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Subject: Commerce
Topic: A Critical Study of Child labour in Carpet Industry in Kashmir

ABSTRACT

The study has been taken to achieve the following objectives: (i) To analyze the important factors responsible for prevalence of child labour in carpet industry in Kashmir; (ii) To survey the socio-economic problems of child labour in carpet industry in Kashmir; (iii) To study the living and working conditions of child labour in carpet industry in Kashmir; (iv) To analyze the educational and health status of child labour working in the carpet industry in Kashmir; (v) To make an evaluative and critical study of effectiveness in implementation of legal measures for combating the problem of child labour; and (vi) To suggest policy measures to solve the problem of child labour.

To achieve the laid down objectives of the study inferences have been drawn from both primary and the secondary sources. Primary data for all categories of child workers were collected through personal interviews using detailed interview schedule, which was prepared, covering questions, related to the research problem. For, getting more information secondary sources was consulted from published documents, and various reports of government and non-governmental organizations. Secondary sources like books, periodicals, journals and newspapers available with the libraries were also consulted.

As regards the sample method, first the potential villages involved in carpet weaving were identified and stratified random method was adopted to choose 600 households for interview from hundred villages of three districts out of total six districts of the valley of Kashmir i.e. Srinagar, Anantnag and Pulwama. Although the carpet work is performed in all six districts of the valley but these three districts are taken as study area. Scheduled questions were explained to the respondents in their mother tongue and their responses were noted down in the proper column of the interview schedule.

The Thesis is divided into seven chapters: chapter one comprises of introduction, general background and surface view of the problem of child labour. It also includes the magnitude of the problem of child labour. Indian situation regarding child labour, need to protect child labour exploitation and importance of the study besides objectives and methodology. Chapter two deals with the nature of child labour in carpet industry in Kashmir. History of carpet in general and origin of carpet in Kashmir in particular has been explained in the chapter. Demand and supply based censuses of child labour are analyzed. Interestingly supply side factors are noticed to be more dominant than the demand side, making child labour a more complex issue. Poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and traditional ethics are the driving forces behind the menace of child labour. These factors provides soft grounds for demand side factors i.e., cheap labour, right movement and nimble figures and silently suffering obedience behavior of children, to exploit the children in the name of skills learning, employment, wages earning. Chapter three investigates into socio-economic conditions of child labour in carpet industry in Kashmir. Working conditions are mostly found deteriorated with poor arrangement of lighting,

ventilation, and sanitation. Living conditions, seating arrangements are also unsatisfactory and in some cases very poor. All these factors collectively deteriorate health and psychological adjustments of such children in the society. In chapter four the efforts are made to comparatively analyze educational status of child labouring sampled households. Obviously, illiterate child workers make a major chunk of child labour followed by primary level or below and up to secondary level children. 26.85 percent are such children who besides working as carpet weavers go to school, almost 57 percent could not attend the school but are busy in working while as about 17 percent left the school to meet their both ends by working on carpet. The prevalence of child labour cannot be attributed to the non availability of educational facilities, because most of the children reside with in a radius of one kilometer of a Govt. school and only a few has a distance of more than 3 km. To, travel to school. Thus economic incentives to the families and proper awareness are very badly needed in such families to make any successful steps in the direction of elimination of child labour. In chapters five & six, legislation regarding child labour is discussed in detail. Various laws and policies are discussed and analyzed in the light of their relevance to the present problem of child labour. Acts passed by parliament from time to time regarding the child labour are focused upon along with their achievements so far. Chapter seven presents the summary & conclusion of the study and suggestions and recommendations found worthwhile in addressing and mitigating the talked about problem.