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## Content

<u>CHAPTER NO. &amp; DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
<i>Chapter - I</i> INTRODUCTION	1 - 15
<i>Chapter - II</i> METHODOLOGY & RESEARCH SETTING	16 - 32
<i>Chapter - III</i> DATA INTERPRETATION & ANALYSIS	33 - 120
<i>Chapter - IV</i> MAJOR FINDINGS	121 - 129
<i>Chapter - V</i> CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS	130 - 134
<i>Annexure</i> INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR REFERENCE GROUP	
INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR STAKEHOLDERS	

## Chapter – I: Introduction

### The Problem Studied / Objectives:

The term, child labour, has been defined differently by different organizations, agencies and countries and many a time the terms "child labour" and child work" have been used interchangeably. This has often led to a lot of confusion and a failure to focus and mobilize significant attention on the real priorities within the field. Child labour, distinguished from child work, is that which "impairs the health and development of children". Francis Blachard, the former Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), has defined child labour as that which includes "children prematurely leading adult lives, working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities that could open up for them a better future".

*My name is today. All of you believe and proclaim that we, the children, are the future of our society. But I work day and night just to survive. My childhood is maimed. I am living an un-seasonal adulthood. I see some children of my age at play, at school, in mother's lap and in father's arms. I wish I should have had them all. My dreams are unfulfilled. Resentments are bottled up and I cannot find an outlet to express them. My green childhood is cruelly replaced with the responsibility of supporting my very poor family. If you look into my eyes, you cannot expect to see hope, innocence or trust. All these signs of childhood are replaced by betrayal, hunger and fear. My country, India, has earned the dubious distinction of having the highest number of child labourers like me. You can find me in every nook and corner of our country.*

According to the Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, "when the business of wage earning or of participation in itself or family support conflicts directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education, the result is child labour." In a nutshell, therefore, the definition of child labour is any work within or outside the family that

involves a time and energy commitment, which affect children's ability to participate in leisure, play and educational activities. It is work, which impairs the health and development of children.

One would like to begin by reiterating a very obvious truism that the phenomenon of child labour cannot be understood or analyzed outside the context of the family/household. The typical peasant household in India would try to achieve a certain balance between labour and consumption depending upon the size of the family, the number of working members and the size and quality of land owned or worked on. This equilibrium helps the family to exist as a unit in the most trying situations. Child work/labour cannot be torn out of this very real social context, and in fact is an integral part of the survival strategy of households. The survival strategy leads to some common factors - (a) Real resources in cash or kind at the household level. Here, three main variables influence the level of resources i.e. subsistence production, money income (whether from wage, self-employment or from transfers), and the rate of inflation, particularly for food; (b) Government expenditure on health, education, child care, water and environmental sanitation, supplementary feeding and food subsidies; (c) Family and community characteristics. The three elements that strongly influence child welfare within the household (and the community) are the time, health and skill (measured by the educational level) of the parents, particularly the mother.

India, the largest democracy in the world also has the highest child labour population in the world. These are children, between 6-14 years, belonging to the most deprived sections of the society and are engaged in labour—when actually, they should be studying and playing. Majority of them are girls. In the recent Supreme Court judgment on abolishing child labour it was observed, "none of the official estimates include child labour in the unorganized sector, and therefore, are obviously gross under-estimates. Estimate from various non-governmental sources as to the actual number of working children range from 44 million to 100 million."

Child labour is the result of multiple factors. These children come from the most economically and socially disadvantaged sections of the society. Poverty is cited as the main reason for child labour. However, these children earn too little to contribute substantially to their family income. The reasons are much more

233

complex. Non-existence of provision for compulsory education is one of the important causes for existence of child labour in India. Usually, the parents are illiterate themselves and do not consider the importance of education.

### **FORMS OF EXPLOITATION OF CHILD LABOUR – TYPOLOGIES**

The type of work done by children can be grouped into the following types:

**A. Within the family:**

- ☞ Domestic/Household Tasks
- ☞ Agricultural/Pastoral Tasks
- ☞ Handicrafts/Cottage Industries

**B. With the family but outside the home:**

- ☞ Agricultural/Pastoral
- ☞ Domestic Service
- ☞ Construction Work
- ☞ Informal service

**C. Outside the family:**

- ☞ Employed by others
- ☞ Self-Employed

The overwhelming majority of child labourers in India come from communities and groups which are at the lower rungs of our traditional, caste-based social hierarchy, i.e. the SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities, especially the Muslims. These also constitute the bulk of the small and marginal peasantry, landless and agricultural labourers and artisan groups. This amounts to the majority of the Indian population. These, in short are the poor of India and it is from the families and communities of the poor that child labourers come. It is therefore, not accidental that studies of many of the industries where there is a substantial presence of child labour like the Beedi industry that the overwhelming majority of the children working in these industries come from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Muslim communities.

