

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF CHILD LABOUR OF GREATER GUWAHATI

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FINAL PROJECT REPORT
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT
GUWAHATI

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DEVELOPMENT



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C H A P T E R - I

1. Child Labour in India : A General Observation.

1.1. Introduction :- The Government of India and International organisation like U.N.O. implemented various policies on children with a view to mobilise public opinion to bring about mental and physical development of children and to do away with the exploitation of children. Children must be carefully nourished and nurtured as seedling of future human resources so that in future they would be able to contribute to the societies all round development. But in India a large number of children are engaged in day to day physical works for earning money. Poverty, illiteracy, social environment and socio-economic background of families are responsible for growth of child labour. Rural-Urban migration, change of land use pattern, maintenance problems are also some of the possible factors leading to the growth of child labour. According to "Asian Monitor", every third household in India has a working child, every fourth child in the age group of five to fifteen years is employed and over twenty percent of the country's gross product is contributed by the childlabour. (A.K. Kumar, 1993). Non-governmental sources put the number of child labour between 44 million and 100 million (A.K. Kumar, 1993). Two fifth of India's population is reported to have below 14 years. A considerable number of them are working from dawn to dusk in houses as maid-servants, in hotels as

hotel boys, in Garrages as helper, working off roads as ragpickers, shifting and collecting waste papers, picking polythene packets and many other waste products to sell those to earn their livelihood.

Child labour can be defined as one who earns full or part of his/her livelihood through his engagement in an occupation or a job on full time or part-time basis, whose age are below fourteen as per article 24 of Indian Constitution. Majority of the child labour are engaged in some kind of economic activity as part-time workers in order to supplement family income.

In underdeveloped countries like India, children are involved at early age in household works and family occupations as a part of their training and work. Such work improves their skills and their family income but deprives them from schooling. Generally they leave their school at their early age. Cities and towns in India as well as other underdeveloped countries are marked by poverty, unemployment, migration, overpopulation etc. The administrative machineries of the cities and towns have failed to cope with the problems of child labour. The poverty continues to remain as one of the major social problem aggravating the child labour problem.

The child labour problems in urban areas is continuously increasing because of unhygienic conditions of works and the nature of the work load. In some cases child labour are engaged

in hazardous works endangering their lives. For example, working in motor garage or working in a tea stall, a child labour has to work for about 12 hours a day. Even if there is no accident, just the normal course of the hazardous work if continued for a few years, can ruin the health of the child labour for all time to come. This may be due to the very cramped and unhygienic place to work, due to exposures to dangerous chemicals or other factors.

The main factors of the existence of child labour are illiteracy and poverty. It is important to realise that the existence of such hazardous labour in cities is also linked to the economic distress in rural areas. Many poverty stricken people migrating from villages to cities accept extremely hazardous work for themselves and their children at a relatively low wage rate. When its income is even below its subsistence needs, then it may have no option but to agree to even such painful compromises as to send its own children to highly hazardous work.

Child labours are forced to work in inhuman conditions. They are suffering from several physical ailments and medical facilities, civic amenities and government aids were distant dream to them. Individually most of the children are not recognised as labours and when it come to the payment of wages, owners of the trades used abused language, beat and forced them to work more and more without any payment. The children have no hope and aspiration about their future. They are not fully aware of constitutional rights and human rights.

Working children are a phenomenon which is associated with the poor countries. Every family has to earn in order to make a minimum level of existence for the family. The works are generally hotel labourers, garrage assistance or load carriers, construction workers, daily labourer etc. The girl children are engaged mainly with the work of household as maid servant. While this phenomenon is associated with poverty, its main reason is the lack of education and adequate employment. We agree with Devoki Jain who states "If all adult men and weman had access to earn income according to the minimum wage or according to an above poverty line which gave a minimum level of living, no parents in rural or traditional or slum India would want to send their children to do dirty work, sometimes dangerous work. They would invariably send them to the school (D.Jain, 1990. P-10).

According to a rough estimate (Govt. of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development 1992) about child workers, there are 180 million working children in India as in 1981 out of which 47% are girl child. Girl workers who suffers much more than boy workers. Girl rag-pickers however live in the constant fear of sexual abuse and violation. Girl children in domestic employment are also often caught up equally exploitative situations especially when they are sexually abused by males in the family. Simon Joseph (1991) made a general observation on the nature of work of girl child on the basis of research findings in that male children are to be found in operations or processes where there is more likelihood of skill formation

while girl perform mainly unskilled, manual, low paid jobs. The existing industrial policy lends indirect support to the perpetuation of child labour because they are relatively cheaper than other adult labour where profits are approximately higher. Women and children are most exploited workers in Asian cities, both in industrialising and low income countries. In Asia, urban children under age 15 are found in debilitating forms of work that not only keep them in poverty but are hazardous to life. Children in India start working in industrial activities at ages as young as five and it is estimated that one fourth of the national labourforce consists of children under 14 years. Most of them never learn to read and write, are treated as bonded rather than salaried workers (AP report).

1.2. The Magnitude of the problem of the child labour in India :

In a report by PTI, more than 80 million children in the Indian sub-continent are languishing in bondage today working 14 to 16 hours in a day in inhuman, unhygienic conditions as "voiceless non-beings". India has nearly 55 million children in bonded labour, mainly engaged in agriculture, mining, construction, fishing, carpet weaving, fire-works, Matches, glass moulding, bidi, gem cutting and polishing, way side eating stall, automobile workshops, metal cutting polishing, washing and domestic service, the statement said. In carpet industry in India, there are near about three lakhs child labour were employed. (PTI, 1993).

"According to National Sample Survey there were about 17 million working children out of 270 million children. Over 83% of them were engaged in agriculture and remaining in manufacturing processing service and repair sector. No authentic survey is available and the government works on ad-hoc Sample Surveys. The authentic information available is from Census 1981, which put their number at 13.64 million" (C.L. Kalsi, 1990). The census report of 1981 indicates that out of 13,640,873 child labour below the age of 14 years, 1,071,004 child labours are urban childlabour. In which 770,658 are males and 300,346 are females.

T A B L E - 1.1

Child workers in India in 1981 (0 - 14) years age group

	Persons	Males	Females
Totals	13,640,873	8,113,512	5,527,361
Rural	12,569,869	7,342,854	5,227,015
Urban	1,071,004	770,658	300,346

Source : Census of India 1981

Table- 1.2 below furnishes percentage, distribution of child labour by sex in urban and rural areas.

T A B L E - 1.2

Percent distribution of child labour in Urban and Rural area of India according to Sex in 1981.

	Persons	Males	Females
Rural	92.15	90.50	94.57
Urban	7.85	9.50	5.43
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source :- Census of India 1981

In rural area the percentage of child labour is 92.15 and in urban area the percentage is 7.85. The number of child labour in rural areas is higher than urban areas in case of both male and female child workers.

According to census report, out of 7.4 lakhs begger 1.5 lakhs were children and in a population of 10000, 14 were beggars and 6 of them were in the age group of 14 years.

The numbers of child worker is higher in rural India. In rural area the percentage is higher in cultivation works. But in urban sector, the percentage of childlabour is higher in manufac - turing works.

T A B L E - 1.2

Distribution of child workers (Boys and Girls) in India in 1981
by nature of trade (in percentage)

Sl. No.	Category of work	Rural		Urban	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	Cultivators	43.9	36.8	6.1	5.3
2.	Agriculture	39.9	51.6	12.2	23.2
3.	Live Stock, Forestry	7.8	3.3	3.7	1.8
4.	Mining & Quarrying	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
5.	Manufacturing	4.9	5.9	49.1	38.2
6.	Construction	0.4	0.5	3.3	3.2
7.	Trade & Commerce	1.3	0.4	19.0	2.9
8.	Transport & Communication etc.	0.1	0.0	3.0	0.4
9.	Service	1.5	1.3	13.3	24.6
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source :- Census of India 1981

In India about 80% of child labours are estimated to be from SC and ST community. Among the third world countries child-lanour is highest in India. Despite the hue and cry to ban or

prohibit child labour through legislation it continues to grow unabated reaching a figure of 17.50 million in 1984 as against 10.7 million in 1971. (U.C. Sahoo, 1990)

In the year 1971, the child population in India 10.7 million (i.e. 4.7% of total population and 5.9% of total labour force) children were engaged in employment out of total child workers 0.7 million were working in urban areas and remaining 10 million (93%) were employed in rural areas. The following table provides the estimate of child labour by NSSO and Census of India.

T A B L E - 1.4

Estimates of Number of Child workers (5-14 years) in India by N.S.S.O. (1977 - 78) and Census 1981.

Sl. No.	Category of Workers	NSSO estimate 1977-88			Census 1981		
		All Areas	Rural	Urban	All Areas	Rural	Urban
1.	Total Workers	2,00,199 (11.6)	1,83,060 (13.1)	17,139 (5.3)	1,35,908 (7.6)	1,25,522 (9.0)	10,386 (2.6)
2.	Main/Major time workers	1,66,203 (9.7)	1,51,772 (10.9)	14,431 (4.5)	1,11,674 (6.2)	1,01,896 (7.3)	9,778 (2.5)
3.	Marginal/Subsidiary Workers	33,996 (2.0)	31,288 (2.2)	2,708 (0.8)	24,234 (1.4)	23,626 (1.7)	608 (0.2)
4.	Total population of children (5-14 yrs)	17,19,498	13,96,157	3,23,341	17,93,136	13,99,258	3,93,878

Source :- Ministry of Welfare, Govt. of India, Child in India,

A Statistical Profile, New Delhi - 1985 P. 467

According to N.S.S.O. estimates the work participation rate of child labour, in the age group of 5 - 14 years was 11.6 while the rate was calculated at 7.6 according to the 1981 Census. The same rate for urban areas of India was estimated at 2.6 in the 1981 Census of the total child workers in urban areas of India 39.16% was employed in household and other industries, 20.04% was employed as cultivators and agricultural labours and 15.03% was employed in trade and commercial activities. (Govt. of India, Ministry of Welfare 1985)

The Sixth five year plan documents estimated that the childlabour in India in 1985 was 172.2 lakhs while the child labour prpjection for 1995 is 175.2 lakhs. Child workers in 1985 in urban areas of India was estimated at 18.3 lakhs while it is projected for 1995 at 20.7 lakhs. The data collected by N.S.S. pointed out that the participation of children in the age group of 10 to 14 years was highest in 1970. The following table provides the age structure of child labour in India in 1970.

T A B L E - 1.5

Labour force participation rate according to age group .

Age Group	Labour force participation rate					
	Rural		Urban		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
5 - 9	3.3	2.4	0.5	0.7	2.8	2.1
10 - 14	32.7	23.0	11.7	6.8	28.9	20.1

Source :- Report of the Committee of expert on unemployment estimates, planning Commission 1970, New Delhi P.46

It appears that the incidence of child labour is more prominent in the rural areas than in the urban areas. Moreover the participation of male child labour is more than that of female child labour. In combined urban and rural India, child labour in the age group 5 to 9 years constitutes 2.8 % and 2.1 % of labour force participation in male and female respectively. In the age group of 10 to 14 years, child labour constitutes 28.9 % and 20.1 % of the work force in male and female respectively. The following table furnished the distribution of child labour in the age group 5 to 14 years by the nature of work (in percentage).

T A B L E - 1.6

Sl. No.	Works	Rural		Urban	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1.	Self employed Household workers	63	57	46	46
2.	Regular salaried workers	11	5	31	25
3.	Non-regular salaried workers	26	38	23	29
Total		100	100	100	100

Source : Provisional Result of 4th Survey on Employment and Unemployment (1987-88) N.S.S.O.

1.3. The Magnitude of the problem of child labour in Assam

The labour Minister of Assam Sri Dileswar Tanti informed the Assam Assembly on 17th March, 1993 that various industries in the State employ about 20,714 child labours of which the tea industry alone employs 19,791 child labours although the figure seems to be an underestimation. According to report with the State government, the break up of the industries employing child labourers are as follows :

Sl. No.	Trade	Number
1.	Shops and establishment	172
2.	Engineering Industry	29
3.	Plywood Industry	10
4.	Hotels and Resturents	264
5.	Embroidery	3
6.	State pencil manufacturing	5
7.	Poultry	15
8.	Transport	75
9.	Agriculture	105
10.	Brick Kiln Industry	245

Source : Assam Tribune March 18th, 1994 Page-8.

According to an estimate by State government, more than 50 % of the total population of Assam are below the poverty line in 1986. Inspite of the fact that efforts and heavy amounts are being spent on various poverty eradiction and child protection programmes, yet the percentage of population below the poverty line has not decreased substantially.

Thus to understand the problem of child labour, the levels of living and poverty should be taken into account.

1.4. Salient Provisions of Constitution on Childlabour in India :-

Article 24 of the Indian Constitution provided that 'No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment. Like wise Article 45 (Directive principal of state policy) states that 'The state shall endeavour to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of this constitution far free trade and compulsory education for all children untill the age of fourteenyears'. The Directive principales embodied in Article 39 (e) and (f) (1) the health and strength of workers, men and women and the tender age of children are not abused. (2) Citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength. (3) Children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of dignity and freedom. (4) Childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material alandonment.

1.5. India's Accession to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the child in December 1992 :-

On 11th December, 1992 the instrument of accession by the Government of India to the above mentioned convention was deposited with the U.N. Secretary General.

Convention on the Right of the Child.

Article 32

(1) states recognise the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

(2) states shall take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the implementation of the present article. To this end and having regard to the relevant provisions of other instrumental instruments, states parties shall in particular. (U. Baxi - 1993).

(a) Provide for a minimum age for admission to employment.

(b) Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment.

(c) Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the present article.

Article 49.

(1) The present convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit with the Secretary General of the United Nations of twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

(2) For each state ratifying or acceding to the convention after the deposit of the twentieth instrument or ratification or accession, the convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after deposit by such state of its instruments of ratification or accession.

1.6. Acts and Policies for Prohibition and Regulation of Child labour in India :-

The Government have announced a National child labour policy. This includes stepping up the enforcement of the childlabour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1926, the Factories Act 1948, the Mines Act 1952, Employment of children Act 1938, Plantation Labour Act 1951 enacted with a view to providing legal protection to children in various occupations. — The Government are also implementing an I.L.O programme entitled ' International Programme for the Elimination of Childlabour.' The Department of Women and Child Development are undertaking continuous measures for implementation of domestic law, as well as India's commitments under the U.N. convention on the Rights of the child. (J.N. Dixit, 1993).

The Government are trying to ensure that child labour is not exposed to the prohibited category of hazardous employment. At the seventh SAARC summit at Dhaka in April, 1993, the Head of the States or Governments reaffirmed their commitment to accord the highest priority to child survival, protection and development.

The child labour issue was not discussed at the Harare Summit.

In Vienna Conference the Government of India very strongly supported the relevant sections of the Vienna Declaration relating to the Rights of child.

1.7. World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1992 —

The Rights of the child :-

1. The world conference reiterates the principles of 'First Call for children' and in this respect, underline the major national and international efforts, especially those of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), for promoting respect for the rights of the child to survival, protection, development and participation.
2. Measures should be taken to achieve universal ratification of the convention on the Rights of the Child by 1995 and the universal signing of the World Summit Declaration and plan of Action, as well as their effective implementation. The World conference urges states to withdraw reservations to the convention on the Rights of the child contrary to the object and purpose of the convention or otherwise contrary of international treaty law.
3. The World Conference urges all nations to undertake measures, with the support of international co-operation, to achieve the goals in the world summit plan of Action. The conference calls on the states to integrate the convention on the Rights of the child into their national action plans. By means of these national action plans and through international efforts, particular priority should be placed to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates,

reduce malnutrition and illiteracy rates and to provide access to safe drinking water and to basic education.

4. The world conference urges all states with the support of international co-operation, to address the acute problem of children under specially difficult circumstances. Exploitation and abuse of children should be actively combatted, including by addressing their root cause. Effective measures are required against female infanticide, harmful child labour, sale of children and organs, child prostitution, child pornography as well as other forms of sexual abuse.

5. The world conference supports all measures by the United Nations and its specialised agencies to ensure the effective protection and promotion of human rights of the girl child.

