

Child Labour in Assam

(A Case Study of Sivasagar and Dibrugarh Districts).

Sri Dina Gogoi

Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Nagaland University

ABSTRACT

Child labour is a major challenge confronted by the societies all over the world. Child labour is a problem which not only affects at present but also cause of future economic inefficiency. Child labour refers the sufferings and sacrificing of early young age potentialities for paid or unpaid work. In general, economic activity those hamper the education, family care, cause of ill health and bottlenecks for physical and mental development of a child is called child labour. C. Chitra rightly mentioned that "Don't ask children to take tool, instead send them to school."

Assam is a poverty ridden state of India where 99512 nos. of children (3.2% of total child population) were working as child labourers in 2011. The sample areas of Sivasagar and Dibrugarh district of Assam have also been shown the higher rate of child labour incidence. From this study it has seen that school dropout is the root cause of child labour. The effectiveness of Govt. policy measures to curb the child labour is found to be very low. This study is a footstep to find out the pros and corns of child labour and try to find out its remedial measures.

KEY WORDS: *Child Labour, Assam, Case Study, Cause, Policy Measures.*

INTRODUCTION:

Child labour is a major challenge confronted by the societies all over the world. Child labour is a problem which not only affects at present but also cause of future economic inefficiency. In general the term child labour is used in society as a consequence of harmful, unjust and full of exploitation. There is a tiny border line between child labour and child work. Child labour refers the sufferings and sacrificing of early young age potentialities for paid or unpaid work. In general, economic activity those hamper the education, family care, cause of ill health and bottlenecks for physical and mental development of a child is called child labour. So, each and every child work cannot be termed as child labour. Because that economic activity which never effect for all round development of a child cannot be termed as child labour, instead of it refers as child work which reflects contribution of a child to the family and even sometimes it became a component for Intelligent Quotient(I.Q.) development of a child. Child Labour is a major threat for proper Human Resource formation. In this point of view one quotation by C. Chitra is more appropriate that "Don't ask children to take tool, instead send them to school." Child Labour as major threat for human society, Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi rightly mentioned in the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour that "Whose children are they who toil in mines, factories and fields at the cost of their freedom and education? They are all our children. Please don't accept hospitality where children are working. Why 152 million child labourers when 210 million are adults jobless?" As like Pandit Nehru we can say that "A healthy child will give us a healthy

society.” According to Nelson Mandela “There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.

Definition of Child Labour:

The definition of child labour basically related with the age which has traditional as well as socio-cultural frame. The United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines as a child “any person who has not reached the age of eighteen unless a different age of maturity is specified in any country’s law, applicable to the child.” Regarding the minimum age of child labour UNCRC discussed time to time and according to Article 2 of the ILO convention no.182 fixed it at the age of 18 years. In India, Article 24 of Indian Constitution defined the age of child up to 14 years of age. Again in case of free and compulsory education in India defined the child age at 18 years. According to Child Labour (Prohibition and regulation) Amendment Bill, passed by the parliament on 22th July, 2016 prohibits employment of children below 14 years completely and prohibits employment adolescent (14-18 years) in hazardous occupation/processes.

According to ILO report, nearly 22,000(twenty two thousand) child are killed at work every day globally. This is a very panic picture for entire people of this globe. Besides this, ILO mentioned that it’s uncountable how many are toiling sever injury and fall sick in their works. UNICEF and ILO estimated globally 168 million children (i.e., 11% of the overall child population) of 5-17 age groups were involved in child labour in 2015. As we know child labour is totally prohibited by Indian constitution and defined as punishable offence who patronized it, therefore no question of child labour engagement in organized sector. So, child labour is totally related to unorganized sector and it is a roots cause of increase supply of unskilled labour force to the economy in future.

