

CHAPTER X: CHILD WORKERS AND THEIR PROBLEMS

Sending children to work may seem a rational approach to poverty but employment of children has profound repercussions. ILO research shows that child labour is almost universally recognised as being undesirable, harmful for the children themselves and harmful for the future of their nation. When a child joins the work force at a young age, he is deprived of the opportunity to educate himself and acquiring qualifications which help him in getting a better job in future. It is, therefore, very likely that a child who has been at work from an early age will spend his whole life at the bottom of the social ladder. Thus, child labour has become a mode of perpetuating an unjust social system and of ensuring the continued availability of subservient, unskilled, illiterate labourers who do not have the bargaining power to question the system that marginalises them and deprives them of their right to lead a decent life. Many of the jobs that children do are harmful for their physical development. The child labour increases adult unemployment and reduces their income and thus, forces adults to send their children to work to supplement the family income (Gomango, 2001: 139 and 146). Child labour problem is not the minor problem in Siliguri town of Darjeeling district of West Bengal. A large number of children 5-14 age group are engaged in different types of works. Most of them are rag pickers and remaining children are engaged in hotels, restaurants, garages, small manufacturing companies etc. These children are migrants belonging to various communities and linguistic groups. They live in different slums in Siliguri town. Their socio-economic and living condition is very precarious. They always suffer from malnutrition, anaemia and many other diseases. They are fully ignorant about community health. Alcoholism is the main problem among the slum dwellers. According to 1981 census, 11.03 per thousand persons were child labours in Darjeeling district. Out of 5 lacks people of Siliguri town, 1, 60,192 lived below poverty line. Child labourers mainly came from these families who were engaged in different hazardous works for livelihood (Mukherjee, 2003).

There are so many working children in various hazardous economic sectors in our country, those had to enter the work from the very beginning. They are always devoted to work sacrificing all the enjoyment of life. They never got the light of education in life but scolding and neglect. Moreover, they are completely deprived of love, affection and sympathy of the parents. They spend their life like a helpless child. But what is their sin for which they have to face these problems? In fact, their great sin is to born in extreme poverty. In this context, the present chapter mainly highlights the various problematic issues of working children in the studied area to feel their plight states better. These are –

Food and Drinking Water

Food and water are necessary for life. The term food indicates not only solid food but the nutritional aspects of drinking water as well. Food and water are essential elements that all human beings must have access to in order to live. Access to "the minimum essential food which is sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe" as well as "sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water" are considered human rights. Children have the right to nutritious food and clean drinking water, as well as to be free of suffering from disease and malnutrition caused by inaccessibility of the above (Food & Water; http://www.hrea.org/index.php?doc_id=404). In this concern, the above situation of the studied children are stated below –

Case Study 1: Amit Singha a 12 years old boy belonged to Rajbanshi community. In his family he had his grandmother, parents and one younger sister. All the family members worked together in the stone field and earned not more than Rs. 1800/- per month. He worked in hungry because after having little breakfast with tea and pup rice he went to the stone field and had to do a continuous hard work until lunch break. He had his lunch with rice, pulses and little amount of vegetables. Due to busy working schedule he became very irregular in taking lunch. Often he had the lunch meal directly in the open river bed and sometimes he took the meal without washing his hand. He usually returned home in the evening when the work was over for the day. He took the dinner very soon after returning home but mostly the same menu was on the dinner. Their earnings was not enough to accumulate proper nutritious food and even they could not eat rice more than

twice a day. The remuneration paid to them was too little that they failed to purchase or hardly managed meat, fish, egg, fruit, milk and other health drinks. Amit and his rest family members could not meet this essential need. He could not purchase what he wants. But how could he purchase? His parents had not enough money to run their family and as a result, Amit had to contribute his total earnings to his family. His eyes filled with tears when he was telling this fact. In the context of sources of water, they had to depend upon the uncovered well which was setup by the government and also used the river water for drinking and other domestic purposes while in the stone field. But they did not take any precautionary measures like boiling or filtering. It might have resulted in water borne diseases that was noticed in him.

Case Study 2: Purnima Barman, 12 years old girl belonged to Rajbanshi community. In her family she had her father, mother and two brothers. They got involved in stone based job for living. But the remuneration paid to them was not enough for maintaining livelihood as their three members' monthly income was Rs. 1700/- only which was very difficult to run their family. Purnima spent maximum time of the day in the working field. She was the early riser. After morning fresh and having little breakfast with tea and biscuits or pup rice she went to the stone field. Then, she had to continue this work until lunch break. She took lunch directly in the stone field. In her lunch she took rice, pulses and vegetable curry and mostly the same menu was on the dinner. Even they could not manage rice meal more than twice a day. To accumulate proper nutritious food like animal protein and necessary health drinks i.e. fruit, milk etc. was simply out of their capacity. Sometimes she had a desire to eat different foods but she could not eat because parents took her total earnings and even her family had not the capacity to purchase what she had longing to eat. However, in case of drinking water, Purnima and her family used both uncovered well and the river water and these were also used for bathing, cooking and other domestic purposes. But due to lack of health consciousness and awareness and also for busy working schedule they could not take any precautionary measures like filtering or boiling before using this water. This malpractice might have resulted in water borne disease as she was suffering from dysentery and stomach problem.

In the studied families it was observed that in their daily diet they took rice, pulses and little amount of vegetable curry but not more than twice a day. Owing to utter financial constraint, taking nutritious foods like fish, meat, egg, milk, fruits and other health drinks was a seldom happening factor. Even it was almost unaffordable to most of the families to manage their rice meal thrice a day and in this respect, the data reveals that around 61 per cent of total working children could afford eat rice not more than twice a day (Table 8.13). The hard manual work with less nutritious food might have caused a high prevalence of malnutrition among the working children which was a great hindrance to their normal growth. The another mentionable matter which was common to observe in the studied area, that a major section of people used the polluted river water for drinking, bathing, and even for other domestic purposes too especially during working hours that might have resulted in their numerous ill-health. The data reveals that around 82 per cent, 79 per cent, 64 per cent and 57 per cent of the total studied families used water both from uncovered well and river for their bathing, drinking, domestication and other purposes respectively (Table 8.10). Due to lack of proper health consciousness and awareness, they did not take any precautionary measures like boiling or filtering of water etc. that caused various types of water-borne diseases which were found among them. In this regard, the data reveals that around 28 per cent of total working children were suffering from dysentery and few of them were suffering from diarrhoea too.