6. The world conference recognises the important role played by non-governmental organisations (NGO) in the effective implementation of all human rights instruments and in particular, the convention on the rights of the child.

1.8. Provision of Law and Acts and Policies for child labour in India :-

The Government of India enacted many laws and Acts to protect the interest of child labours and to stop exploitation and abuses of child labour by employers. There was the children (pledging of labour Act 1933) which prohibited making of much of the work performed by the children is illegal. The Govt. encouraged studies and surveys and appointed a National Committee of Child labour under the chairmanship of Sri H.S. Gurupadswamy. Consultation with trade union led

to the adoption of child labour (prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 and establishment of Central Advisory Committee.

The Act prohibits employment of children in six occupations and 14 process under section 3 , but it also provides that it will not apply if the occupier carries out the work with the members of his family. To supplement the provisions of the Act, a Technical Advisory Committee has been constituted to identify additional process where child labour could be prohibited. On its advice, child labour has been further banned in the selling of crackers, process using toxic metals of lead, mercury, chromium, benzene and slate pencils.

To further strengthen the efforts to progressively eliminate child labour, National childlabour policy was adopted in 1987. It calls for 3 pronged strategy of legal action, dovetailing other welfare schemes and development Programmes through project-based plan of action. Under legal action, emphasis was laid on enforcement of provisions.

The other approach was to take advantage of schemes of welfare run by other departments which relate to formal education, health, nutrition, integrated child development, income and employment opportunities.

A project-based plan of action was initiated in some industries with high concentration of child labour. Some of these industries are :-

1. Match Factory of Sivakashi (Tamil Nadu)
2. Diamond polishing Industry of Surat (Gujrat)

3. Glass factory of Faridabad (Uttar Pradesh)
4. Brass industries of Firujabad (Uttar Pradesh)
5. Carpet industries of Mirzapur, Banaras (Uttar Pradesh)
6. Hand made carpet making Factory of Jammu and Kashmir,
7. State industries of Mandsur (Madhya Pradesh)
8. State industries of Makapur (Andra Pradesh)
9. Costliest Mineral Polishing industries of Jaipur (Rajasthan)

About 30,000 children will be covered every year at a cost of Rs. 110 million per year. In all these projects child labour has been prohibited. The programme involving setting up of special schools, vocational training, supplementary nutrition and health care. Provision for stipends has been made for children taken out from the forbidden employments to compensate loss of their earnings. Along with this, voluntary organisations had been authorised to make up action oriented projects for the benefit of child labour. Over Rs. 11.43 crore was given to voluntary organisations during 1989-90.

To evaluate the effectiveness of the 1986 Act, and functioning of project-based action, a task force was constituted with Dr. L.M. Singhvi as chairman which submitted its report in December 1989. The task force says that the Act of 1986 was cast in customary conventional mould which does not embody mandatory provisions for education, training health and even for the creation of a National child labour welfare fund. The Advisory Board is not statutory and there is no provision for the submission of its report to parliament or state legislature. According to them, legislative action plan should be radically recast and reformed.

To monitor the programmes to the better of child labour ILO is providing funds for the setting up of a mechanism in the Ministry of Labour to be known as child labour Action and Support Project (CLASP). It will enhance the policy, planning and implementation capacity and help in monitoring on going projects and further programmes and facilitate a more efficient use of governmental resources.

On September 30, 1990 over 150 nations including India unanimously adopted a declaration and plan of Action for survival, protection and development of child to give a better future. They adopted a resolution to work for special protection of working child and for the abolition of illegal child labour.

In 1979, child labour cell has been formed under Labour Ministry. The cell implements many Acts on to abolition of child workers and other facilities to protection and development of children.

2.1 Objectives of the Study :-

The basic objective of the proposed study is to investigate the socio-economic background of child labour in greater Guwahati and its implications. To be more specific it is proposed to investigate,

- (1) The trend of growth of child labour in the city.
- (2) The factors that are responsible for forcing to be child labour.
- (3) The types of services done by the child labour.
- (4) The health and hygienic conditions of the child labour.
- (5) Educational background of the child labour.
- (6) The Socio-Economic background of child labour.
- (7) The problems of child labour including the nature and extent of economic and social exploitation.
- (8) It is also proposed to outline some measures to stop abuses and exploitation of child labour.

2.2 Hypothesis +

There is no any central hypothesis to be tested in the study. But certain important questions relating to the area of study will be answered. Some of them are :

1. What is the extent of child labour ?
2. What are the main factors responsible for the growth of child labour ?

3. What is the nature and extent of abuses and exploitation of child labour and their socio-economic implications.

2.3 Significance of the Study :-

The study attempts to unearth certain important facts relating to the extent and nature of child labour and their exploitation. This study also examines the family income of the family of the child labour, Educational qualification of their family, their housing problems, the standard of living, the educational qualification of the child labour etc. This provides enough empirical evidence to the government and local authorities to take appropriate steps to hit at the root of the problem of child labour.

2.4 Methodology, data collection and Sample design :-

The work is based on both primary and secondary data. All the available and relevant secondary sources of information both published and unpublished are consulted. In order to obtain primary data on the socio-economic background of the child labour, a sample Survey was conducted in greater Guwahati, the questionnaire being given in the Appendix.

The Coverage of Sample Survey in greater Guwahati as defined by the Gauhati Minicipal Corporation. The Sample Survey has been carried out in two stages. In the first stage, out of 34 wards, we have selected 5 wards separately for the specific trade under study. The selected wards consist highest numbers of specific trade. Four specific trade have been identified where most of the child labour are engaged, They are 1) Car Garages 2) Tee stalls,

Hotels and Resturents 3) Rag-nickers (waste collectors) and 4) Household Servents.

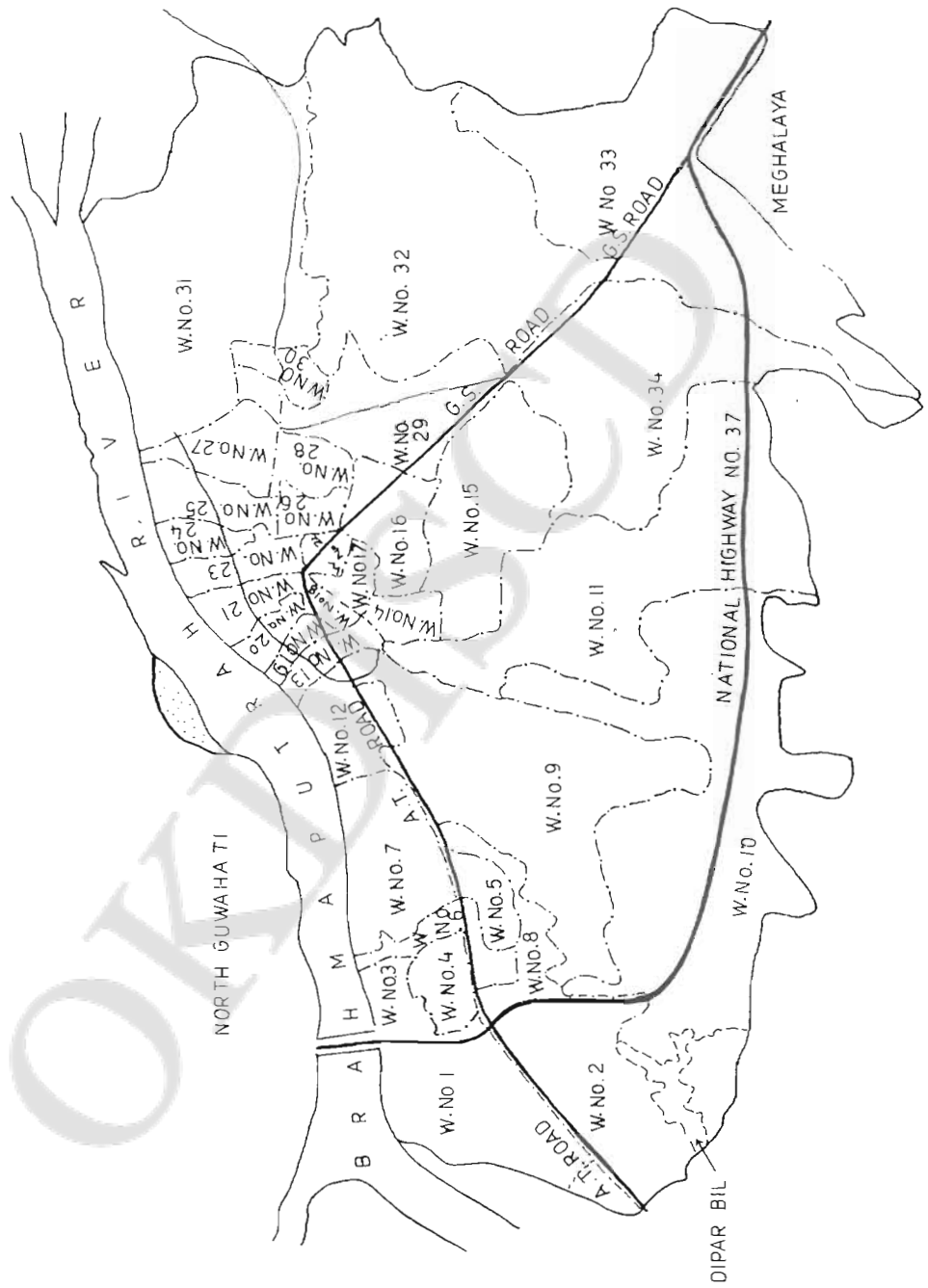
In the second stage, a radom sample in the selected wards has been conducted to collect the desired data on child labour. The size of the samples is about 7.97% of the listed 627 car garages and about 5.40% of the 833 tea stall and about 0.40 % of the 104570 households. The relevent supplementary information are collected from all other available secondary sources like Census report , report of Gauhati Municipal Corporation, News papers , journals , Booklets, reports of Town and Country Planning Corporation and Population Research Centre , Gauhati University.

2.5 The Area of Research : Greater Guwahati :-

The area of research is Greater Guwahati as defined by Gauhati Minicipal Corporation which is the nerve centre of trade and commerce in Assam. The growth of trade and commerce and other forms of Business activities in Guwahati has a long history. During Ahom rule, it was also a centre of trade and business activities. After the arrival of British the importance of Guwahati increased. Many fold with the establishment of educational institutions and various industries and being the gateway to the rest of the country through rail and river communication. After independence Guwahati become the central place of business ,

WARDWISE MAP OF GREATER GUWAHATI

(GUWAHATI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION)



1 05 0 1 Mile

W. No.: WARD NUMBER

administration, educational activities etc. in Assam. Guwahati is also the district head-quarter of Kamrup district and also became the capital of Assam since 1972 after the creation of the State of Meghalaya.

The city is situated on the south bank of the river Brahmaputra at an altitude of 55 meters from the sea level, the latitude and longitude being $26^{\circ}10'45''$ (N) and $92.49'$ (E) respectively (Bouah, 1984). The area covered by greater Guwahati (Area of GMC) at present 216 sq. km. The Gauhati Municipal came into existence in the year of 1865. In 1974 the Gauhati Municipal Corporation was constituted. According to 1971 Census the population of Guwahati was 1,23,783. As there was no Census in Assam in 1981, the projected population of Guwahati was estimated to be 5,50,000. According to 1991 Census, the population of greater Guwahati was 5,84,342 (Census of India 1993). Since the population increased by only 34,342 during 1981 to 1991, the projected population 1981 was definitely an overestimation. The rapid urbanisation, Industrialisation and rapid growth of population in Guwahati has resulted in opening wider avenues of employment both in organised and unorganised sectors. The population of Guwahati has been raising rapidly in recent years due mainly to the migration of population from different parts of the state as well as country and outside of the country. According to 1971 Census about 59.73 p.c. of total population of

Guwahati had migrated to this town while the non-migration population constituted only 40.27 percent. The place of origin of the migrated population to Guwahati in terms of percentage of total population as per 1971 Census as furnished in the following table :-

T A B L E - 2.1..

Sl. No	Place of origin	Percentage of total Migrated Population 1971.
1.	Kamrup District	17.07
2.	Other District of Assam	15.12
3.	Rest of India	16.92
4.	Outside India	10.62
	All Total	59.73

Source :- Town and Country Planning Organisation, Government of Assam. Final Master Plan and Zoning Regulations for Guwahati, 1987 .

Migration of population from Bihar (41.90%), West Bengal (12.62%), Rajasthan (19.47%) Meghalaya (10.20%) and Uttar Pradesh (9.62%) constitutes the main source of migration from outside of Assam. Further, out of the total migrant from outside India, about 70% came from Bangladesh (East Pakistan) and 15.5% from Nepal. (Town and Country Planning Organisation, Government of Assam).

The density of population of Greater Guwahati was 8693 per square kilometer in 1971. In 1981 Census the projected density of population in Greater Guwahati was 6237 per square kilometer and it was 2705 in 1991. The fall in the density is mainly due to increase in the size Greater Guwahati from 14.24 square kilometer in 1971 to 88 square kilometer in 1981 and to 216 square kilometer in 1991.

There are 34 Municipal wards under greater Guwahati. The distribution of total population and household in the various Municipal wards is furnished in the following table.

TABLE - 2.2

Ward Number	Number of Population	Number of Household
1	11418	1994
2	11696	1951
3	4881	966
4	17249	3557
5	9693	2050
6	12637	2540
7	10933	2050
8	6297	1222
9	24279	5094
10	14801	2958
11	38644	7812
12	11294	2110
13	11236	1941
14	15025	3231
15	29080	6133
16	22457	5382
17	9352	1830
18	7767	1400
19	8096	1233
20	7082	1280
21	7419	1406
22	9379	1981
23	10898	2198
24	5788	1162
25	13824	2942
26	12289	2737
27	17418	4232
28	10878	2413
29	40189	9552
30	10618	2548
31	28178	6836
32	45362	10764
33	38889	8718
34	49296	11926
TOTAL	58,43,42	12,55,06

Source :- M.I.C.U.P. State Unit — Village/Town Primary

Census Abstract — 1993.

T A B L E - 2.3

Decadal variation of Population in Greater Guwahati

Year	Total Population	Decadal Variation (Percentage)
1951	43,615	47.38
1961	1,00,707	130.90
1971	1,23,783	22.91
1981*	5,50,000	344.33
1991	5,84,342	6.24

* Estimate for 1981 is projected.

Source :- Census of India, 1981 and Census of India 1993 (Provisional)

The decadal variation of population of Greater Guwahati is not stable. In 1941-51 the growth rate was 47.38% and in 1951-61 it was increased to 130.90% but in 1961-71 it had declined and the growth rate was only 22.91%. On the other hand in the year 1971-81 the growth rate of population increases by 344.33% but in 1981-91 it had declined and the growth rate was only 6.24%. The duadel variation between 1971-81 and 1981-91 cannot be taken for granted as the projected population of 1981 is suspected to be overestimated.

Residents of Guwahati are perdominantly of Indian origins. Assamese and Bengali form the largest linguistic group. Manipuries, Biharies and Maruaries are found in cluster in different localities.

It is observed that more than two fifth of the total population

consists of infants and children falling in the age group 0-14 which is mainly comprises of primary and High school going children. In the year as per 1971 Census the child population of Guwahati constituted 29.53% of the total population (i.e, in absolute number the child population was 36,558) in the age group of 0 - 14 years. While workers (all ages) constituted 34.92% of the total population in Guwahati in 1971, childlabour (0-14 years age group) constituted 2.91% of total population. Male child workers constituted 3.94% of the total male population and female child workers constituted 1.79% of the total female population. The total working population of the city in 1971, child workers in the age group of 0 - 14 years accounted for 3% of the total male workers 2.25% was in the age group of 0-14 years while 16.43% of the total female workers of the city was in the age group of 0 - 14 years.