Child labour is a complex problem for Indian economy. According to 2011 population census in India, out of 259.6 million children of 5-14 age groups 10.2 (3.93% of total child population and 3.1% of total workers) million children are working as child labourers. It decreased from 12.7 (5.05% of total child population) million according to 2001 population census. Assam is a state of India where 351416 nos. (4% of total child population) of children had been working as child labourers in 2001. But, this figure decreased to 99512 nos. (3.2% of total child population) in 2011. The facts and figures of child labour in different states of India are shown in Table – 6.1 based on 2001 and 2011 population census. According to population census, 2011 among the different states Uttar Pradesh is comprising highest numbers of child labourers i.e., 8,96,301 followed by Maharashtra 4,96,916. The union territories Lakshadweep shows the lowest numbers of child labourers according to 2011 population census i.e., 28 only followed by another union Territories Daman and Diu comprising only 774 nos. In India, there are total 43, 53,247 nos. of child labour in the age group of 5-14 as a whole according to 2011 population census which decrease from 2001 census figure 1,26,66,377 nos. Such declining rate of child labour is witnessing in India because of rigorous effort by different Human Right Organization and Activist, NGOs and Government to eliminating it. The free and compulsory education scheme enacted by Govt. of India plays the major role in this direction. But this declining rate is not up to the expected level and still India has far away from child labour free society. The picture will be different if we consider the age of child up to 18 years. It will be more worst if we consider the childhood age up to 21 years for boys’ and 18 years for girls’ which ILO newly tried to implemented. The declining rate of India’s child labour figures is not expected level due to poor conviction rate to violators, poverty, illiteracy and people’s apathy towards child labour. As per the Lok Sabha Report 2.54 lakhs children were rescued and rehabilitated in India for the period 2014 to 2018. In the state of Assam there are 11,102 nos. child

labourers were rescued and rehabilitated in the same period. As an example of low conviction rate of violators of child labour regulation, Assam witnessed 117 nos. of cases of child rights violation, out of these only 59 cases prosecuted and none of the violators convicted for that. The UNO's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targeted to eradicate forced labor, modern slavery and end of child labour in all its forms by 2025.

Table – 6.1

State-wise details of working children in the age group of 5-14 years as per census 2011

Sl. No.	Name of State/ UT	Census 2011	Census 2001
1	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1960	999
2	Andhra Pradesh	1363339	404851
3	Arunachal Pradesh	18482	5766
4	Assam	351416	99512
5	Bihar	1117500	451590
6	Chandigarh (UT)	3779	3135
7	Chattisgarh	364572	63884
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	4274	1054
9	Daman and Diu (UT)	729	774
10	Delhi (UT)	41899	26473
11	Goa	4138	6920
12	Gujarat	485530	250318
13	Haryana	253491	53492
14	Himachal Pradesh	107774	15001
15	Jammu & Kashmir	175630	25528
16	Jharkhand	407200	90996
17	Karnataka	822615	249432
18	Kerala	26156	21757
19	Lakshadweep (UT)	27	28
20	Madhya Pradesh	1065259	286310
21	Maharashtra	764075	496916
22	Manipur	28836	11805
23	Meghalaya	53940	18839
24	Mizoram	26265	2793
25	Nagaland	45874	11062
26	Odisha	377594	92087
27	Pondicherry (UT)	1904	1421
28	Punjab	177268	90353
29	Rajasthan	1262570	252338
30	Sikkim	16457	2704
31	Tamil Nadu	418801	151437
32	Tripura	21756	4998

33	Uttar Pradesh	1927997	896301
34	Uttarakhand	70183	28098
35	West Bengal	857087	234275
	Total	12666377	4353247

Source: Population Census 2001 & 2011.

As Jawaharlal Nehru,

independent India's first Prime Minister, says, "A healthy child gives birth to a healthy nation" (quoted in Gangrade and Gathia 1983: 1). For a nation to progress, the benefits or the importance of investing in children and underlining their welfare can never be overstated.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

A large volume of literature has been developed on child labour in India. Some literatures relevant for child labour have been reviewed here.

A study team Institute of Applied Man Power Research (IAMR), New Delhi studied in Azamgarh district, U.P. on "Child Labour in Informal Sector" in 1992-93. The case study covers 644 working children of 492 households. The major findings of this study are as follows; (i) The dropped out of school population is highest in the U.P. with 50%, (ii) Such child population is the main reservoir of child labour, (iii) Most children are either self-employed, wage paid or unpaid family workers in the unorganized sector, (iv) child labour is encouraged by their parents, for they look at child as an asset, (v) nearly 25% child labourers work for more than seven hours in a day and most of them are semi-skilled, (vi) the various schemes for controlling or banning the child labour practices do not have any impact. For, due to negative attitude toward schooling parents put their children in factories which are outside the purview of Factories Act and other legislation. In fact, child labour is not an economic problem alone; it has social and cultural dimensions too.

