

A STUDY ON CHILD LABOUR PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS OF GOALPARA DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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Abstract

Children are the future leader of the country. If they are educated, they can change the world. Childhood is the most important stage in human life that shapes the future individual into a better person who is aware of his/her rights and responsibilities. However, not all children are at advantage to enjoy their childhood. Somewhere there are some children, who are deprived from even the most basic of their rights: the right to education. Children are innocent, vulnerable and dependent, and they are unable to understand their rights as such, during their formative age they are prone to exploitation. Lakhs of children are toiling at inhuman working conditions to earn their livelihood. Child labour has a harsh reality and a global phenomena. This paper has examined the issue of child labour in rural areas of Goalpara district of Assam through statistical analysis and suggests ways to mitigate Child labour through various judiciary and humanitarian measures.

Keywords: *Childhood, Exploitation, Goalpara District, Child labour*

Introduction

Children are the future leader of the country. If they are educated, they can change the world. Childhood is the most important stage in human life that shapes the future individual into a better person who is aware of his/her rights and responsibilities. However, not all children are at advantage to enjoy their childhood. Somewhere there are some children, who are deprived from even the most basic of their rights: the right to education. Children are innocent, vulnerable and dependent, and they are unable to understand their rights as such, during their formative age they are prone to exploitation. Lakhs of children are toiling at inhuman working conditions to earn their livelihood. Child labour has a harsh reality and a global phenomena. The term“Child Labour” is used for children occupied in profitable activities which are detrimental to their physical, psychological, emotional, social and moral development that deprives their childhood, their potential and their dignity. In the World, an estimated 218 million boys and girls work as child labourers. Of this total, over 126 million are engaged in hazardous work.

Child labour refers to work that is harmful to physical and mental development of a child, or any boy/girl below 14/15 age. While a child is supposed to go to school and enjoy his/her childhood, child labourers have to work as day workers, flower seller, servant at household, hotel boy, tea seller, etc. Child labour and exploitation are the result of many factors including poverty, social norms condoning children, lack of decent work opportunities for adults and adolescents, migration and political exigencies, etc. These children do not go to school and have little or no time to play. Many do not receive proper nutrition or care. More than half of the child labourers are exposed to the worst forms of child labour, such as working in hazardous environments, slavery or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities including drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict.

The concept of child labour is complex in its nature. With regard to the conceptual definitional problems concerning child labour there are two schools of thoughts: according to the Abolitionist School, education should be made a fundamental human right of every child in 5-14 age group, any child who is out of school should be treated as potential working child and according to the Reformist School, child labour is a harsh reality, which means, given the socio-economic conditions of India like poverty, unemployment and illiteracy, it is impossible to root out the problems of child labour altogether.

UNICEF has classified child labour into three different categories:

- i) Within the family in which children are engaged without pay in domestic/household tasks, agricultural/pastoral work, handicrafts/cottage industries, etc.

- ii) With the family but outside the home in which children do agricultural/pastoral work which consists of migrant labour, domestic services, construction work and informal occupations, etc.
- iii) Outside the family in which children are employed by others in bonded work, apprenticeship, skilled traders, industrial/unskilled occupations, mines, domestic work, commercial work in shops and restaurants, begging, prostitution and pornography.

Child labour includes both paid and unpaid works. Children working three sectors of the economy. Several forms of child labour such as invisible, migrant, bonded, etc. are engaged in agrarian sector. Industrial sector is a growing level of urbanization as a result of migration from rural area to urban area. This again causes the emergence of various forms of child labour such as invisible, wage-based child labour working under conditions of acute exploitations in the industries, working as self-employed children or under-wage employee in the companies. A majority of children in the service sector are self-employed because its very nature provides relief from direct supervision. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 70 percent of child labour is deployed in agriculture and related activities.

Elements of Child Labour:

Child labour involves one or more of the following elements:

- i) Manual labour by very young/ underage children
- ii) Long hours of work on a regular full-time basis
- iii) Hazardous working conditions (physically and mentally)
- iv) No or insufficient access, attendance or progress in school
- v) Abusive treatment by the employers
- vi) Work in slave-like arrangements (bonded, indentured labourers)

Factors leading to Child Labour:

The problem of child labour is not a result of any single isolated factor. It is a multi-dimensional problem that involves various reasons contributing to it in a variety of ways. Some of the factors contributing and responsible for prevalence and perpetration of child labour are-continued poverty, illiteracy and ignorance of poor parents, population explosion, large family size, low family income, the tradition of making children learn the family skill, lack of political will and weak enforcement of laws, unemployment-underemployment, migration, employers preferences for child labour, absence of provision for universal compulsory primary education, etc.

Various socio-economic and cultural factors which force children into work can be broadly classified into supply side factors, refers to the conditions under which families are engaging children in work. Demand side factors refer to the preference of employers for children. Child labour persists not only because children supply their labour but also because plantations, farms, factories, businesses and households generate a demand for such labour.

Child Labour in India:

India is sadly the home to the largest number of child labourers in the World. According to census 2011, in India, 10.1 million (3.9% of total child population) children are engaged in work either as 'main worker' or as 'marginal worker'. In addition, more than 42.7 million children in India are out of school. Poverty and lack of social security are the main causes of child labour in India. Lack of quality universal education has also contributed to children dropping out of school and entering the labour force. UNICEF estimates that India has the highest number of labourers in the World under 14 years of age, while sub-Saharan African countries have the highest percentage of children who are deployed as child labourers. Outside the agriculture, child labour is observed in almost all informal sectors of the Indian economy. There are cases of physical, sexual and emotional abuse of child domestic workers in India. According to HAQ, Centre for Child Rights, "Child labour is highest among schedule tribes, Muslims, scheduled castes and OBC children. The persistence of child labour is due to

THE QUILL-An Inter-disciplinary Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences // Vol. 01, June, 2024// the inefficiency of the law, administrative system and because it benefits employers who can reduce general wage level.” 62.8 percent of India’s child labour workforce in which more boys than girls (38.7 million vs. 8.8 million) are forced into doing more hazardous work. Uttar Pradesh has highest number of child labour followed by Delhi, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. According to National Sample Survey Organization Report, 2005, child labour incidence rates in India is highest among Muslim, about 40 percent higher than Hindus. Tribal populations, however, had higher child labour rates at 3.8 percent.