2.6 The Socio economic Conditions of the people of Guwahati vis a vis child worker.

The economic conditions of the people of Guwahati are not satisfactory. A large section of the population live below the poverty line. Like any other city, Guwahati also possesses a large number of slums and childworkers. The provision of housing and sanitation is very poor. The majority of children from poorest families are illiterate. A large number of children from poorest families engaged either in household works to help their parents

or in other trades to earn money. The employment of the people belonging to the low income groups engaged with manual services and other labour intensive occupations. This section of the population normally engaged in construction works, unskilled manual labours comprising of workers in public, utilities and services, transport and repair shops, production workers, gardeners, waiters, domestic servants and day labourers etc.

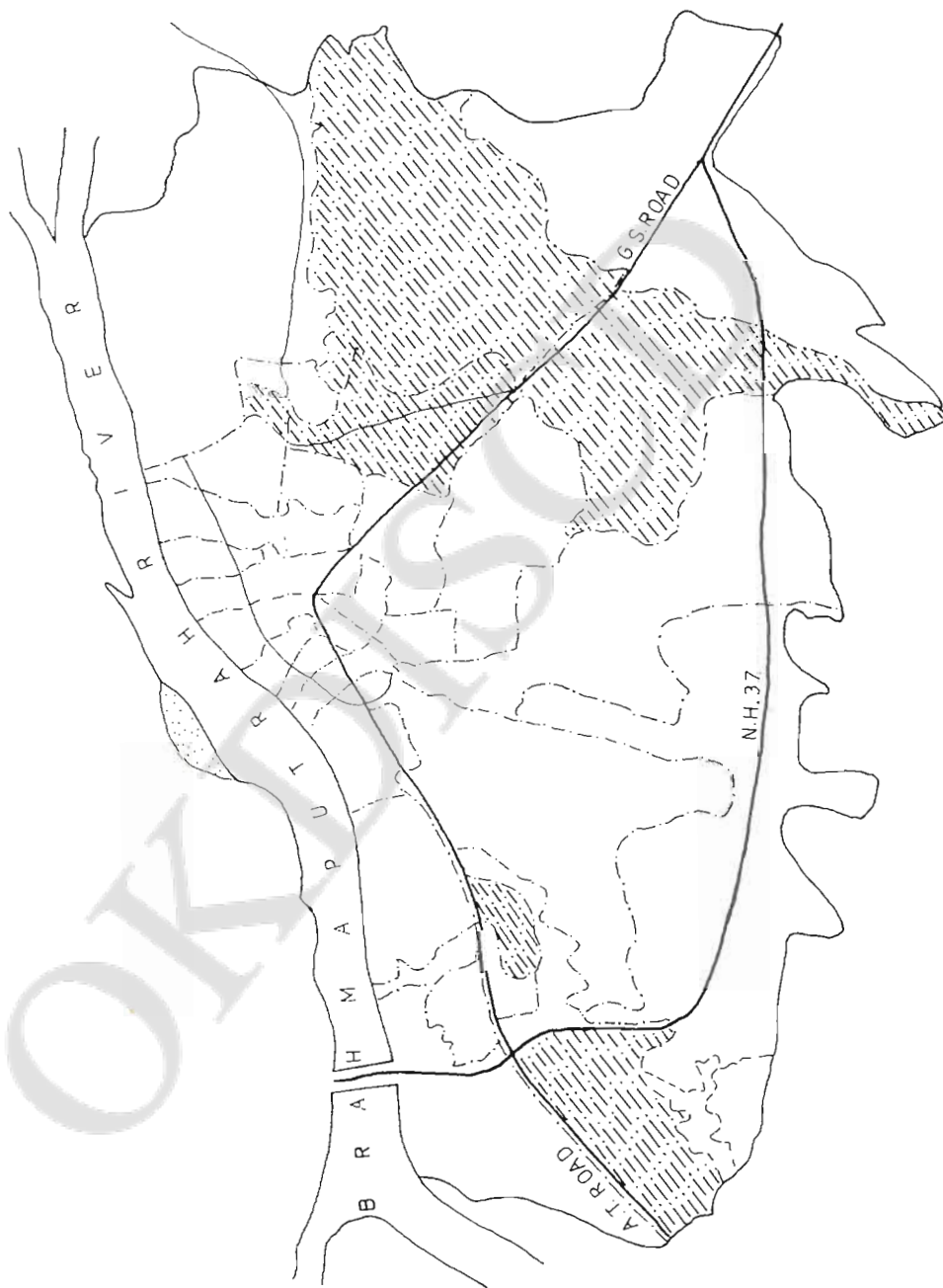
A huge number of trade and construction works attracted a large number of childlabour in recent years. Because of increases the number of vehicles, a huge number of garrages have been set up since the last decade in an around Guwahati which have absorbed a large number of child labours.

According to the Census of 1971, out of the total population 1,23,783, there were 43,228 workers and 80,555 non-workers in the greater Guwahati. Thus the dependency ratio found to be 10 : 19 which virtually means that every ten earning persons of this city are support 19 dependents.

2.7 Households

Out of the total household of 24,015 in the Greater Guwahati in 1971, 33.83% lived in their own houses while the rest 66.17% live in rented houses (Town and Country Planning, 1987). At present the number of residential household in Greater Guwahati is 125037 according to the 1991 Census. The following

SURVEYED WARDS OF HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS
IN GREATER GUWAHATI(G.M.C AREA)



1 0.5 0 1 Mile

 SURVEYED WARD

table provides the percentage of total household by size and tenure status in 1971 under Guwahati Municipal Area.

Household clasified by size and Tenure status,Guwahati Municipal Area, 1971.

T A B L E - 2.4

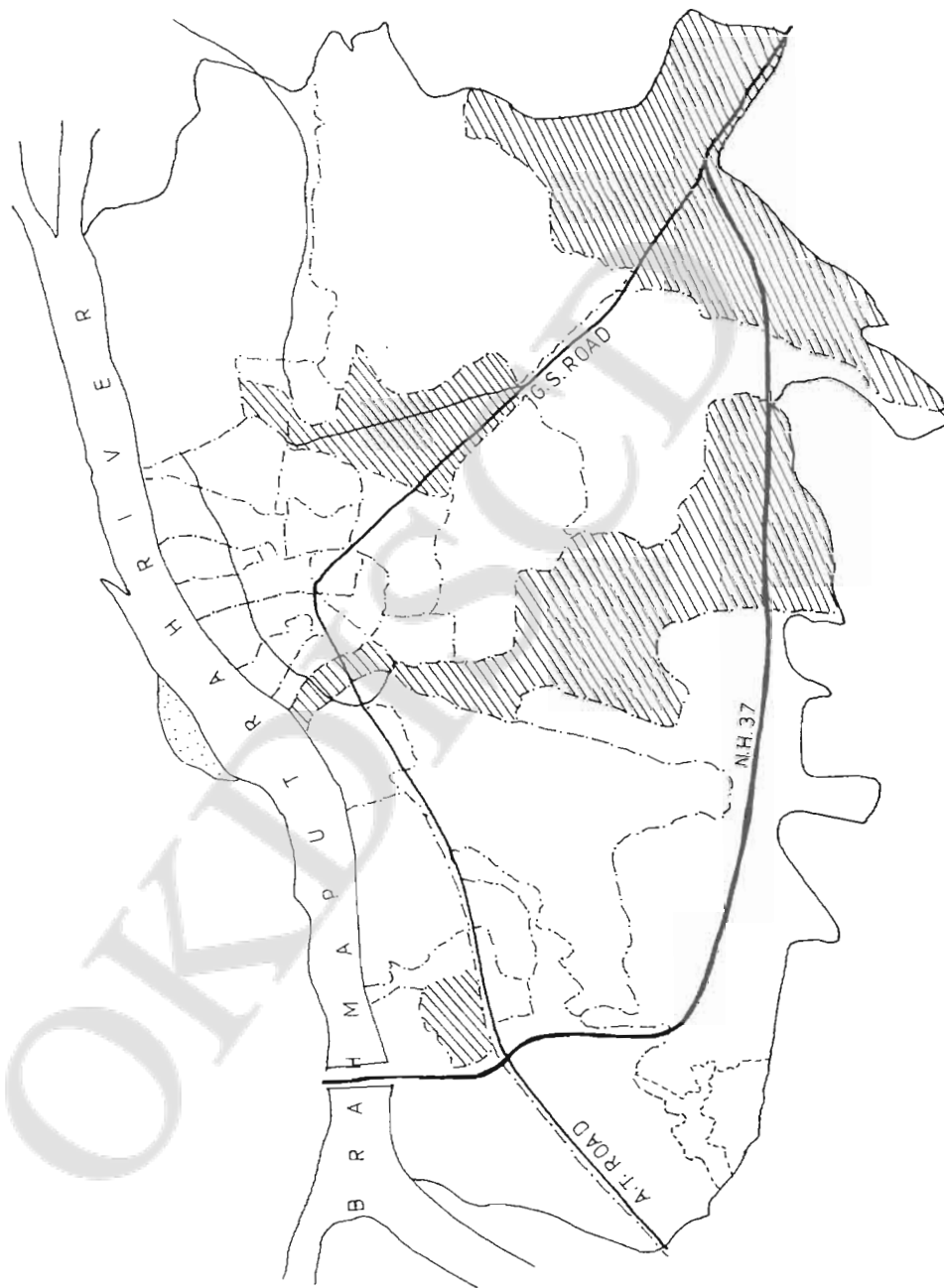
Number of persons in each Household	P.C. Distribution own house	Household occupying Rented house
1 person	16.43	83.57
2 - 3 persons	19.47	80.53
4 - 5 persons	28.47	71.53
6 or more persons	51.42	48.53

Source :- Master plan : Town and Country Planning Organisation
1987 Page-24

2.8 Workers and Repair shops.

There is a sizeable increase in the numbers of fast moving vehicles in the city of Guwahati over the last decade. Scooters and Motor bikes have become a popular mode of transportation, for which the number of these vehicles increases rapidly. This has resulted in growth of workshops and repair shops in various parts of the city. Out of 34 wards 24 wards covered this activity. Out of 34 wards the major 5 wards of this trade are — ward No. - 4 (Garpandu), 11 (Dakhin Goan, National High way),

**SURVEYED WARDS OF GARRAGE WORKERS
IN GREATER GUWAHATI (G.M.C. AREA)**



 SURVEYED WARD

0.5 0 Mile


13 (A.T. Road, Bharalumukh to Platan Bazar area), 29 (Zoo Road to Ganeshguri). 33 (Beltola). The roads mainly with concentration of these activities are among G.S. Road, G.N.B. Road, Part of Zoo Road and National Highway. --(Demand Registration Book of G.M.C 1993-94 and Town and Country Planning 1987).

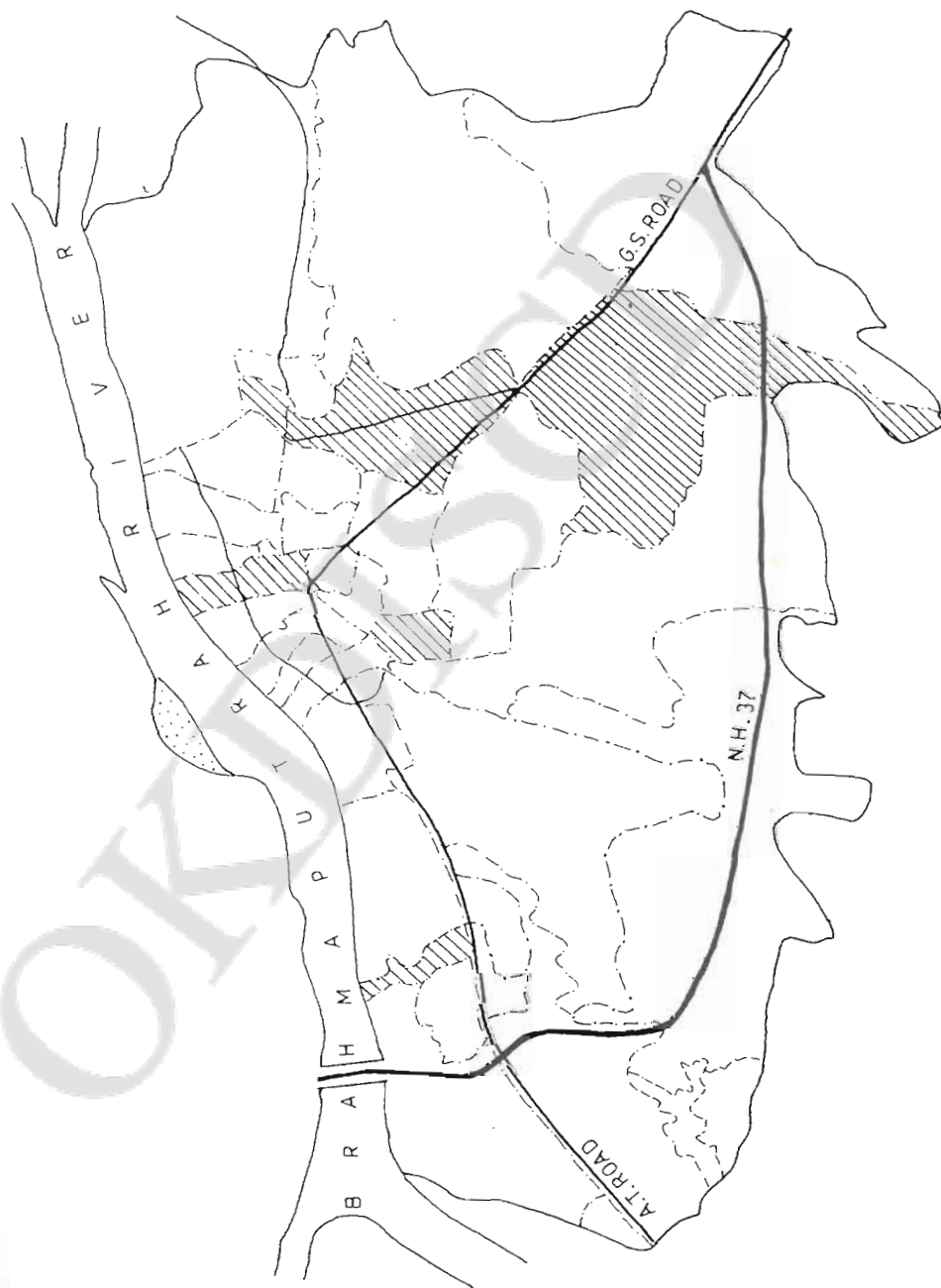
2.9 Hotels/Resturents and Tea Stalls.:-

The population of Guwahati has been rising rapidly in recent years along with enormous growth of trade and commerce. The increase in population along with trade and commerce has resulted in a change in the social and economic conditions of the city. The growth of population and trade and commerce lead to inter alia , the growth of hotels, resturents and tea stalls. According to the demand Register of Gauhati Municipal Corporation, the total number of hotels, tea stalls and Resturents are approximately 922. The major wards of tea stalls are ward No. 6 (Pandu), Ward No. 14 (Fatasil Ambari), Ward No. 23 (Paltan Bazar), Ward No. 29 (Zoo Road, Ganeshguri area), Ward No. 34 (Beltola Hatigoan Area). Out of 34 wards the data on tea stalls are not available in 6 wards namely 18, 19 , 20, 26 and 27. Thus in case of trade and commerce the tea stall is one of the major commercial business in greater Guwahati.