Neera Burra, a representative of the UNDP carried out a field investigation in brass-ware factories (U.P.), Jem polishing factories (Rajasthan), Lock making and Glass factories (U.P.), Diamond cutting factories (Gujarat) in India. The findings of the investigation have been compiled in "Born to Work: Child Labour in India" (1997). There, Neera Burra has documented the tragic plight of child labour which as improvement as Meer Nair's Prize winning film "Salaam Bombay" where the lives of street children in Bombay have been poignantly portrayed. The working conditions which are full of tortures and abuse, that stunt the physical and mental growth of working children have been identified and narrated throughout the work. The possibility and plausibility of removing child labour in various activities, role of vested interests in bringing a child born into the fold of labour force to work in factory, necessity of compulsory Education and laws banning the child labour practices have also been discussed.

Haspels and Jankanish's (2000, ed.) with "Action against child labour" is an important work on national policies and programmes against child labour. In their study they makes references to Tanzania, Thailand, Philippines, Eklavya in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (India), Jatio Sramik League of Bangladesh, Cheli-Beti programme of Nepal and DLG of Pakistan.

“Learning or working?” is a compilation of works on child labour and basic education by the UNICEF (1995). In this study the situations of child labour in Ghana, Nigeria, Peru, India, the USA and Colombia have been described. The study argues necessity of compulsory education for elimination of child labour.

The work “Child Labour” Reddy (1999,ed.) consists various issues on child labour and socio economic conditions of child labourers both in organized and unorganized sectors in India. The volume urges for immediate end to hazardous and exploitative child labour, support for education and legal protection so that poor children may acquire the productive skill to promote their socio economic condition and lives.

The work done by Mustafa and Sharma (2008) deals with the causes of child labour, their level and magnitude in India, different action plans, rules and regulations, Laws, policy implemented by the Government and discussed different supreme court judgment on it. Based on their findings they suggested some short terms and long terms measures to curb the child labour in India.

The work “Child work, poverty and under development” done by ILO has deals with the main cros and prons of child labour and its conceptual difficulties. This work edited by G. Rodgers and Gay Standing and one chapter of this work “The economic roles of Children in India: Methodological issues” has been devoted to child labour in India.

ILO (1981) “Children at work” is an extensive study on child labourers in different parts of the world. It was estimate that there were 56 million child labourers in the world and most of them found in developing Countries.

Hazarika (2008) in his work “Child labour in India” deals with the history, magnitude and structure of child labour in India including Assam. He extensively studied about the main causes of child labour, policy frame work and action plan implemented by the govt. of India and their effectiveness.

The work entitled “Human rights in child labour in Indian Industries” done by Anu Saksena trying to highlight how in few selected Industries in India. The presence of child labour is too high and how the Human right violation must occurs within these industries. Effectiveness of different national legislation and action plan on child labour in India is another part of her study. She also focused about children as a source of future development.

“Implementation Hand Book for the convention on the rights of the Child” (1998) is an important publication by UNICEF. This publication provides references for the implementation of Law, Policy and Practice to promote and protect the rights of Children.

Child work and Education (1998) is a collection of interesting findings of the case study of Latin America done by the UNICEF. In this study it has been discovered that child labour is not only a result of economic need or exploitation but also a consequence of children dropping out from schools to join in labour force due to poor quality of schooling. According to this study education system is bankrupt. Hence, it has suggested that education system should be reformed by and large.

Child Labour in Sample Areas:

India is the soil of largest depositor of child labour and Assam a poverty ridden state of India is not exception of it. The sample area of Sivasagar and Dibrugarh districts of Assam have been shown the existence of higher rate of child labour. It has been found that there are total 18 nos. of child labour in both of the districts. Dibrugarh district comprise more child labour i.e., 10 nos. than Sivasagar district comprising only 8 nos. of child labour. In the survey areas of Sivasagar and Dibrugarh districts out of

195 child population 18 nos. (9.23%) are found to be active child labour. In Sivasagar district out of total 96 nos. of 5 - 14 age child population 8 nos. of child (i.e., 8.33% of total child) are working as child labourer. Again in Dibrugarh district out of 99 nos. of 5-14 age group child labourers 10(10.10%) are working as pro-active child labourers. The magnitude of child labour would be found high if we consider the child age up to 18 years.

