



## Occupational profile of child labour in Chikankari industry

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### ARTICLE INFO :

**Received** : 15.09.2012  
**Revised** : 01.11.2012  
**Accepted** : 30.11.2012

### KEY WORDS :

Child labour, Chikankari industry, Occupational profile

### HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE :

Kumari, Neelam and Kiran, U.V. (2012). Occupational profile of child labour in Chikankari industry, *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 3 (2) : 247 - 250.

### ABSTRACT

Child labour is a global phenomenon and harsh reality arised out of the fact that in the present state of development in the country, parents on account of poverty have to send their child to work in order to supplement their incomes. Thus any work, whether manual or mental, which is under taken by a child who is below 14 years of age under monitory consideration is called child labour. To assess the nature and the extent of this social evil it was necessary to study the character of the jobs in which the children are engaged. Chikankari industry is one of the many industries in which involvement of child labourers is popular. To assess the extent of involvement of child labour in chikankari related works, the present study was taken up with an objective to determine the occupational profile of child labour in chikankari industry. The study was conducted in Lucknow district of Uttar Pradesh. Multistage random sampling technique was adopted in the present research. The sample of 120 child labour including 60 boys and 60 girls were selected from Kasbas to study their occupational profile. A self developed questionnaire was used to collect the information. The reason for work was revealed to be the economic burden in the families. Majority of the girls prefered to study and work comparitively to boys. Government has to adopt strict procedures in implementation of the policies to eradicate the child labour.

### INTRODUCTION

Child labour involves every working child, irrespective of whether the child is engaged in wage or non-wage work or whether he or she is working for the family or others, employed in hazardous or non-hazardous occupations, employed on a daily wage or on a contract basis. Child labour became a global phenomenon today and is a harsh reality. The harsh reality of child labour arose out of the fact that in the present status of poverty, parents have to send their children to work in order to supplement their income and the income derived from the child labour, however meager is essential to sustain the family. Any work, whether manual, which is under taken by a child who is below 14 years of age for monitory reason is called child labour. According to child labour (Prohabitation and Regulation) Act, 1986 the act defines a child as any person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age. It prohibits children from working in any occupation like catering at railway establishments, construction work on the railway or anywhere near the tracks, plastics factories, automobile garages, etc. the act also prohibits

children from working in places where certain processes are been undertaken, like beedi making, tanning, soap manufacture, brick kilns and roof tiles units, etc. the act also emphasizes that children are not permitted to work for more than three hours stretches and must receive an hour break after the three hours. Children are not permitted to work for more than six hour stretches including their break interval and cannot work between the hours of 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. No child is allowed to work overtime or work in more than one place in a given day. A child must receive a holiday from work every week.

Previous literature has focussed on examining child labour under various dimensions working at various places like petty shops, food industry, mechanic shops, household labour handicraft industries etc. But the present study focuses to see the differences between exclusive workers and who work and go to school across gender. Homer Folks, the chairman of the United States National Labour Committee has defined child labour as any work by children that interfere with their full physical development, their opportunities minimum of education and their needed recreation.