2.10 Households of Gawahati City :

The total number of households of greater Guwahati is 125906. According to primary Census Abstract 1993 the Residential occupied household number of greater Guwahati is 125037 in 1991. On the

SURVEYED WARDS OF TEA STALL WORKERS
IN GREATER GUWAHATI (G.M.C. AREA)

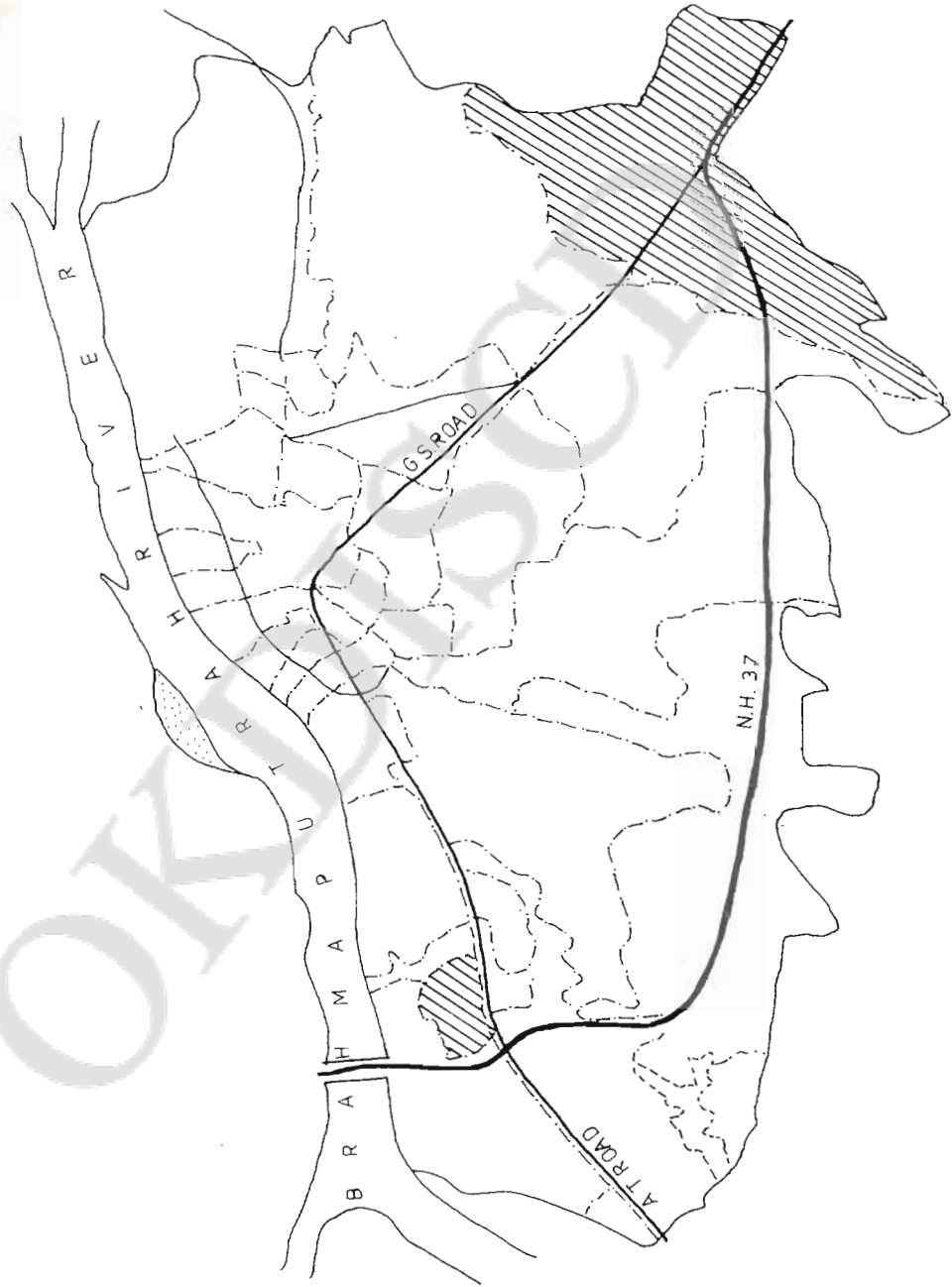


other hand the total population of greater Guwahati according to 1993 Census report is 584342 persons. The wards which has relatively large number of households are, namely, ward No. 34 (Hatigoan), ward No. 32 (Hengrabari), ward No. 29 (Zoo Road Area), etc. The Households engage a large number of child workers mainly the girl child workers as maid servent.

2.11 The Slums in Greater Guwahati :-

The rapid growth of population creates the situation of overpopulation in greater Guwahati. The slum areas also exist because the over population of the city. Some of the child workers of the slum areas are engaged as mainly rag-pickers, waste collector etc. In Guwahati ten localities are identified as having slum areas. They are (1) Marisali, (2) Athgoan, (3) Bishnupur, (4) Tokobari (5) Rajabari, (6) Fatasil, (7) Monimuri Basti (8) Hadyatpur (9) Lakhtokia, (10) Kachari Basti. The total household numbers of the slum areas are 2476 in 1993 and total population of these areas are 11371 in the year 1993 (Town and Country Planning).

SURVEYED WARDS OF RAG-PICKERS
IN GREATER GUWAHATI(G.M.C.AREA)



1 05 0 1 Mile

C H A P T E R - III

Socio-economic Background of child labour in Greater Guwahati.:-

The survey conducted in this study incorporates most of the socio-economic characteristics of child labour in greater Guwahati. It includes the age structure of child labour, distribution of child labour by sex, religion, language and caste, other social background, educational background and pattern of earnings.

In this chapter, socio-economic background of child labour will be dealt with and the pattern of earnings and related issues will be discussed in the next chapter.

3.1 Age structure of child labour in greater Guwahati :-

In our study, combining all four types of works, the child labour in the age group of 12 years constitutes above 42 % of the total child labour participation. The following table furnishes the detailed information of age structure of child labour in all four kinds of trades under the study in greater Guwahati.

T A B L E - 3.1

Age structure of child labour in greater Guwahati by nature of trade (in percentage).

Age group (year)	Nature of trade				
	Automobile Garage	Rag- pickers	Tea stalls	Household servant	All Trade
8	---	23.80	6.67	---	5.67
9	---	---	---	4.00	.71
10	18.00	38.10	13.33	12.00	18.44
11	12.00	19.05	26.67	24.00	19.86
12	52.00	19.05	42.22	40.00	41.84
13	14.00	---	8.89	20.00	11.35
14	4.00	---	2.22	---	2.13
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appears that, the participation of children in the age 12 is highest in combined all trades. This is also true in case of the individual trades under study except in the case of rag-pickers. To be specific the percentage of child labour in

the age group 12 years engaged in garages constitutes 52 % , while it is 42.2 % in tea stalls, 40 % in household work and 19.05 % in rag-picker jobs. But in case of Rag pickers the participation of child labour in the age of 10 years is the highest. In our survey, no child labour is found below the age of 8 years. The lowest participation age for all trade is found to be 9 years which is .71 % .

It appears from the above table that the participation of child labour in Garage works at the age 12 years is the highest being 52 % of the total child labour engaged in that trade and their participation at the age 14 years is the lowest being only 4 % . On the other hand, 18 % children participated in Garage at their age of 10 years, 12% at their age of 11 and 14% at their age of 13 years. No child worker was found in the age group of 5 years to 9 years in this field.

In case of rag pickers, out of 21 samples the participation of children as Rag pickers at the age of 10 years is highest. i.e. 38.10%. Similarly 19.05% child labour were working in this category at the age of 11 years to 12 years respectively. The percentage of participation of children as rag picker at the age 8 years is 23.80%.

In case of child labour working in tea stalls, out of 45 samples drawn, an unequal distribution of participation of child labour in this category found in every age group between 8 years to 14 years except in the age of 9 years. In this trade , the participation of children of the age group of 12 is the highest

i.e. 42.22 percent and lowest in the age group of 14 years, i.e. 2.22%.

In case of child labour engaged in household works, out of 25 samples drawn from five wards, the highest number of participation of child labour in the household works was 40% at their age of 12, while the lowest number of participants was about 4% of child worker at the age of 9 years.

From the above table (Table-3.1) it is found that the highest rate participation of child labour is concentrated in the age group 10 to 13 years. And lowest participant rate of child labour is found in the age group 5 years to 9 years as well as in the age group of 14 years.

Taking into account all the four types occupation combined together, the 93.62% of the child labour belongs to the age group 10 to 14 years of age and 6.38% below the age of 10 years.

3.2 Distribution of child labour in Greater Guwahati by sex :-

Out of 141 samples it is found that the male child labour constitutes about 86% of the total child labour of greater Guwahati. They are engaged dominantly in the occupation like helper in garages, rag pickers and tea stall workers. On the other hand, girl child labour are dominating the household work constituting about 64% of the total child worker engaged in household work. The following table provides the percentage

distribution of both male and female child labour in various trades in greater Guwahati.

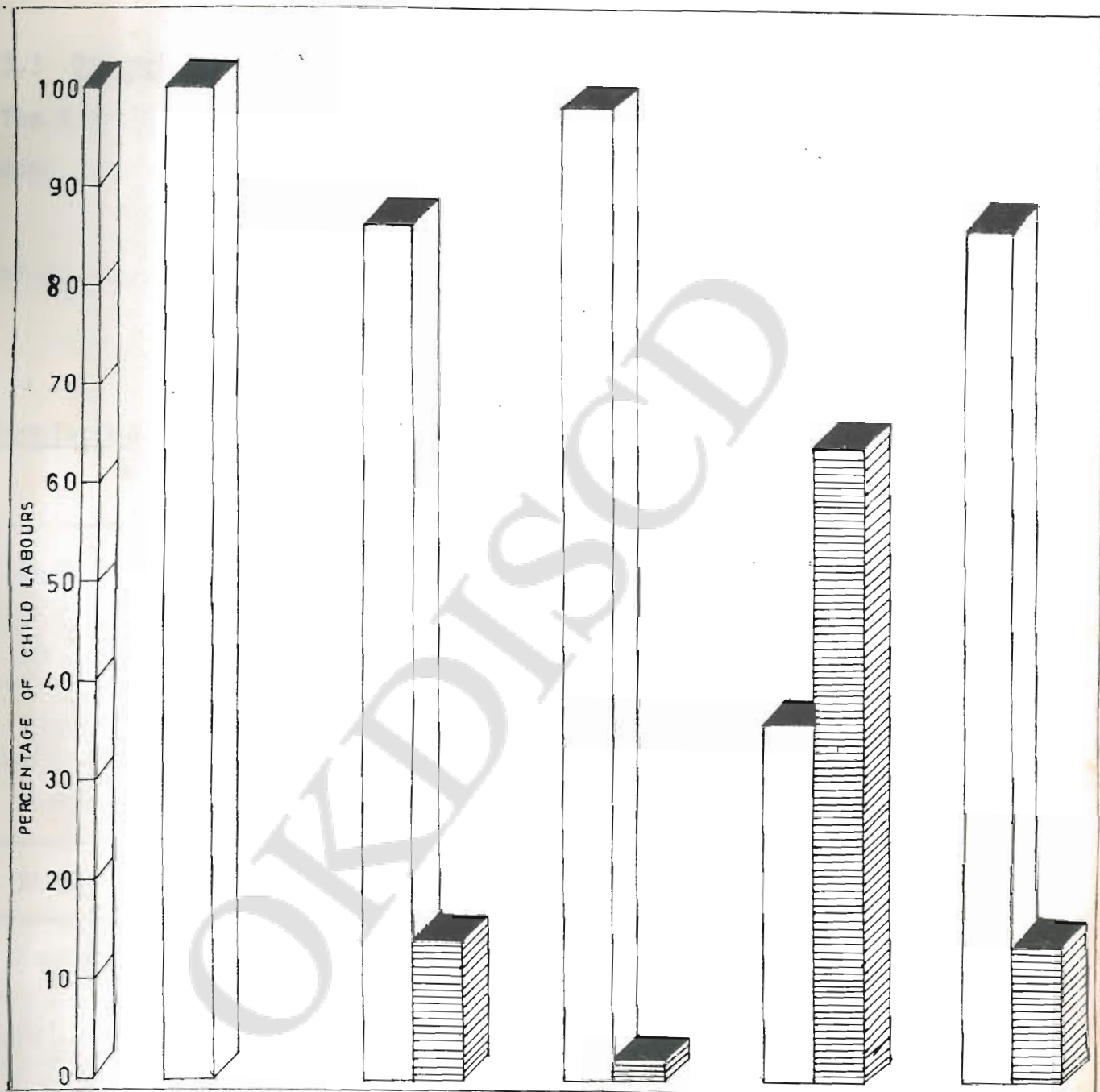
T A B L E - 3.2

Distribution of child labour in Greater Guwahati by sex and by nature of Trade (in percentage).

Sex	Nature of Trade				
	Automobile Garage helpers	Rag pickers	Tea stalls workers	Household servants	All trade
Male	100.00	85.71	97.78	36.00	85.82
Female	---	14.29	2.22	64.00	14.18
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appear from the above table that the participation of girl child labour is obviously nil in automobile garage and is almost insignificant in tea stalls, but their participation is relatively better in rag picking jobs and their only participation seems to be household workers

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOUR IN GREATER GUWAHATI BY SEX



 MALE

 FEMALE

3.3 Distribution of child labour in greater Guwahati by religion :-

The distribution of child labour in greater Guwahati by religion does not conform the general pattern of distribution of population.

The table given below indicates the population pattern of greater Guwahati in 1971 by religion.

T A B L E - 3.3

Population pattern of Guwahati According to Religion in 1971 .

Religion	Person	Percentage of total population
All Religion	123,783	100.00
Hindus	107,638	86.96
Muslims	12,312	9.95
Sikhs	1,797	1.44
Christians	1,308	1.06
Jains	612	0.49
Buddhists	126	0.10

Source : Census of India 1971.

It appears from the above table that 86.96 percent of population was Hindu in 1971. Similarly 9.95% are Muslims, 1.44% are Sikhs, 1.06% are Christians, 0.49% are Jains and 0.10% are Buddhists.

In our study it is found that the child labour belong to two main communities -- Hindu and Muslims. Out of the 141 samples the largest percentages of child labour was from Hindu community constituting 61.7 percent of the total child labours, while Muslims child labour constitutes the remaining 38.3 % . The percentage distribution of child labour according to religion and nature of trade is given in the following table :

T A B L E - 3.4

Distribution of child labour in greater Guwahati by religion and nature of trade (in percentage).

Religion	Nature of Trade				
	Carriage helpers	Rag Pickers	Tea stall workers	Household servant	All Trade
HINDUS	64.00	14.29	66.67	88.00	61.70
MUSLIMS	36.00	85.71	33.33	12.00	38.30
SIKHS	---	---	---	---	---
OTHERS	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appears from the above table that in the occupation like automobile garages and tea stalls, child labour belonging

to Hindu community constitute approximately two-third of the total child labour working in those trades where as the child labour belonging to muslim community constitutes one-thirds. But it is interesting to note that the child labour belonging to muslim community dominates the rag-pickers jobs constituting about 86% of the total child labour engaged in that trade. But in case of child labour engaged in household works , it conforms more or less and to the general pattern of distribution of population by religion in greater Guwahati being 88% Hindu and 12% muslim child workers. This may be due to the fact that Hindu households prefer Hindu child labour and Muslim household prefer Muslim child labour for the obvious social bindings.

3.4 Distribution of child labour according to their Caste :-

The response of child labour on the question of caste is not satisfactory. Many of them are ignorant of their caste or they are not sure of their caste. However, they could finally indicate their caste after the classification or definition of caste. So the informations on caste may not be hundred percent perfect and accurate.

The distribution of child labour according to their caste is furnished in the following table.

