

- Of the 6.18 million male child workers in the country 88.2% are Main workers and the rest marginal workers. Of the 5.1 million girl child workers nearly 94% are main workers. This indicates that work participation of female children is more than male children.
- Though the Government has committed itself to providing education for all children, it is surprising to note that about 1.58 million children (0.9 million Boys and 0.7 million Girls) are enumerated as Job Seekers. (about 80% of them are in rural areas). Though they are enumerated as Job Seekers, they must be already involved in some work whether paid or unpaid, if not continuously, at least intermittently. Thus this category can also be considered as Child Workers and if this is included the total incidence of child labour would be 12.86 millions. However, for reasons already specified this data is still an underestimate.
- Child workers form 5.37% of all the children in the age group of 5-14. This proportion is higher in the rural areas with 6.56% of all the children in the workforce whereas it is only 2.04% in the urban areas.
- Of the total male children in the age group of 5-14, male child workers form 5.66% and it is 6.56% in the urban areas and 2.79% in the rural areas.
- Of the total female children in the age group of 5-14, female child workers form 5.06% and it is 6.29% in the rural areas and 1.23% in the urban areas.

Non Workers:

The level of underestimation of the census data with regard to child labour is further reinforced if we look at the categories under children who are classified as non-workers.

- Of the total 209.99 million children in the age group of 5-14, 198.70 million children are classified as non-workers (103.2 million boys and 95.5 million girls).
- Of these non-workers 106.4 million children (61.9 male children and 44.5 female children) are classified as students (children who are in school).
- Another important category under non-workers are the children who are involved in household duties. Nearly 7 million children are enumerated under this category. It is to be noted here that 6.2 millions, i.e., 88 per cent of all such children are females.