (Patil, 1997: 170).

The definition of child labour is not uniform all over the world. It is by no means the same in all statutes that refer to the employment of children. Whenever the business wage earning, cattle rearing, baby-sitting of younger siblings, helping parents in hazardous jobs or in family vacations conflicts directly or indirectly with the normal growth, educations, playing games, enjoying fun of child, the result is 'child labour'. A child worker is a person in the age group of 5-14 years employed for hire or reward on a full time or part time basis or self-employed as assisting his/her parents in their occupations for two or more hours a day (Kaldate, 1997: 68). Regarding the distinction between child work and child labour, G.K. Lienten argues that the concept of child work should be used as the generic term, and would refer to "any type of work being done in an mode of employment relationship and for any purpose; it should serve as a description of the physical (or mental) involvement in a job", while the concept of (child) labour should be "restricted to the production of goods and services, including work in the household, that interfere with the normative development of children as defined in the 1989 the UN Convention on the Rights of the child" (Crawford, 2000).

Child work is accepted as it is considered as a child's contribution to her own survival as well as the survival of the family. Child work is child labour when it threatens the survival, protection and development of children (Child Rights and You: 11).

For Anthropologists child labour and child work are problems of different orders. Child labour as distinguishing from work experience has mostly negative attributes. Child work takes the form of child labour when it involves one or more of the following elements:

1. Longer hours of work on a regular full-time basis,
2. Hazardous in working conditions (physically or mentally),
3. No or insufficient access, attendance or progress in school,
4. Abusive treatment by the employer and,
5. Work in slave-like arrangements (bonded labour).

However, NGO's perception of child labour is different from all of the above perspectives. Their definition of child labour is a broader one and encompasses every non-school going child, irrespective of whether he/she is engaged in wage work, self employed or working for others, employed in hazardous or non-hazardous occupations, employed on daily wage or on a contract basis as bonded labours. Every child who is out of school is a child labour or potential labour (Panigrahi, 2003: 38).

The term child labour is, at times, used as synonym for employed child or working child. But a working child is one who subjects himself or herself to work, unpaid 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 defines a working child as ".....a child failing within 5-15 age brackets and who is at remunerative work, maybe paid or unpaid and busy at any hour of the day within or outside the family ....." (Rehman, 1992; cited in Panigrahi, 1997: 50). Any adequate conception of child labour being's with the child himself, his nature and his needs both present and future (Panigrahi, 1997: 50).

***Characteristics of Working Children:*** Considering the wide variation in different definitions of child labour and the absence of a commonly accepted definition, the following characteristics maybe considered as the distinguishing marks of child labour whether it is within the family or outside the family, paid or unpaid:

1. Employing children of tender age children who have not completed the age of 14 years.
2. Exploitation of children adversely affecting their physical, emotional and social development.
3. Deprivation of the right of the children to health, education and a happy childhood.

Work by children in the family would be considered 'child labour' if family labour interferes with the child's education, recreation and has physical, mental or moral health. "When the business of wage earning or if participation in self or family support conflicts directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education, the result is child labour" (Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, cited in Dak, 2002: 5-6).

***Categorization of Working Children:*** The International Labour Conference held in 1983 used this categorization to explain all the activities performed by children. The report adopted the first five categories of activities as 'economic activities in which children participate'. In official Statistics (NSSO), tied or bonded labour and major part of marginal activities are generally characterized as 'labour' or 'work', but domestic work is characterized as 'domestic activities'.

The five categories of child activities are stated briefly-

(i) ***Domestic Work:*** Children undertake domestic chores in almost all societies. This may take the form of simple cleaning tasks and washing clothes to sibling-care and fetching water or collecting fire wood, depending on the nature of household needs. Many of these domestic works are not imposed upon children; nonetheless often they are 'actively' promoted in the name of child-rearing process. Although apparently non-exploitative, there are certain aspects of domestic work that requires investigation and analyses. The first aspect is the unfortunate status of 'domestic chores' itself being viewed as odd jobs or errands. These tasks most often do not come under the definition of 'economic activities', and are rarely reflected in the official statistics. Therefore the children performing domestic tasks are not even categorized as child workers, although they may be spending a long time on performing these tasks every day. Related to this is the second aspect of gender stereotyping of these domestic chores. Firstly, the inferior status of domestic work within the larger category of 'work' matches in inferior status of woman and children within society, and therefore there is a view that entire 'domestic work' comes within the responsibility of women and children. Secondly, within domestic chores, there is a gender stereotyping of domestic work between boys and girls, in such a way that girls get to learn all those tasks that women are 'supposed' to do in the society. The 'domestic work' becomes a tool in the hands of the society to perpetuate the intra household division of labour between men and women, which has a wider ramification in the adult society in terms of perpetuating the inferior status of women as dependents. Thirdly, related to the first two, the domestic work may also lead to deprivation of child rights, especially for girls. Children are not sent to school or are often withdrawn from schools to act as domestic adult substitutes for performing domestic chores, especially

sibling care. The child's right to development and protection is generally overlooked because of the assumption that exploitative relations do not exist within the family (Goddard and White, 1982)

**(ii) *Non-Domestic, Non-Monetary Work*:** According to the report of ILC, 1983, this forms a major part of child activity in subsistence communities, encompassing from work, and collection of goods, tailoring, weaving etc. Although these activities are non-domestic, they are non-remunerative as well, and therefore do not qualify for being part of the conventional definition of 'labour' or 'work'. NSSO captures these activities of children as well.

**(iii) and (iv) *Bonded Labour and Wage Labour*:** Bonded labour arises as one of the obligations to landlords/ occupiers whereby children's labour is pledge as part-payment of the debts. The parents in need of money have no other option but to pledge children's services against a paltry sum. Although poverty and absence of livelihood options are cited as the major reasons for bonded labour, it is actually, demand factors, which attribute value to child labour. The process of bonded labour has in fact been interpreted broadly by the Indian Judiciary so as to include those employments that do not provide minimum wage to the workers.

The wage employment covers "children working as part of a family group or individually in agriculture, manufacturing and services, either on a piece rate or time rate basis, as regular or casual workers". Children as part of a family group are very common in agriculture production. In the last two decades, with greater informalization of manufacturing sector, such a system can widely be seen in manufacturing sector as well, such as in carpet-making, *bidi*<sup>1</sup> industry etc. In both cases, the relations of production actually play a major role in creating exploitative conditions of child labour, as children do not work within the 'protective' realm of the family, and even if they do, the external relations of production overshadows the other relations.

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<sup>1</sup> *Bidi*: It is a type of cheap cigarette made of unprocessed tobacco wrapped in leaves.

**(v) Marginal Economic Activities:** These activities are “typically characterized by their irregularly and short-time nature, through some of those individuals practicing the activities may do so on a regular, long term basis”. This type of work includes the selling of news papers, sweets and other small items; running errands; shining shoes and sorting rubbish. Most of the activities undertaken by street children as part of their livelihood needs come under this category. In most of the cases, street children are ‘self employed’, in the sense that children are not under one employer. However, that does not discount the incidence of exploitative elements, as children work and live under difficult circumstances. This category also includes theft, prostitution and other activities, but due to their being illegal, the activities are positioned as a different category altogether. Especially significant in the case of prostitution, sex workers (Child Rights and You: 8-9).

### ***UNICEF Classification of Child Work***

A more systematic classification of the specific types of work in which concentrations of urban children in India are found is given as under by the UNICEF-

***Within the Family (unpaid):*** (a) Domestic/house-hold tasks (cooking, child care, fetching water, cleaning utensils, washing clothes, poultry), these are termed as ‘invisible work’; (b) Handicrafts/cottage industries (weaving, basketry, leather work and household industries in the urban informal sector).

***With the Family but Outside the Home:*** (a) Domestic services; (b) Construction work (e.g. building, roads); (c) Mining (e.g. quarry, mines); (d) ‘Informal economy’ (e.g. laundry, recycling rubbish): Employed by others; and self employed.

***Outside the Family:*** (a) Employed by others: tied/bonded/slave; apprentices; skilled trades (e.g. carpets, embroidery, brassware works, gem polishing); industries/ unskilled occupations, mines etc.; domestics (e.g. maids of all work); commercial (e.g. shops, restaurants); begging, and prostitution and pornography; and (b) Self-employed, informal sector work (e.g. shoe-shining, car washing, recycling rubbish, running errands, selling news paper).

The Committee on Child Labour (1979) has observed concentration of child workers in seventeen main occupations: 1. Agriculture; 2. Plantations; 3. Mining and quarrying; 4. *Bidis*; 5. Glass and bangles; 6. Handloom and carpet weaving; 7. *Zari*<sup>2</sup> and embroidery; 8. Gem cutting and polishing; 9. Match and fireworks; 10. Machine tools; 11. Cashew processing and manufacturing of coir products; 12. Domestic workers; 13. Helpers in hotels, restaurants, canteens, tea stalls, shops and way-side establishment; 14. Rag-picking; 15. Construction; 16. Hawkers; vendors; newspaper sellers; and 17. Coolies etc.