In India, bonded child labour is a hidden phenomenon as a majority of them are found in the informal sector. They mostly come from the low caste groups such as ‘*Dalits*’ or marginalized tribal groups. Bonded child labourers are at a very high risk for physical and sexual abuse as well as neglect, sometimes leading to death. In December 2014, the US Department of Labour issued a list of goods produced by Child Labour or Forced Labour in India. Unlike any other country, 23 goods were attributed to India, the majority of which are produced by child labour in the manufacturing sector.

Initiatives against Child Labour in India:

In India, there are several rules and guidelines regulating child labour. Child labour is a matter on which both the Union Government and the State Government can legislate. A number of legislation initiatives have been undertaken at both levels. In addition to the constitutional prohibition of hazardous child labour, various laws in India, such as the Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Act, 1986 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act-2000 provide a basis in law to identify, prosecute and stop child labour in India. The constitution of India prohibits child labour in hazardous industries as a Fundamental Right under article 24.

The major national legislation development includes The Factory Act, 1948, The Bonded Labour Act, 1976, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, Prohibition of employment of children in certain categories of occupations and process like Bidi making, Carpet weaving, Soap manufacturing, Aggarbati manufacturing, Manufacture of matches-box, explosives and fireworks.

A National Policy on Child Labour was formulated in 1987 to focus on rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations. The Ministry of Labour and Employment had implemented around 100 industry specific National Child Labour Projects to rehabilitate the child workers since 1988.

Many non-governmental organizations like Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Child Fund, Care India, Taalash Associations, Child Rights and You, Global March against Child Labour, Ride India, Childline, etc. have been working to eradicate child labour in India. Child labour has also been a subject of public interest litigations in Indian courts.

Child Labour in Assam:

For many years, child labour has been one of the biggest obstacles to social development in Assam. The northeast, particularly in Assam, is emerging as one of the biggest source area, transit route and destination for trafficking of children for forced labour. Assam is the choicest place for child traffickers to thrive on account of frequent natural calamities, insurgency, social unrest, acute poverty, illiteracy and ignorance of the masses and weak law enforcement. Every year good number of children go missing from the state. They are sold off at the rate of Rs. 1 lakh for marriage purposes, Rs. 1.5 lakh for prostitution and Rs. 5000-Rs. 6000 for bonded labour. In Assam, hundreds of incidents of child disappearances are a daily reality even in today. According to a report from Assam Crime Investigation Department, at least 4754 children in Assam have gone missing since 2012, of whom 2753 are girls. Assam’s history of economic under-development conditions and ethnic tensions has made a large section of its population vulnerable to trafficking.

In Assam, as per 2011 census, 4.9 percent (3.47 lakh) of the state total 5-14 years population were child workers. 5 in every 100 children between 5-14 years in Assam is a child worker.

There are extreme examples of bonded labour in Assam. Slavery was a recognized institution of the

THE QUILL-An Inter-disciplinary Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences // Vol. 01, June, 2024// ancient Assamese society. Slaves were sold and purchased like merchandise items. The child labour in ancient period was very common and could be witnessed in different occupations where they were engaged by the rich landlords to carry out activities directly or indirectly related to agriculture. The price of slaves was dependent on his/her caste. The price of high caste man being Rs. 20/- and of low caste girl being Rs. 3/-. Hamilton writes that a *Kock* boy cost Rs. 25/- and a *Kalita* boy Rs, 50/-. Girls were purchased mainly by the prostitutes.

Child Labour in Goalpara District:

In the Goalpara district of Assam, children in many places are engaged as handyman in tempos, helpers in garages and in car washing units, waiters, etc. At a time when government has initiated strict measures to stop any form of child labour in the State, child labourers were rescued from different hotels and restaurants at various location in Goalpara district. The Child Line and Labour Officers rushed to the hotels and restaurants in Dudhnoi town and detected the children of twelve years of age who were engaged as labourers in the hotels and restaurants. The children are school dropout students who hailed from rural areas. They were paid only Rs. 1500/- per month for their labour. The Assistant Commissioner and the District Labour Officer rescued the children and they were produced before the Child Welfare Committee, Goalpara and later they were sent to the Social Welfare Department for necessary rehabilitation.

Objectives of the Study:

The main objectives of the study are:

- 1) To examine various works in which child labour gets involved
- 2) To study the socio-economic profile of the parents of children engaged in child labour
- 3) To assess the awareness of child labour prohibition acts
- 4) To prevent and prohibit trafficking of children for the purpose of labour including domestic service and other informal sectors
- 5) To intensify and implement strategies to protect children from economic exploitation
- 6) To prescribe policies to prohibit child labour.

Methodology of the Study:

Methodology is the systematic, theoretical analysis of the methods applied to a field study. This study puts importance on obtaining the most updated, valid and informative data in order to truly improve an understanding of children trafficked into extreme forms of child labour. This part explain the research design used for conducting research. This part covers the data sources of the primary as well as secondary study and also explains the methodology used for analyzing and interpreting the data.

Research Design:

The research design of this study is based on descriptive research. Descriptive studies are more than just a collection of data; it involves measurements, classifications, analysis, comparisons and interpretations. It tells about the present scenario by determining the nature and degree of existing conditions.

Sampling Technique and Sample Size:

Among the various sampling techniques, convenient sampling technique preferably simple random sampling was used to bifurcate the sample. The sample size of the study was 50 respondents which comprises of children from different labour categories like factory, garage, restaurant and tea stall, street, transport sector, etc. Out of 50 respondents, 19 are from factories, 7 are from restaurants and tea stalls, 15 are from streets, 7 are from transport sector, 2 are from other categories.

Data Sources:

The study conducted by collecting both primary as well as secondary data. Primary data were based on closed ended questions arranged in the form of a questionnaire which were distributed among the target group in various rural and urban areas of Goalpara district. Secondary data were collected from journals, books, reports and various websites in the internet and previous studies.

Area and Periodicity of the Study:

The survey area of the study is done in various rural and urban areas of Goalpara district of Assam. We have selected various CC Block making factories, restaurants, tea stalls and others like children on the streets of Dudhnoi town and rural areas of Goalpara district according to convenience of the study. This research work has been conducted for a period of 3 months, i.e., from November 2023 to January, 2024.