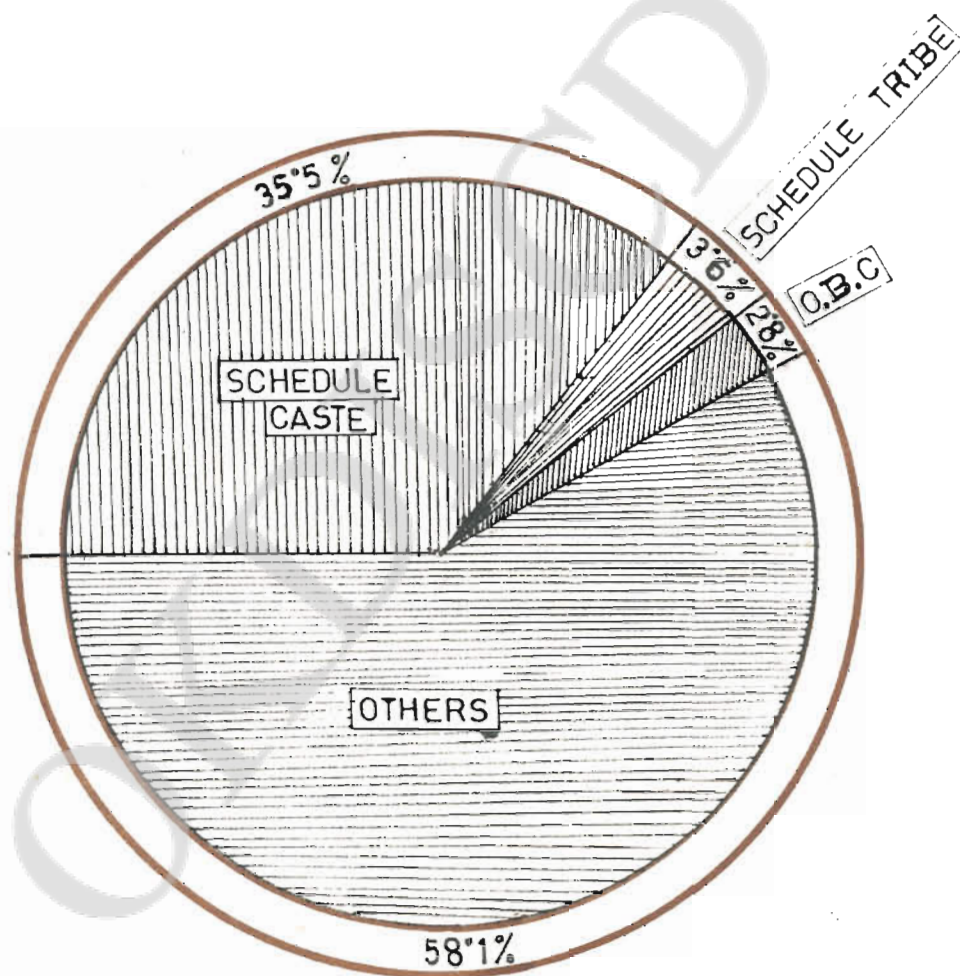
T A B L E - 3.5

Distribution of child labour in Greater Guwahati by Caste and nature of Trade (in percentage) .

Caste	Nature of trade				
	Garage helpers	Rag-pickers	Tea stalls worker	Household Worker	All Trade
SC	34.00	4.76	48.89	40.00	35.46
ST	2.00	---	2.22	12.00	3.55
OBC	4.00	---	---	8.00	2.84
OTHERS	60.00	95.24	48.89	40.00	58.15
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appears from the above table that out of child labours working in Garage, 34% were belongs in SC categories, 2% in ST and 4% in OBC categories 60% child workers in this trade belongs to others categories. In case of Rag-pickers 95.24% of the labours belongs in other category and only 4.76% belongs in SC category and there is non-from ST and OBC. In case of Tea stall workers, both SC and others categories constitute 48.89% of child labour in tea stalls respectively. — Only 2.22% of child labour in this trade comes from ST caste.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDLABOUR BY CASTE (in Greater Guwahati)



In case of house-hold servant , 40% of the child labour belongs in SC category and another 40 % of child belongs in other castes . Only 12% and 8 % child worker comes from ST and OBC respectively.

Taking into account the combined child labours working in all the four categories of trade, it appears that scheduled caste children constitutes more than one-thirds of total child labours in Guwahati (about 35 %) while scheduled tribe and OBC constitute about 4 % and 3 % of the child labour and about 58 % belong to other castes.

3.5 Mother tongue of the child labours :-

In a cosmopolitan area like Guwahati city it is likely that people belonging to different communities speaking different languages are found to be settled. The composition of population of Guwahati as per 1971 Census is shown in the Table 3.5 below since the same for 1991 Census are not available .

T A B L E - 3.6

Distribution of population according to language :-

Mother tongue	Persons	Percentage of total Population
All languages	123,783	100.00
Assamese	57,071	46.11
Bengali	30,922	24.98
Hindi	24,258	19.60
Nepali	4,036	3.26
Panjabi	1,118	0.90
Monipuri	869	0.70
Telugu	871	0.70
Rajasthani	733	0.59
Bodo	578	0.47
Malayalam	422	0.34
Bihari	406	0.33
Others	2,499	2.02

Source :- Census of India, 1971.

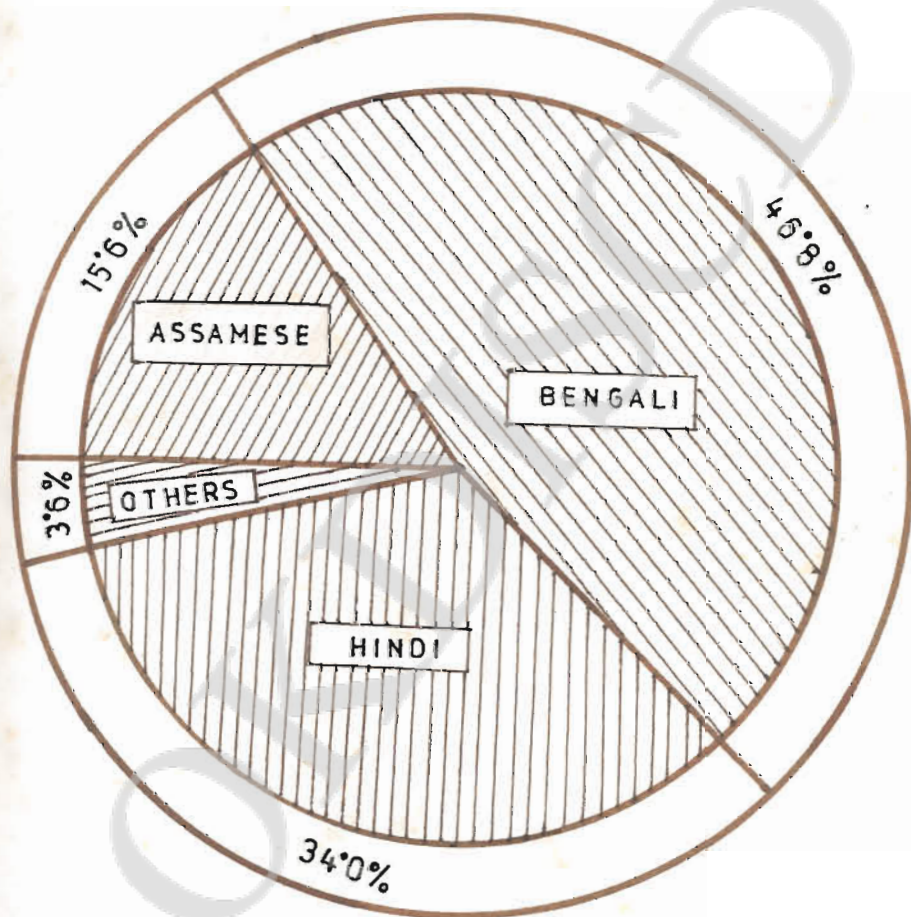
Of the total population of Guwahati in 1971, 46.11 percent of population was Assamese. Similarly 24.98 % and 19.60 % population were Bengali and Hindi speaking population. But the distribution of child labour according to their languages does not corroborate the composition of population by language in greater Guwahati as per 1971 Census. Of the 141 samples the longest number of child workers are Bengali speaking. Next to Bengali speaking, Hindi speaking child labour and then Assamese speaking child labour constitute the majority. The following table furnishes the percentage distribution of child labour by various trade in greater Guwahati.

T A B L E - 3.7

Distribution of child labour in GreaterGuwahati according to Mother tongue and by nature of Trade (in percentage).

Mother tongue (language)	Garrage	Rag-pickers	Tea stall	Household work	All trade
Assamese	10.00	---	8.89	52.00	15.60
Bengali	42.00	95.24	40.00	28.00	46.81
Hindi	48.00	4.76	48.89	4.00	34.04
Others	---	---	2.22	16.00	3.55
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

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In case child workers of Garage, 48 percent of the child labour's mother tongue is Hindi and 42 percent of child workers mother tongue is Bengali and only 10 % belongs to Assamese speaking. In case of Rag-pickers, there are no child labour whose mother tongue is Assamese, About 95 percent of child labour belongs to Bengali speaking and a negligible 5 % Hindi speaking. It appears that most of the Bengali speaking child labour engaged in rag picking works belong to Bangladeshi origin families. Of the 45 sample drawn in case of tea stall, 46.67 % of the child worker's mother-tongue is Hindi while percentage of child labour having Bengali and Assamese mother tongues are 40 % and about 7 % respectively and just 2 % belong to other language speaking community.

Of the 25 sample of household workers the mother tongue of 52 % of child workers is Assamese, 28 % is Bengali and 4 % is Hindi and 10 % of them belongs to families with other mother languages.

3.6 Distribution of child labour according to duration of stay in the city :-

The survey shows that a large number of child workers migrated from other neighbouring areas as well as from outside the state to this city. The survey indicates that about 75 % of the child labours are staying in the city less than 5 years. The duration

of stay of the child labours in greater Guwahati is furnished .
in table . 3-7.

T A B L E - 3.8

Duration (in years)	Nature of Trade				
	Garage helpers	Rag-pickers	Tea stalls worker	Household workers/ Servant	All Trade
Less than 1 years	42.00	38.10	31.11	24.00	35.75
2 - 5 years	26.00	47.62	40.00	56.00	39.01
5 to 10 yrs.	14.00	4.76	13.33	---	9.93
Above 10 yrs.	18.00	9.52	15.56	20.00	16.31
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appears from the above table that out of 141 samples, about 35 % of child labour stay in this area less the 1 year and then one years but less than 5 years. Similarly, only 10 % of the child labour have been staying in the city for 5 to 10 years and remaining about 16 % of them are staying in the city for more than 10 years. This sample is that about 16 % of the child labours are actually the residents of Guwahati only. In case of child labour working in Garage, of the 50 sample, the

duration of stay of 42 % of child labours in Guwahati is less than 1 years. 26 % of them are living in this city from 1 to 5 years, while 14 % of them are living in this city for a period of 5 to 10 years and 18 % of them are living in this city for more than 10 years. This indicates that about 82 % of child labour working in the garage hails from outside the city.

In case of rag-pickers, of the 21 sample the duration of stay of 47.62 % of child rag-pickers in Guwahati from 1 to 5 years, while 38.10 % of them are living in this city is less than 1 years and 9.52 % of child rag-pickers are living in this city for more than 10 years and only 4.76 % of child rag-pickers are living in this city from 1 to 5 years,

In case of tea stall childworkers, of the 45 sample, the duration of stay of 31.11 of them are living in this city for less than 1 years. While 40 % of the tea stall child workers are living in this city for a period of 1 to 5 years, and 13.33 % of them are living in this city from 5 to 10 years, while 15.56 % of them are living in greater Guwahati for more than 10 years.

In case of household child workers, of the 25 sample, the duration of stay of 56 % of them are living in this city for a period of 1 to 5 years. While 24 % of household child workers (servant) are living in this city for more than 10 years.

3.7 Place of Birth of child workers in greater Guwahati :-

It also appears from the investigation that a large section of the child labour hails from outside the state of Assam. The

following table furnishes the information on the places of birth of child labour working in the various trades under study in greater Guwahati,

T A B L E - 3. 2

Distribution of child labour in greater Guwahati according to the
Place of birth (within and outside of Assam) and by nature of
Trade (in percentage)

Place of Birth	Nature of Trade				
	Garage	Rag-pickers	Tea stalls	Household work	All Trade
Within Assam	44.00	90.48	51.11	92.00	61.7
Outside of Assam	56.00	9.52	48.89	8.00	38.3
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appears from the above table that in the trade of Garage 44 % of child labour working in garage were born in Assam and 56 % of them were born outside of the state. In this trade we have already found that the highest number of child labours were Bengali and Bihari and most of them migrated from other states. But in case of Rag-pickers, 90.48% of them were born in the state of Assam and 9.52 % of the Rag-pickers born outside of Assam. Similarly, 51.11 % of child workers working in tea stalls

were born within Assam and 48.89 % of them were born in outside the state. In this trade most of the child labours belong to communities of Bihari and Bengali.

In household sector, 92 % of the child labours were born within the state of Assam and only 8 % of them were born outside of Assam.

The study also throws light on the percentages of child labour born within and outside greater Guwahati and this has been furnished in the following table - 3. .

T A B L E - 3.10

Distribution of child labours according to their place of Birth (within and outside of Guwahati Area) and by nature of Trade (in percentage).

Place of Birth	Nature of Trade				6
	Garage	Rag-picker	Tea stalls	Household work	All Trade
Within the City	20.00	9.52	13.33	4.00	13.48
Outside the city	80.00	90.48	86.67	96.00	86.52
Totals	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appears from the above table that just 13.28 % of the child labour were born within greater Guwahati and 86.52 % were born outside the city. The place of birth by nature of trade

indicates that 20 % of child labour working in Garages were born within this city and 80 % of them were born outside the city . In case of Rag-pickers 90.48% of Rag-pickers born outside of the city and they mostly belong to the slum area of the city and 9.52 % of rag-pickers were born within the city. Similarly 86.67 % of the child labour working were born outside of the city and 13.33 percent of them were born within the city, area. In case of Household child workers 96 % of them were born outside of the city and only 4 % of them were born within the city.

3.8 Last Residence of child labours :-

Most of the child labour migrated one place to another in search of works. This can be ascertained from the place of last residence of the workers. In our study, it appears that a large number of child labour migrates from other backward regions to this Guwahati, city in search of better works and incomes. Most of families of child workers faced the problem of poverty and a number of them are home less.

Of the 141 sample data drawn, 27.66 % of the child labour had last residence of within the Guwahati. On the other hand 72.34 % of child labours had last residence outside greater Guwahati. Thus 72.34 % of child workers have migrated from other places to work in this city.

The following table provides detailed data on the pattern of migration of child labour to Guwahati.

T A B L E - 3.11.

Distribution of child labour according to their last Residence in
IN Greater Guwahati by nature of trade (in percentage).

Place of last Residence	Nature of Trade				
	Garage	Rag-pickers	Tea stalls	Household	All trade
Within the City	36.00	9.52	31.11	20.00	27.66
Outside of the city	64.00	90.48	68.89	80.00	72.34
Totals	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

From the above table it appears that 64% of child labour working in garages have migrated to the city. Similarly 90.48 % of the child workers engaged in rag-picking jobs have also migrated to Guwahati, while 68.89 % and 80 % of the child labour working in tea stalls and household works have migrated to the city respectively

3.9 Educational background of the child workers :-

A large section of the child labours belong to the poorer section of the society and they never had the luxury of going to school. Article 45(Directive principle of state policy) of constitution states that 'The state shall endeavour to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of this constitution for free compulsory

education for all children untill the age of 14 th years.

But a large section of the child labours of greater Guwahati are found to have no idea about school or education.

The percentage of school going children of age group 6 to 14 years in India as per 1981 Census is furnished below to have a general idea of children education.

T A B L E - 3.12.

Age group	Place	Total	Male	Female
	Total	48.72	58.11	38.52
6 - 14	Rural	42.69	53.50	30.93
	Urban	70.20	74.66	65.52

Source : Census of India, 1981

In between 1950-51 and 1990-91, the numbers of school going children increased from 19.2 million to 99.1 million. In 1950-51 the percentage of the students in Primary and M.V.classes was 42.6% and 12.9% respectively and it increased to 101 and 60.1 respectively in the year 1990-91. The percentage of the students from class 1 to class five in India given below have an idea of national educational level of children.

T A B L E - 3. 13

Percentage of the students from class I to class V in India in the age group 6 - 11 years.

Year	Total students (in million)			Percentage		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1950-51	13,770	5,385	19,155	60.8	24.9	42.6
1960-61	23,593	11,401	34,994	82.6	41.4	62.4
1970-71	35,739	21,306	57,045	92.6	59.1	76.4
1980-81	44,576	28,112	72,688	99.0	66.2	83.1
1990-91	58,095	41,024	99,118	115.3	86.0	101.0

Source :- Zojana, Monitoring and Statistical section, department of Education, Human Resource Development Board, India. Selected educational statistics 1982 - 91, New Delhi.

T A B L E - 3. 14

Numbers and Percentage of the students from class IV to class VIII in India under the age group 11 - 14 years.