Level and Magnitude of Child Labour Area-wise:

In India most of the child labour found in rural based agricultural sector and it is a common characteristic of Indian child labourers. But, the magnitudes of child labour in urban areas are increasing day by day due to different reasons. The following Table – 6.2 shows the details of child labour of the sample survey areas according to sex-wise and area-wise. The following Table – 6.2 has shown that out of total 18 nos. child labourers 11 nos. (61.11%) are male and only 7 nos. (38.89%) are female. Most of the child labourers of the survey areas are found to be work in rural areas. Out of total 18 nos. child workers 12 nos. (66.67%) are engaged in rural areas and only 6 nos. (33.33%) engaged in urban areas. In the sample survey areas it has been found that existence of rural and urban areas disparities for child labourers are very high and mostly child labourers in both of the district are concentrated in rural areas.

Table- 6.2
Level and Magnitude of Child Labour of the Survey Areas

Sl. No.	Areas	Sivasagar			Dibrugarh			Total
		Male	Female	Sub-total	Male	Female	Sub-total	
1	Rural	3(37.5%)	2(25.0%)	5(62.5%)	4(40.0%)	3(30.0%)	7(70.0%)	12(66.67%)
2	Urban	2(25.0%)	1(12.5%)	3(37.5%)	2(20%)	1(10.0%)	3(30.0%)	6(33.33%)
3	Total	5(62.5%)	3(37.5%)	8(100%)	6(60.0%)	4(40.0%)	10(100%)	18(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Age Group of Child Labourers: For child labour basically the adolescent are the targeted group in the age of 10-14. In the survey areas most of the child labourers are belong to 12 to 14 years age groups. More than half of the child laboureres (i.e., 55.56%) have been consisted from this age group. Following this, the age group 9 to 11 is consisted 33.33% of total child labourers. The age group 5 to 8 consisted only 11.11% of total child labourers. It has reflected that most of the incidence of child labourers occurred between the age group 10 to 14 due to high rate of school dropout child population.

Table- 6.3
Age-wise distribution of Child Labourers of the Sample Areas

Sl. No.	Age	Sivasagar			Dibrugarh			Grand Total
		Male	Female	Sub-Total	Male	Female	Sub-Total	
1	5 to 8	1(12.5%)	0(0%)	1(12.5%)	0(0%)	1(10.0%)	1(10.0%)	2(11.11%)
2	9 to 11	2(25.0%)	1(12.5%)	3(37.5%)	2(20.0%)	1(10.0%)	3(30.0%)	6(33.33%)
3	12 to 14	2(25.0%)	2(25.0%)	4(50.0%)	4(40.0%)	2(20.0%)	6(60.0%)	10(55.56%)
4	Total	5(62.5%)	3(37.5%)	8(100%)	6(60.0%)	4(40.0%)	10(100%)	18(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Social Group and Child Labourers: From the secondary data it has proved that the Schedule Tribe community is the reservoir of child labourers as a consequence of their family apathy towards child labour and their customs and traditional nature of occupation. Regarding the social group of the child labourers in the survey areas most of the child labourers are belongs to Schedule Tribes (ST) as they engaged traditional manual occupation. Out of total child labourers 44.45% are belongs to ST category followed by OBC and MOBC 33.33%. The Schedule Cast (SC) community also consisted 16.67% and the General Category consisted only 5.55% of total child labourers.

Table- 6.4

Social Category-wise distribution of Child Labourers of the Sample Areas

Sl. No.	Social Category	Sivasagar			Dibrugarh			Grand Total
		Male	Female	Sub-Total	Male	Female	Sub-Total	
1	ST	2(25.0%)	1(12.5%)	3(37.5%)	3(30.0%)	2(20.0%)	5 (50.0%)	8(44.45%)
2	SC	1(12.5%)	0(0.0%)	1(12.5%)	1(10.0%)	1(10.0%)	2(20.0%)	3(16.67%)
3	OBC/MOBC	2(25.0%)	1(12.5%)	3(37.5%)	2(20.0%)	1(10.0%)	3(30.0%)	6(33.33%)
4	General	0(0.0%)	1(12.5%)	1(12.5%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(5.55%)
5	Total	5(62.5%)	3(37.5%)	8(100%)	6(60.0%)	4(40.0%)	10(100%)	18(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Paid and Unpaid Child Labourers: A large section of child labour still working as an unpaid