Interpretation of Data:

Interpretation has been done with the help of primary data collected from the study area by using various statistical tools like, Table, Bar Diagram, Pie Diagram, Graphs, Percentages, etc.

Need and Scope of the Study:

The consequences of child labour are very far reaching. Instead of educating them, children are tortured and made to toil. The roots of this problem are quite deep rooted. Many economists and scholars have done lots of works to understand this problem and have given various solutions for the same. Through this study, researchers want to create awareness about this major problem and assess the percentage of child labour in Goalpara district and let people know about those little hands who have to work tirelessly for earning their livelihood in an age where they should be playing with toys.

The scope of the study encompasses child labourers in urban and rural areas and conditions and situations of children who are engaged in child labour activities. The study is limited only to child labourers in Goalpara district of Assam.

A Review of Earlier Studies:

In 1989, CWIN has done a survey on young rag pickers in Kathmandu. The survey report on 1370 children was presented by CWIN in 1996. It shows that almost 46 percent of the total street children are rag pickers and they are known as “*Khate*”. The survey reports that the ‘Young rag pickers’ live in the streets, slums or shanty areas. They move here and there in search of rubbish, which can be recycled. These are the children who make their living from sorting and selling waste materials such as, papers, polythene, plastic bottles, tins and so on. The report has also noted that these children are mostly migrants who have come to Kathmandu either with their parents or alone because of their poverty and hunger in the country side.

Rajendra Kumar Sharma has mentioned in his book “Social Problems and Welfare”, the various problems of child labour. He said that though it is illegal to employ workers under certain age, these problems are frequently flouted and circumvented.

The problems of child labour in India are the following:

- i) More work and less wage
- ii) Loss of education of children
- iii) Lack of proper rest and play essential for proper growth
- iv) The unhygienic and rigorous working conditions
- v) Low and below standard productivity

The Committee on Welfare of Women and Children of the Assam Legislative Assembly has observed

THE QUILL-An Inter-disciplinary Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences // Vol. 01, June, 2024// that engagement of child labour is still going on in the state and recommended that the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 should be enforced strictly. The committee recommended that strict action should be taken against the owners of the factories, restaurants and other establishments engaging child labour. The committee reported that more than 15000 child labourers were engaged in hazardous and non-hazardous establishments. The committee recommended that welfare centres should be established in all the districts of Assam.

According to Bachman (2000), unemployment of children for their work and other forms of exploitation, are also include in child labour. Generally, child labour is perceived to be an economic necessity of poor households and the exploitative aspect in children's work is associated with the profit maximizing motive of commercial enterprises, wherein children are made to work long hours, paid low wages and dented opportunities for education (Study Group, 2001).

Christopher (2003) narrated that child labour exists because it is the best response people can find in intolerable circumstances. Poverty and child labour are mutually reinforcing, because their parents are poor, children must work and not attend school and then grew up poor.

Sharmin (2004) observed that children in many occupations are victimized both physically and sexually by the employers. Also, child abuse particularly sexual exploitation of children in certain cases remains hidden and not disclose due to social norms and values in their society where discovery of truth is complicated. Many psychologists believed that childhood is the critical period for later development of personality and the exploitative situations of child labour exert strong influence on the child's self-concept and self-esteem (Maqil, 1996). Children who are in risky job fields have no opportunity to build their natural psychological health. Long working hours breed their feeling of frustration and inadequacy. Their involvement in risky work resists eventually in building their emotional cognitive skills and they become withdrawn, introvert and uncommunicative (Uddin et. al. 2009). Children also suffer negative psycho-social effects of work including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, verbal abuse, etc. which also include restriction of movement, patterns of belittling, denigrating making a scapegoat out of the child, threatening, scaring, discriminating, ridiculing or other non-physical forms of hostile or rejecting treatment (ISCA, 2003; Lahiri, 2007). Thus, the physical and emotional stress of work, combine with denial of opportunities to ply or interactfully socially with peers and to explore the World, could doom a child to a personality and behavioural maladjustment (Alike and Twumasi, Ankrah, 1999).

Cardoso and Verner (2006) in a study conducted in Fortaleza, North-East Brazil, found little relationship between school and work, with variation in idleness accounting for most of the differences in time use. They attribute this due to the lack of work opportunities for children in this region, but it may also be due to their estimating strategy, since they instrumented for child labour by using the child wage, with the little accounting for only 9 percent of the variation in the former. This weak relationship is not surprising, given that children's wages can be expected to affect their employment through both income and substitution effects, and also because much child labour is unpaid.

Profile of the study area:

Goalpara, one of the oldest administrative districts in Assam, is situated in the south bank of river Brahmaputra and in the west part of lower Assam. The geographical location of the district is between North latitudes of 25⁰53' & 26⁰15' and East longitudes of 90⁰07' & 91⁰05.' Goalpara shares its boundary with Bongaigaon district on the North, West and East Garo Hills districts of Meghalaya in the South, Kamrup district in the East and South Salmara district in the West. The geographical area of the district is 1824 Sq. Km. as per 2011 census. The district predominantly has Rabha, Bodo, Garo, Koch-Rajbongshi and Caste Hindu community people. Religious and linguistic minority people are also important segment of total population of the district. As per population census, 2011, Goalpara district had a population of 1008183. Male constitute 513292 (50.91%) while female constitute 494891 (49.09%). Goalpara has average literacy rate of 67.37 percent, lower than the state and national averages. Density of population 550/sq. km. Sex Ratio in Goalpara

Findings and Discussion:

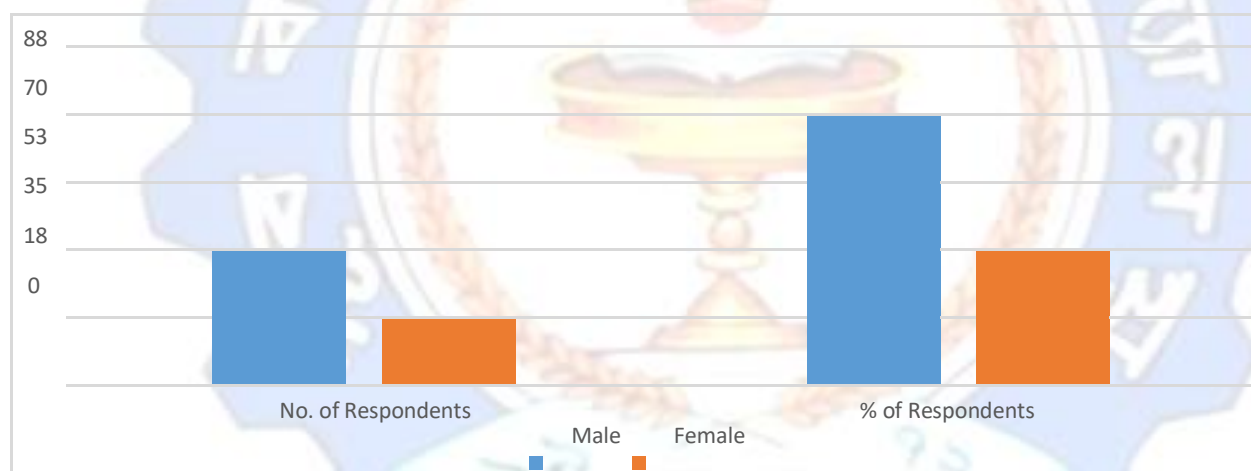
This section of the study is interpretation of the primary data of the sample collected from the field which will present basically by tables and figures.

Table-1: Gender Distribution of Respondent’s on Child Labour:

Sex	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Male	35	70
Female	15	30
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure-1: Percentage of gender distribution of respondents involved in child labour:



Inference:

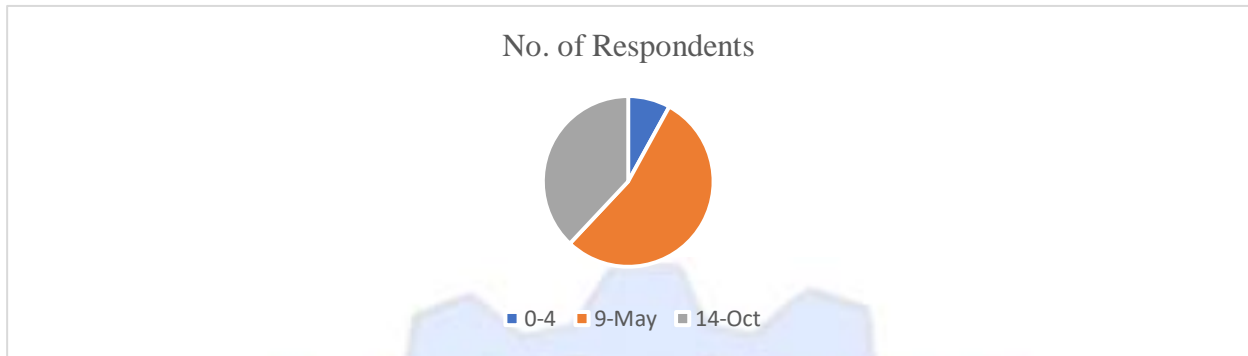
From the table and diagram, out of 100 respondents it can be observed that 70 percent are male child and 30 percent are female respondents. The number of female respondents is less because female children are kept at home and engaged in household activities and male children are sent to work outside for survival.

Table-2: Age of respondents involved in child labour

Age	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
0-4	4	8
5-9	27	54
10-14	19	38
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure-2: Age of Respondent’s involved in Child Labour



Inference:

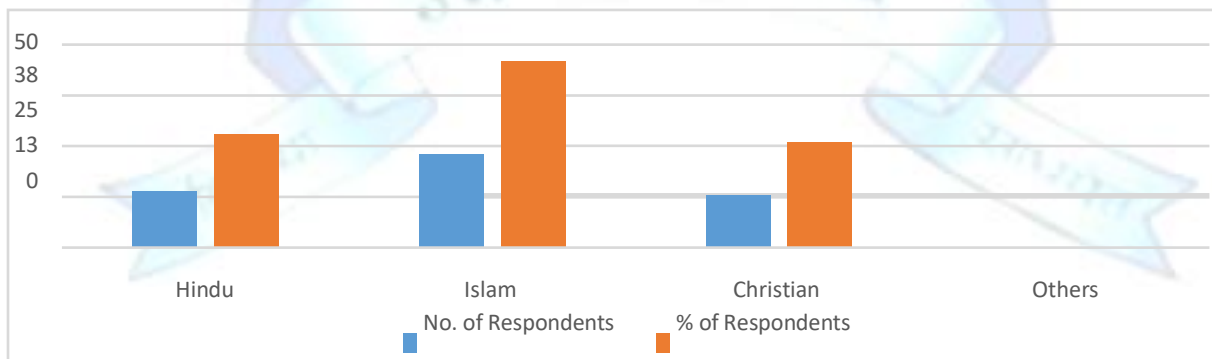
From table and figure 2, we get different percentage of respondents belonging to different age group. From the age group 0-4 we get low number and percentages of respondents, i.e., 8 percent while the number of respondents and percentage of respondents is medium, i. e., 38 percent between the age group 10-14 years. But the number and percentage of respondents in age group 5-9, i.e., 54 percent which is high amongst the three. This may be because children in this age group do not understand about what is right and what is wrong for them. They just work because either they have to earn to live or to help their parents.