Shelter

‘We do not need mass housing but housing for masses’ - Mahatma Gandhi

The human right to adequate housing is the right of every woman, man, youth and child to acquire and sustain a secure home and community in which to live in peace and dignity. Right to shelter is certainly an essential right for every child (Right to Shelter, Friday, 24 February 2012). In this context, the situation of the shelter of studied families is discussed below –

Case Study 1: Maloti Barman, was 13 years old girl belonged to Rajbanshi community. In her family she had her father, mother, grandmother and a younger sister. All the family members got involved in stone based work and altogether they could earn Rs.

1700/- per month. Their living condition was very much poor and unhygienic. They had not own homestead land. They made their house on vested land as they had not any capacity to purchase a plot of homestead land. They lived in the *kachha* house of one little room with *kachha* floor and it was made of wattle walls and corrugated tin roof. There was not any separate kitchen or store room in their house. Even with this poor income they could not make any new veranda or extension for cooking. As a result the five members of the family had to share a single small room house for all purposes, i.e. cooking, sleeping, rest etc. Due to this fact they had to face problem to maintain privacy. She and her sister read in class VII and class IV respectively but due to lack of insufficient space in the room their education was hampered. There was no electricity and sanitation facility in their house and as a result due to lack of electricity their education was also hampered. The insider atmosphere of the house was damp and its floor became muddy and moisty especially during rainy season. As a result, they had to suffer from cough and cold, sneezing, nasal blockage, headache etc. throughout the year. Due to the absence of latrine facility in the house Maloti and her rest family members used to sit in the backside of the house and during working hours they used the open river bed for defecation. However, they had to suffer from various diseases and ailments due to poor and unhygienic living.

Case Study 2: Kanai Barman, was a 14 years old boy belonged to Rajbanshi community. In his family he had his father, mother, and two younger sisters. They worked in the stone field altogether and could earn Rs. 1900/- per month. They had no proper shelter. Due to financial problem they could not purchase homestead land. So they had no other option but making house on the river bed. Their dwelling house was broken and *kachha* type which was composed of the single little room with *kachha* floor. The house was made of wattle walls and corrugated tin roofs and devoid of proper ventilation. There was no separate kitchen in the house and they were found to cook inside the room. Even, there was no electricity, drainage system and sanitation facility in their house. They faced serious problems due to poor light at night. Owing to lack of room they could not maintain their privacy and due to same reason their education was also hampered. Particularly his two sisters were the students of class V and VI respectively. They faced a lot of problems to finish their homework. Due to poor light they could not read and write

well at night. Owing to absence of latrine they had to use either the backside of the house or the open river bed for nature's call. Apart from this, in rainy season the rain was falling on leaky roof and due to this fact the insider atmosphere of the house became damp and its floor became muddy and moisty. Due to this unhygienic living they were suffering from various ill healths like cough and cold, sneezing, headache etc. The condition of their house was not in favour of living. Due to poor housing Kanai and his family had to face a lot of difficulties in living.

In the studied families the quality of housing revealed an unpleasant condition. Due to poor and unhygienic living condition the working children and their families faced serious problems. They had not own homestead land and with this poor income they were unable to purchase a plot of land for making house and in fact it was simply out of their capacity. Therefore, finding no other means they made their houses on the river bed that was the vested land.



Figure 10.1: Dwelling house

Their dwelling houses were mostly *kachha* type made of wattle walls, corrugated tin roof, *kachha* floor and devoid of proper ventilation. In this connection the data reveals that around 84 per cent of the total houses were *kachha* type (Table 8.6). It was common to observe that during summer season the insider atmosphere of the house was very much suffocating, and during rainy season the floor became muddy and moisty. As a result, they had to suffer from fever, cough and cold, nasal blockage, sneezing, headache etc. for

the whole year. Besides these, another highlighting issue was their number of room that was very less in number with small size. The data reveals that around 91 per cent of the houses were composed of 1-2 small rooms (Table 8.8). Under these circumstances, all members of the family had to share a single little room. Owing to this fact they failed to maintain their privacy. Apart from this, due to lack of insufficient space in the room their education was hampered. There was no separate kitchen in most of the houses and therefore, they had to cook inside the room. Due to utter financial constraint they could not make any new veranda or extension for cooking and failed to thatch the roof properly. Further, due to same many of them had to live in the broken house and could not repair at proper time. As a result, during rainy season rain came into their houses which might have caused of several ailments and diseases. Even, there was no electricity, drainage system and sanitation facility in their houses. They faced serious problems due to poor light at night and particularly it affected the students very much as they failed to continue their home works at night because they could not read and write well in poor light. Due to the absence of latrine they used the backside of the house or the open river bed for defecation. They had to face a lot of difficulties in living. Due to this unhygienic living they had to suffer from various ill healths like fever, cough and cold, sneezing, nasal blockage, headache etc. Indeed, the unhygienic living conditions might have told upon their social, physical and mental health as well.

Health Situation

According to World Health Organization (WHO), “health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being and ability to function and not merely the absence of illness or infirmity”(Terris, 1975: 161). Health is wealth so runs the proverb. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being (World Health organization, August 2007). Children have the right to health care, clean and safe environment so they can be as healthy as possible. In this regard the health situation of the studied children are stated below –

Case Study 1: Radhika Barman, aged 13 years, Hindu girl, belonged to Rajbanshi community. In her family she had her father, mother and a younger sister. She got

involved in stone based work and altogether they could earn not more than Rs. 1600/- per month. She did both stone collection and crushing activities throughout the day in the stone field. She often felt severe physical pain in her whole body due to hard labourious job throughout the year paying no attention to scorching heat of summer and biting cold of winter. Even she could not sleep well at night due to serious physical pain. Moreover, often she made herself injured either with stone chips or iron implements while working in the stone field. She was found crying her eyes out while showing her injurious eyes that became swelled with burning sensation due to improper care over it. Besides these, she had to suffer from fever, cold and cough almost throughout the year because she had to work for long in touch of river water while collecting stones from the river. Radhika and her family had to depend upon both the quack of local medicinal shop and traditional medicine man because there was no health centre in their village. They used to go either to the Matigara Primary Health Centre or North Bengal Medical College only when the condition had turned into the critical stage. But the proper medical check up for long time was hardly possible to them because due to utter financial constraint they could not pay for it. She told that due to financial constraint her treatment could not be continued and the course of prescribed medicines had to be stopped in the middle. Her eyes filled with tears while describing the fact. Her parents could not give her a full feed and also could not feed her proper nutritious food like meat, egg, fish, milk, fruit etc. As a result, she used to feel uneasiness in the stomach due to hunger. In daily diet she could eat rice meal with pulses and little amount of vegetables but it was not more than twice a day. She woke up very early in the morning with the ray of sun up and went to the stone field after having little breakfast with tea and pup rice and took lunch directly in the stone field. She worked in hungry because she had to do a continuous work until lunch break without having food. She was suffering from dysentery due to drink polluted water without filtering. She returned home in the evening when the work was over for the day. Very soon after returning home they made brisk preparations for dinner. Due to busy working schedule Radhika could not maintain a good standard of personal hygiene. Due to day long working involvement and rough use of dress, her clean dress became dirty very soon but she could not manage time for washing it. She could not maintain her regular bathing. The use of shampoo and soap could rarely be seen while bathing and even sometimes she