domestic as well as household industry workers. Even in other occupations also of child labourers most of them working as unpaid workers only for bread and due to exploitation of the employers they are not getting a penny despite long hours hard work. In the survey areas it has found that most of the child labourers are rural based agricultural labourers and a large section of them are working as unpaid workers. Out of total child labourers of the sample areas 38.89% are working as unpaid workers. And the rest, 61.11% are working as paid workers which are shown very distinctly in the Table-6.5.

Table- 6.5
Paid and Unpaid Child Labourers of the Sample Areas

Sl. No.	Category	Sivasagar			Dibrugarh			Grand Total
		Male	Female	Sub-Total	Male	Female	Sub-Total	
1	Paid	3(37.5%)	2(25.0%)	5(62.5%)	3(30.0%)	3(30.0%)	6(60.0%)	11(61.11%)
2	Unpaid	2(25.0%)	1(12.5%)	3(37.5%)	3(30.0%)	1(10.0%)	4(40.0%)	7(38.89%)
4	Total	5(62.5%)	3(37.5%)	8(100%)	6(60.0%)	4(40.0%)	10(100%)	18(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Child Labour and Education: There is an inverse relationship between child labour and educational enrollment ratio. If the child enrolled for education and continuing their schooling then there is less possibility to enter them in labour market. In the survey areas it has found that a large number of child labourers are either illiterate or drop-out. The dropout rates among the child labourers are found to be very high either at the primary level or in the intermediate level. Some of the child labourers are still continuing school despite the burden of works and for that they have to sacrifice their schooling hours which finally make them drop outs. The following Table – 6.6 shows the details about the educational attainment level of child labour of the survey areas. Out of the total child labourers 44.44 % of child labourers are found to be illiterate and rests 55.56% are found to be literate. Only 5.56% are attained under matriculation level. Literate child labourers are able to reads and writes and also arithmetical calculations for their wages.

Table- 6.6

Educational Attainment Level of the Child Labourers of the Sample Areas								
Sl.No	Educational Attainment Level	Sivasagar			Dibrugarh			Grand Total
		Male	Female	Sub-Total	Male	Female	Sub-Total	
1	Illiterate	2(25.0%)	1(12.5%)	3(37.5%)	3(30.0%)	2(20.0%)	5(50.0%)	8(44.44%)
2	Primary Level	1(12.5%)	1(12.5%)	2(25.0%)	1(10.0%)	1(10.0%)	2(20.0%)	4(22.22%)
3	Intermediate	1(12.5%)	1(12.5%)	2(25.0%)	2(20.0%)	1(10.0%)	3(30.0%)	5(27.78%)
4	Under-matriculate	1(12.5%)	0(0.0%)	1(12.5%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(5.56%)
6	Total	5(62.5%)	3(37.5%)	8(100%)	6(60.0%)	4(40.0%)	100(100%)	18(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Child Labour in Hazardous Work: Hazardous work means that type of work which affect the mental and physical caliber of a child i.e., long hours of works, night hours works, unhealthy work environment, use of unsafe equipment, heavy load , dangerous location and abuse by the owner. Again morally degradable activity like slavery, use for prostitution, pornography, forced bagging and stealing are also called hazardous work. Even though it includes school hour's consumption and age of child labour and type of works that he or she involved. As we know in this globe a large numbers of child sacrifice their lives for work and lots of toiling severs injuries which make them indifferently able person for entire life. Basically child labourers those are working in mining and quarrying and manufacturing sector are frequently encountered by severe injuries and have to sacrifice their life for work in the early age of life. In the survey areas it has found that 27.78% child labourers are working in Hazardous works and they were toiling life threats every day in work place. Even in the sample areas it has found that few of the female child labour facing life threats for sexual exploitation and few of the child labour facing unhygienic condition of works. Out of total child population 72.22% child labourers are working in non-hazardous work.