India has ratified a number of labor laws that should prevent situations such as cited in the previous sections from occurring. However, statistics of increasing violations of child labor laws indicate that these laws have no

234

effect if there are not properly enforced. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prevents children under the age of 14 to work, and regulates the working conditions for older children by prohibiting certain industries, and setting a maximum amount of labor hours they can work (Human Rights Watch p. 36). Despite the large fines and years of imprisonment for violation of some of these acts, children as young as five years of age are still forced to work under hazardous conditions for long hours at a time with most likely no pay whatsoever. The vicious cycle of poverty, combined with the growing economy's demands, sets the ideal conditions for the growing problem of child labor. If other powerful and developed countries continue to import products made by children, and governments fail to enforce companies to adopt standards and codes that would prevent the use of child labor, the problem will not only continue, but eventually worsen as well. Important features of legal provisions in relation to child labour in India –

**The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986**

- † All child labour below the age of 14 years prohibited from employment;
- † Regulatory provisions only applied to children over 14 years (15-18 year olds);
- † Redefine legal categories of child labour to incorporate agricultural work and unorganised sector work such as household labour and eradicating the arbitrary distinction between 'hazardous' and 'non-hazardous' employment;
- † Incorporate the positive clauses of previous legislation into the 1986 Act;
- † Utilise and strengthen measures to enforce the 1986 Act.

**The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966**

- † Employment of children less than 14 years of age prohibited under the laws at Sl. Nos. 2 to 5;
- † Except in the process of family based work or recognized school-based activities, children not permitted to work in occupations connected with: Passenger, goods mail transport by Railway Cinder picking, cleaning of ash pits Building operations, construction catering establishments in Railway premises or port limits Beedi making Carpet weaving Cement manufacturing Cloth printing Dyeing, weaving Manufacture of matches, explosives, fireworks Mica cutting, splitting Wool cleaning;

- † In occupations and processes other than the above mentioned, work by children is permissible only for six hours between 8.00 A.M. and 7.00 P.M. with one day's weekly rest;
- † Occupier of establishment employing children to give notice to local Inspector and maintain prescribed register.

Many children are engaged in productive work in India. The practice of child labour is in contradiction to the Constitution of India and the various legal provisions flowing from the Constitution as well as United Nations Child Rights Convention (1990). There are different estimates of the magnitude of child labour in India. It is often stated that the system of National accounting, which is followed in India, underestimates the number of working children and women due to a rigid concept of economic production which excludes large sectors of the domestic economy in which women and children are mostly engaged. Alternative methods consider that approximately 100 million children who are in the primary school going age but are not attending school should also be considered as working children on the basis of time use surveys which record their participation in mostly subsistence activities.

A study of the demographic trends as per the Census indicates a fall in the numbers of working children from 13.6 million in 1981 to 11.28 million in 1991. Working children during this period as a proportion of the total population declined from 2 per cent to 1.34 per cent. As a proportion of the child population, working children declined from 7.6 per cent to 5.2 per cent. As a proportion of the total work force, they declined from 6 per cent to 3.95 per cent. In 1991, only 6 per cent were employed in prohibited activities and 15 per cent were employed in regulated activities. Approximately 80 per cent were either self employed or working in family enterprises or agriculture. Nearly, 90 per cent of the working children were found in the rural areas and 84.9 per cent worked in agriculture and allied activities. The urban service sector employed 8.64 per cent of the working children and 1 percent worked in factory.

In international frame, the International Labor Organization (ILO) adopted *The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention - No. 182 in Geneva on June 1999*, as an urgent and immediate measure to eliminate "child slavery, forced labour,

