

## Indian Legislation on Child Labour :

The Indian Parliament passed the Child Labour ( Prohibition and Regulation ) Act, 1986. The Act on the one hand prohibits child labour under certain occupations and processes on the other hand regulates on certain other occupations and processes. The Act creates an artificial dichotomy of hazardous and non-hazardous employment for a child. Any occupation that takes away the right to enjoy its childhood is perse hazardous. While prescribing a minimum age of 14 years for prohibited sector, it does not prescribe any age limit in the regulatory sectors for entering employment. The Act prohibits employment of children in the carpet industry but exempts children working within the family. This exemption keeps the employers outside the purview of the Act as the Inspectors are told that the child working in a loom is their family member and that it is a family enterprise. Thereby child labour force working in unorganised, house-based employments as well as in agricultural sectors are excluded from the purview of the Act. The Campaign Against Child Labour and various groups working towards the elimination of child labour are demanding radical amendments to the Act which alone be a deterrent to the employers.

### Occupational Classification of Working Children:

All the Main workers are classified into nine different categories in the census enumeration. These categories are I. Cultivators, II. Agricultural Labourers, III. Livestock, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, Plantations, Orchards & allied activities, IV. Mining and Quarrying, V. A) Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing & Repairing in Household Industry, B) Same as A in other than household industry, VI. Construction, VII. Trade and Commerce, VIII. Transport, Storage and Communications and IX. Other Services. Age group wise occupational classification of main workers (1991 census data) is available under four headings viz., I, II, V-A and other categories mentioned above combined under one heading - 'other categories'. Thus for our analysis the categories are as follows.

Category I - Cultivators

Category II - Agricultural Labourers

Category III - Manufacturing , Processing, Servicing & Repairing in Household industry and

Category IV - All other works.

Proportion of children working in each of the above category is as follows.  
( The following should be presented in a pie chart form).