Table- 6.7
Work-wise distribution of Child Labourers of the Sample Areas

Sl. No	Type of Works	Sivasagar			Dibrugarh			Grand Total
		Male	Female	Sub-Total	Male	Female	Sub-Total	
1	Hazardous	2(25.0%)	0(0.0%)	2(25.0%)	2(20.0%)	1(10.0%)	3(30.0%)	5(27.78%)
2	Non-Hazardous	3(37.5%)	3(37.5%)	6(75.0%)	4(40.00%)	3(30.0%)	7(70.0%)	13(72.22%)
3	Total	5(62.5%)	3(37.5%)	8(100%)	6(60.0%)	4(40.0%)	10(100%)	18(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Child Labour in different Occupation: As a source of low cost labour suppliers, child labourers are seen in various occupations. Basically child labour are found to as low paying Agricultural Labourers, Carpet Industry workers, Brick Kilns, Beedi and Cigar Industry, Incense stick making Industry, Crackers making industry, Salesmen etc. where low paying unskilled child labourers can produce huge quantities and give the producer bumper benefits. There has been found nine categories of child labourers in the survey areas. These are as Self-employed agricultural labourers(i.e., Cultivators), Agricultural Child Labourers, Households Industry Workers, Plantation, Livestock, Fishing, Forestry, Hunting and allied activities, Mining and Quarrying, Manufacturing and Construction, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Hotels and Restaurants, Transport, Storage and Communications etc. Out of these nine categories child labourers rural based Self-employed Agricultural Labourers or Cultivators comprised 33.33% followed by Agricultural Labourers 22.22% of total child labourers of the sample areas. Following these occupation Manufacturing and Construction sector comprised 11.11% of total child labourers. Other occupation like Households Industry Workers, Plantation, Livestock, Fishing, Forestry, Hunting and allied activities, Mining and Quarrying, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Hotels and Restaurants, Transport, Storage and Communications are comprised equal share to total child labour i.e. 5.56%. As the nature of the state child labourers the sample areas data also shown that the sample areas child labour has a characteristics of rural based agricultural prone workforce.

Table- 6.8

Category-wise Level and Magnitude of Child Labour of the Survey Areas

Sl. No.	Category	Sivasagar			Dibrugarh			Grand-total
		Male	Female	Sub-total	Male	Female	Sub-total	
1	Self-employed Agricultural Labourers	2(25.0%)	1(12.5%)	3(37.5%)	2(20.0%)	1(10.0%)	3(20.0%)	6(33.33%)
2	Agricultural Labourers	1(12.5%)	1(12.5%)	2(25.0%)	1(10.0%)	1(10.0%)	2(20.0%)	4(22.22%)
3	Households Industry Workers	1(12.5%)	0(0%)	1(12.5%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(5.56%)
4	Plantation, Livestock, Fishing, Forestry, Hunting and Allied Activities	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(10.0%)	0(0%)	1(10.0%)	1(5.56%)
5	Mining and Quarrying	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(10.0%)	1(10.0%)	1(5.56%)
6	Manufacturing and Construction	1(12.5%)	0(0%)	1(12.5%)	0(0%)	1(10.0%)	1(10.0%)	2(11.11%)
7	Wholesale and Retail Trade	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(10.0%)	0(0%)	1(10.0%)	1(5.56%)
8	Hotels and Restaurants	0(0%)	1(12.5%)	1(12.5%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(5.56%)
9	Transport, Storage and Communications etc.	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(10.0%)	0(0%)	1(10.0%)	1(5.56%)
10	Total	5(62.5%)	3(37.5%)	8(100%)	6(60.0%)	4(40.0%)	10(100%)	18(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Causes of Child Labour: Different social scientist reveals different causes of child labour. Out of these the common root causes are Poverty, Ignorance and Apathy of the Family, Social Apathy and Environment, Overpopulation, Lack Proper Educational Facilities, Custom and Traditional Attitude, Lack of Distinct Policy for Child Labour Elimination, Parental Loss, Migration, Indebtness of Family, Impact of Globalization, Unemployment, Socio-economic backwardness etc. In the survey areas it has found that most of the child labour incidence

occurred due to Poverty (38.89%), followed by Indebtness of Family (16.67%), Ignorance and Apathy of Family(11.11%), Custom and Traditional Attitude (11.11%) and others like Lack of Distinct Policy for Child Labour Protection, Parental Loss, Migration, Impact of Globalization are consisted 5.56% each. So, it is found that economic weaknesses are the major cause behind the **child labour**.