### ***Location-Specific Occupations Employing Children***

This list covers only some of the known employments employing the child labour. Child labour is widespread and found in many other employments besides the ones listed above. In the home based cottage industries as well as other specialized industries, female children are preferred. Girls are found in large numbers of readymade garments fabrics in Lucknow, fire-works in Sivakasi, lock industry in Aligarh, carpet weaving in Jammu and Kashmir, *bidi* industry all over India, gem-polishing industry in Jaipur, coir industry in Kerala and in embroidery, block making, book binding, plastic etc. According to a report on the Delhi-based garment industry, it employs approximately 10,000 women, among them are a large number of young girls of eight or nine years who have never attended schools. The location-specific occupations where child labour is employed are given below:

1. Domestic workers – everywhere – male and female.
2. Agriculture – everywhere – male and female.
3. Plantation – Assam tea gardens.
4. Mining and stone quarrying – Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya (Mining).
5. *Bidis* – Tamil Nadu, Kerala.
6. Glass and bangles – Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh).

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<sup>2</sup> *Zari*: *Zari* is a type of gold thread used decoratively on Indian clothing.

7. Handloom – Tamil Nadu.
8. Power loom – Bhiwandi in Maharashtra.
9. Carpet weaving – Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
10. *Zari* and embroidery – Lucknow.
11. Gem cutting and polishing – Jaipur (Rajasthan).
12. Diamond cutting and polishing – Surat (Gujrat).
13. Match and fireworks – Sivakasi (Tamil Nadu).
14. Machine tools, repair shops, garages and petrol pumps – Delhi, Wazipur, Calcutta and Madras.
15. Cashew processing and manufacture of coir products – Kerala.
16. Helpers in hotels, restaurants, canteens, tea stalls, shops and way-side establishments – everywhere.
17. Rag-picking – Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.
18. Construction – everywhere.
19. Hawkers, Vendors, Newspaper Sellers – Everywhere.
20. Coolies – everywhere.
21. Fishing – Kerala, Tamilnadu.
22. Pottery units – Khurja (Uttar Pradesh).
23. Lock industry – Aligarh.
24. Bonded labour – Medak District (Andhra Pradesh).
25. State industry – Mandsaur (Madhya Pradesh).
26. Brick-kiln industry – Delhi and Bihar.
27. Small scale industry – New Delhi.
28. Street children – all metropolitan cities (Dak, 2002: 12-15)

**Table 2.2: Estimated Percentage of Economically Active Children in Different Regions of the World**

| Asia        | Per cent | Africa       | Per cent | Latin America  | Per cent | Europe, Oceania, Middle East | Per cent |
|-------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| Bhutan      | 55.10    | Mali         | 54.53    | Haiti          | 25.30    | Portugal                     | 1.76     |
| East Timor  | 45.39    | Burkina Faso | 51.05    | Guatemala      | 16.22    | Albania                      | 1.11     |
| Nepal       | 45.18    | Burundi      | 48.97    | Brazil         | 16.09    | Italy                        | 0.38     |
| Bangladesh  | 30.12    | Uganda       | 45.31    | Dominican rep. | 16.06    | Hungary                      | 0.17     |
| Pakistan    | 17.67    | Niger        | 45.17    | Bolivia        | 14.36    | Romania                      | 0.17     |
| Thailand    | 16.22    | Ethiopia     | 42.30    | Nicaragua      | 14.05    | Solomon Island               | 28.89    |
| India       | 14.37    | Kenya        | 41.27    | Paraguay       | 7.87     | Papua New Guinea             | 19.31    |
| China       | 11.55    | Senegal      | 31.36    | Mexico         | 6.73     | Polynesia                    | 3.67     |
| Indonesia   | 9.55     | Zimbabwe     | 29.44    | Colombia       | 6.62     | Turkey                       | 24.00    |
| Viet Nam    | 9.12     | Nigeria      | 25.75    | Costa Rica     | 5.48     | Yemen                        | 20.15    |
| Philippines | 8.04     | Cameroon     | 25.25    | Argentina      | 4.53     | Syrian Arab rep.             | 5.78     |
| Malaysia    | 3.16     | Cot deivoir  | 20.46    | Peru           | 2.48     | Iran                         | 4.71     |
| Hong Kong   | 0.00     | Zambia       | 16.27    | Uruguay        | 2.08     | Iraq                         | 2.95     |
| Japan       | 0.0      | Ghana        | 13.27    | Venezuela      | 0.95     | Jordan                       | 0.68     |
|             |          | Egypt        | 11.23    | Chile          | 0.00     | Saudi Arabia                 | 0.00     |
|             |          | Morocco      | 5.61     | Cuba           | 0.00     |                              |          |
|             |          | Algeria      | 1.63     |                |          |                              |          |
|             |          | South Africa | 0.00     |                |          |                              |          |
|             |          | Tunisia      | 0.00     |                |          |                              |          |

Source: Economically active population, Estimates and projections, 1950-2010. Fourth edition (unpublished-data available from the ILO Bureau of Statistics), International Labour Office, Geneva, as reported in ILO, World of Work, No. 16, 1996: 13; cited in Chaudhuri, 1997: 20.

### ***Magnitude of Child Labour Across Major States in India (Census Data)***

As per the census data, the trend on the magnitude of child labour is not uniform across the country. There is across the board decline in the incidence of child labour in the Southern and Western Indian States and UTs between 1991 and 2001. However, there has been an increasing trend in the Eastern and North Indian States and UTs. There is an

increase in the absolute magnitude of child labour between 1991 and 2001 in the states of UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. If we combine the bifurcated states from MP, UP and Bihar the increase in magnitude is much more than what is seen in the divided states. While the Kerala and Tamil Nadu stories are well known, it is heartening to see that the state of Andhra Pradesh, that had a dubious distinction of having the largest child labour force in the country, shows reduction in magnitude of child labour and work participation rates along with a dramatic increase in the enrolment of children in school. However, Andhra Pradesh is the second largest state in terms of magnitude by 2001 Census. As for as the percentage share of child labour across the states, Uttar Pradesh account for a larger share of about 15 per cent all child workforces in India followed by Andhra Pradesh, with 10.8 per cent. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar respectively garnered 10, 8.8 and eight per cent of India's child employment. The share of Uttar Pradesh has shot up from less than 13 per cent during 1991 to 15.2 per cent in 2001, which is a cause for serious concern. Over 53 per cent of the child labour in India was accounted for by the five states namely UP, AP, Rajasthan, MP and Bihar during 2001. Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal together had about 20 per cent of the child labourers in India during 2001. It is also to be noted here that there is a general increasing trend in the magnitude of child labour in the north east region of the country. Surprising is the case of Himachal Pradesh, which has shown significant increases in school attendance and in literacy levels. However, there is a dramatic increase in the percentage of children in the age-group 5-14 years who are classified as workers, both main and marginal. In Himachal Pradesh, the percentage of child workers has gone up from 5.5 per cent in 1991 to 8.6 per cent in 2001. This is a reflection of the emerging crisis of poorer segments of the population like in many other states (Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft); [http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication\\_files/Magnitude\\_of\\_Child\\_Labour\\_in\\_India\\_An\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Official\\_Sources\\_of\\_Data\\_Draft\\_0.pdf](http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication_files/Magnitude_of_Child_Labour_in_India_An_Analysis_of_Official_Sources_of_Data_Draft_0.pdf))

**Table 2.3: Changes in the Magnitude of Child Labour and WPR between 1991 and 2001 (Children in the Age Group of 5-14)**

| States            | Child work | Child workers        | Work participation rates |       | Percentage share of child labour in the state |       |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------|---|-------|
|                   | 1991       | 2001                 | 1991                     | 2001  | 1991  | 2001  |
| Andhra Pradesh    | 1661940    | 1363339              | 9.98                     | 7.7   | 14.7  | 10.8  |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 12395      | 18482                | 5.65                     | 6.06  | 0.1   | 0.1   |
| Assam             | 327598     | 351416               | 5.46                     | 5.07  | 2.9   | 2.8   |
| Bihar             | 942245     | 1117500              | 3.99                     | 4.68  | 8.3   | 8.8   |
| Chattisgarh (New) |            | 364572               |                          | 6.96  | 0.0   | 2.9   |
| Delhi             | 27351      | 41899                | 1.27                     | 1.35  | 0.2   | 0.3   |
| Goa               | 4656       | 4138                 | 1.95                     | 1.82  | 0.0   | 0.0   |
| Gujarat           | 523585     | 485530               | 5.26                     | 4.28  | 4.6   | 3.8   |
| Haryana           | 109691     | 253491 <sup>14</sup> | 2.55                     | 4.78  | 1.0   | 2.0   |
| Himachal Pradesh  | 56438      | 107774               | 4.55                     | 8.14  | 0.5   | 0.9   |
| Jammu & Kashmir   |            | 175630               |                          | 6.62  | 0.0   | 1.4   |
| Jharkhand(New)    |            | 407200               |                          | 5.47  | 0.0   | 3.2   |
| Karnataka         | 976247     | 822665               | 8.81                     | 6.91  | 8.7   | 6.5   |
| Kerala            | 34800      | 26156                | 0.58                     | 0.47  | 0.3   | 0.2   |
| Madhya Pradesh    | 1352563    | 1065259              | 8.08                     | 6.71  | 12.0  | 8.4   |
| Maharashtra       | 1068418    | 764075               | 5.73                     | 3.54  | 9.5   | 6.0   |
| Orissa            | 452394     | 377594               | 5.87                     | 4.37  | 4.0   | 3.0   |
| Punjab            | 142868     | 177268               | 3.04                     | 3.23  | 1.3   | 1.4   |
| Rajasthan         | 774199     | 1262570              | 6.46                     | 8.25  | 6.9   | 10.0  |
| Sikkim            | 5598       | 16457                | 5.18                     | 12.04 | 0.0   | 0.1   |
| Tamil Nadu        | 578889     | 418801               | 4.83                     | 3.61  | 5.1   | 3.3   |
| Tripura           | 16478      | 21756                | 2.29                     | 2.79  | 0.1   | 0.2   |
| Uttar Pradesh     | 1410086    | 1927997              | 3.81                     | 4.04  | 12.5  | 15.2  |
| Uttaranchal(New)  | -          | 70183                | -                        | 3.24  | 0.0   | 0.6   |
| West Bengal       | 711691     | 857087               | 4.16                     | 4.5   | 6.3   | 6.8   |
| India             | 11285349   | 12666377             | 5.37                     | 5.0   | 100.0   | 100.0 |

Source: compiled from census of India 1991 and 2001; cited in Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft).