Table-3: Religion of respondents involved in child labour:

Religion	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Hindu	14	28
Islam	23	46
Christian	13	26
Others	0	0
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure-3: Percentage of Respondent’s Religion involved in Child Labour



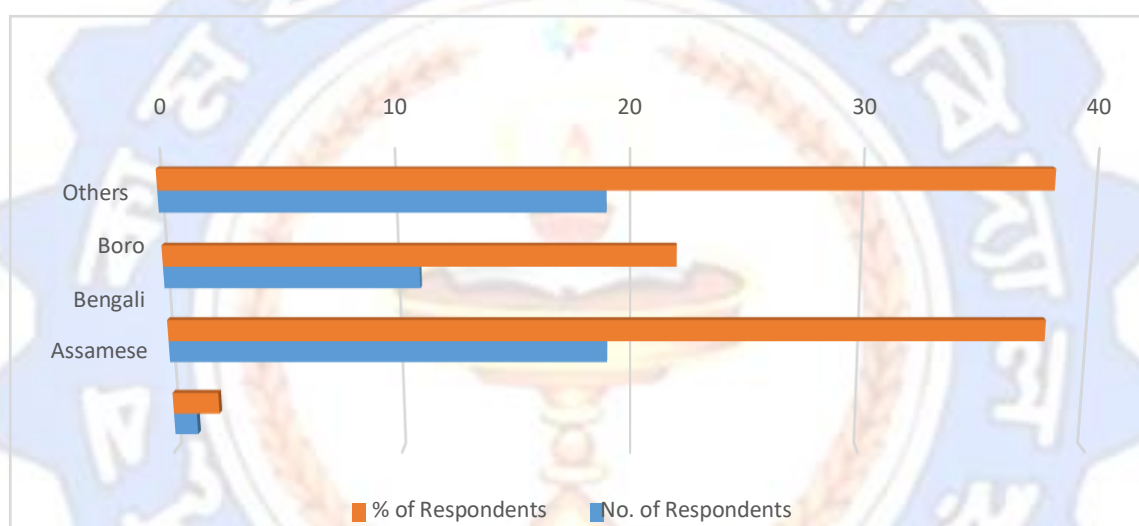
Inference:

The above table and figure shows that in case of Hinduism the percentage of respondents is 28% and in terms of Islam and Christian religion the percentage is 43% and 26% respectively. Thus, it shows that respondents belonging to the Islam religion is highest and this is because mainly for the migration factor.

Table-4: Community of Respondents involved in Child Labour

Community	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Assamese	01	02
Bengali	19	38
Boro	11	22
Others	19	38
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure-4: Percentage of Respondent's Community involved in Child Labour

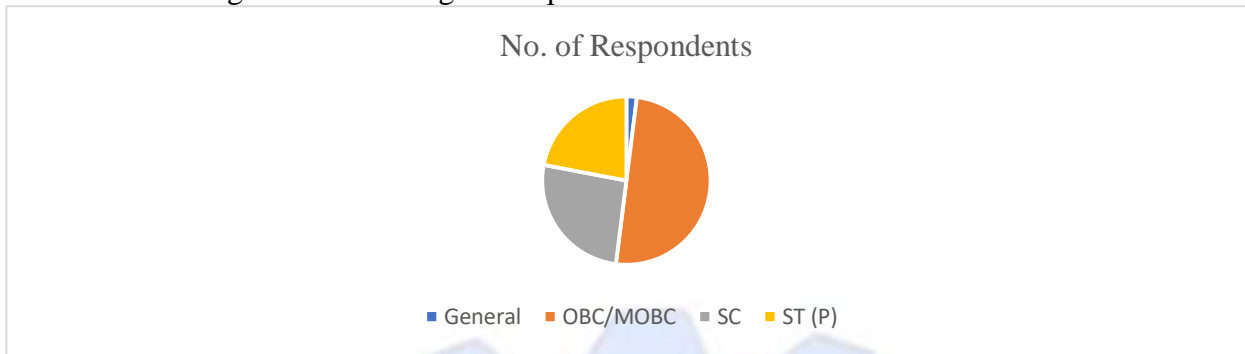
Inference: The above table and figure shows the community of the respondents. Among the communities, Bengali and others the percentages of respondents in child labour is highest i.e., 38% and this is because of poverty and illiteracy.

Table-5: Caste of respondents involved in child labour:

Castes	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
General	01	02
OBC/MOBC	25	50
SC	13	26
ST (P)	11	22
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure-5: Percentage of respondent's caste involved in child labour:



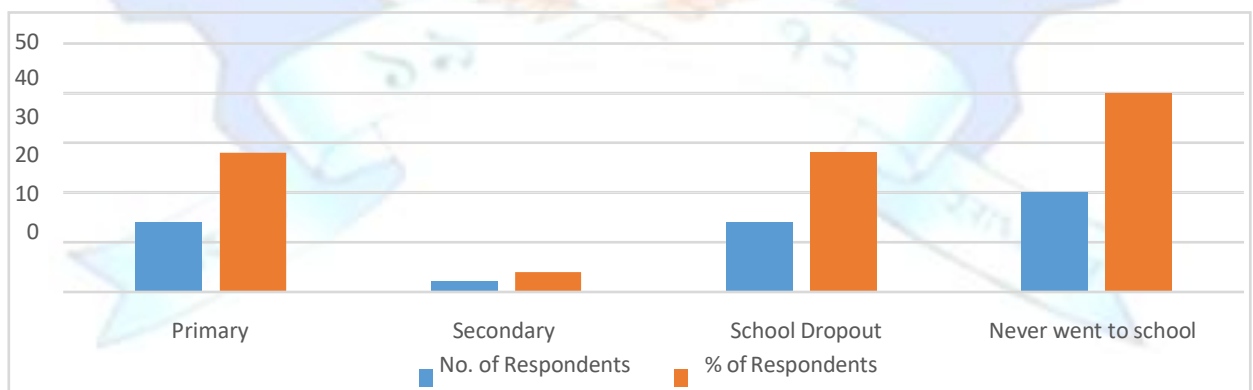
Inference: The above table and figure shows the different caste group of the respondents. Among the castes, highest percentage is of OBC/MOBC, i.e., 50% and this is because they are mostly from the backward regions.

