

of children working in the carpet industry lies somewhere between 70,000 and 100,000 less than 1% of all child labourers in the country.

2. A carpet - focused censured campaign could only achieve a small impact on the overall problem of child labour. Figures suggest that the great preponderance of child labour takes place outside the carpet industry - even outside of the export sectors as a whole. From a purely child labour standpoint, it would make more sense to focus on a sector like agriculture and unorganised sector which employs far more children.

3. It may be difficult to distinguish genuine family-centred production from small commercial looms which operate with bonded child labour. This difficulty, combined with inaccessibility of looms in more remote areas, makes control of hand-knotted carpet production difficult.

4. Primarily a regulatory device, Rugmark can do little to promote development directly. The larger problems of rural poverty and patterns of exploitation which give rise to child labour can only be addressed through other means.

5. Rugmark can offer no absolute guarantee of child free labour. It relies on a system of random, unannounced inspections to deter its licensees from breaking their undertaking to prohibit the use of children on looms under contract. These measures do not guarantee that the carpet is free of child labour. They only prevent illegal child labour in the weaving process.

6. The 'share' of the market held by Rugmark Carpets would need to be high enough that the importers per-carpet contributions could create a fund for rehabilitation or development activities. The Canadian imports of hand-knotted carpets from India, would represent \$77,250 per annum, which is not a significant fund to create a change.

7. Hard evidence of the impact of Rugmark on the released children's life prospects is not yet available. Children now displaced from carpet manufacturing as a result of Rugmark, unlike carpets are not registered and whether they are better-off as a result of no longer working in the carpet industry is not known. The pre-occupation with carpets has not yet been transferred to children.

8. Labels help consumers choose between two or more similar products (detergents, brands of coffee, etc.) but since hand-knotted carpets are typically very individual pieces, the basis for comparison and for the label to tip the balance in favour of one carpet- is not really there.