**Work Participation Rate of Children (5-14):** While Sikkim had the highest WPR in the country with 12.04 per cent (child labourers among total children in the age group of 5-14), among major states Rajasthan had the highest WPR with 8.25 per cent during 2001. Himachal Pradesh closely followed Rajasthan with 8.14 per cent. The other states having higher than the national average of 5 per cent WPR for children are Andhra Pradesh (7.7%), Chattisgarh (6.96%), Karnataka (6.91%), Madhya Pradesh (6.71%), J&K,

Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Assam (Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft); [http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication\\_files/Magnitude\\_of\\_Child\\_Labour\\_in\\_India\\_An\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Official\\_Sources\\_of\\_Data\\_Draft\\_0.pdf](http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication_files/Magnitude_of_Child_Labour_in_India_An_Analysis_of_Official_Sources_of_Data_Draft_0.pdf)).

**NSSO Data on Work Participation Rates of Children:** NSSO data reveals that the work participation rates of children have been declining as shown by the census data. While the WPR is insignificant for the children in the age group of 5-9 during 2004-05, it is higher for the children in the age group of 10-14. This shows that enrolment of children in primary schools has improved all over the country since the launching of *Sarva Shiksha Abiyan*<sup>3</sup> (SSA) since 2000. However, the dropout rates from schools seems to be higher at the middle school level showing higher WPR for children in the age group of 10- 14. Secondly the WPR is higher in the rural areas than urban areas. The WPR for girl children is higher than boys in general and in rural areas (Table 2.4). While this is the picture that emerges at the all India level, there are states having much higher work participation rates for children (Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft); [http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication\\_files/Magnitude\\_of\\_Child\\_Labour\\_in\\_India\\_An\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Official\\_Sources\\_of\\_Data\\_Draft\\_0.pdf](http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication_files/Magnitude_of_Child_Labour_in_India_An_Analysis_of_Official_Sources_of_Data_Draft_0.pdf)).

**Table 2.4: Child Workforce Participation Rates in India, 1993-94 to 2004-05 (in %)**

| Year           | Male        |             |             | Female      |             |             | All children |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
|                | 5-9         | 10-14       | 5-14        | 5-9         | 10-14       | 5-14        | 5-9          | 10-14       | 5-14        |
| Combined       |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |             |             |
| 1993-94        | 0.99        | 12.08       | 6.35        | 1.21        | 11.64       | 6.12        | 1.09         | 11.88       | 6.24        |
| 1999-00        | 0.52        | 7.9         | 4.14        | 0.55        | 7.67        | 4.01        | 0.54         | 7.79        | 4.08        |
| <b>2004-05</b> | <b>0.25</b> | <b>6.35</b> | <b>3.33</b> | <b>0.28</b> | <b>6.42</b> | <b>3.32</b> | <b>0.26</b>  | <b>6.38</b> | <b>3.33</b> |
| Rural          |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |             |             |
| 1993-94        | 1.16        | 13.85       | 7.20        | 1.43        | 14.10       | 7.26        | 1.29         | 13.96       | 7.23        |
| 1999-00        | 0.59        | 8.85        | 4.58        | 0.65        | 9.05        | 4.66        | 0.62         | 8.94        | 4.61        |
| <b>2004-05</b> | <b>0.26</b> | <b>6.80</b> | <b>3.54</b> | <b>0.27</b> | <b>7.42</b> | <b>3.73</b> | <b>0.27</b>  | <b>7.09</b> | <b>3.63</b> |
| Urban          |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |             |             |
| 1993-94        | 0.47        | 6.63        | 3.58        | 0.48        | 4.51        | 2.52        | 0.48         | 5.63        | 3.08        |
| 1999-00        | 0.28        | 4.88        | 2.65        | 0.21        | 3.40        | 1.85        | 0.25         | 4.18        | 2.27        |

<sup>3</sup> *Sarva Shiksha Abiyan*: Government of India's flagship programme aimed at the universalisation of elementary education in a time bound manner.

| Year    | Male |       |      | Female |       |      | All children |       |      |
|---------|------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|--------------|-------|------|
|         | 5-9  | 10-14 | 5-14 | 5-9    | 10-14 | 5-14 | 5-9          | 10-14 | 5-14 |
| 2004-05 | 0.21 | 4.78  | 2.59 | 0.30   | 3.28  | 1.89 | 0.25         | 4.05  | 2.25 |

Source: Derived from Respective Unit Level Records of NSS; cited in Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft).

NSSO data 2004-05 reveals that work participation rates for children in the age group of 5-9 is less than one per cent in all the state. However, the WPR for children in the age group of 10-14 remains higher ranging from less than one per cent in Kerala to 12.38 per cent in Andhra Pradesh. WPR of children in the age group of 10-14 is significant in the states of A.P., Chattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, UP and West Bengal. In these states WPR for children (10-14) is higher than the National average of 6.38 per cent (Table 2.5). These figures are presented below –

**Table 2.5: Child Workforce Participation Rates in Major Indian States, 2004-05(in %)**

| States       | 5-9  | 10-14 | 5-14 | All population |
|--------------|------|-------|------|----------------|
| A.P          | 0.56 | 12.38 | 6.61 | 50.48          |
| Assam        | 0.19 | 3.44  | 1.82 | 38.55          |
| Bihar        | 0.08 | 2.90  | 1.36 | 31.15          |
| Chhattisgarh | 0.35 | 8.70  | 4.58 | 48.65          |
| Delhi        | 0.00 | 0.49  | 0.26 | 33.21          |
| Goa          | 0.00 | 5.35  | 2.70 | 35.03          |
| Gujrat       | 0.14 | 4.83  | 2.53 | 46.79          |
| H.P          | 0.16 | 4.97  | 2.73 | 52.35          |
| Haryana      | 0.00 | 3.28  | 1.71 | 40.11          |
| Jharkhand    | 0.41 | 4.78  | 2.48 | 40.71          |
| Karnataka    | 0.20 | 8.49  | 4.66 | 49.32          |
| Kerala       | 0.00 | 0.39  | 0.20 | 39.33          |
| M.P          | 0.14 | 5.74  | 2.82 | 43.30          |
| Maharashtra  | 0.22 | 6.27  | 3.42 | 46.63          |
| Orissa       | 0.50 | 9.18  | 4.87 | 43.64          |
| Punjab       | 0.05 | 3.16  | 1.73 | 41.65          |
| Rajasthan    | 0.41 | 9.42  | 4.86 | 43.32          |
| T.N.         | 0.00 | 2.83  | 1.51 | 48.58          |
| U.P.         | 0.40 | 7.73  | 3.92 | 36.29          |
| Uttaranchal  | 0.00 | 5.07  | 2.61 | 43.90          |
| W.B.         | 0.32 | 6.45  | 3.47 | 38.04          |
| Total        | 0.26 | 6.38  | 3.33 | 42.02          |

Source: Derived from Unit Level Records of NSS, 2004-05; cited in Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft).

## *Social Character of Child Labour in India*

NSSO data on caste-wise break-up of workforce participation rates indicates that the children among lower castes are more vulnerable to labour related exploitation in India. It is clear that the higher the caste hierarchy, the lower the participation rates of children and vice versa. The NSSO data 2004-05 shows that the children among scheduled tribes are twice likely to be engaged in gainful economic activities than the 'others' essentially drawn from upper castes. Almost close to three per cent of children belonging to scheduled castes are engaged in some form of employment as against two per cent of 'others' castes. When we take the children in the age group of 10-14, the WPR is highest for STs followed by SCs and other castes reflecting the caste hierarchy in the society. The data essentially shows that the children belonging to ST, SC and OBC are more vulnerable to child labour than the other castes (Table 2.6).

**Table 2.6: Child Workforce Participation Rates in India by Caste 1993-94 to 2004-05 (in %)**

| Age Group | STs   | SCs   | OBCs | Others | All   |
|-----------|-------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| 1993-1994 |       |       |      |        |       |
| 5-9       | 2.85  | 1.13  | N.A. | 0.86   | 1.09  |
| 10-14     | 24.02 | 13.90 | N.A. | 10.06  | 11.88 |
| 5-14      | 12.32 | 6.97  | N.A. | 5.33   | 6.24  |
| 1999-2000 |       |       |      |        |       |
| 5-9       | 1.43  | 0.50  | 0.56 | 0.27   | 0.54  |
| 10-14     | 14.87 | 8.87  | 7.96 | 5.17   | 7.79  |
| 5-14      | 7.71  | 4.50  | 4.14 | 2.74   | 4.08  |
| 2004-2005 |       |       |      |        |       |
| 5-9       | 0.45  | 0.22  | 0.19 | 0.10   | 0.20  |
| 10-14     | 7.31  | 5.26  | 5.21 | 3.93   | 5.12  |
| 5-14      | 3.79  | 2.80  | 2.87 | 2.03   | 2.74  |

Source: Derived from Respective Unit Level Records of NSSO; cited in Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft).