Table-6: Educational Level of Respondents involved in Child Labour

Educational Level	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Primary	14	28
Secondary	02	04
School Dropout	14	28
Never went to school	20	40
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure-6: Percentage of respondent's education involved in child labour:



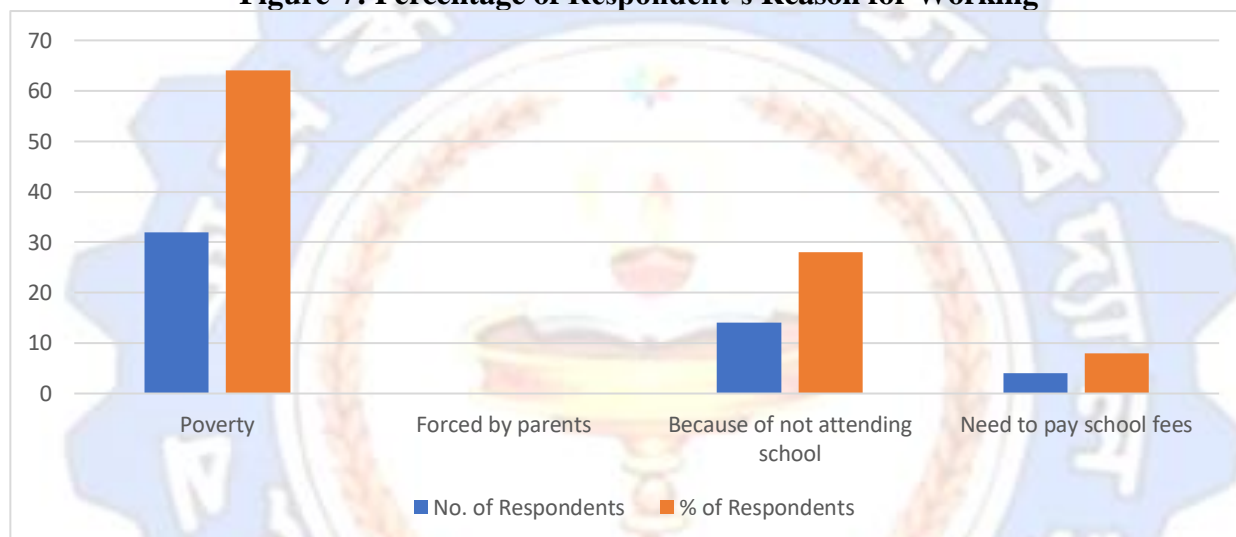
Inference:

Table and figure 6 reveals that 40 % of the respondents never went to school while only 4% of the respondents were got secondary education. Again, in case of primary education only 28% of the respondents were provided the same which is equivalent i.e., 28% the respondents who were drop out of school due to various reasons like poverty. Highest percentage of the respondents never went to school because their parents felt unwanted or they cannot educate their child due to poverty and hunger.

Reason for working	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Poverty	32	64
Forced by parents	0	0
Because of not attending school	14	28
Need to pay school fees	4	8
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure-7: Percentage of Respondent's Reason for Working



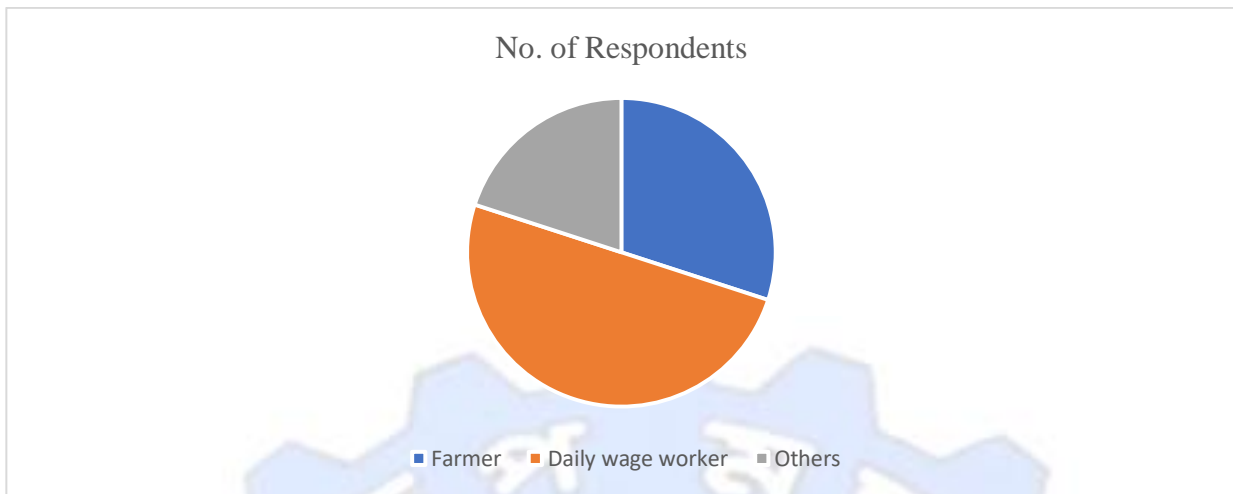
Inference:

The above table and figure shows that the main reason for working of the respondents was poverty which had the highest 64% and it is followed by 28% which stated that children work because of not attending school while most of the children also work because they need to pay their school fees as their parents cannot afford it bearing 8%, While children working because of forcing by their parents was found to be nil.

Table-8: Showing the Respondent's Father's Occupation:

Father's Occupation	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Farmer	15	30
Daily wage worker	25	50
Others	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: Author



Inference:

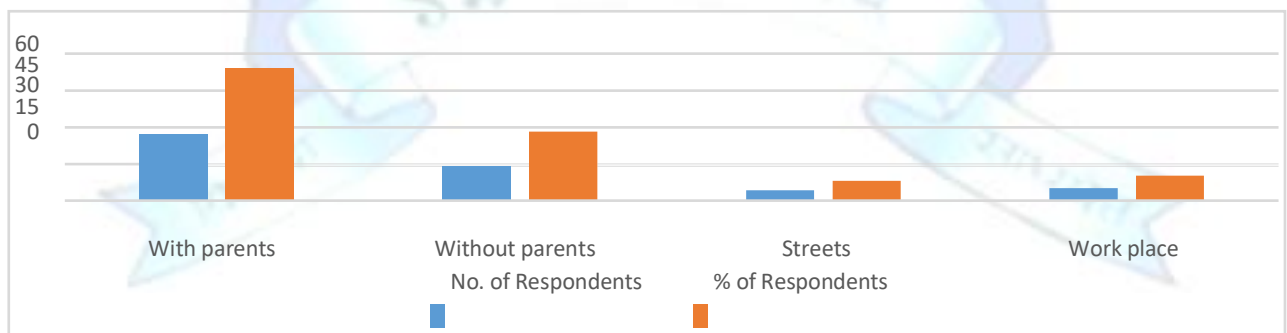
The percentage of respondents whose father work as a farmer is 30 percent and the respondent's father who work as a daily wage worker bears 50 percent and 20 percent belonging to other category. The category daily wage worker is high among the three categories, which is because they themselves can earn their income on daily basis so they engage their children in the same field because of poverty.