used to take bath in the polluted river. As a result, she was suffering from skin disease throughout the year as she had an uncomfortable feeling on her skin that made her want to scratch. Often she forgot to brush her teeth and due to this fact she had a serious teeth ache. Usually, she took food without washing her hand and even, she had to eat stale food too and as a result often she was attacked with loose motion and other stomach troubles. She was mostly found to work in wet cloth because she had to collect stone from the river and owing to this fact her dress got drenched resulted in she was weak by cough-cold throughout the year. However, she was suffering from malnutrition due to lack of sufficient nutritious food like animal protein, milk, fruits and other health drinks. She was very sick and weak.

Case Study 2: Prallad Barman, 14 years old boy belonged to Rajbanshi community. In his family he had his father, mother and an elder brother. All the four family members were involved in stone based work and earned Rs. 2500/- per month with great difficulty. He did both stone collection and stone crushing activities. He worked for the whole day in polluted and unhygienic stone field paying no attention to burning heat of summer and freezing cold of winter. He had to suffer from fever, cold and cough almost throughout the year because he worked for long in touch of river water as he had to collect stones from the river. Due to daylong hard manual labour he often felt severe physical pain in his whole body. Often he made himself injured with stone chips and iron implements. He was very much attacked by running nose, sneezing, headache, cough-cold, and fever during rainy season; during winter he got weaker by acute physical pain; and the burning heat of summer along with extreme hunger made him weak very much. For the treatment of diseases and ailments they had to depend upon the untrained quacks of local medicinal shops and traditional medicine men as there was no health centre in their village. But due to poor income the proper medical check up for long-time was not possible and even they could not purchase all the prescribed medicines too. Often the treatment had to be stopped in the middle because of their incapability to bear the expense of it. He had to wake up very early in the morning with the ray of first light. He went to the stone field after morning fresh and having little breakfast with tea and pup rice and then he had to do the work continuously the work until lunch break but feed to the fill was a seldom happening factor. In their daily diet they took rice, pulses and little amount of vegetable

curry. Though his parents could feed him nutritious food like meat, egg, fish, fruit etc. but it was seldom possible. Due to hard manual work and lack of proper nutritious food like animal protein and other health drinks he was suffering from malnutrition. Apart from these, he could not maintain regular bathing and hardly used shampoo or any other cleaning agents while bathing. In fact, he became habituated with taking bath in polluted river and often in well. His unclean bathing might have caused skin problem as he had an uncomfortable feeling on his skin that made him want to scratch. He could not take care of his teeth properly because often he forgot to brush his teeth. Lack of sanitation, lack of proper care, inattention of parents, and due to day long hard manual work it was really impossible for him to maintain a good standard of personal hygiene. His poor socio-cultural habits like eating food without washing hand, to drink river water, going to river for nature's call, eating meal in dusty stone field etc. also made him sick. Apart from these, he was suffering from breathing problem because in the stone field the dust emitted out from the broken up stones which was being inhaled through respiration while crushing stones. The working involvement might have a great impact on his health.

However, it was the fact that the studied people and particularly the working children had to face a lot of problems in respect to health and treatment. In this regard, it may be summarised that due to utter financial constraint, it was simply out of their capacity to accumulate nutritious foods like meat, fish, egg, milk, fruits and other health drinks. They could afford rice meal twice a day with pulses and a vegetable curry whereas egg or fish curry or meat rarely to be cooked and taking other nutritious foods like fruits, milk or other nutritious foods were mere dream to them. Due to hard manual with less nutritious food might have resulted in high prevalence of malnutrition among the working children. Besides these, they used polluted river water for their bathing, washing cloths and even for drinking as well especially during working hours that might have resulted in their numerous ill-health. They did not take any precautionary measures like boiling or filtering that might have resulted in water-borne diseases found among them. In this context it was found that a number of working children were suffering from dysentery and few of them were suffering from Diarrhoea too. The working atmosphere in Balasan river basin was very much unhygienic, dusty and polluted in terms of dirty or harmful substances to land, air, water etc. Not only that, even they had to work hard throughout

the year ignoring the fact of scorching burn light of summer and shivering cold of winter. Obviously it was a great problem to them but nevertheless they had to continue it as in fact their hard manual labour for the whole day was the only means that could ensure them a fold of rice twice in a day. Such type of working environment might have caused various health hazards found among them throughout the year. Moreover, they had to face another serious problem in terms of their poor living environment. The lack of drainage system and poor sanitation made their environment unhygienic and polluted. Most of the families could not afford to enjoy the sanitation facility and due to this fact, finding no other alternatives they had to use the open field for nature's call and the children often around their houses that was either in the village lanes or at the back of the houses. The surrounding environment of the houses was very much polluted with waste disposal and human excreta which might have told upon their health seriously. The data manifests that around three-fourth of the studied families were deprived of enjoying sanitation facility (Table 8.5). As a consequence, the water-borne diseases and other infectious were common in the studied area. The personal hygiene of working children revealed an unpleasant condition. In this regard, their busy working schedule was a great hindrance to proper maintenance of personal hygiene. Due to working involvement for the whole day, they could not take bath regularly and using soap and shampoo or other clinical agents could rarely be seen while bathing. Even they were very much irregular in brushing up teeth and washing cloths because often they used to forget it. On the other hand, due to poor income the working children and their families could not eat nutritious food. They were suffering from various diseases and ailments such as dysentery, diarrhoea, skin disease, fever, cold and cough, jaundice, asthma, physical injuries, body pain, headache, weakness, ear and eye problem, breathing problem, loose motion and so on. It was mentioned that the average monthly income of a family was Rs. 2000/-. With this poor income the studied children and their families failed to enjoy better treatment and also failed to meet the full course of medicine prescribed by doctors. The inaccessibility of proper medical facilities in the studied area was another great difficulty in the treatment of diseases and ailments faced. Due to poverty and lack of medical facilities, the working children and their families did not get the better medical treatment. Their dependency on both untrained quacks of local medicinal shops and traditional

medicine men was common to notice to get remedy from diseases and ailments. They could hardly meet to the proper treatment with adequate medicines and necessary diagnostic tests. The data reveals that 82.49 per cent of the total working children had to depend upon both traditional medicine men and quacks (Table 8.16). But in many cases their diseases and ailments had turned into serious complex due to improper treatment. The another heart rending problem of the working children was that during working hours often they made themselves injured either with stone chips or iron implements and mostly their eyes and hands got injured while crushing stones. In this regard, the data reveals that out of total working children, 86 males (46.24%) and 89 females (46.60%) got injured while in the stone field (Table 8.3 and 8.4).