If we look at the religious categories among working children, the WPR is higher among minority religious communities than that of the children hailing from Hindu groups and others during 2004-05. During the same period, 6.5 per cent of children in the age group 10-14 among Muslim children were engaged in gainful employment as against over 4.5

per cent of Hindu children. The data presented in the below (Table 2.7) also indicates that the decline in WPR among Muslim children is slower than other groups over a period of time. This is reflective of long-term neglect and discrimination of minority religious groups in job market and educational opportunities (Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft)).

**Table 2.7: Child Workforce Participation Rates by Religion, 1993-94 to 2004-05 (in %)**

| Age Group | Hindus | Muslims | Others | All  |
|-----------|--------|---------|--------|------|
| 1993-94   |        |         |        |      |
| 5-9       | 1.20   | 0.74    | 0.28   | 0.26 |
| 10-14     | 27.12  | 20.35   | 18.21  | 4.90 |
| 5-14      | 8.88   | 6.36    | 6.03   | 2.58 |
| 1999-00   |        |         |        |      |
| 5-9       | 0.56   | 0.54    | 0.20   | 0.54 |
| 10-14     | 7.91   | 7.81    | 5.89   | 7.79 |
| 5-14      | 4.15   | 4.00    | 3.15   | 4.08 |
| 2004-05   |        |         |        |      |
| 5-9       | 0.25   | 0.40    | 0.04   | 0.26 |
| 10-14     | 4.71   | 6.58    | 3.12   | 4.90 |
| 5-14      | 2.48   | 3.47    | 1.63   | 2.58 |

Source: Derived from Respective Unit Level Records of NSSO; cited in Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft).

### ***Sectoral Distribution of Child Labour in India***

Whatever trend in the magnitude of child labour is shown in the official data, it is a common sight in India to see children engaged in various forms of work, whether paid or unpaid. Despite having legislation against child labour particularly in hazardous industries, children are continued to be engaged in significant numbers in hazardous and non-hazardous sectors (Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft); [http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication\\_files/Magnitude\\_of\\_Child\\_Labour\\_in\\_India\\_An\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Official\\_Sources\\_of\\_Data\\_Draft\\_0.pdf](http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication_files/Magnitude_of_Child_Labour_in_India_An_Analysis_of_Official_Sources_of_Data_Draft_0.pdf)).

Reflecting the overall trend in the workforce participation, most of the child employment is concentrated in agriculture and allied activities in India. As revealed by the NSSO data

2004-05, this sector alone account for over two thirds of the child employment. This sector is followed by manufacturing sector which account for 16.55 per cent of child employment. Trade, hotels and restaurant accounts for a significant share of child workers with 8.45 per cent of the total child labour force. Most of these children are employed in the informal sectors of the economy on a casual basis with low wages and long hours of work as revealed by many empirical studies on child labour in India (Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft); [http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication\\_files/Magnitude\\_of\\_Child\\_Labour\\_in\\_India\\_An\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Official\\_Sources\\_of\\_Data\\_Draft\\_0.pdf](http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication_files/Magnitude_of_Child_Labour_in_India_An_Analysis_of_Official_Sources_of_Data_Draft_0.pdf)).

**Table 2.8: Sectoral Distribution of India's Child Labour, 2004-05**

| State        | Agriculture | Mining & Quar | Mfg.  | Elec. Water | Construction | Trade, Hotel | Transport | Finance | Com., Soc | Total  |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|
| A.P.         | 68.96       | 0.96          | 9.70  | 0.00        | 3.20         | 9.02         | 1.05      | 0.00    | 7.11      | 100.00 |
| Assam        | 69.26       | 1.78          | 8.42  | 0.00        | 1.78         | 7.76         | 0.05      | 0.00    | 10.96     | 100.00 |
| Bihar        | 71.84       | 0.00          | 11.16 | 0.00        | 0.00         | 15.49        | 0.07      | 0.38    | 1.05      | 100.00 |
| Chhattisgarh | 87.9        | 0.00          | 2.37  | 0.00        | 0.86         | 7.17         | 0.00      | 0.00    | 1.70      | 100.00 |
| Delhi        | 0.00        | 0.00          | 11.08 | 0.00        | 0.00         | 57.83        | 0.00      | 0.00    | 31.09     | 100.00 |
| Goa          | 0.00        | 0.00          | 0.00  | 0.00        | 4.60         | 0.00         | 72.46     | 0.00    | 22.94     | 100.00 |
| Gujrat       | 76.69       | 1.04          | 2.58  | 0.00        | 0.28         | 17.77        | 0.16      | 0.00    | 1.48      | 100.00 |
| H.P.         | 87.42       | 0.00          | 0.00  | 0.00        | 0.00         | 6.71         | 1.21      | 0.00    | 4.66      | 100.00 |
| Haryana      | 65.57       | 0.00          | 3.81  | 0.00        | 7.03         | 8.08         | 0.00      | 0.00    | 15.51     | 100.00 |
| Jharkhand    | 65.28       | 0.00          | 14.63 | 0.00        | 4.25         | 12.08        | 0.66      | 0.26    | 2.84      | 100.00 |
| Karnataka    | 82.60       | 0.22          | 9.27  | 0.00        | 1.19         | 5.73         | 0.70      | 0.00    | 0.30      | 100.00 |
| Kerala       | 19.22       | 0.00          | 32.78 | 0.00        | 0.00         | 31.95        | 0.00      | 0.00    | 16.05     | 100.00 |
| M.P.         | 82.89       | 0.00          | 9.93  | 0.00        | 1.50         | 4.33         | 0.00      | 0.00    | 1.34      | 100.00 |
| Maharashtra  | 82.62       | 0.00          | 5.34  | 0.00        | 1.92         | 5.75         | 0.13      | 0.14    | 4.09      | 100.00 |
| Orissa       | 73.18       | 0.88          | 17.36 | 0.00        | 3.25         | 3.34         | 0.91      | 0.00    | 1.08      | 100.00 |
| Punjab       | 67.91       | 0.00          | 12.71 | 0.00        | 1.16         | 7.21         | 2.59      | 0.00    | 8.43      | 100.00 |
| Rajasthan    | 75.78       | 0.00          | 9.60  | 0.19        | 2.94         | 7.26         | 0.05      | 3.74    | 0.44      | 100.00 |
| T.N.         | 39.49       | 0.00          | 44.55 | 0.00        | 5.91         | 5.68         | 1.54      | 0.16    | 2.68      | 100.00 |
| U.P.         | 61.24       | 0.00          | 25.34 | 0.00        | 0.40         | 9.73         | 0.68      | 0.50    | 2.11      | 100.00 |
| Uttaranchal  | 80.73       | 0.00          | 4.72  | 0.00        | 5.24         | 9.31         | 0.00      | 0.00    | 0.00      | 100.00 |
| W.B.         | 34.57       | 0.00          | 43.93 | 0.00        | 3.27         | 9.66         | 1.19      | 0.80    | 6.59      | 100.00 |
| Total        | 68.14       | 0.25          | 16.55 | 0.02        | 1.95         | 8.45         | 0.66      | 0.57    | 3.41      | 100.00 |

Source: Estimated from Unit Level Records of NSSO, 2004-05; cited in Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft).

Across states, the general pattern of sectoral distribution of workforce in the economy is observed in the case of child labour also, except in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal where agricultural and allied sectors account for less than 40 per cent of the total child labour force. In fact it is the lowest in Kerala. Tamil Nadu is the highly urbanized state according to 2001 census data and several non-farm occupations in the informal sector is developing and most of the rural population has been involved in more than one activity. Thus, children are also employed in different non-farm occupations in the state. Among manufacturing sector, Tamil Nadu seems to have employed a higher share of its child workers (44.55 %) closely followed by West Bengal (43.93%), (Table 2.8) (Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft); [http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication\\_files/Magnitude\\_of\\_Child\\_Labour\\_in\\_India\\_An\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Official\\_Sources\\_of\\_Data\\_Draft\\_0.pdf](http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication_files/Magnitude_of_Child_Labour_in_India_An_Analysis_of_Official_Sources_of_Data_Draft_0.pdf)).

### ***District Level Census Data Analysis on Magnitude of Child Labour***

District level data on the magnitude of child labour is available only from the Census data. The other source from where the magnitude of child labour can be derived is the district level SSA. SSA conducts a survey on out of school children every year. But this data is not reliable as this is challenged by many civil society organizations. MV Foundation did an alternative survey in some of the districts in Andhra Pradesh and proved SSA data on out of school children to be grossly underestimated figures. In the absence of any other source of information Census data is useful in looking at the trends in the magnitude of child labour at a district level desegregation. State level data on the magnitude of child labour shows declining trends in certain states and increasing trends in certain other states. This does not give us the trends within the state. Within the state there are regional variations in the trends on magnitude of child labour. For example Andhra Pradesh state as a whole shows declining trend in the magnitude of child labour between 1991 and 2001. However if we look at the district level data three of the top twelve districts having more than 80,000 child labourers are in Andhra Pradesh during 2001. In fact second and third rank goes to Mahbubnagar and Kurnool district with over 130000 child labourers in each of these districts during 2001. The top most district

accounting for highest number of child labourers is Alwar district in Rajasthan with 140318 child labourers during 2001. These are the three districts having more than one lakh child labourers. There are 46 districts in the country having child labourers in the range of 50000 to 100000. Distribution of number of districts by range of magnitude of child labour is presented in Table 2.9 (Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft);

[http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication\\_files/Magnitude\\_of\\_Child\\_Labour\\_in\\_India\\_An\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Official\\_Sources\\_of\\_Data\\_Draft\\_0.pdf](http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication_files/Magnitude_of_Child_Labour_in_India_An_Analysis_of_Official_Sources_of_Data_Draft_0.pdf)).

