

Another important source of data to estimate the number of working children is the data on children out of school. As per the estimates for 1995-96 there were 173 million children in the age group of 6-14. Of these an alarming 110 million children are estimated to be out of school. Of the 110 million children 60 million are girl children.

Children Out of School (1995-96)

CHILDREN IN THE AGE GROUP OF 6-14	IN SCHOOL	DROPPED OUT	NOT ENROLLED
BOYS	38 MILLION	42 MILLION	13 MILLION
GIRLS	24 MILLION	32 MILLION	28 MILLION
TOTAL	62 MILLION	70 MILLION	41 MILLION

Source: GOI 1995-96 estimates MHRD, NCERT, SAIES Provisional Statistics

Drop-out estimates - Tilak 1996, MHRD 1996 Selected Statistics.

This indicates the incidence of child labour as most of those who are out of school would be engaged in some work either paid or unpaid, outside the household sector or household industries, domestic work etc. All these clearly show that the census figures on child labour are gross underestimates. Nonetheless census figures show the trends in the incidence of child labour across the country. This is useful in identifying the areas with high concentration of child labourers.

The census figures, provide information about district -wise concentration of child labour, Rural - Urban spread, Sex-wise distribution and occupational categories of child labour.

Analysis of Child Labour as per 1991 census

- During 1991 there were 209.99 million children in the age group of 5-14 (52.08% male children and 47.92% female children)
- Of the children in the age group of 5-14, about 78% are in rural areas and the rest in urban areas.
- There are 11.28 million child workers (6.18 million Boys and 5.10 million Girls) in the age group of 5-14. Nearly 91% of all these children are concentrated in the rural areas.
- Of the 11.28 million working children, 9.08 millions are classified as Main workers and another 2.2 million are classified as Marginal workers.