It was common to notice that due to utter financial constraints they could not accumulate the proper nutritious food and health drinks. In their daily diet they took rice with pulses and little amount of vegetables. But they could not afford meal more than twice a day and that was mainly rice, pulses and vegetable curry. Meanwhile, egg, fish, meat, milk or fruits were mere dream to them. Even they failed to provide nutritious food to the sick children. The feed to the fill was simply unmanageable for them. Many of the times they had to work with half feed which might have resulted in malnutrition and other diseases.

However, it was the fact that the working children in the studied area were suffering from various ailments and diseases. The working environment was very much unhygienic and hazardous. They were very busy at work in the stone field for all the year round paying no attention to scorching heat of summer and freezing cold of winter and even many of them had to collect stones and sands from the river. They had a high risk to get injured at every moment of work in the stone field and it was common to notice that due to lack of concentration to work they made themselves injured with stone cheaps or iron implements. Due to long touch with water many of them had an uncomfortable feeling on their skin that made them want to scratch. The hard manual work and hazardous working condition resulted in various ill-healths like physical injuries, body pain, cough-cold, fever, headache, giddiness, skin disease etc. were noticed among the studied children throughout the year. Due to busy working schedule during day time, lacking care of parents and other elder members of the family and also the lack of proper knowledge and

awareness the studied children could not maintain their good standard of personal hygiene. Many of the working children could not take bath regularly and even the usages of oil, soap, shampoo or any other cleaning agents for removal of accumulate dirt could rarely be seen at the time of bathing. Their unclean bathing might have resulted in various skin troubles found among them. Many of them had no extra dress to wear and the dress became dirty soon caused by over working and rough use of it. Besides, many of the studied children often forgot to brush up their teeth and due to this fact the food particles often remained between their teeth that made their teeth weak and damage. As a result, many of the studied children had to suffer from serious toothache throughout the year. However, due to various reasons the working children failed to maintain their personal hygiene. The surrounding environment of the houses was not in favour of living as it was very much polluted with waste disposal and human excreta and in this regard the lack of sanitation could not be ignored. Their dwelling houses were broken and *kachha* type that was made of wattle wall, corrugated tin roof, poor ventilation, and *kachha* platform. The rain-water was falling on leaky roof and cracked walls that made their houses damp and the floors became muddy and as a result they became weak by cough-cold, sneezing, running nose, headache, fever etc. There were no electricity in their houses resulted in poor light at night and as a result the children faced problem of reading books due to poor light at night. Due to absent of separate kitchen they used to cook inside the room. They used earthen oven or cooking pit. To bake food, the fire was built, and the food is placed in the oven and covered. In this regard, decaying wood, branch of trees, papers and plastic materials etc. were to be used as fuel that emitted a lot of smoke and their rooms became smoky. The smoky environment caused their eyes to go red and start watering and as a result the children could not read the books and also could not write well. Besides these, all the families fetched water from uncovered well and also used the river water for drinking and other necessary household works. But they did not take any precautionary measures like filtering, boiling etc. before using this water that might have caused the water-borne diseases found among them.

The studied children were found to be sick and diseased throughout the year. For the treatment they had to depend upon both the untrained quacks of local medicinal shops and traditional medicine men as there was no health centre in their village. They were

referred to Matigara Primary Health Centre or North Bengal Medical College only when the condition had turned into serious complex. But due to poor income they could not see the doctors and the proper medical check up for long time with prescribed medicines was out of their capacity. As a result, in many cases they had to stop treatment in the middle.

They always thought about tomorrow's work after returning home at the end of the day from the working field which kept them in a psychological pressure and on the very next day in the early morning with the ray of first light they used to go to their working field that was their daily working schedule. The maintenance of personal hygiene was beyond their thought. In this regard, the lack of health consciousness and awareness and their malpractice as well were the responsible factor. Even the noticeable matter was that the other elder members of the family could never maintain it at all and as far as the socialisation process is concerned it must be developed among the children. From the socio-cultural perspective, it is said that a child acts like clay and holds its shape as we wish to make it. The childhood is such a stage in which the imitation of socio-cultural practices can be observed beautifully among the children. Thus, as their parents or other elder members do, so they learn and as a consequence the studied children were not in a position to maintain a good standard of personal hygiene. Ultimately the working children in the studied area had to suffer from serious health hazards.

Educational Situation

Education in the beginning will shape the future of a child. It is certainly an important factor in a child's growth. It is like the sunlight which along with water and proper care of a gardener helps a seed to grow (Astrologer, 2011). Education plays an important role for the development of a nation and helps the children to become a part of nation's builder when they cross the threshold of childhood. Children have the right to education which helps develop their personality and abilities to the full. The elementary education is a fundamental right of every child. In this regard the educational situation of the studied children are discussed below –

Case Study 1: Raju Singha, aged 14 years, was a Rajbanshi boy. Both of his parents got involved in stone based job as prime earning source and earned Rs. 1600/- per month.