Table - 6.9
Causes for Child Labour in the Survey Areas

Sl. No	Causes	Sivasagar			Dibrugarh			Grand Total
		Male	Female	Sub-total	Male	Female	Sub-total	
1	Poverty	2(25.0%)	1(12.5%)	3(37.5%)	2(20.0%)	2(20.0%)	4(40.0%)	7(38.89%)
2	Ignorance and Apathy of the Family	1(12.5%)	0(0.0%)	1(12.5%)	1(10.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(10.0%)	2(11.11%)
5	Custom and Traditional Attitude	0(0.0%)	1(12.5%)	1(12.5%)	0(0.0%)	1(10.0%)	1(10.0%)	2(11.11%)
6	Lack of Distinct Policy for Child Labour Protection	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(10.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(10.0%)	1(5.56%)
7	Parental Loss	1(12.5%)	0.00%	1(12.5%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(5.56%)
8	Migration	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(10.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(10.0%)	1(5.56%)
9	Indebtness of Family	1(12.5%)	1(12.5%)	2(25.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(10.0%)	1(10.0%)	3(16.67%)
10	Impact of Globalization	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(10.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(10.0%)	1(5.56%)
11	Total	5(62.5%)	3(37.5%)	8(100%)	6(60.0%)	4(40.0%)	10(100%)	18(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Policy Implication on Child Labour and Their Effectiveness: In global level ILO and UNO enacted different policy and regulations time to time to curb the child labour and to eliminate such heinous problem from this globe. But, it is not an easy task to drive out the child labour from the society as it is a source of cheapest, traditional and easily assessable source of labour. Indian Govt. as signatory authority of ILO and UNO implemented different policy and regulations to curb the child labour and drive out it from the society. Somehow few laws and policy are effective in this direction but still these laws and policy are far away to achieve their goal and still lots of modification and additions are necessary in this mission. In the survey

areas it has found that policy implemented by the Central and State Govt., Local Govt. Bodies and Statutory Agencies, NGOs, Social Activist, UNICEF have been effective impact on child labour but still a little portion unreached by this policies due to parents apathy and ignorance about the harmful effect of child labour. Out of all effort it has seen that under the Right to Education Act, Sarva Siksha Abhijan(SSA) has a tremendous effect. The free and compulsory educations are sharply decreasing the child labour rate in survey areas. Basically mid-day meal scheme attracted more malnourished child to school. Again, the policy and awareness program taken by the UNICEF and NGOs have a significant effect for child labour elimination. As we know child labour in India is a history long problem we can classify the major laws enacted by Indian Govt. on child labour are as follows –

Pre- Independence Period Labour laws in India_

- 1) Factories Act, 1881
- 2) Mines Act, 1901
- 3) Indian Ports Act, 1908
- 4) Assam Labour Emigration Act, 1901 and the Tea District Emigration Labour Act, 1932
- 5) Children Act, 1933
- 6) Employment of Children Ac, 1938

Post - Independence Period Labour laws in India_

- 1) The Minimum Wage Act, 1948
- 2) Amendment of Factories Act of 1948
- 3) Amendment Employment of Children Act, 1938
- 4) The Plantation Labour Act, 1951
- 5) Amendment Mines Act, 1952
- 6) The Merchant Shipping Act of 1958
- 7) The Apprentices Act of 1961
- 8) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Condition of Employment) Act of 1966.
- 9) The Shops and Commercial Establishment Act
- 10) The Motor Transport Act, 1961
- 11) The Contract Labour Act, 1970
- 12) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986.
- 13) National Child Labour Project, 1988
- 14) International Program for Elimination of Child Labour, 1992
- 15) Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000
- 16) Right to Education Act, 2009.
- 17) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill of 2016, 22th July.

All the above mentioned laws play a significant rule in decreasing rate of child labour in India as well as in Assam. But in the survey areas it has been noticed that the effect of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill passed by Indian Parliament on 22th July of 2016 and Right to Education Act, 2009 are playing a pivotal role in curbing child labour in these areas. So, it has found that compulsory and free education may be the one effective measure for child labour protection and an integrated strict single window law is very essential for child labour eradication in Assam.