**Table 2.9: Distribution of Number of Districts by Range of Magnitude of Child Labour in India**

| Range of magnitude of child labour | Number of districts | Percentage to total number of districts in India |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Above 1 lakh                       | 3                   | 0.5  |
| >75000 to 1lakh                    | 8                   | 1.4  |
| >50000 to 75000                    | 38                  | 6.5  |
| >25000 to 50000                    | 142                 | 24.3   |
| >10000 to 25000                    | 206                 | 35.3   |
| Below 10000                        | 187                 | 32.0   |
| Total                              | 584                 | 100.00   |

Source: compiled from Census of India, 2001; cited in Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft).

Among the top eleven districts Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal account for three districts each, Rajasthan two districts, and Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka account for one district each. Most of these districts are having NCLP programme since the 9<sup>th</sup> five year plan period. Ranking of all the 584 district with regard to magnitude of child labour is presented in Table 2.10 (Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft); [http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication\\_files/Magnitude\\_of\\_Child\\_Labour\\_in\\_India\\_An\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Official\\_Sources\\_of\\_Data\\_Draft\\_0.pdf](http://www.vvgnli.org/sites/default/files/publication_files/Magnitude_of_Child_Labour_in_India_An_Analysis_of_Official_Sources_of_Data_Draft_0.pdf).)

**Table 2.10: Magnitude of Child Labour (Main and Marginal) in India 2001 – Top 11 Districts having more than 75,000 Child Labourers**

| State         | District    | No. of child labour |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Rajasthan     | Alwar       | 140318              |
| Andhrapradesh | Mahbubnagar | 138475              |
| Andhrapradesh | Kurnool     | 138326              |
| Karnataka     | Gulbarga    | 99914               |
| Rajasthan     | Jalor       | 99109               |
| Madhyapradesh | Jhabua      | 96643               |
| West Bengal   | Medinipur   | 95739               |
| Andhrapradesh | Guntur      | 92075               |
| West Bengal   | Maldah      | 88556               |
| West Bengal   | Murshidabad | 87968               |
| Uttar Pradesh | Bulandshahr | 85296               |

Source: Compiled from 2001 Census data; cited in Magnitude of Child Labour in India: An Analysis of Official Sources of Data (Draft).

***Prevalence of Child Labour among Various Social Categories***

**Table 2.11: Percentage Distribution of Children (Principal and Subsidiary ‘Usual’ Status) By Social Categories: 1999-2000.**

|                                  | Rural boys  |       |       |       | Urban boys  |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                  | SC          | SC    | Other | Other | SC          | SC    | Other | Other |
| Status                           | 5-9         | 10-14 | 5-9   | 10-14 | 5-9         | 10-14 | 5-9   | 10-14 |
| self employed                    | 0.2         | 4.1   | 0.2   | 3.7   | 0.3         | 2.3   | 0.0   | 1.1   |
| regular salary wage              | 0.1         | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.3   | 0.0         | 1.0   | 0.0   | 1.4   |
| other casual work                | 0.1         | 4.4   | 0.1   | 2.3   | 0.2         | 2.2   | 0.1   | 1.4   |
| available for work, unemployment | 0.0         | 0.3   | 0.0   | 0.1   | 0.0         | 0.3   | 0.1   | 0.3   |
|                                  | Rural girls |       |       |       | Urban girls |       |       |       |
|                                  | SC          | SC    | Other | Other | SC          | SC    | Other | Other |
| Status                           | 5-9         | 10-14 | 5-9   | 10-14 | 5-9         | 10-14 | 5-9   | 10-14 |
| self employed                    | 0.2         | 4.3   | 0.2   | 3.7   | 0.4         | 2.5   | 0.0   | 1.4   |
| regular salary wage              | 0.1         | 0.3   | 0.1   | 0.3   | 0.0         | 1.3   | 0.0   | 0.6   |
| other casual work                | 0.3         | 5.4   | 0.0   | 2.3   | 0.1         | 1.9   | 0.0   | 0.6   |
| available for work, unemployment | 0.0         | 0.1   | 0.0   | 0.1   | 0.0         | 0.2   | 0.0   | 0.2   |

Source: NSSO Report- 1999-2000; cited in Kak, 2004: 60-61

The share of children from scheduled caste (SC) families in the labour force in 1999-2000 is higher than the non-SC population. For rural boys in the 10-14 years of age group, the labour force participation rate is 9.7 for SC boys and 6.2 for non-SC boys while for urban SC boys it is 5.9 per cent and for non-SC urban boys it is 4.2 per cent for the same age group. The percentage of boys of 10 to 14 years age who works as casual labour in the agricultural and the non-agricultural sectors is 4.4 per cent for SC boys and for non-SC boys it is 2.3 per cent. For urban boys of the same age group these percentages are 2.2 per cent and 1.4 per cent. The participation of SC girls in the labour force like those of the scheduled caste boys is much higher as compared to the non-SC girls. For rural SC girls in the 9-14 years age group, the labour force participation in 1999-2000 is higher at 10.1 per cent as compared to 6.4 for non-SC rural girls and for urban SC girls it is 5.9 per cent as compared to 2.7 per cent for non-SC girls. Many more scheduled castes work as self-employed workers as compared to non-SC girls. Overall, child workers are prevalent in large number amongst poor 'lower' castes and these children work more often as casual labour. As compared to the non-SC children, the SC children in rural and urban areas are employed in larger numbers in all the categories as self employed, salaried and casual workers. Rural boys and girls from poor households provide a ready supply of cheap labour from a very young age. In urban areas, nearly 2.5 per cent of the SC girls of 10 to 14 years of age are self-employed workers, 1.3 per cent are salaried and 1.9 per cent are casual workers as compared to 1.4 per cent, 0.6 per cent and 0.6 per cent for non-SC urban girls of the same age group. Nearly 4.4 per cent of the rural SC boys of 10-14 years of age work as casual labour as compared to 2.3 per cent of the non-SC boys, in urban areas it is 2.2 per cent and 1.4 per cent respectively (Table 2.11), (Kak, 2004: 60-61).

**Table 2.12: Activity Distribution of Children – Usual Principal Status – 1999-2000.**

| Status                           | Rural boys     | Rural girls    | Urban boys    | Urban girls   | Total          |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Self employed                    | 21220<br>52.2  | 17809<br>55.6  | 2410<br>32.1  | 1519<br>39.9  | 42958<br>5.11  |
| Regular salary wage              | 2729<br>6.7    | 392<br>1.2     | 2268<br>30.2  | 889<br>23.4   | 6278<br>7.5    |
| Other casual work                | 15794<br>38.9  | 13455<br>42.0  | 2410<br>32.1  | 1270<br>33.4  | 32929<br>39.2  |
| Available for work, unemployment | 899<br>2.2     | 392<br>1.22    | 427<br>5.6    | 127<br>3.3    | 1845<br>2.2    |
| Total in number                  | 40642<br>100.0 | 32048<br>100.0 | 7515<br>100.0 | 3805<br>100.0 | 84010<br>100.0 |

Source: NSSO Report- 1999-2000; cited in Kak, 2004:57

**Table 2.13: Percentage Distribution of Principal and Subsidiary 'Usual Status' of Child Workers: 1987-88 to 1999-2000**

|                                  | Rural males      |       |       |                    |       |       | Rural females    |       |       |                    |       |       |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|
|                                  | 5-9 years of age |       |       | 10-14 years of age |       |       | 5-9 years of age |       |       | 10-14 years of age |       |       |
|                                  | 87-88            | 93-94 | 99-00 | 87-88              | 93-94 | 99-00 | 87-88            | 93-94 | 99-00 | 87-88              | 93-94 | 99-00 |
| Self employed                    | 91.4             | 65.4  | 71.4  | 67.7               | 65.6  | 55.4  | 91.7             | 77.5  | 71.4  | 65.2               | 63.2  | 62.1  |
| regular salary wage              | 4.3              | 6.5   | 0.0   | 8.3                | 5.8   | 5.4   | 0.0              | 1.4   | 0.0   | 2.7                | 2.1   | 1.1   |
| Other casual work                | 4.3              | 28.0  | 28.6  | 22.4               | 28.5  | 37.0  | 8.3              | 21.1  | 28.6  | 31.4               | 34.4  | 36.8  |
| Available for work, unemployment | 0.0              | 0.0   | 0.0   | 1.6                | 0.1   | 2.2   | 0.0              | 0.0   | 0.0   | 1.1                | 0.3   | 0.0   |
| total                            | 100.0            | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0              | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0            | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0              | 100.0 | 100.0 |
|                                  | Urban males      |       |       |                    |       |       | Urban females    |       |       |                    |       |       |
|                                  | 5-9 years of age |       |       | 10-14 years of age |       |       | 5-9 years of age |       |       | 10-14 years of age |       |       |
|                                  | 87-88            | 93-94 | 99-00 | 87-88              | 93-94 | 99-00 | 87-88            | 93-94 | 99-00 | 87-88              | 93-94 | 99-00 |
| Self employed                    | 60.0             | 34.0  | 33.3  | 44.6               | 43.1  | 34.3  | 50.0             | 26.0  | 100.0 | 54.5               | 66.8  | 50.0  |

|                                  | Rural males      |       |       |                    |       |       | Rural females    |       |       |                    |       |       |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|
|                                  | 5-9 years of age |       |       | 10-14 years of age |       |       | 5-9 years of age |       |       | 10-14 years of age |       |       |
| regular salary wage              | 20.0             | 35.7  | 33.3  | 26.1               | 27.3  | 29.0  | 25.0             | 65.6  | 0.0   | 18.2               | 29.1  | 22.2  |
| Other casual work                | 20.0             | 26.8  | 33.3  | 21.7               | 25.3  | 30.9  | 25.0             | 8.4   | 0.0   | 25.8               | 32.9  | 25.0  |
| Available for work, unemployment | 0.0              | 3.6   | 0.0   | 7.6                | 4.3   | 5.8   | 0.0              | 0.0   | 0.0   | 1.5                | 0.24  | 2.8   |
| total                            | 100.0            | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0              | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0            | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0              | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Source: NSSO Report- 1999-2000; cited in Kak, 2004:58