Table-9: Showing the Respondent's Place of Staying:

Place of Staying	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
With parents	27	54
Without parents	14	28
Streets	04	08
Work place	05	10
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure-9: Percentage of respondent's place of staying:



Inference:

The above table and figure reveals about the place of staying of respondents. The percentage of respondents staying with parents is high i.e., 54 percent as compared to respondents staying without parents 28 percent, or in the streets 8 percent or in workplace 10 percent. This is because parents are also engaged in the work and they engage their children also.

Existence of parents	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Yes	35	70
No	15	30
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Inference:

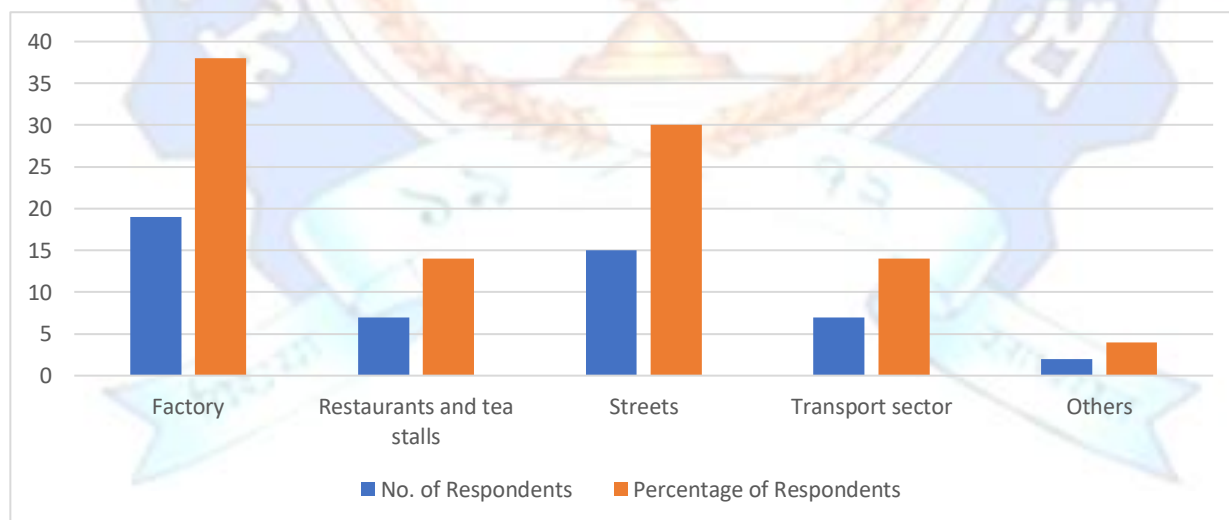
Table 10 reveals that 70 percent of the respondents had positively responded to their existence of parents while only 30 percent of the respondents negatively responded to it. It shows that besides staying with parents they had to work because of several reasons.

Table-11: Showing the work place of respondent:

Work place	Factory	Restaurants and tea stalls	Streets	Transport sector	Others	Total
No. of Respondents	19	7	15	7	2	50
Percentage of Respondents	38	14	30	14	4	100

Source: Author

Figure-11: Percentages of respondent's work place:



Inferences:

From the table and figure 11 it is observed that 38 percent of the respondents work in factory while 30 percent of the respondents work in streets and it is followed by restaurants sand tea stalls and transportsector having the same 14 percent. While the respondents of other category bears only 4 percent out of the total respondents.

Table-12: Showing the respondent’s provision of meals:

Provision of Meals	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	09	18
No	41	82
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Inference:

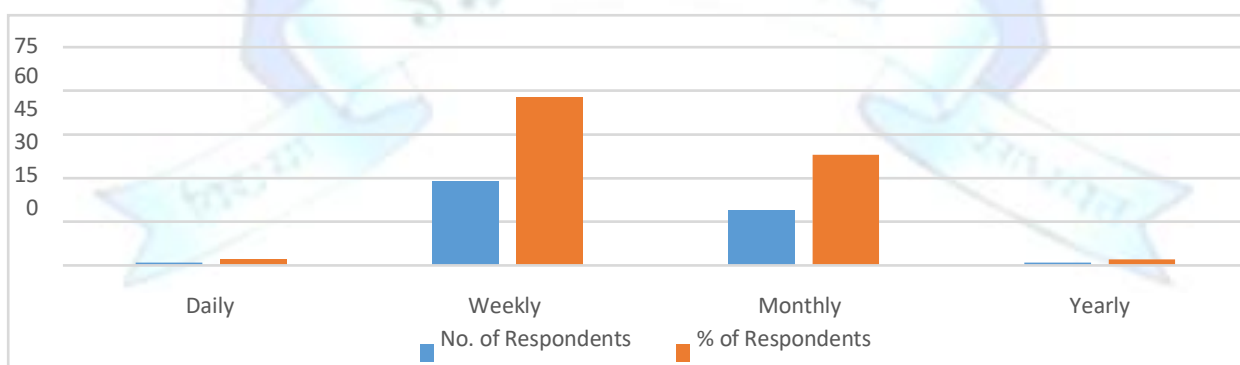
From the table 12 it can be observed that maximum of the respondents are not provided meals in their work place which is high 82 percent and out of 50 respondents only 18 percent were provided meals.

Table-13: Showing period of income of the respondents:

Period of income	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Daily	01	02
Weekly	29	58
Monthly	19	38
Yearly	01	02
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure: 13: Percentage of respondent’s period of income:



Inference:

From the table and figure 13, it is found that the maximum percentage of the respondent’s period of income is 58 percent which is weekly. It is because of poverty and monetary crisis they want their income on weekly basis or their owners sometimes provide it. Basically in factories and industries, payments are made on weekly or quarterly basis rather than monthly. On the other hand, payments made on monthly basis had 38

THE QUILL-An Inter-disciplinary Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences // Vol. 01, June, 2024// percent which is medium as in tea stalls and restaurants payments are made on monthly basis. Moreover, payment made on daily and yearly basis is minimal, i. e., 2 percent.