But their earnings could not provide them a minimum support to run their family. Finding no other ways they provoked Raju to get involved in stone based work to augment their family earnings. Raju got involved in stone based job since he was five years old boy. Even sometimes his two younger brothers Shyam and Mukul, 12 years and 10 years respectively also did this work to support their family income. Raju did both stone collection and truck loading activities. He had to work for the whole week without any adequate rest. He dropped out of school while he was in class IV. His only remorse was that he always used to try to attend the class regularly but it was hardly possible because of his daylong working involvement as well as his parents did not like to send him to school regularly. He was scolded bitterly or even often he was beaten up by his parents if he was absent in work or raise his eyes from work. His daily working schedule started like this- he used to get up at around 7 a.m. After morning fresh and having tea and pup rice he went to stone field. The work was often continued after evening also. Even sometimes he used to go out from the class to join in work in the stone field. Prolong working schedule did not let him continue his studies. Moreover, the dwelling house was not in favour of living. Their dwelling house was *kachha* type and composed of two little size rooms. There was not sufficient space in the house for his studies. He was the first generation learner and due this fact the parents could not guide him. He had no adequate books and note books and due to lack of these requirements he faced serious problems in his studies. Besides these, due to poor income his parents could not provide him private tuition. Due to absent of private tuition he could not finish all the home works. Owing to this fact he had a fear of scolding and also a fear of beating by his class teachers. Under these circumstances, he lost the interest of schooling. Moreover, his parents did not allow him to go to school regularly but sending him to work. He did not get any support, encouragement and cooperation from his parents for education. Besides these, all the neighbouring people worked in the stone field and Raju also motivated by them to go the stone field. Even, due to hard manual work and lack of sufficient and nutritious food he became weak and as a result he could not concentrate to his studies. Due to poor health he did not get any interest to study the lesson and ultimate dropped out. His two brothers Shyam and Mukul went to school but they failed to attend regularly and further due to lack of educational requirements their education was also affected very much and that

was due to same reasons which was happened with Raju. Ultimately his two younger brothers were also losing the interest of education. Apart from this, their dwelling house was broken. The rainy water was falling on the leaky roof and damaged their books, notebooks and many other things as a result they had to face a problem of reading those books and their notebooks became disabled for writing too. Besides, there was no electricity in their house and due to poor light they could not read and write well at night. Even their education got obstructed very much due to lack of private tuition and proper guidance. They felt uneasiness in the stomach owing to hunger and due to this fact they could not pay concentration to their studies. They had no school uniform and due to which they had to be scolded by their school teachers. They could not understand their lessons as they had no guide and as a result they lost their interest of education. Besides, their physical weakness and sickness made disinclination towards education among them.

Case Study 2: Ashalata Barman, 13 years old girl belonged to Rajbanshi community. Both her parents were involved in stone based job. But the remuneration paid to them was not sufficient to run their family. Ashalata got involved in this job when she was 9 years old. She had a younger brother, Manik and sister, Maloti. They also provided a financial support to their parents. As a whole they hardly earned Rs. 2300/- per month. Ashalata did both stone collection and stone crushing activities. She had to work for the whole day without any adequate rest. She dropped out of school when she was in class IV. Her only remorse was that she always used to try to attend the class regularly but it was hardly possible because of her busy working schedule. Besides, her parents did not allow her to go to school regularly rather they used to like more to send her to the stone field. Her daily schedule of work started like this- she used to get up at around 6 a.m. After morning fresh and having tea with pup rice she went to the stone field. Even the work was often continued after evening also. Even she went out from the classes to join the work in the stone field. Besides these, there was no adequate place in the house for her studies. Due to illiteracy the parents could not guide her properly. Even, her parents did not allow her to go to school regularly. Her eyes filled with tears while she was telling about the lacking of educational requirements. She faced lot of problems in her studies as she had not sufficient books and note books and even she did not get the private tuition facility. Due to absent of private tuition she could not complete all the

home tasks given by her class teachers. Owing to this fact she had a fear of scolding and beating by her class teachers. As a result, she lost the interest of going to school. She was scolded bitterly and even was beaten up by her parents if she was absent in the stone field. She had an urgent need to meet daily necessities for living rather than education. Actually the working involvement along with lack of required educational facilities she could not continue her studies. Apart from these, all the local people worked in the stone field and therefore, Ashalata also motivated by these people to do this stone based job. Due to financial constraint their parents could not arrange rice and vegetable meals more than twice a day and even she did not get sufficient food. Therefore, she worked in hungry in the stone field. The daylong hard manual work with insufficient and less nutritious food resulted in malnutrition as she was weak by it. Owing to weakness she could not concentrate to education. She lost the interest of education due to her poor health. Her younger brother, Manik and younger sister, Maloti aged 11 years and 9 years respectively. Manik was reading in class V and Maloti in class III. But the parents neither could guide them nor even encouraged them. Even they had no private tuition due to poor family earnings. As a result, in many cases they could not understand their studies and lost interest. They had expression of pain in their tender eyes. In fact, the untiring labour in the stone field made their body painful resulted in they could not study their lessons. Due to lack of room all the family members had to live altogether in a single room and even due to lack of sufficient space there was no sitting place too. As a result of which, Manik and Maloti could not pay attention to their studies. Besides these, the alcoholism of father and a quarrel between their parents became a daily matter and as a consequence, the educational atmosphere at home became lost. The local socio-cultural environment i.e. same working involvement, poverty, alcoholism, quarrel, gambling etc. hampered their studies very much. The parents could not give them a full feed. They could eat rice meal not more than twice in a day and it was mostly rice, pulses and vegetable curry. Eating nutritious food like fish, meat, egg, fruit, milk etc. was rarely possible. As a result, their normal growth became obstructed and they became very weak that made lost the interest of education. They had to do work in poor health and hungry in the stone field. Even they had to assist their parents in domestic chores too and due to this fact their study got hampered. They had a burning sensation in the stomach due to hunger

that hindered them in paying attention to their studies. Ultimately all the situations were unfavourable in their educational progress. Apart from poverty, their socio-cultural systems and local environment never encouraged in their education, even hampered their education very much and as a result within very early they started to loss their interest of education.

Many children in the studied area had to get involved in stone based job at very early age to augment their family earnings as their parents needed extra earnings. Many of the children in the studied area were first generation learner. Most of their parents either belonged to illiterate or belonged to primary level of education and as a result of which the children could not hope to get proper guidelines for education from their parents. Owing to the busy working schedule for the whole day it was simply out of their capacity of the parents to take care of the studies of their children. In the studied area, the major problem of the child workers was their lacking of minimum necessary educational requirements. So many factors such as poverty, working involvement, poor educational background of parents, lack of proper guidance, home atmosphere, poor shelter, social environment and so on were responsible for their poor state of education. The parents were not in a position to provide proper guidance for education to their children. Owing to illiteracy or having poor educational background they could never understand the importance of education in making a bright future of their children. Moreover, on account of utter financial scarcity as well as lowest level of educational background most of the parents did not allow their children to continue education. The reality was that majority of the working children were provoked by their parents to get involved in work. A major percentage of studied children had to do the stone based work for all the day which hampered their school education badly as during school time mostly they were busy with stone collection and crushing, sand gathering and truck loading activities. In this connection the data reveals that around 86 per cent of total working children could not attend the class regularly due to their busy working schedule (Table 7.10). The poor income level of the family was a great hindrance in getting private tuition or coaching or any other guidelines at home. Therefore, the dropout as well as stagnation rate was high among the working children and in this respect the data reveals that around 63 per cent of the total working children dropped out of school while the stagnation was taken place in