Year	Total Students (in million)			Percentage		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1950-51	2,580	0,534	3,110	20.8	4.3	12.9
1960-61	5,974	1,330	7,304	32.2	11.3	22.5
1970-71	9,426	3,880	13,305	45.5	20.8	34.2
1980-81	13,278	6,568	19,846	52.1	27.2	40.0
1990-91	13,971	7,034	21,005	54.2	29.1	41.9

Source : Human Resource Development, Selected educational Statistics. 1982-91, New Delhi.

In our study, it is found that majority of the child labours are uneducated particularly the child labour engaged in rag picking works. The table 3.15 provides the level of education of child labours in Guwahati. It appears that 48.23 percent of the child labour had no education. 39 % of the child labours had educational level upto primary classes and 12.77 % of child labour had educational level upto M.V. But no child labour was found to have educational level from IV to Matric levels.

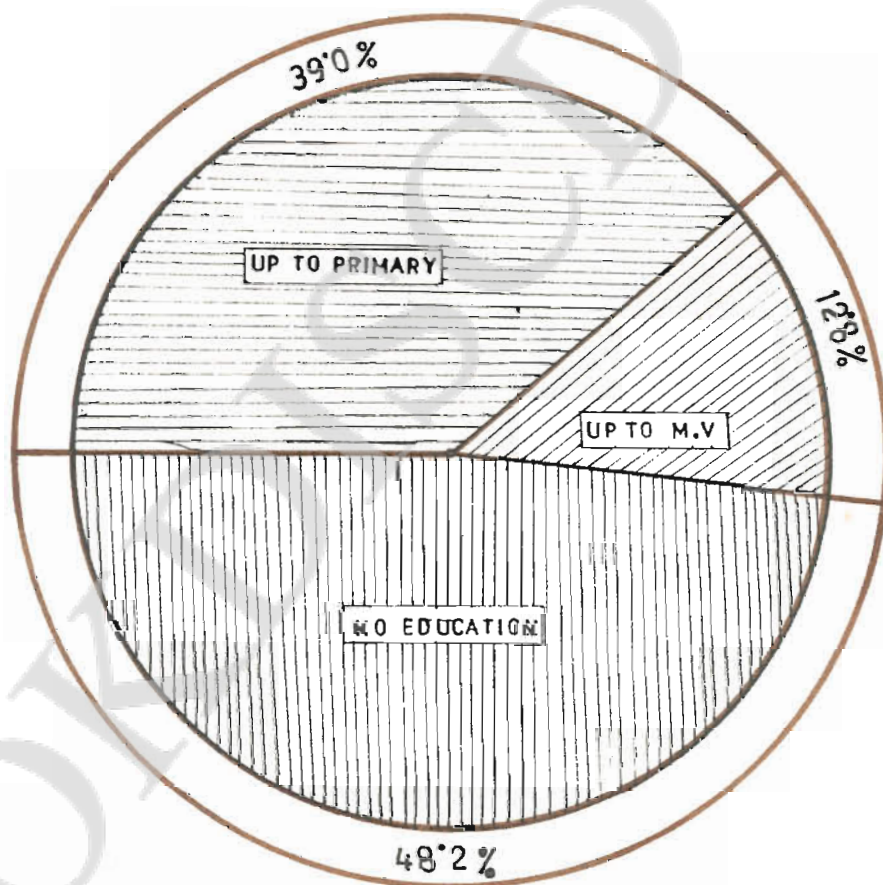
T A B L E - 3.15.

Distribution of child labour in greater Guwahati according to Educational level and by nature of trade. (in percentage).

Level of education	Nature of Trade				
	Garage	Waste collector	Tea stalls	House hold work	All trade
Up to primary	42.00	4.76	48.89	44.00	39.00
Up to M.V.	16.00	4.76	6.09	24.00	12.77
Up to Matric	---	---	---	---	---
No Education	42.00	90.48	44.44	32.00	48.23
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Educational level by various trade where child labours are engaged it is seen that in Garages. 42 % of the child workers are uneducated and 42 % of them are educated upto the primary level and 16 % of them are educated upto the M.V. level. In case of Rag-pickers and they never went to school. 90.48 % are uneducated.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOUR (in Greater Guwahati)
BY EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION



child workers and they never went to school. Only 4.76% of child labours are educated upto primary education and 4.76 % of them are studied upto M.V. education and all of them were drop out .

In case of tea stalls, it is found that a large number of child labour never went to school, the percentage being 44.44%. Of course 48.89% of them had education upto primary levels and 6.67 % had education upto MV level. The total percentage of child labours enrolled in school was 55.56%. Similarly in case of Household servants, 44% of the child labour had the education upto primary level and 24% of them had education upto MV level. All together 68% of them went to school. But 32% of child labour working in household did not go to school.

From the above discussion we found, except the case of waste collector, in all other trades in our survey, a large section of child labours had education up to primary and about 48.23% of child labour never had education at all.

3.10. Causes of dropping out from the Education :

Majority of the child labour initially went to school but finally left schools without completion of studies. Poverty is the main cause to become child workers. In fact many poor children dropout from school to earn money through working as labour. Secondly, lack of interest to receiving education by child workers as well as of their parents is one of the another main reason. Sometimes they dropout from education because of mal treatment by their

parents. The maltreatment by the teacher to the student's is also another cause of dropout from the school , among the child labours. The following table gives the distribution of drop-out child labour in greater Guwahati.

T A B L E - 3.16

Distribution of child labour according to causes of dropout from education in greater Guwahati, by nature of trade (in percentage).

Causes	Nature of Trade				
	Garage helpers	Rag-pickers	Tea stall workers	Household Servants	All Trade
lack of own interest	36.00	28.57	19.56	28.00	26.95
Due to economic hardship	52.00	60.67	71.11	60.00	61.70
Due to maltreatment by parents	8.00	4.76	4.44	---	4.96
Due to maltreatment by teachers	2.00	---	2.22	---	1.42
Lack of own interest and maltreatment by parents	2.00	---	2.22	4.00	2.13
Lack of own interest and economic hardship	---	---	4.44	---	1.42
Student	---	---	---	8.00	1.42
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appears from the above table that 26.95% of the child labour left school due to lack of own interest, while 61.70%

of the child labour left their school due to economic hardship of the family. About 4.96% of child labour left their school due to the treatment by their parents or lack of interest of their parents. 1.42% of child worker left their school because of mal treatment by teachers. 2.13% of them left their school because of both mal-treatment by their parents and lack of their own interest. 1.42% of child worker left their school because of both lack of their own interest and economic hardships of their families. But out of this above percentage 1.42% of the child workers are found as students and generally the student child workers are part-time workers.

In case of child labour engaged in garages, majority of the dropout child workers left their schools because of economic hardship of their families and lack of their own interest. 52% of the child worker engaged in garages left school due to poverty while 36% of them left education due to lack of their own interest.

Similarly in case of child labour engaged in rag-picking works, the highest 66.67% of them left school because of economic hardship of their families, while 28.57% of the child rag-picker left their school due to lack of their own interest. In case of tea stall boys, the highest 71.11% of tea stall child workers left their education due to the economic hardship of their families while 15.56% of them left school due to lack of their own interest.

In case of child workers engage as household servant, the highest 60% of them left their school due to economic hardship of

their families whiel 28% of the household servant left their school due to lack of their own interest. But 8% of the household child workers are found as students. Generally the student child workers in household works are part-time servants.

Thus from the above discussion about the causes of dropout from the education, it is found that the highest percentage of child worker left their school due to economic hardships and poverty and lack of their own interest to continue education. Although maltreatment by parents and teachers are also reason for dropout, but very low percentage of child labour left their education due to these reasons.

3.11 Nature of Present Residence :-

The general economic conditions of child labours in greater Guwahati are not satisfactory. A major section of the child labours live in poor houses with no provisions of electric lights and water. Majority of the child workers lives in garages and tea stalls. Some of Garages has no sanitary provisions and no separate cooking room. By and large, they donot have the basic residential amenities. Undisputedly this is lethal to their health and develop various deseases.

In case of rag-pickers they also live in unhygienic conditions of their own residence. But majority of them live in rented houses in almost slum areas. In case of child labour engaged in tea stalls, the nature of there residence is almost like those working in garages. Most of the child workers in

tea stalls reside in the shabby rooms of the tea stalls. But in case of household workers a highest number of them live in the house of employers. But the part-time child labour engaged in household works reside in their parent's house.

The following table provides the information on the nature of residence of child labour in greater Guwahati.

T A B L E - 3.17

Distribution of Present Residence of child labour in greater Guwahati by nature of trade (in percentage) .

Nature of Present Residence	Nature of Trade				
	Garage helpers	Rag-pickers	Tea stall workers	Household servant	All Trade
Owned	15.00	---	2.22	12.00	8.50
Rented	28.00	90.48	11.11	24.00	31.20
Rent free	56.00	9.52	86.67	64.00	60.30
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appears from the above table that 8.5% of the child labour reside on their parents house , while 31.20% of them reside in rented house, 60.30% of the child labour avail rent free accomodation provided by the employers.

Among the child labour working in garages 56% of them live in rent free houses while 28% of them live in rented houses and 16% of them live in their own houses. Similarly, in case of

rag-picker, majority of them lives in rented houses, the percentage being 90.48%. Every families of the rag-pickers occupied only one or two small room for living and generally the rent of those types of rooms is from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 200/- per month. The conditions of these houses are not satisfactory. There are generally no provision of electricity, water and attached sanitary system. This amply indicates that they live in shabby housing conditions like slum areas. In case of child labour working in the tea stalls 11.11% of them lives in rented houses and only 2.22% of them resides in their parents houses and 86.67% resides in the tea stalls itself, without payment of rent.

In case of household worker 64% of them reside with the employers. The condition of their accommodation is comparatively better than other child workers. It is found that 24% of household child workers live in rented houses. Generally they are part-time worker and only 12% of them live in their own houses with their parents and they are also recognised as part-time workers.

3.12 Working hours of child labour in greater Guwahati :-

The majority of child workers work more than 12 hours a day in every trade. The following table provides information on the duration of work of child labour every day in Guwahati.

T A B L E - 3.18

Distribution of child labour in greater Guwahati by working hours per day and by nature of Trade. (in percentage).

Hours	Nature of Trade				
	Garage helpers	Rag-pickers	Tea stalls workers	Household servants	All Trade
1 to 5	---	---	1.22	16.00	3.55
5 to 8	18.00	---	2.22	8.00	8.51
8 to 12	36.00	90.48	21.89	41.00	43.26
More than 12 hours	46.00	9.52	66.67	32.00	44.68

Taking into account all the child labour working in Guwahati, 44.68% of them work more than 12 hours a day while 43.26% of them works between 8 hours to 12 hours and 8.51% of child labour work between 5 hours to 8 hours and only 3.55% of child workers work between 1 hour to 5 hours.

The detailed data shows that 46% of child workers engaged in garages work more than 12 hours a day while 36% of them work between 5 to 8 hours. In case of Rag-pickers, 90.48% of child workers work between 8 to 12 hours a day while 9.52% of them work more than 12 hours per day. In case of tea stalls most of the child labour generally work from 5 A.M. to 10 P.M. per day. It is found that 66.67% of child labour work more than 12 hours per day while

28.89% of them work between 8 to 12 hours and only 2.22% each of them work between 1 to 5 hours and 5 to 8 hours respectively. In case of household servant there is no definite time schedule for work. Some of the child workers work only 1 hour as part-time workers and some of them work for more than 12 hours. It is found that 44% of household child workers work between 8 to 12 hours and 32% of them work more than 12 hours while 16% of them work between 1 to 5 hours and only 8% of them work between 5 to 8 hours.

C H A P T E R - IV

Earnings of the child labour and related issues.

The child labours usually earns a very low income compared to their workloads. Most of them are exploited even without payment of any wages although they are paid of real wages in terms of food and accommodation.

4.1. Economic background of child labours :-

More than 90 % of the child labour belong to the most weaker section of the society. Their family income is extremely low to the relatively large number of the members of the family. It is generally observed that in a growing city centre like greater Guwahati the poor section of the peoples are worst sufferer. The Guwahati city ranks as one of the fastest growth and costliest city in the country. Actually the poor class of working population with limited knowledge, skills and capital resources are engaged in economic activities where levels of income are usually very low though most of them work very hard. Child labour is mostly product of poverty and low income of the family. Big family with low income is the major cause of growth.

The following table furnishes the family earnings of child labour of greater Guwahati indicating their economic well being.

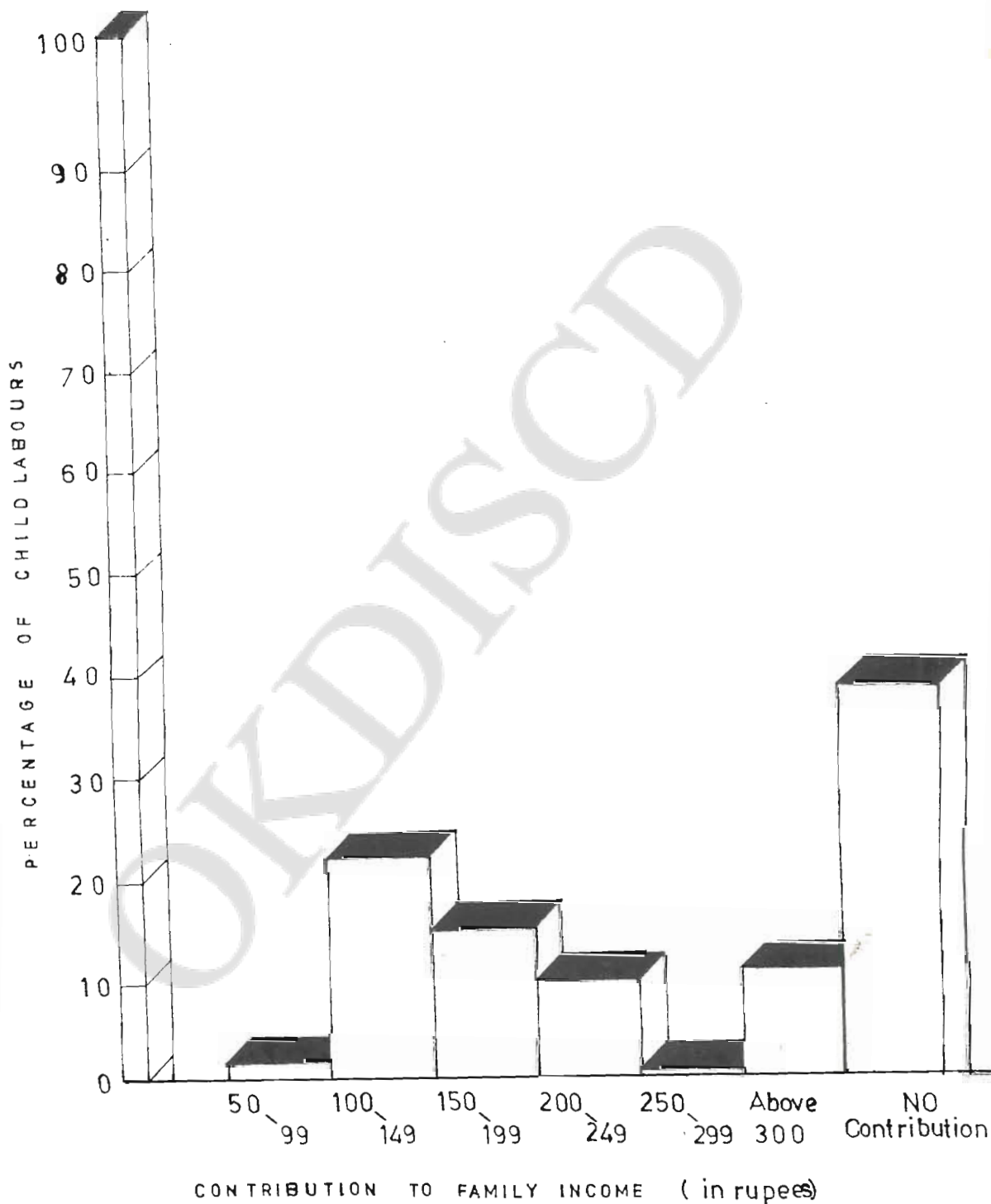
T A B L E - 4.1

Distribution of child workers according to their monthly family income by nature of trade (in percentage).