The data for 1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000 on the principal and subsidiary activity status of children shows that the nature of employment of child workers has changed over the years. The proportion of children reported as 'casual' labour has increased significantly for all ages particularly if we take the changes occurring over the three Surveys. For the urban girls of 10-14 age cohort, employment as 'casual' and salaried labour in 1999-2000 is higher or equal to that of 1987-88. The proportion of children reported as 'self employed' workers has declined significantly both for boys and girls in rural and urban areas between 1987-88 and 1999-2000. The nature of activities under 'self employed category varies between rural and urban areas. In rural areas, 'self employed' children – work on the family farms and in family occupations mostly of the artisanal variety. A decline in 'self employed' rural children would imply a decline in family farms and artisanal activities and thus a greater dependence on casual labour. In urban areas, 'self employed' child workers are employed as a part of the work force in family enterprises, piece-wage and home based employment. The 'self employed' child workers, therefore, become an extension of unorganised family based occupations and piece wage work. The work done by children stretches over a long working day carried on in unhygienic and cramped dwelling places. The proportion of children employed as 'salaried' workers has also declined in rural areas except for urban girls of 10-14 years age group. Nearly 22 per cent of the urban girls of 10-14 age cohort are employed in

'salaried' jobs. The changes in the nature of employment of child workers indicate that most of the working children are engaged in the low wage unorganised sector. The decline in child workers in the 'self employed' category could be due to increased enrolment in schools. This changes the status of the child to a 'student' but it does not prevent him/her from working on family farms/enterprises (Table 2.13), (Kak, 2004:58-59).

### ***Activity Wise Distribution***

The table below uses the NSS, 2000 data to provide a rural/urban dimension of the issue of child labour.

**Table 2.14: A Rural/Urban Dimension of the Issue of Child Labour**

| <b>Children in age (5-14 years)</b>  | <b>Rural</b> | <b>Urban</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Activities   |              |              |              |
| Children engaged in "economic activities"  | 4.50         | 2.36         | 4.02         |
| Attended domestic duties only  | 1.69         | 1.57         | 1.67         |
| Attended domestic duties plus free collection of goods, tailoring, weaving for HH only | 1.29         | 0.25         | 1.06         |
| Not able to work due to disability   | 0.14         | 0.15         | 0.14         |
| Children who are working or could not work due to disability                           | 7.62         | 4.32         | 6.88         |
| Attending schools  | 63.79        | 80.14        | 67.44        |
| Nowhere children   | 20.98        | 11.22        | 18.80        |
| Total  | 100.00       | 100.00       | 100.00       |
| Total in Absolute (in 1000s)   | 190137.1     | 54695.85     | 294833.00    |

Source: NSS, 2000 data; cited in *Child Rights and You: 16*.

In rural areas a large percentage of children (20.98%) are neither in school nor working; and they are very well form part of the age group who should have access to free and compulsory education. These children are not directly contributing to the household income. In other words our education system in rural areas is not able to attract even those 'non working' children to schools. In the urban areas, the percentage of nowhere children is relatively less (11.22%), (Table 2.14), (*Child Rights and You: 16*).

**Table 2.15: The Status of Girl Children at Work**

| Activities   | Children of age group (5-14)       |        |        |   |         |         |
|--|------------------------------------|--------|--------|---|---------|---------|
|  | Number of children (in percentage) |        |        | Number of children (in absolute terms in 100's) |         |         |
|  | Boys                               | Girls  | Total  | Boys  | Girls   | Total   |
| Children engaged in "economic activities"  | 4.18                               | 3.86   | 4.02   | 52967   | 45618   | 98392   |
| Attended domestic duties only  | 0.30                               | 3.15   | 1.67   | 3770  | 37208   | 40788   |
| Attended domestic duties plus free collection of goods, tailoring, weaving for HH only | 0.25                               | 1.92   | 1.06   | 3178  | 22693   | 25897   |
| Children at work   | 4.73                               | 8.93   | 6.75   | 59915   | 105519  | 165077  |
| Not able to work due to disability   | 0.15                               | 0.13   | 0.14   | 1931  | 1594    | 3392    |
| Children who are working or could not work due to disability                           | 4.88                               | 9.07   | 6.88   | 61846   | 107113  | 168469  |
| Attending schools  | 72.98                              | 61.45  | 67.44  | 925350  | 725964  | 1651186 |
| Nowhere children   | 17.26                              | 20.42  | 18.80  | 218889  | 241255  | 460205  |
| Total  | 100.00                             | 100.00 | 100.00 | 1267932   | 1181444 | 2448330 |

Source: NSS, 2000 data; cited in Child Rights and You: 18.

If one defines "child labour", merely as children's engagement in economic activities, boys outnumber girls both in relative terms (boys 54% and girls 46%) and in respect to their own population (boys 4.18% and girls 3.86%). However, the proportion changes, when we define child labour broadly to include domestic work as well. While girls form 64 per cent of children at work, only 36 per cent are boys. Similarly, while 8.93 per cent of girls are at work, only 4.73 per cent of boys are at work (Table 2.15) Child Rights and You: 18).

**Table 2.16: The Status of Double-Deprived Rural Girl Children**

| Children<br>Age (5-14 years)   | Rural  |        |        | Urban  |        |        | Total  |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | M      | F      | T      | M      | F      | T      | M      | F      | T      |
| Activities   | %      | %      | %      | %      | %      | %      | %      | %      | %      |
| Children engaged in "economic activities"  | 4.59   | 4.43   | 4.50   | 2.75   | 1.87   | 2.36   | 4.18   | 3.86   | 4.02   |
| Attended domestic duties only  | 0.33   | 3.18   | 1.69   | 0.20   | 3.03   | 1.57   | 0.3    | 3.15   | 1.67   |
| Attended domestic duties plus free collection of goods, tailoring, weaving for HH only | 0.32   | 2.32   | 1.29   | 0.00   | 0.53   | 0.25   | 0.25   | 1.92   | 1.06   |
| Children at work   | 5.24   | 9.93   | 7.48   | 2.95   | 5.43   | 4.18   | 4.73   | 8.93   | 6.75   |
| Not able to work due to disability   | 0.14   | 0.13   | 0.14   | 0.19   | 0.14   | 0.15   | 0.15   | 0.13   | 0.14   |
| Children who are working or could not work due to disability                           | 5.38   | 10.07  | 7.62   | 3.14   | 5.57   | 4.32   | 4.88   | 9.07   | 6.88   |
| Attending schools  | 70.09  | 56.97  | 63.79  | 83.01  | 77.01  | 80.14  | 72.98  | 61.45  | 67.44  |
| Nowhere children   | 19.15  | 22.89  | 20.98  | 10.71  | 11.84  | 11.22  | 17.26  | 20.42  | 18.80  |
| Total  | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: NSS, 2000 data; cited in Child Rights and You: 19.

The table above portrays the status double-deprived rural girl children. Only 56.97 per cent of rural girls attend schools. Nearly 10 per cent of rural girls are at work. In rural areas, even in case of so-called "economic activities" engagement of girls is almost at par with boys. One important feature is whether urban or rural, domestic duties are stereotyped for female gender (Child Rights and You: 19).