school education that was around 73 per cent of total working children (Table 7.11). They had no proper shelter. The houses were mostly damp and there were no sufficient place for accommodation, education and privacy too. Due to lack of sufficient place they faced serious problem to study. Even, they had no adequate books and note books. Besides these, the parents could not provide them private tuition facility. Due to absent of private tuition they could not finish all the home tasks of their classes. Due to this fact they had a fear of scolding and beating by their class teachers. As a result, they lost their interest of going to school. In fact, they had an urgent need to accumulate a fold of rice but the attainment of education was a secondary matter to them. However, they could arrange food not more than twice a day and even sometimes they had to starve. In fact, due to hard manual work and lack of sufficient and nutritious food they became weak and as a result they could not pay attention to their studies. Due to poor health condition they lost their interest in education. Even they were not encouraged by their parents or family members or from society for continuing education. They were dispossessed of getting the light of education to make a bright future. As we all know, next to family, school is such type of platform which can play an important role in socialisation process from where a child can learn norms, values, customs, behavioural pattern and many other important things of their life. But in the studied area the ill-fate of working children was that neither they could learn it from school nor from family properly. Besides these, the social environment was also a great hindrance to their educational progress as well as proper socialisation process. The alcoholism, gambling, inter-familial and intra-familial conflicts were common to observe among the adults which might have an impact on the practices of non-enrolment, dropout, absenteeism or irregular participation in school as well as on their socio-cultural life seriously. Under these circumstances, it was almost impossible for the children to get an appropriate educational environment. However, the social environment was not in favour of them to grow up in a healthy way.

Family Environment and other Problems

The family environment has a great impact on child's social, emotional or psychological development. In the studied families it was common to notice that almost all the family members including children worked hard altogether for the whole day in the stone field.

But considering the fact that, their daylong hard manual labour only could manage a fold of rice but not more than twice a day. In their families the relationship was based on economic performance where the love, sympathy, affection, humanity, kindness were absent. Indeed, due to poverty and poor educational background the parents could not take proper care and guidance of their children. Besides these, drinking habit of father created a serious problem in the family. It is such type of family disease where the user is not only impaired but the other members of the family are also affected. However, this problem was common to notice in the studied families, where most of the fathers of working children became habituated with taking alcohol everyday in the evening. The alcoholism of fathers created chaos in the family because when their fathers became drunk, the other family members reacted against it with fear, despair, confusion and blame. They got aggressive when they were drunk. It seemed like happening of sorrow upon sorrow. This made a bad educational environment of the children and lost their family peace; and their relationships got affected badly and also told upon their mental as well as emotional health. Under these circumstances, most of the children were feeling both emotionally and situationally helplessness. It admits of no doubt such type of problem can rob a child from his childhood. Moreover, the inter-familial and intra-familial conflicts were also liable to make their families inhabitable that created a bad environment.

They got displaced from Bangladesh due to partition, socio-political turmoil, etc. which made them roofless, shelterless, resourceless and incomeless. They came to the stone field and worked hard altogether (able members) for all the day but earned very little as compare to work amount, while the average monthly income was Rs. 2000/- for their average 5 members family. With this poor income they had to manage all the expenses of their family members which include food, shelter, education, treatment and so on. It was very tough for them to provide rice meals thrice a day. Most of the family could provide not more than twice a day and that mainly rice, pulses and vegetables. The nutritious food like fish, egg, meat, fruit, milk etc. could rarely accumulate. Often they had to starve and they lost appetite owing to starvation. They could not eat to the fill as they had not full meal that made their stomach incapable of eating much. They used to feel uneasiness in their stomach due to hunger. They came here in roof less and resourceless condition. They were not in a position to purchase a plot of homestead land. However, with this

poor income they had to maintain their minimum livelihood. They had to choose the vested land of river bed to make their minimum house but their houses became broken soon. It was the fact that particularly in rainy season that became damp which was almost impossible to live. On the other hand, most of their houses (56.80%) were composed of the single room while the remaining (43.20%) had the more than that (Table 8.8). Many of the families accommodated their average 5 family members in the single room houses. It was the fact that they had not separate kitchen and store room. It was noteworthy to mention that around 84 per cent families lived in *kachha* houses that made of wattle walls, *kachha* platform and thatched by corrugated tin. Many of the houses were broken and as a result during rainy season the rain water was falling on the leaky roof that made their houses damp and floor became muddy. Even they could not repair their broken house at proper time due to financial constraint. Most of the houses were congested and the privacy was not maintained. It was the fact that within a single room most of the families had to take rest, cook, sleep and so on. The students faced a lot of problems as most of them had not any separate room for study. Due to lack of space in the house the kin members avoided to come here. Even owing to same many of them failed to manage the place for their house deities. To maintain the minimum health they need minimum food. But it was the fact that with this poor income most of them (61.27%) hardly could manage meals twice a day and that was mainly rice, pulses and vegetable curry. Even many of them had to starve too. They could rarely manage egg, fish, meat, milk, fruits and other health drinks. The problem of malnutrition was common among them and it was reported from the doctors too. It was the fact that most of them were very weak and it was very serious for the working children. They had to work throughout the year paying no attention to the severity of summer, rainy and winter. During summer the temperature of the stone field became very hot. They were burnt by the sun and their clothes became wet from sweating. During winter they were weak by very cold and they had to do work in the stone field while shivering. But in rainy season their clothes got drenched due to continuous heavy rain and they had to do work in wet clothes and due to continuous hard work their clothes became dirty soon. As a result, they had to suffer from cough-cold, sneezing, running nose, headache, skin trouble etc. throughout the year. They took food on the river bed without washing hands and they had not a full meal. Often they had to work in extreme hungry. They fetched drinking water from uncovered well