Income (in Rupee)	Nature of trade				
	Garage helpers	Rag-Pickers	Tea stall workers	Household Servents	All Trade
100 - 499	18.00	19.05	31.11	12.00	21.28
500 - 999	30.00	14.29	31.11	48.00	31.20
1000 - 1499	22.00	42.86	28.89	12.00	25.53
1500 - 1999	22.00	19.05	6.67	12.00	14.89
2000 - 2499	4.00	4.75	2.22	4.00	3.55
Above 2500	2.00	--	--	12.00	2.84
No Income	2.00	--	--	--	0.71
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appears from the above table that about 93 % of the child labour belong to families earning a montly income of less than Rs, 2000/-. The monthly earnings of the families of about 21 % of the child labour is less than Rs. 500/-, while about 31 % of the child labours belongs to the families earning between Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1000/- per month. This shows that family income of more than 50 % of the child labours is less than Rs. 1000/- per month. Similarly about 25 % of

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOUR IN GREATER GUWAHATI BY CONTRIBUTION TO FAMILY INCOME



the child labours belong to the families earning between Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 2000/- per month. All together, the family income of about 93 % of the child labour is below Rs. 2000/- per month which is too low to maintain a relatively large family in these days of double digit inflation rate.

The family income of 92 % child labour working in garages is less than Rs. 2000/- per month. It also appears that the largest percentage of child labour (30%) working in garages have family income between Rs. 500/- to Rs. 999/- . It is interesting to note that the family income of 2 % of child labour working in garages is nil.

Similarly in case of child labour engaged in rag-picking works, the family income of 95 % child labour working as rag-pickers is less than Rs.2000/- per month. The largest percentage of child labour (42.00 %) engaged in rag-picking works have family income between Rs.1000/- to Rs.1499/- while the lowest percentage of them (4.75 %) working as rag-pickers have family income between Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 2499/- per month.

In case of child labour working in tea stalls, the family income of 98 % of child labour is less than Rs.2000/- per month. It also appears that the largest each 31 % of child labour working in tea stalls have family income between Rs. 100/- to 499/- per month and Rs. 500/- to Rs. 999/- per month respectively.

In case of child worker engaged in household works, the family income of 84 % of them is less than Rs. 2000/- per month. The largest percentage of child labour (48 %) working as household maid servant have family income between Rs. 500/- to Rs. 999/- per month.

It is finally seen that out of the four type of works under our study the child labour engaged in tea stalls, belong to relatively more poorer section of society as their percentage is the highest in the lower range of family income (below Rs. 2000/-),

4.2 Level of Income earned by child labour :-

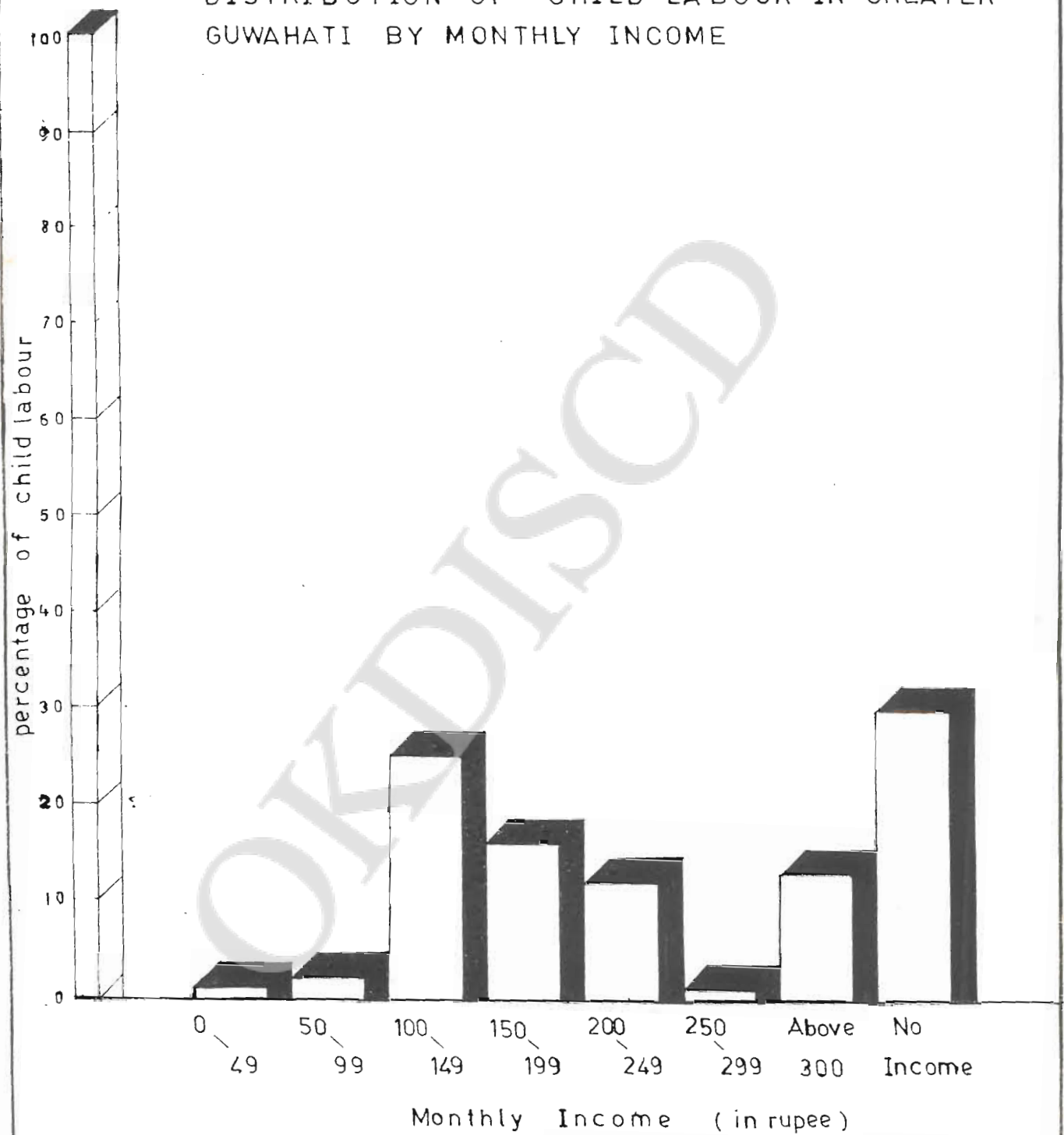
It appears from survey that the child labour earns a very low level of income, compared to their total hours of works. A large number of child labour are working in various trade without money wages. The earning pattern of child labour in different jobs are not the same. The percentage of child labour earning the different income ranges in greater Guwahati is furnished in the table given below.

T A B L E - 4.2

Percentage of child labour earning different income ranges in greater Guwahati by nature of Jobs..

Monthly income (in rupee)	Nature of Trade				
	Garage helpers	Ragpickers	Tea stall Workers	Household servants	All Trade
Below 50	--	--	--	4.00	0.70
50 - 99	--	--	--	12.00	2.13
100 - 149	16.00	--	28.09	56.00	24.82
150 - 199	4.00	38.10	22.22	8.00	15.62
200 - 249	2.00	23.80	15.56	10.00	12.05
250 - 299	--	--	2.22	--	0.70
Above 300	10.00	38.10	13.33	--	13.40
No income	68.00	--	17.78	4.00	30.50
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOUR IN GREATER
GUWAHATI BY MONTHLY INCOME



Out of 141 sample drawn, it is found that 30.50 % of the child labour had no money income. The earnings of the largest number of child labour (24.82 %) ranges between Rs. 100/- to Rs. 149/- . It is found that about 54 % of the child labours earn less than Rs. 300/- a month or Rs. 10/- daily while only about 13 % of them earn more than Rs. 300 per month.

In case of child labour working in Garages as helpers, 68 % of them had no money income. The earnings of the largest number of child labour (16 %) in garages ranges between Rs. 100/- to Rs.149/- . per month. It is found that about 22 % of the child worker in garages earn less than Rs. 300/- a month while only about 10 % of them earn more than Rs. 300/- per month.

Similarly, in case of child labour engaged in rag-picking works, the highest 61.90 % of them earn less than Rs. 300/- per month, while 38.10 % of the child rag- picker earn more than Rs. 300/- per month. It is appears from this study that all child rag-pickers are income earners.

In case of the child labour engaged in tea stalls as tea stall boys, 17.78 % of the child labours had no money income. The earnings of the largest number of child labour (28.89 %) ranges between Rs. 100/- to Rs. 149/- per month. It is found that about 69 % of the tea stall boys earn less than Rs. 300/- a month while only about 13.33 % of them earn more than Rs. 300/- per month.

In case of child labour engaged in household work as household servant, only 4 % of them had no money income. The earnings of largest number of child labour (56 %) working as household servant

ranges between Rs. 100/- to Rs. 149/- per month. It is found that about 96 % of child labours earn less than Rs. 300/- per month.

Finally it is seen that the earnings of child labour engaged in rag picking works is relatively better than the other type of works. All of them earn income. It is also seen that worst paid job for child labour is the works in garages where 68 % of them do not get money wages. It is also appears that the lowest paid job is the household works where many of the child labours get less than Rs. 50 per month.

4.3 Receiver of child labour's Income :-

It is also fact that many of the child labours do not receive the wages themselves from their employers. In majority of the cases their income is received by their parents. The following table- 4.3 furnishes the percentage of child labours who themselves receive their income as well as their income being received by their parents.

TABLE - 4.3

Percentage of receiver of child labour's income by nature of Trade.

Receiver	Nature of Trade				
	Garage helper	Rag-pickers	Tea Stall workers	Household Servants	All Trade
By child labour	12.00	4.75	2.22	24.00	9.93
By their parents	20.00	25.24	80.00	72.00	59.57
No Income	68.00	---	17.78	4.00	30.50
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It is indicated in the above table that the incomes of about 60% of the child labours are received by their parents from the employers. Only just 10% of the child labour receive their income themselves from the employer and as stated early 30.50% donot receive any money wages.

In case of child labours engaged in garages, 12% of child labour received their incomes by themselves and the income of 20% of child labours are received by their parents, while 68% of child labour in Garages have no income from their job.

In case of labour engaged in rag-picking works, it appears from the above table that all rag-pickers are wage earners. The income of 95.24% child workers are received by their parents while only 4.76% of child rag-picker received their incomes by themselves.

In case of child workers working in tea stall as tea stall boys, the income of 80% of child workers are received by their parents and only 2.22% of child labour received their incomes by themselves, while 18% of child labour in tea stalls have no income.

In case of household child workers, the income of 72% of household servants are received by their parents and only 24% of child workers in household work received their income by themselves while 4% of child labour in household work have no income.

4.4 Contribution to the family income :

A large number of child labour are working in various trade without money incomes. Those are earning incomes from the different types of jobs, got a very low level of wages compared to their total

hours of work. Out of this meagre wages, they also contributed to their family income. The table given below furnishes the percentage of child labours contribute their incomes to their family incomes.

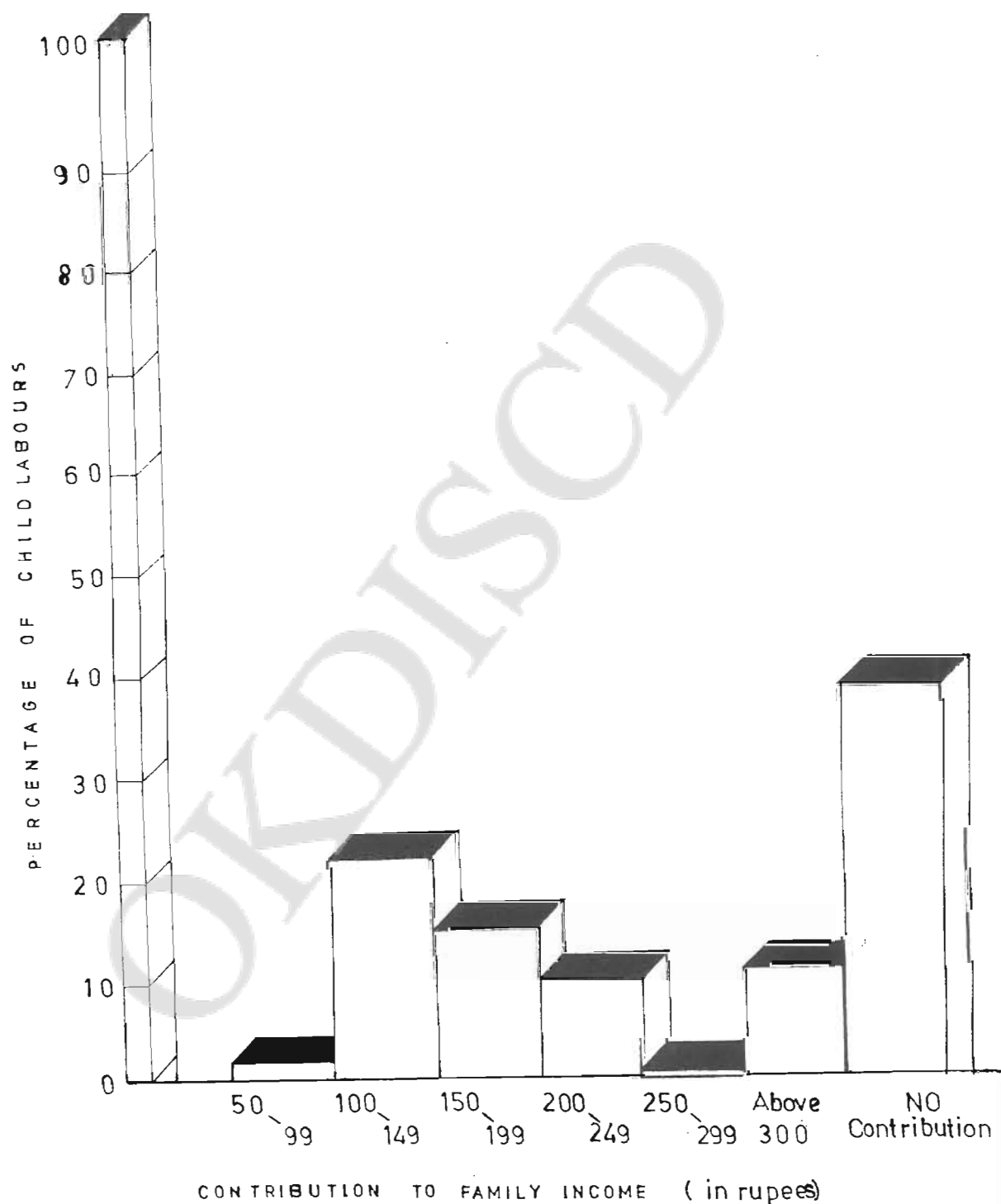
T A B L E - 4.4

Contribution of child labour to family income by nature of Trade (in percentage).

Contribution (in Rupee)	Nature of Trade				
	Garage helpers	Rag-pickers	Tea stall boys	Household Servents	All Trade.
50 - 99	---	---	---	12.00	2.13
100 - 149	14.00	---	28.89	44.00	21.99
150 - 199	2.00	42.86	20.00	8.00	14.89
200 - 249	2.00	19.05	15.56	8.00	9.93
250 - 299	---	---	2.22	---	0.71
Above 300	6.00	33.33	13.33	---	11.35
No contribution	76.00	4.76	20.00	28.00	39.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Out of 141 samples drawn it is found that about 39% of the child labours do not contribute anything to their family income. This may be due to the low level of income earned by them since their income is not enough for themselves. About 11% of them contribute more than

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOUR IN GREATER GUWAHATI BY CONTRIBUTION TO FAMILY INCOME



Rs. 300/- per month to their family while about 50% of them contribute less than Rs. 300/- per month to their family income in case of child labour working in automobile garages 76% of them have no contribution to the income of the family. The highest 14% of them contributes Rs. 100/- to Rs. 149 to their family incomes. Per month while 6% of them contributes above Rs. 300 to their family incomes per month. 2% of them and another 2% of them contributes Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 and 249 to their family income respectively.

The income of rag-pickers is not regular or same. The payment or income fluctuates every day. It depends on their collection of waste materials for sell.