**Distribution by Wage Paid**

**Table 2.17: Wage Paid to Casual Child Labour by Operation 1999-2000**

| Rural                              |                                   |                           |                 |             |                   |                   |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                                    | Activity                          | Average wages/Rs. per day |                 |             |                   |                   |           |
|                                    |                                   | Rural boys                | All rural males | Dif/Ratio   | Rural girls       | All Rural females | Dif/Ratio |
| 1                                  | 2                                 | 3                         | 4               | 5           | 6                 | 7                 | 8         |
| X                                  | Work in public works              | 32.8                      | 48.14           | 0.67        | 33.04             | 38.06             | 0.87      |
| Agriculture hunting                | Ag. Operations                    | 27.63                     | 39.09           | 0.71        | 22.91             | 27.91             | 0.82      |
| Forestry                           | Plantation animal husbandry       | 22.86                     | 44.84           | 0.51        | 23.6              | 30.65             | 0.77      |
|                                    | Other than cultivation            | 18.84                     | 42.8            | 0.44        | 19.17             | 29.30             | 0.65      |
|                                    | Subtotal                          | 26.07                     | 40.02           | 0.65        | 22.99             | 28.25             | 0.81      |
| Non-agriculture mfg. trade         | Manual work in non agriculture    | 30.90                     | 59.62           | 0.52        | 22.52             | 36.67             | 0.61      |
|                                    | Activities other than cultivation | 32.02                     | 56.49           | 0.57        | 24.07             | 34.98             | 0.69      |
|                                    | Subtotal                          | 31.37                     | 58.71           | 0.53        | 23.11             | 36.19             | 0.64      |
|                                    | Total                             | 27.36                     | 44.84           | 0.61        | 23.00             | 29.01             | 0.79      |
| Urban Wages                        |                                   |                           |                 |             |                   |                   |           |
| Industry/Division                  | Average wages/Rs. per day         |                           |                 |             |                   |                   |           |
|                                    | Rural boys                        | All rural males           | Dif/Ratio       | Rural girls | All rural females | Dif/Ratio         |           |
| 1                                  | 2                                 | 3                         | 4               | 5           | 6                 | 7                 |           |
| Agriculture and related activities | 28.67                             | 49.14                     | 0.58            | 25.19       | 32.15             | 0.78              |           |
| Mining and quarrying               | 60.00                             | 76.65                     | 0.78            | 12.43       | 54.67             | 0.23              |           |
| Manufacturing household            | 31.33                             | 62.88                     | 0.50            | 24.02       | 35.64             | 0.67              |           |
| Manufacturing                      | 33.29                             | 69.13                     | 0.48            | 43.61       | 50.69             | 0.85              |           |
| Electricity gas steam              | -                                 | 74.24                     | -               | -           | -                 | -                 |           |
| Construction                       | 36.33                             | 69.00                     | 0.52            | 46.43       | 50.20             | 0.92              |           |
| Hotel restaurant                   | 21.51                             | 53.65                     | 0.40            | 22.34       | 45.63             | 0.49              |           |
| Wholesale trade                    | 17.89                             | 63.64                     | 0.28            | 71.43       | 49.48             | 1.44              |           |
| Retail trade storage               | 42.86                             | 64.85                     | 0.66            | -           | 32.83             | -                 |           |
| Communication community service    | 43.69                             | 55.19                     | 0.79            | 25.19       | 28.95             | 0.87              |           |
| Subtotal non agriculture           | 28.8                              | 64.27                     | 0.45            | 32.24       | 40.18             | 0.80              |           |
| Total                              | 28.8                              | 62.26                     | 0.46            | 30.99       | 37.71             | 0.82              |           |

Source: NSSO Report- 1999-2000; cited in Kak, 2004: 62.

Children are paid much less than the wages paid to adult workers. Male child workers get a wage of Rs. 27.36 per day on an average as compare to 'all' male wage of Rs. 44.84 in rural areas. For male child workers in urban areas, the average wage is Rs. 23 as compare to 'all' male wage rate of Rs. 62 per day. For male child workers the wage rate is Rs. 23 in rural areas and Rs 31 in urban areas. The exploitative nature of wages paid to children is clear from the evidence. For various agriculture operation, hunting and forecasting, rural male workers are paid on an average Rs. 40.02 per day and rural female workers are paid Rs. 28.25 while male child workers are paid Rs. 26.07 and female child workers are paid Rs. 22.99; for manufacturing and non manual work in agriculture, adult rural male workers are paid Rs. 58.71, adult women workers Rs. 36.19, rural male child workers Rs. 31.37 and female child workers Rs. 23.11 per day (Kak, 2004: 61-63).

Children working in urban areas also receive lower wages than their adult counterparts. In 'whole sell rate', male child workers received 28 per cent of the wage paid to the adult male workers in urban areas in 1999-2000. In 'hotels and restaurants', male child workers are paid 40 per cent of the wage paid to adult workers in 'household manufacturing' it is 50 per cent, in 'factory manufacturing' 18 per cent and in construction 52 per cent for the same years. For urban female child workers, wages for all operation are lower than the wages for urban male child workers (except for hotels and trade). The gap between the wages of female child labour and adult female labour is narrower than that of male child workers and adult male workers, as the wages for adult female labour are much lower than the wages paid to adult male workers. In fact, the wages of adult female workers at times equal to or less than the wages paid to male child workers (Kak, 2004: 63).

### *Distribution Based on Age Specific Work Participation*

**Table 2.18: Age Specific Usual Status Work Participation Ratios 1987-88 to 1999-2000 All India (out of 1000)**

| Age group | Rural males |           |           | Urban males |           |           | Rural females |           |           | Urban females |           |           |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|           | 1987-1988   | 1993-1994 | 1999-2000 | 1987-1988   | 1993-1994 | 1999-2000 | 1987-1988     | 1993-1994 | 1999-2000 | 1987-1988     | 1993-1994 | 1999-2000 |
| 5-9       | 23          | 11        | 6         | 5           | 8         | 3         | 24            | 14        | 7         | 3             | 5         | 2         |
| 10-14     | 140         | 138       | 91        | 85          | 66        | 49        | 182           | 141       | 96        | 65            | 45        | 36        |

Source: Amitabh Kundu, 2001; cited in Kak, 2004: 52

In rural areas the work participation rate for male child workers decline nearly 4.7 percentage points for 10-14 age cohort during this period and in urban areas the decline was 1.7 percentage for the same age cohort. The decline in the number of child workers has to be seen in the context of declaration in economic activity, decline in the work participation ratio across all age group particularly between 1993-94 and 1999-2000, under-reporting of child workers in view of the international campaign against the use of child labour, midday meal schemes being operated in some states and pressure brought upon parents not to report their children as workers.

It is argued in some studies that the decline in child labour is result of increasing number of children attending schools. However, it is to be noted that the access to school education varies on class, caste, gender and urban/rural factors. The majority of the child workers come from rural areas where the quality and availability of school education is extremely poor. The evidence indicates that the momentum gained in terms of school attendance between 1987-88 and 1993-94 got dissipated between 1993-94 and 1999-2000 (Kak, 2004: 52-53).

#### *Distribution As Estimated By Different Organizations*

**Table 2.19: Magnitude of Child Labour As Estimated by Different Organizations**

| Year    | Extent of child labour | Agency/Source                 |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1971    | 10.74 Million          | Census                        |
| 1972-73 | 16.33 Million          | 27 <sup>th</sup> Round of NSS |
| 1975    | 15.10 Million          | ILO                           |
| 1981    | 13.60 Million          | Census                        |
| 1983    | 17.36 Million          | 38 <sup>th</sup> Round of NSS |
| 1983    | 44.00 Million          | ORG Baroda                    |
| 1985    | 111.00 Million         | Balai Manila                  |
| 1987-88 | 17.02 Million          | 43 <sup>rd</sup> Round of NSS |
| 1991    | 23.02 Million          | D.P. Chaudhri                 |
| 1994    | 20.00 Million          | Labour Ministry               |
| 1995    | 74.80 Million          | CACL                          |
| 1996    | 140.00 Million         | Rashmi Sehgal                 |
| 1996    | 35.00 Million          | UNICEF                        |
| 1997    | 73.00 Million          | UNICEF                        |

Source: Patil, 1997: 174.

**Industries Wise Distribution**

**Table 2.20: The Approximate Number of Children Employed in Different Industries**

| <b>Industry</b>                 | <b>Location</b>             | <b>Estimated number of children employed</b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Match & Fireworks               | Sivkasi (Tamil Nadu)        | 50,000                                       |
| Stone Quarries                  | Kerala                      | 20,000                                       |
| Lead Mines                      | Meghalaya                   | 28,000                                       |
| Fishing freezing and Processing | Quilon (Kerala)             | 20,000                                       |
| Handloom Industry               | Trivandrum (Kerala)         | 10,000                                       |
|                                 | Tiruppur                    | 8,000  |
|                                 | Bhiwandi (Maharastra)       | 15,000                                       |
| <i>Bidi</i> Industry            | Tiruchirapalli (Tamil Nadu) | 7,000  |
|                                 | Trichur (Kerala)            | 7,000  |
| Lock Industry                   | Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh)     | 10,000                                       |
| Handicraft Ind.                 | Jammu & Kashmir             | 27,000                                       |
| Carpet Weaving                  | Kashmir                     | 50,000                                       |
|                                 | Varansi-Bhadohi             | 1,50,000                                     |
|                                 | Mirzapur                    | 1,40,000                                     |
|                                 | Rajasthan                   | 30,000                                       |
| Glass Industry                  | Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh)   | 50,000                                       |
| Gem Polishing                   | Jaipur (Rajasthan)          | 13,000                                       |
| Coir Industry                   | Kerala                      | 80,000                                       |
| Pottery                         | Khurja (Uttar Pradesh)      | 5,000  |
| Brassware                       | Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh)   | 24,000                                       |

Source: Dak, 2002: 15.