and also used river water directly while in the stone field. As a consequence, most of them had a serious stomach problem and dysentery. Due to lack of sanitation and drainage system their living environment became polluted very much. The untiring hard work made their body painful and they had to suffer from pain a lot. Besides, often they got serious injured with stone cheaps and iron implements. The breathing problem was noticed among them during study because in the stone field during crushing stones the dust emitted out from the broken up stones which was repeatedly being inhaled though respiration. For the compulsion of hunger they had to go to the work. The untiring labour in extreme hungry made them very weak and sick. The children with sickness had to do the work for all the day. They had to suffer from the pain of various ailments and diseases for all the year round. But due to extreme poverty they could not meet the expense of treatment. They could not afford to see the doctors and also could not purchase all the prescribed medicines and even failed to maintain its full course too. They had no well and proper dress and with this poor income their parents failed to provide it to them. Even many of them had no school uniform and the parents could not provide it always to their children. The dress became dirty and tattered quickly due to rough use of it but due to their cultural habits and poverty these dirty clothes would not be washed regularly and properly. Besides, the parents were unable to provide proper warm clothes to their children and also could not purchase a new dress in puja-festivals for their children. Regular quarrels were happened in the studied families due to various reasons like no food, no proper shelter, lack of room and lack of sufficient space in the room, no dress, lacking of guidance, motivation to do the work, failed to provide proper nutritious food etc. and these all were also the great obstacle factors for their progress of education. Many of them could not eat to the fill and they lost appetite for not getting food sufficiently that made them weak very much. These weak children lost the interest of education. For the agony of hunger these school student had to go to the working field. Due to poor income the parents could not provide necessary books, notebooks, pen, pencil etc. and also could not provide the private tuition to their children. Thus, their educational progress got obstructed very much. The people started to settle here from 25 to 30 years ago and it was mainly after the independence of Bangladesh and yet it is continuing. During independence and post independence of Bangladesh several communal violence and political turmoil were taken place which hampered the life and

livelihoods of many of the studied families. Due to these facts many had lost their all properties in various ways and it was the fact that many became shelterless and propertyless. In this situation many of the people were forced to come in this area and among them many came in this Balasan River bed for settling and earning and yet it is continuing. It was the fact that many of the studied people had not the ration card, voter identity card, birth certificate etc. Due to this fact, they were being debarred from various government facilities and were facing the problem of identity crisis as they were treated by others as 'identity less' or 'refugees'. These matters created so many problems in their family. They failed to meet various Government helps and schemes like Indira Awas Yojna, treatment facility, ration facility, and other securities of living. Due to this fact they had a serious tension and some of them could not hide their tension. They had a question to ask that how long would they live as identity less? And what will happen to their children? As a result, their socio-cultural life got hampered very much. From the very beginning the children observed and learned the above mentioned facts which affected their normal progress and development; as culture is transmitted from one generation to the next. Children were the worst sufferer due to effect of poor socio-economic and cultural environment of the families. However, all these situations as well as agents moulded their socialization process and created various psychological problems.

In the studied area, it was common to notice that most of the children were deprived of their basic needs and rights. Even they did not get love, affection, sympathy, kindness as well as proper care of their parents. In most of the cases mother took their little baby to the working field and due to this fact from the very beginning their mental setup were grown up with the effect of working environment and also by stones, sands and other stone crushing implements. And a fondness of the same was gradually developed into their mind and they became accustomed with the concerned environment. They observed in their daily life that in the stone field so many people were doing different types of activities such as stone collection and sand gathering, stone crushing, truck loading and so on. Gradually they began to learn the work.



Figure 10.2: A little girl observing her mother crushing stones



Figure 10.3: A little girl crushing stones and her very little brother observing it



Figure 10.4: A child crushing stones and his little sister observing it



Figure 10.5: Little children participating in their favourite sport with stones

Most of the children did not get any co-operation from their parents to fulfill their minimum needs and even they did not get proper guidance and awareness from neighbours, relatives and other elder members of the family. The children had no other ways but following their livelihood pattern. Owing to same socio-economic and cultural practices their peer groups were also going through a same situation and the studied working children were not excluded from it. Personal grooming and appearance was another serious problem faced by the working children in the studied area. Their hair colour, condition of teeth, dress, and health were the important indicator for physical appearance. In this connection, the irregular maintenance of personal hygiene and over working in a day were the main responsible factors for creating such problem.

Most of the working children in the studied area were suffering from psychological complexities. They had to get involved in the work from the very beginning of life that might have an adverse impact on their emotional as well as mental health. All the families had to work hard for the whole day in the stone field to accumulate a handful of rice. In economic field the struggle and competition were found to be developed among them. Due to daylong working involvement most of the children could not manage adequate time for playing games, watching television or cinema, and other enjoyment. The data reveals that most of the (89.12%) working children could not participate in recreation (Table 9.1). They were dispossessed of enjoying free life, leisure and recreation. Moreover, the relationship between parents and their children was based on

economic performance. Most of the parents were aggressive in nature. Even most of the working children were scolded and often beaten up by their parents for absent in work. They had to do this work against their will that might have an adverse impact on their mental health. The drinking habit of father had a bad impact on child psychology. Most of the fathers spent some rupees from their little earnings for taking alcohol daily. Often mothers were beaten up by their husbands when they reacted to it. Their husband became aggressive when they were drunk which was responsible to create a bad family environment and children were the worst sufferers because of aggressive characters of father. As a result, their emotional as well as behavioural problems were developed among their children. The continuous depression of parents might be responsible for developing a psychological problem among the studied children. Besides these, inter-familial and intra-familial conflicts had seriously affected the emotional health of the children. The confusion, fear and despair were developed into their mind. Moreover, from an early childhood their psychological feelings had turned into serious complexities and frustration.

The studied families had a serious economic problem. During independence and post independence of Bangladesh they got displaced due to partition and socio-political turmoil and due to this fact they became roofless, shelterless, resourceless and incomeless. Under these circumstances, they were forced to migrate in Balasan River basin for permanent settlement and earning. They worked hard for all the day but they earned very little as compare to their work amount. The average monthly income was Rs. 2000/-. Due to poor earnings they could not meet the adequate needs of living. Therefore, they used their children as a source of earning. The children were sent to work to get rid of poverty. In their daily diet they could hardly manage rice, pulses and little amount of vegetables but not more than twice a day. Due to poor income, they could rarely eat fish, meat, egg, milk, fruits and other health drinks. They could not eat to the feel and they had a burning sensation in their stomach due to hunger. However, the daylong hard manual work with less nutritious food made them weak very much. Even often they had to do work in extreme hungry. The studied children became weak by malnutrition. Besides, they fetched water from uncovered well and also used the river water without any

filtering for drinking and other purposes too and as a result they had to suffer from serious stomach problems and other water-borne diseases throughout the year.