In case of Rag-pickers 42.86% of rag-picker contributes Rs. 150 to Rs. 199 to their family incomes per month. Similarly 19.05% and 33.33% of rag-pickers contributes respectively Rs. 200 to Rs. 249 and above Rs. 300 to their family incomes. On the other hand 4.76% of them have no contribution to their family incomes.

In case of tea stall boys, 20% of child workers have no contribution to their family incomes. The highest 28.89% of child workers in tea stalls contributes Rs. 100 to Rs. 149 to their family incomes. While another 20% , 15.56%, 2.22% of tea stall worker contribution to their family incomes are respectively Rs. 150 to 199, Rs. 200 to 249, Rs. 250 to 299 and above Rs. 300.

In case of household servants, 28% of them have no contribution to the monthly income of their families. The highest 44% of them contributes to their monthly family income by Rs. 100 to Rs. 149, while 12%, 8% and another 8% of the household child workers contributes Rs. 50 to Rs. 99, Rs. 150 to 199 and Rs. 200 to Rs. 249 to their monthly incomes respectively.

Thus from the above discussion we found that the highest number of child workers have no contribution to their family incomes per month and they spent incomes on their daily needs.

Finally, it seems that the contributions of child rag-pickers in the highest among all the trades. Next to rag-pickers, child labour working in the tea stalls contribute relatively more of their family income while the contribution of child labour working in garages and household work is very low.

4.5. Mode of payment in kind :-

It is also found that child labours are paid in kinds. To examine the mode of payments in kind, we have selected three major items of payment i.e. Free food, Free cloth and Free residences

The following table furnishes the percentage of child labour getting various types of payments in kinds.

T A B L E - 4.5

Distribution of child labour in greater Guwahati according to mode of payment in kind and by nature of trade (in percentage).

Kinds of payment.	Nature of Trade				
	Garage	Rag pickers	Tea stalls	Household work	All Trade
Free food	14.00	---	2.22	4.00	6.38
Free cloth	---	---	---	---	---
Free Resident	---	---	---	---	---
Free Food and Resident	8.00		44.44	---	17.02
Free Food/Cloth/Residents	54.00	---	48.89	92.00	51.07
No payment in Kind	24.00	100.00	4.44	4.00	25.53
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It appears from the above table that about 51% of child workers in all trades except in case of rag-pickers have got free food, free residence and free cloths from the employers and 25.53%

of child labour in all trades does not give any facilities by the employers. While about 17% of child workers get the facility of free food and free residence, only about 6% of them receive only free food which is given by the employers.

In case of garage, generally child workers resident is attached with the garage. Therefore the employer gives all facilities to the workers. 54% of child workers in this trade receive all facilities i.e. free cloth, free resident and free foods. On the other hand majority of these workers have no income from this work as salary. Thus the employer give many of them real wages instead of money wages. 24% of child workers engaged in garages do not receive any real wages. Only 8% of the child labours receive the facilities of free food and residence. Generally they are also income earners and amount of the income is very low. Thus the employer give them the facility of free food and residence except the cloth. 14% of the child workers only takes their daily food which is given by the employer. Generally these child labour resides in their own homes with their parents and working in this trade as part-time workers.

In case of rag pickers the problem is some-thing different. they are self employed. They collect various waste materials from way sides and sellout it to other persons or traders of waste products. Therefore, the rag-pickers, only got the money income from kabadiwalas. In this city, we does not find any rag-pickers as bondage labours. The rag-pickers resides with their parents and

give all the incomes to their parents. So the parents give them food, cloth and other facilities.

In case of tea stall child workers the largest percentage of workers get free food, free residents and free cloth by hotels owners. Some of them receive these facilities because of job agreement. But some of them takes both facilities i.e. free food, free cloth and free residents with their salary. Generally, payment of real wage and money wages which is given to the child labours depends on the mentality of the hotel owners. About 49% of child workers in tea stalls have free food, free residents and free cloths and 4.44% of them have no such facilities, because they received salaries from the hotel owners. On the other hand 44.44% have free food and free residents, because most of them earn a low level of income and only 2.22% have got only the free food and most of them leave with their parents and their incomes is given to their parents. Thus the parents give them the facilities of residence and cloth.

C H A P T E R - V

Case studies of child labours :

In our survey, although we have collected 141 samples in in the four types of works where child labours are engaged. We have collected detail social and family background of a number of child labour.

In most of the cases they have a very pathetic social environment for which they had to enter the labour market. We have presented herewith four detailed cases of child labour their family background and the circumstances under which they had to work in Guwahati. These four cases relate one each to automobile Garage, tea stalls, house hold work and Rag-picking job.

Case Study- 1.

Name	: Md Imdad Ali
Occupation	: Tea stall worker
Age	: Eleven (11) years
Religion	: Muslim
Community	: Bengali
Location	: Zoo Narangi Road
Ward	: 29

Md. Imdad Ali, aged 11 years is a hotel boy who has to clean tables and wash utensils. He comes from the family of four members. His father died at his early age. His two elder brother live separately from the family since last two years. Now he lives with his mother. The economic condition of the family is not sound. His mother is working in two houses as maid servant and earn only Rs. 150 and he earns Rs. 100/- only from tea stall. His working hours is in between eight to twelve hours. 5 years ago they lived in the district Dhubri and came to Guwahati with his mother and two elder brothers. He lives with his mother in a rent free house in a slum area.

Case Study - 2.

Name of the Child worker	: Nizamuddin Hansal
Occupation	: Machanic (Garage)
Age	: Twelve (12) years
Religion	: Muslim
Community	: Bihari
Location of the Surveyed Area	: Beltola
Ward	: 33

Md. Nizamuddin Hansal, aged 12 years is a machanic who has to repair motor vehicles. He comes from the family of two members. His father and mother died at his age of five years and the age of his younger brother was only

1 years at that time in the state of Bihar. After deceased of his parents they were thrown out from their home by their relatives. Then he and his younger brother lived in a Railway station as Zypsy. One day one of their relative recruited them and come to Guwahati city with the relative. Now he is engaged in a Garage as a mechanic. The young brother of the child labour also work with him as a trainee. The salary of the child labour is only Rs.150/- per month. The other facility like free food, free cloth and free residence is given to him by the Garage owner. The child labour is illiterate and his younger brother was also not admitted to school. They cannot think of getting education when they cannot have a caretaker from last seven years.

Case Study - 3.

Name	: Md. Hanib Ali
Occupation	: Household servant
Age	: 13 years
Religion	: Muslim
Community	: Bengali
Location	: Hatigoan
Ward	: 34

Md. Hanib Ali, aged 13 years is a maid servant, who has to work every household work at the direction of the owner of this house. He earns only Rs. 30/- per month. The

owner of the house give him freefood, free residence and free cloths. He left his school at the first day because his parents are not interested in his studies. Because of the poor economic condition of his parents they does not provide him facilities for education. So he left his school as well as his home and engaged as maid servant for his livelihood. He says, his parents always neglat him and tourchered him as animals. He has two younger sister and two younger brothers. He is migrated from barrang district to Guwahati one year back.

Case Study - 4.

Name	: Md. Nur Islam
Occupation	: Rag-picker
Age	: Eleven (11) years
Religion	: Muslim
Community	: Bengali
Location	: Carnandu
Ward	: 4

Md. Nur Islam, aged 11 years is a rag-picker who nas to collect waste product from various places in the city and sell out it to kabadivalas. His father died 1 year back. He has a younger brother name Sumesh Ali. His mother always give mal-treatment to him. He left his school because of the mal-treatment of his mother. One day his

mother drove him out from her home because the child has no contribution to his family income. From that time he is detached from her mother. Now he lives as gypsy. His daily earning from selling of the collected waste materials is about Rs. 7/- to 10/- only. He spends his all incomes to daily foods. Sometimes he has to go without food. He always sleeps outside a shop. He also begs cloths for wearing from different homes. His younger brother whose age is now only 5 years live with his mother. His family migrated from Tinisukia to Guwahati one year back.

C H A P T E R - VI

Summary of Findings and Conclusion :-

In our study, we have investigated the socio-economic problems of child labours engaged basically in four types of employments such as helpers in automobile garages, tea stalls workers, rag-picker or waste collectors and workers in household works within greater Guwahati. Some of the important highlights of our findings from the survey are furnished below :

- (1) Child labours are found to work in about 80% of garages in greater Guwahati while they are found to have worked in 83% of the tea stalls and 22% of the household surveyed.
- (2) It is also found that about 86% of the child labour are male and the rest 14% are female.
- (3) About 80% of the child labours belong to the age group 10 - 12 years.
- (4) The child labours belong to only two religious communities - Hindu and Muslims constituting about 62% and 38% respectively.
- (5) The largest percentage of child labour (47%) are Bengali speaking followed by 34% by Hindi speaking and about 16% by Assamese speaking.
- (6) About 38% of the child labours have migrated from outside the state of Assam.

(7) About 48% of the child labours did not have any formal education and 39% of them had education upto primary school and about 20% of them had drop out after primary school.

(8) About 45% of the child labour work about 12 hours a day.

(9) About 30% of the child labours do not earn any money wage although they are paid real wages in terms of food, shelter and cloth.

(10) About 55% of the child labour earn less than Rs.250/- per month. About 93 % of the child labours belong to the families having monthly family income less than Rs. 2000/-.

(11) In case of contribution of child to family income , it is found that 39% of them do not contribute anything to the families and the highest number of child labour contributing 22% contribute between Rs. 100/- to Rs. 150/- to their family income.

The rapid growth of population and on the other hand urbanisation of Guwahati has no doubt influenced the socio-economic life of the people living in the city. Guwahati the capital city of Assam ranks as one of the fastest growth and costliest city in the country. It has the problems of slums, poverty and the typical problem of child labour.

The child labour is the product of poverty and illiteracy. The poverty continues to remain as one of the major problems causing social imbalance and tension. Like any other

city the greater Guwahati is marked by poverty, enemployment, child labour and migration etc. The administration of urban development has failed to cope with the problems created by the rapid pace of urbanisation. The benefits of development through economic welfare measures seem to by pass the real victims e.c., poverty and child labour. The main causative factors of child worker is the death of parents or earning member of the family, unemployment and under employment, big family with low income, illiteracy of parents and high rate of drop out in schools.

The illiteracy among the parents of child workers in developing countries is an important aspect of the social factor for growth of child labour. The illiterate parents do not concern about the future of their children. They induce their children to earn for the family and very often these children dropout of school because of economic hardship in the family and negligence their parents. In urban slums and squatters, there is no atmosphere for formal education. Those who attend school they dropout after a few years and are usually expected to seek employment. We found from our survey, the families of child workers are very poor and in this poor families they cannot afford to provide education of their children. It is also indicated from this study that children entering the labour market were from low literacy group in the society, illiteracy and ignorance is one of the complicated social problems that stands behind almost all the miseries of

the poor section of the people in urban areas. These peoples are deprived from different types of incentives and avenues because of their ignorance.

The big size of family of low income groups adds fuel to the fire of poverty. The dependency ratio of those poor families are very high. We find in most cases that there are hardly one or two earning members of the families of child labours.

The migration from within and outside the state to Guwahati city is one of the major causes of the problem of child labours. We found from our study that the percentage of native child workers is very low. But those who are migrated from other states or outsidess of the city constitutes a large number of child workers.

The wages earned by the child workers are very low. Most of them working as trainee and without a minimum wage. They are ignorant about the existing laws and regulations and so the employers exploit them by paying low wages or without any payment. The child workers are employed by the employers because they are cheapest form of labour and also parents want their engagement some where as they cannot maintain them because of poverty.

We have found from our investigation that high rate of population growth, wide spread poverty in rural areas and

illiteracy of both child labours and their parents are the basic causes of growth of child labour and their exploitation. There must be three front attack on the problems of population growth, poverty and illiteracy if the problem of child labours has to be done away. In the western countries, the problem of child labour is non-existent because of the fact that the problem of poverty and illiteracy is not there and all these three problems are prominent only in the under-developed countries of Asia, Africa and South America.

It is also true that all the three problems of high population growth, poverty and illiteracy are inter-connected problems. One problem gives birth to the other and therefore all these three problems are to be hammered out simultaneously in order to minimize the problems of child labour. The following steps need special attention from the government and other relevant authorities to do away with the problem of child labours.

(1) To check the growth of population, the family planning programme with attractive incentives must reach successfully each and every poor families.

(2) Special efforts are needed to provide quality education to the children of weaker sections of the society. We will have to encourage children of the weaker sections to enrol themselves in schools. The problem of education is to be solved if we shift the school hours, instead education upto secondary level

be made free for all, with provision of free necessary facilities for children of weaker sections of the society. Steps are to be taken to motivate the parents to provide education to their children.

(3) Attention may also be drawn regarding the methods of fighting against exploitation and abuses of child labour. No doubt, it is not possible to abolish the child labour overnight since child labours are also income earners and they contribute a major amount to their family income.

The only re-course besides elimination of child workers, it is to improve the condition of work and environment which are basic to their healthy growth, protection, welfare and ultimately ensuring their rights. The child labours and their parents are to be educated about the existing laws and regulations to protect the child labour from exploitation and abuses by the employers.

(4) The child labour mostly exist in the unorganised sector. Government alone cannot tackle the problem in the unorganised sector as the government rules and regulations cannot be enforced in totality in the unorganised sector because of its nature. Therefore, non-government voluntary organisations have to play a crucial role in tackling the problem of child labour in the country or in the state,

(5) The government or the local authorities should take immediate steps to remove the urban slums which give birth to

a large percentage of child labours.

(6) Many employers are also ignorant about the existing rules and regulations for protection of child labours. They should also be educated with the laws and regulations and this will definately reduce the level of exploitation in terms of working hours, working conditions and the minimum wages.

Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

Subject :- Socio Economic Study of Child Labour of Greater Guwahati.

Date of Investigation :

1. Household identity : House location
Identity.

Ward

2. Name of the Child Labour :

3. Permanent Address :

4. Age in yrs. Sex

01 - Male

02 - Female

5. Religion :

Caste :

Mother Tongue :

6. Duration of stay in the city
Place of Birth

Place of Last Resident

01- Less than 1 years

02- less than 5 years.

03- less than 10 years.

04- More than 10 years.

7. Nature of Present Residence :

01- Owned

02. Rented

03- Rent free

8. Educational Level, Employment and Income of the family members

SR. No.	Name	Age	Sex	Educa- tional Level	Type of empl- oym- ent.	Relation with Child labour	Daily inco- me	Monthly Income
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								

Education :

01 - Up to Primary, 02 upto M.V, 03 - Upto Matric, 04 - Matric Passed,
05 - H.S. Passed, 06 - Graduate, 07 - P.G., 08 - Technical, 44 - others

Type of Employment :

01 - Cultivator, 02 - Clark, 03 - Chowkidar, 04 - Saon. 05 - Wage earners/
labour, 44 - Others.

9. Type of Employment :

- 01 - Sweeper, 02 - Labourer, 03 - Construction Worker,
04 - Hawker, 05 - Domestic Shop, 06 - Bag Picker
07 - Tea Stalls, 08 - Panbidi Shop, 09 - Gracery Shop,
10 - Tailor, 11 - Carpenter, 12 - Household Worker (Servant)
13 - Handimen, 14 - Factory Worker, 15 - Machanic (Garage),
44 - Others.

10. How long do you work in a day (in hours)

- 01 - one to five
02 - Five to Eight
03 - Eight to Twelve
04 - More then Twelve

11. Mode of payment :

- 01 - Daily
02 - Weekly
03 - Monthly

11 (a). Amount of Payment per month :

Rs.

12. Mode of payment in kind :

- 01 - Free Food
02 - Free Cloth
03 - Free Residence
44 - Above All

13. Is there any facility given by the Govt. to you :

- (i) Yes
(ii) No

14. Medical Facility by Employer

(i) Yes

(ii) No

15. Why did you leave your Education :

01 - Dropout due to lack of interest

02 - ~~Dropout~~ due to Economic hardship

03 - Dropout due to Mal treatment by parents

04 - Dropout due to Maltreatment by teachers

16. Who receive your income :

17. What amount you contribute monthly to your family income :

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(i)