***Distribution Based on Type of Employment***

**Table 2.21: Distribution of Rural Casual Child Labour on the basis of Type of Employment**

|                            |                                   | 1999-2000                        |   |      | All India (00)                    |   |      |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|------|-----------------------------------|---|------|
|                            |                                   | Estd. person days for rural boys | Estd. person days for all rural male population | %    | Estd. person days for rural girls | Estd. person days for all rural female population | %    |
| 1                          | 2                                 | 3                                | 4   | 5    | 6                                 | 7   | 8    |
| X                          | Casual work in public works       | 346                              | 29510   | 1.17 | 1011                              | 10197   | 9.91 |
| Agriculture hunting        | Agri operations                   | 43402                            | 2064882   | 2.10 | 45500                             | 1292153   | 3.5  |
|                            | Plantation animal husbandry       | 17284                            | 375779  | 4.60 | 9740                              | 175721  | 5.54 |
|                            | Other than cultivation            | 1732                             | 41842   | 3.28 | 627                               | 1492  | 4.21 |
|                            | Subtotal                          | 62418                            | 2482507   | 2.5  | 55866                             | 1482776   | 3.77 |
| Non-agriculture mfg. trade | Manual work in non agriculture    | 11678                            | 612771  | 1.91 | 4234                              | 1122295   | 0.38 |
|                            | Activities other than cultivation | 8420                             | 249878  | 3.37 | 2585                              | 44511   | 5.81 |
|                            | Subtotal                          | 20098                            | 862649  | 2.33 | 6819                              | 156805  | 4.35 |
|                            | Total                             | 82516                            | 3345157   | 2.47 | 62685                             | 1639581   | 3.82 |

Source: NSSO Report- 1999-2000; cited in Kak, 2004: 59.

**Table 2.22: Distribution of Urban Casual Child Labour on the basis of Type of Employment**

|   | 1999-2000                        |   |      | All India Urban' 00               |   |      |
|---|----------------------------------|---|------|-----------------------------------|---|------|
|   | Estd. person days for urban boys | Estd. person days for all urban male population | %    | Estd. person days for urban girls | Estd. person days for all urban female population | %    |
| Agriculture and related activities      | 1195                             | 75520   | 1.6  | 1195                              | 48207   | 2.48 |
| Mining and quarrying                    | 79                               | 8501  | 0.93 | 79                                | 1439  | 5.49 |
| Manufacturing households                | 1108                             | 73097   | 1.52 | 1108                              | 13877   | 7.98 |
| Manufacturing                           | 845                              | 49750   | 1.70 | 845                               | 9268  | 9.12 |
| Electricity gas steam                   | -                                | 938   | -    | -                                 | -   | -    |
| Construction                            | 1211                             | 190316  | 0.64 | 1211                              | 33072   | 3.66 |
| Trade, hotel, restaurant                | 393                              | 80572   | 0.49 | 393                               | 9402  | 4.18 |
| Transport                               | 26                               | 56876   | 5.05 | 26                                | 1123  | 2.32 |
| Retail trade storage, financial service | -                                | 3741  | -    | -                                 | 383   | -    |
| Public admn, community service          | 1874                             | 29420   | 6.35 | 1874                              | 39638   | 4.73 |
| Subtotal non agriculture                | 5536                             | 493283  | 1.12 | 5536                              | 108203  | 5.12 |
| Total                                   | 6731                             | 568803  | 1.18 | 6731                              | 156410  | 4.30 |

Source: NSSO Report- 1999-2000; cited in Kak, 2004: 60.

The proportion of male and female 'casual' child labour in the total 'casual' labour category is highly significant. In rural areas, male child labour constituted 2.47 per cent of the total casual percentage employed in 1999-2000; for rural female child labour, it is 3.82 per cent for the same years. Children are employed as 'casual' workers in a range of activities. The percentage share of days of wage work by young rural boys varies from 4.60 for plantation work, animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries and other agriculture work,

3.37 for activities other than cultivation and 3.28 per cent for non manual working cultivation. Among rural girls, the share of days for wage work was 9.91 per cent for casual work in civil works and 5.81 for activities other than the cultivation. At the all India level, urban female child labour constituted 4.3 per cent of the total casual person days employed. The share of urban girls is 9.12 per cent in manufacturing, 7.98 per cent in the household industry and 5.49 in mining and quarrying. For urban boys of 5-14 years of age, the share of 'casual' work days is 6.35 per cent in public administration and community services. Overall child workers contribute very significantly to various economic activities as casual labour. Many of these activities are in the unorganised sector where labour laws are not implemented and check is maintained on the quality of facilities available at work place (Kak, 2004: 56-90).

A child is generally defined through an age criterion. A person who has not completed the age of 14 years is treated as child. However, the social meaning of child is different where all the persons are treated as child by their parents. The basic criterions between child and adult are puberty, marriage and education, acquiring skills etc. and many of these criterions are very particularistic to culture and even sometimes very hard to generalize. But the literal meaning of child is different and depends on age criterion. Presently 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total population belong to children (0-14 years age group) and around 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the total population of India are in the age group of 5-14 years. Children are the future of a nation and therefore, they need a right kind of development. But all the children are not treated equally and due to various reasons the well and equal development of these children is not being possible. For survival many of them have to work in several organized and unorganized sectors. A child worker is defined in the age group of 5-14 years involved in work either on full time or part time basis. Child labour as distinguishing from work experience has mostly negative attributes. Child work is child labour when it threatens the survival, protection and development of children. A child would be considered child labour if the work interferes with the child's education, recreation and has physical, mental or moral health. The child work is not a problem in India only but all over the world. The number of working children is higher especially in the third world countries including India. Nearly 1/6<sup>th</sup> children aged 5-14 years in the world are employed in different occupations. The worldwide distribution of child labour

shows that, a major percentage of children in Bhutan are economically active followed by Mali, Haiti and Portugal. Within Asia, majority of children in Bhutan are involved in work followed by East Timor, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand and India. In India around 14 per cent of total children are economically active. In this regard, among the major Indian States the work participation rate (WPR) is higher in Andhra Pradesh than that of the children in Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujrat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal during 2004-05. The work participation rate (WPR) is lower in West Bengal than that of the children in other major Indian States. It is the fact that the work participation rate (WPR) is higher among male children than that of the female children during 2004-05. If we look at the caste categories among the working children, the work participation rate (WPR) is higher among scheduled tribes than that of the children hailing from other backward classes, scheduled castes and others during 2004-05. But in case of religious categories, the work participation rate (WPR) is higher among minority religious communities than that of the children hailing from Hindu groups and others during 2004-05. In India, the location-specific occupations where child labour is employed are domestic workers: everywhere; agriculture: everywhere; plantation: Assam tea gardens; mining and stone quarrying: Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya (Mining); *bidis*: Tamil Nadu, Kerala; glass and bangles: Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh); handloom: Tamil Nadu, power loom: Bhiwandi in Maharashtra; carpet weaving: Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan; *zari* and embroidery: Lucknow; gem cutting and polishing: Jaipur (Rajasthan); diamond cutting and polishing: Surat (Gujrat); match and fireworks: Sivakasi (Tamil Nadu); machine tools, repair shops, garages and petrol pumps: Delhi, Wazipur, Calcutta and Madras; cashew processing and manufacture of coir products: Kerala; helpers in hotels, restaurants, canteens, tea stalls, shops and way-side establishments: everywhere; rag-picking: Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras; construction: everywhere; hawkers, vendors, newspaper sellers: everywhere; coolies: everywhere; fishing: Kerala, Tamilnadu, pottery units: Khurja (Uttar Pradesh); lock industry: Aligarh; bonded labour: Medak District (Andhra Pradesh); state industry: Mandsaur (Madhya Pradesh); rick-kiln industry: Delhi and Bihar; small scale industry: New Delhi; and street children: all

metropolitan cities. However, the sectoral distribution of India's child labours during 2004-05 shows that most of the child employment is concentrated in agricultural and allied activities followed by manufacturing and trade and hotel sectors. In this regard, the involvement of children in agricultural sector is higher in Chhattisgarh followed by Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttaranchal, Gujrat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Bihar, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala. Among the manufacturing sector, Tamil Nadu have employed a higher share of its child workers closely followed by West Bengal and among the trade and hotel sectors Delhi have employed a higher share of its child workers followed by Kerala. The data on the employment of children in different industries shows that the employment of children is higher in carpet weaving industry than that of the children involved in coir industry, match and fireworks and glass industry, handloom industry, lead mines, handicraft industry, brassware, stone quarries, fishing freezing and processing, *bidi* industry, gem polishing, lock industry, and pottery. Magnitude of child labour in India 2001 shows that top 11 districts in Indian States having more than 75,000 child labourers and among them the number of child labour is higher in Alwar district of Rajasthan followed by Mahbubnagar and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh, Gulbarga of Karnataka, Jalor of Rajasthan, Jhabua of Madhya Pradesh, Medinipur of West Bengal, Guntur of Andhra Pradesh, Maldah and Murshidabad of West Bengal and Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh. If we look at the wage rate among the working children, they paid much less than the wages paid to adult workers. Children working in both rural and urban areas receive lower wages than their adult counterparts. However, the data on the principal and subsidiary activity status of children during 1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000 shows that the nature of employment of child workers has changed over the years. The changes in the nature of employment of working children indicate that majority of the child workers are involved in the low wage unorganized sector and decline in child workers in the 'self employed' category could be owing to increased enrolment in schools. Most of the child employment is concentrated in agriculture and allied activities in India. The child work is not a problem in India only but all over the world. The number of working children is found high especially in the third world countries including India. They are found in different economic sectors stated in

earlier discussion. Nearly one in six children aged 5-14 in the world are engaged in child labour and a major section of them are found to work in hazardous situations. Besides these, there are so many working children everywhere but invisible, working as domestic servants in homes and millions of girl children get involved in this sector, toiling behind the walls of workshops and also in such hidden sectors.

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