They had not own homestead land and they made their houses on the river bed that was the vested land. Their dwelling houses were mostly *kachha* type and it was ill ventilated and broken too. The outside rain water leaked into their rooms through walls and roofs that made the houses damp and the floors became muddy and also damaged many household objects as well as books, notebooks too. During summer season the insider atmosphere of the houses was very much suffocating. As a consequence, they had to suffer from cough and cold, running nose, nasal blockage, sneezing, headache, fever etc. All the family members had to share the single little room. Due to this fact they could not maintain their privacy and also could not pay attention to their studies and even their kin members generally tried to avoid visiting their homes. Even, there was no electricity, drainage system and sanitation facility in their houses. They could not read and write well due to poor light at night. Due to the absence of latrine they used either the backside of the house or the open river bed for nature's call. Owing to this poor and unhygienic living they were weak by various ill healths.

They had no well and sufficient dress. Due to poor income the parents could not always provide a new dress to them and many of them had no school uniform as well. Even during *puja* festivals they were not provided any new clothe too. The clothes became tattered and dirty soon due to rough use of it but they could rarely wash it. They had no proper warm clothes and owing to this fact during winter they had to work in freezing cold while shivering.

The working children in the studied area were suffering from various diseases and ailments throughout the year. The working environment was very much poor and unhygienic. They had to do work for all the year round ignoring the fact of burning heat of summer and biting cold of winter. The hard work throughout the day in hazardous working condition made them very sick as they were suffering from skin problem, cold and cough, fever, breathing problem, physical injuries, body pain, giddiness, headache etc. Due to busy working schedule they could not maintain their good standard of

personal hygiene. Their unclean bathing might have resulted in various skin troubles. Apart from these, they had to depend upon uncovered wells for drinking and other necessary household works and they also used the river water while in the stone field. Due to lack of health consciousness and awareness they did not take any precautionary measures like filtering, boiling etc. before using this water which might have caused the water-borne diseases like stomach problem, dysentery etc. In their daily diet they could manage rice, pulses and little amount of vegetable curry. But they could afford to eat meal not more than twice a day. Owing to little earnings, they could not accumulate fish, meat, egg, fruit, milk and other health drinks. The parents could not give them a full feed and as a result they lost appetite. The insufficient food with hard manual labour might have resulted in malnutrition. They had to depend upon both the untrained quacks of local medicinal shops and traditional medicine men because there was no health centre in their village. Due to poverty they could not meet the expense of proper medical check up for long time and also could not purchase all the doctors prescribed medicines, as a result they had to stop treatment in the middle. Moreover, in the studied area the health profile of working children revealed an unpleasant condition.

Most of the working children in the studied area were first generation learner and due to this fact they did not get proper guidance from their parents. They had no proper shelter and there were no sufficient space and electricity in their houses. As a result, they could not pay attention to their studies and also could not read the books well. They had no adequate books, note books, pen, pencil, private tuition etc. Due to lack of private tuition they could not solve all the home tasks those were provided by their class teachers. Owing to this fact they had a fear of scolding and beating by their class teachers. As a result, they lost their interest of schooling and became very irregular. The daylong hard labour in the stone field with lack of sufficient and nutritious food they became very weak. As a consequence, they could not pay concentration to their studies.

They got displaced mainly due to communal violence and political turmoil resulted in their life and livelihoods got affected badly. They lost their all properties that made them shelterless, roofless and resourceless. Under these circumstances, they were forced to migrate in Balasan River basin for permanent settlement and involvement in stone based

work and yet it is happening. But due to this fact many of them had not the ration card and voter identity card etc. As a result, they could not meet to enjoy the government facilities and they were also treated by others as 'identity less' or 'refugees'. As a consequence, they were facing the problem of identity crisis that created a tension in their family.

The development of the studied children got obstructed by their bad family environment. The relationship among the members was based on economic performance. They had to do work hard altogether for all the day in the stone field. In the studied families the love, affection, sympathy, humanity, kindness were almost absent. Due to extreme poverty, busy working schedule, and poor educational background the parents could not take proper care of their children. The alcoholism of fathers created a tension in their families. They got aggressive and made chaos in the family when they were drunk. As a result, the peaceful family environment got affected seriously that had a bad impact on mental as well as emotional health of the children and the children could not pay attention to their studies. Besides these, the continuous depression of their parents might have a great impact on the development of psychological problem among the studied children. They worked hard altogether for the whole day but their payment was very little as compare to their work amount. Their average monthly earnings was Rs. 2000/- for their average five members family. They had to run their family with great difficulty and they could not manage all the expenses of necessary requirements like food, shelter, dress, education, treatment etc. They could hardly manage food not more than twice a day and it was poor nutritious. In their daily diet they could eat rice, pulses and vegetable curry but could rarely manage fish, egg, meat, fruit, milk etc. Even they had not the full meal and often they had to starve, as a result they had a burning sensation in their stomach due to hunger. They had a serious problem of shelter. Due to lack of sufficient room and space in the room all the members had to share the single little room. As a result, they could not maintain their privacy and the children also faced problem in their studies. Moreover, their family life got disturbed very much and the children were the worst sufferers due to their poor family environment.

“Child is father of man” – thus goes the wordsworthing saying. In fact the future of every society or nation as a whole rests on the shoulders of children. Unfortunately, due to various reasons like illiteracy, poverty and other socio-economic constraints children are deprived of their rights and they met abuse, misuse and exploitation. In developing countries and backward society this problem is acute (Bagulia, 2006: cover page). However, the forgoing discussion about various types of problems of working children has attempted to show the raised problems along with the concerned causal factors in wider perspective. Besides these, there might be a probability to have some tiny problems which could not seem to come in the light of our outlook as they were facing lot of difficulties. Perhaps most of us would not like to show our interest to realize their plight state that proved a proverb like “one cannot really feel for another”. But it seems true that their scalding tears may be come down as a curse in our child’s life. Upon God, they are innocent. A major section of them were suffering from acute malnutrition as they could not afford eat rice to the fill and though they had an expectation to eat meal twice a day but often it became unbearable to most of their parents. Even, often they had to starve. Therefore, for the compulsion of hunger the children went to work. Even most of studied children had no such idea of taking meal thrice a day but at the same time another section of children in our society are given more rather than their expectation. The surprising matter is that both of them are growing up in our society. Hence, I have a question to ask that why there should be a huge discrimination? Many of us may express the fact that it is a decree of God, so who will undo what is ordained by fate? Obviously it is true but we can afford to reverse it if we are willing to do it as I know that nothing succeeds like a serious effort. So we should come forward to extend our helping hand to save their life and make them free from such type of social evil.

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