236

trafficking, serfdom, prostitution, pornography and various forms of hazardous and exploitative work (ILO pamphlet p.2)." By ratifying the ILO Convention No. 182, governments would be pressured to put an end to all forms of illegal child labor through enforcement and monitoring of child labor laws. The goal of the ILO is for all member countries to adopt and ratify this new convention, and work on ways to help ensure its effectiveness (ILO Pamphlet p 10). The government should work with Non-governmental organizations and other non-profits in leading information campaigns that will educate society as a whole. Ratifying the convention is just a first step. Governments must agree to strict enforcement and prosecution of offenders. Civil society should also play a major role in helping alleviate the problem by actively helping with the monitoring process and informing the general public about the statistics, realities, and current situations regarding child labor. The key to the success of the ILO Convention No. 182 is cooperation among governments, the civil society and the general population, in fighting to put an end to the problem. Although India is one the leading countries in terms of having a problem with child labor, the country has not yet ratified this important convention that would help eliminate the child labour. Prior to the *The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention - No. 182*, the ILO adopted *The Minimum Age Convention 138 (C138)*, 1973, which enforced ratifying countries to eliminate child work by raising the working age "to a level consistent with the fullest physical and mental development of young persons. " This age was dictated as the age did students reach 15 or the age after completing the country's mandatory educational requirements. As of February 2001, India has not yet ratified this convention (Rugmark Website).

A major study undertaken for ILO in India titled "An exploratory study of four unorganised sector industries in India" by the Administrative Staff College of India in 1996 has shown that *"Contrary to accepted belief, persons who start work at an early age do not, in adulthood, have any advantage in terms of higher productivity or wages over workers who join employment at a later age. In fact, in some cases it is quite the reverse. In the lime industry, for instance, even where the productivity is the same, the wages earned by those workers who had joined work as adults is higher than those who had joined as children. In the carpet industry workers who had joined as children have both lower productivity and lower wages in adulthood.*



237

*The advantage of "future gain" thus clearly does not exist for the worker who enters employment as a child".*

The Global economy's insatiable need for larger quantities of cheaper and better products has adverse effects on the well-being of the poor and vulnerable who produce these items. The dynamics of consumerism indirectly contributes to the existing problem regarding debt bondage child labor in India. Millions of children are often sold to growing industries such as silk, carpets, beedi, jewelry, among other exports. Parents often find themselves in situations where they are obligated to sell their children in order to pay back their debtors. These enslaved children are often physically abused, forced to work beyond their physical and mental capacity, and locked in these factories under unsanitary and inhumane conditions. Despite existing local and international child labor laws, the number of children exploited and forced to work under inhumane conditions keeps increasing alarming rate in order to keep up with international demand for a variety of goods.

Child Labor is increasingly becoming an important issue of concern for the world community, with over 250 million children working around the world (Collingsworth p.1). India is one of the worlds' leading countries in terms of employing children with an estimated number between 60 and 115 million children working. Most of these children work in the agricultural sector, leaving about 15 percent of these children in the service and small-scale industries (Human Rights Watch p.15).

According to government estimates, beedi rolling employs nearly 4.45 million people, of whom 65% are women and 15 to 25% are children. Women often face discrimination and are paid less than men. Children are even worse off with no wage structure and usually get paid the least. Most families working in the beedi industry live below the poverty line. While the children work at home, usually more girls stay home to roll beedi than boys, who are more likely to attend school. The principal employers work through contractors, who each employ workers in a village or cluster of villages. According to the Government of India, as of April 1999, there were an estimated 43,99,644 beedi workers out of which only 35,85,018 had ID cards. The lack of ID cards exposes workers to exploitation. About 10% of the beedi rolled by

workers are arbitrarily taken away as 'standard deduction' by the contractor to replace defective beedi, regardless of the numbers of beedi actually rejected. Thus the workers lose an average of 20 - 25% of their daily wages. Contractors remove or change names of beedi workers from their registers every two months, depriving workers of their legally stipulated benefits. Neither women nor children are mentioned in the employees' registers, but are considered 'helping hands' to a male worker who is registered. Only small numbers of workers have formed cooperatives, avoiding the contractor system. Even in the co-operatives, when a roller without an ID card dies, the next of kin or dependants are denied any compensation. Being unorganized, women and children cannot fight back to protect their rights. They are reluctant to openly join any movement, fearing reprisal from the contractors and loss of their jobs. Employers tend to shift the industry to other places in order to pay lower wages.