Out of 18 respondent only 5 informed that they have rescued and rehabilitated by the Govt. These means that only 27.78% Percent child labour covered by the Govt. policy implications.

Rescued Child Labour and Their Rehabilitation: The rate of rescued and rehabilitation of child labour is very less in the survey areas. Only six child labour consulted by NGOs of the survey areas and four of them rescued. But due to proper rehabilitation the rescued child labourers again entered in the labour market. Again, prosecution on the violators of child labour law found to be very low in the survey area and the conviction rate of such violators are too less. So, rescue and rehabilitation rate of child labour of the survey area has shown very low and the low rate of prosecution and conviction of child law violators reflects the ineffectiveness of different child labour laws and policies.

Suggestions: In the words of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam the future of India in the hand of upcoming generation. Today's children are the citizen of tomorrow. Again, according to Stacia Taucher "we worry what a child will become tomorrow yet we forget he is someone today". To make a nation bright need to shape the future of child right. If a majority of population always struggle for jump to 'have not to have' how proper Human resource can will be formed. If out of ten, a child is engaged in child labour how can we expect a sound society and a sound economy? To make our country the largest manpower of this universe first of all we have to overcome such stumbling block (child labour) in the nation building process. To eliminate such major threats of our nation we need to change the apathy of the people towards child labour and Govt. policies should revamp in a way that would curb the child labour in every sphere that created by Globalization. The following measures should be taken to eliminate child labour from our country_

1. Must change family apathy regarding child labour and need to increase awareness among the families about the harmful effect of child labour.
2. Arrangement of Free and Compulsory Education to the Children.
3. Reduce the drop-out rate of school child and if any drop-out incidence occurred then immediately rearrangement of education for such students are very essential. Because school drop-out students are the main reservoir of child labour.
4. Increase female work participation rate which automatically reduces child labours magnitude.
5. Implementation of Govt. strict and effective single window updated law and policy measures is very important.
6. Need to take remarkable prosecution and conviction to the violators of child labour laws within short period of time.
7. Initiatives should be taken for increasing the people participation rate for Child Right Protection, basically Human Rights Organization and NGOs.

REFERENCES:

- i. Ahmed, Iftikar(1999) and Lieten, G.K.(2002), Children, Work and Education-I, General Prameters; Economics and Political Weekly (EPW), Vol.-35, No.-24.
- ii. Bakshi, S.R. and Bala, K. (edited, 2000): Child Welfare and Development; Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi.

-
- iii. Basu K. and P. Hoang Von (1998), Economics of Child Labour; American Economic Review. Vol. 88, No-3.
 - iv. Bezboruah D.N.(edited, 1st July, 1993); “Child Labour Employers Meet on Friday; Pressure on India to Eliminate Child Labour”, The Sentinel, Guwahati.
 - v. Burra, Neera (1997); Child Labour in India, Oxford University Press, Delhi.
 - vi. Chaudhury, D.P.(1996); A Dynamic Profile of Child Labour in India, 1951-1991, ILO, New Delhi.
 - vii. Govt. of India Economic Survey (Various Issues).
 - viii. Hazarika P.(2004); Child Labour in India, Akansha Publishing House, New Delhi-59.
 - ix. IAMR (1998); Child Labour in Informal Sector, New Delhi, Institute of Applied Manpower Research.
 - x. ILO (1992); World Labour Report, 1992.
 - xi. ILO (1996); Child Labour ; Targeting the intolerable, Report –VI, Part-I, Geneva.
 - xii. ILO (1997); Children at Work, ILO Geneva.
 - xiii. ILO (2000); Worst Forms of child Labour .
 - xiv. Ministry of Labour, Report of the National Commission on Labour, 2002.
 - xv. National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector “National Policy on Urban Street Vendors; Reports and Recommendations”, 2006.
 - xvi. The MehbubUl-Haq Human Development Centre (2000), Human Development in South Asia, New York, Oxford University Press.
 - xvii. UNDP (2000), Human Development Report, Oxford University Press, Delhi.
 - xviii. UNICEF (1998); Convention of the Rights of the Child, 1998, Calcutta.