Table: 14: Showing the receipt of payment of the respondents:

Receipt of payment	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yourself	24	48
Parents	26	52
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Inference:

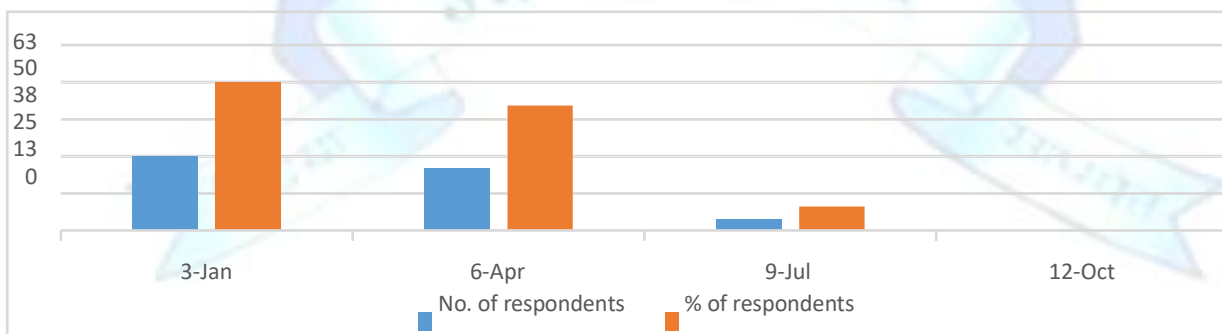
The above table and diagram shows the receipt of payment of the respondents. As they work as child labour the payment is made to their parents than themselves in maximum. As mostly parents engage their children to work in different sectors so, their income is paid to their parents.

Table: 15: Showing the years of working of respondents:

Years of working	No. of respondents	% of respondents
1-3	25	50
4-6	21	42
7-9	4	8
10-12	0	0
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure-15: Showing the years of working of respondents:



Inference:

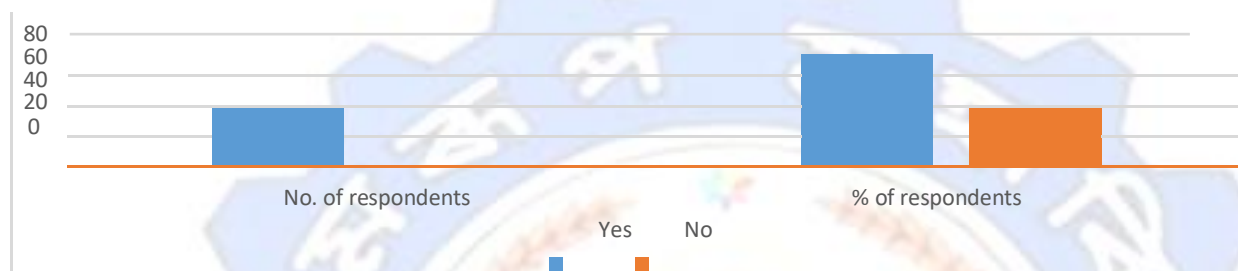
The above table and figure shows that most of the respondents work as a child labour for 1-3 years which is maximum 50 percent and respondents working for 4-6 years had 42 percent and it is followed by 7- 9 by 8 percent. But children working for 10-12 years were found to be nil.

Table: 16: Showing the originality of place of respondents:

Migrated	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Yes	37	74
No	13	26
Total	50	100

Source: Author

Figure: 16: Showing the originality of place of respondents in percentages:



Inference:

The above table and figure shows about the respondent's originality of the place or from where they belong. The numbers of percentage of respondents is high in case of migrated respondents, i.e., 74 percent compared to local respondents, i. e., 26 percent. The highest percentage of respondents that were migrated is either because of poverty, illiteracy or insufficient work in particular area or might be due to flood in their home place.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

The problems of those children who are engaged in labour works are not tackled effectively and the children are not protected by their community, parents and the cops. It should be dealt by providing health care facilities and appropriate health education and free education to the children who are living in the distressed areas. Also by providing family planning services to parents, heightening the children's and public's awareness, the issue might be mitigated up to some extent .

Poverty has been cited as one of the reasons for child labour and to abolish child labour, family income should be increased and fertility should be controlled so that children are not burdened by their parents. And by replacing children with adult workers, child labour can be reduced to an extent.

The response of the judiciary with regard to child labour in India is highly commendable. Time and again, it has pronounced glorious judgments for eliminating the problem of child labour in India. But, in spite of several legislative measures by GoI to minimize child labour, the exploitation of children by different profit makers continued. Thus, awareness should be created among the people, so that children could know the value of their childhood and could read and write to live a better life.

Conclusion:

The phenomenon of child labour is a multi-dimensional complex problem and deep rooted in the socio-economic fabric of the society. Child labour is found in almost every sectors of the informal economy. Children are found working in workshops and small factories, *dhabas* and restaurants, on the streets as well as domestic

THE QUILL-An Inter-disciplinary Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences // Vol. 01, June, 2024// servants in households. Child labour is a burning issue and it is a matter of great exigency to protect children's rights at present. They are verbally, physically, mentally abused by those who control them. They work only because of their own as well as family's survival. No recreational facilities are available for them. They do not have any scope for education. Their working environment is severely unhealthy and risky. Moreover, they do not get equitable payment for their service.

Children are valuable assets to a nation. The country as well as state and the society should provide them the opportunities for their proper education and moral growth and development. But they are not cared for, rather they are compelled to work in unhealthy and sometimes fatal enviros. The successful elimination of child labour worldwide requires efforts to tackle simultaneously this complex set of supply and demand factors.

This study has examined the issue of child labour in rural areas of Goalpara district of Assam. Here most of the children's families are migrants. It is very difficult to know whether they come here by themselves or they are hired by the employers. The children and neither their parents have any knowledge of the various laws enacted by the central and state government regarding child labour.

Many of the Government and Non-government Organizations (NGOs) have rescued children from disastrous situations. The 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan' has rescued around 70000 children all over India. With the help of those NGOs, awareness should be created among those children so that they can live their life in a better and fulfilling way. This can be done only by bringing attitudinal change, social awareness and rigorous campaigning against the problem of child labour. Thus, it requires honest effort and strong commitment and support from all the sections of the society if Child labour is to be eradicated.

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