Children who are working as wage labourers belong to beedi making categories are typically paid wages much lower than the wage rates for adult workers and thus provide a cheap alternative form of labour power. This is typical of the early stages of industrialization where the dependence is primarily on cheap labour power rather than on relatively expensive capital and machinery. Unregistered and undercapitalized productive enterprises often operate in a competitive and highly volatile market where they have to compete with much larger and more productive production units. Such units prefer to employ children not only so that they can be paid lower wages than adults but also because children are also better suited to fluctuating labour demand. Child labour has been more or less excluded from the highly organised and capital-intensive formal sector. These are characterized by large enterprises using mechanized technologies that often subcontract part of their production output to the labour intensive unorganised sector where child labour is prevalent. These labour intensive industries employ child labour as a cost minimizing strategy keeping in view the variability in the volume of demand for their products. The recent trends in the Indian economy towards greater liberalization, privatization and globalization are having certain identifiable effects as far as the labour markets are concerned. These may be characterized as short-term responses as compared to medium and long-term adjustments. The short-term responses of the labour market represent the immediate reaction of the different units of production to the increased competitive environment to which they are exposed. The medium and long-term

239

adjustments, on the other hand, may take place with relation to new production units, which enter, in the market due to liberalization of the economic policies as well as the longer term increases in productivity as a result of investments in social infrastructure and capital and human resource development. There may be not only a variation in overall growth or shrinkage in employment prospects in different sectors of the economy but also variations between different levels of enterprises as well as social groups participating in the production process.

India is also characterized by a large sector of production based on small domestic and service enterprises which are single family affairs often operating with the help of additional hired workers. These units have a decentralized system of production with no work place supervision. They are subservient to merchants and larger industrial units who control access to credits and markets. The organization of production is characterized by a low component of fixed capital and a relatively high share of circulating or variable capital in the total cost of production. Contractors and merchants who often supply the raw materials and purchase the finished products from the families control the production process. These units typically utilize women and children for time extensive activities, which have low returns on labour time and are characterized by a high degree of self-exploitation. Through the unequal exchange of values for the raw materials and finished products, there is a transfer of real values from this unorganized sector to the organised industrial sector. Within this sector there has been a stagnation of real wages, which is linked to the huge reservoir of labour power in the unorganized sector. These production units manage to survive on the margins of the organised industrial sector through a mechanism of self-exploitation of the domestic production units. A large part of the small-scale sector is also characterized by a similar organization of beedi production based on the family as a production unit and similar utilization of women and child labour atypical of these beedi-making families. It has been pointed out that the Constitution makes a distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous activities and that child labour is permitted in the latter sphere. It may be pointed out, that Article 24 prevents the employment of children in factories, mines and other hazardous occupations. The employment of children in these activities is thus totally unconstitutional.

240

Child labour in India has declined both in absolute and relative terms between 1981 and 1991. It is not a significant form of organization of production in India, though the absolute numbers of child labourers are quite large. Child labour in India is largely engaged in subsistence activities in family based production units, which are often linked to the market and exchange mechanisms through the transfers of commodities and also labour power.

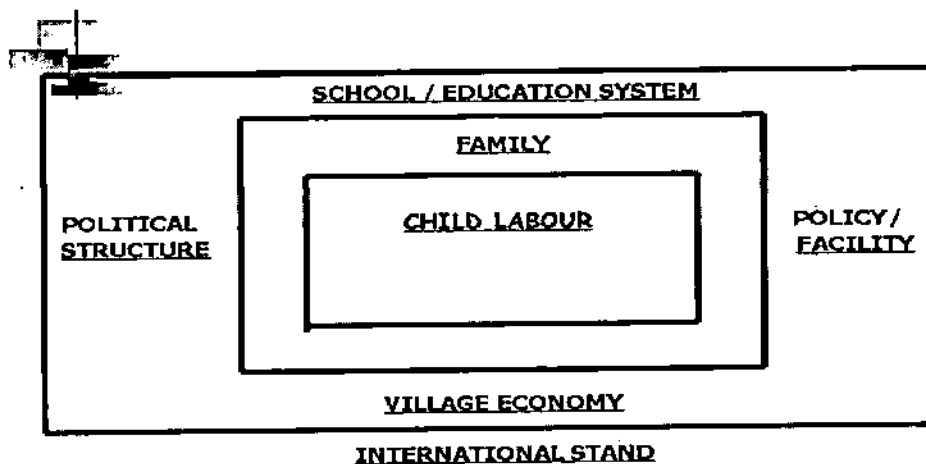
Beedi making also breeds bad health. Children who work for hours sitting cross-legged making beedi often suffer from backaches and knee problems. Initially tobacco dust often makes them feel giddy, and over the long-term, many develop chronic bronchitis, asthma and even T.B. Some complain of a burning sensation in the eyes and throat. They also suffer rheumatic syndromes besides allergies, stomach troubles and piles. Government welfare schemes do not reach most of the beedi workers.

*I am Asif Khan in Bharatpur - II  
CD Block, Murshidabad District,  
where I toil day and night in the  
Beedi industry. We do roasting,  
sorting, grading and packaging  
the beedi. We smoke out our lives  
just for Rs.9 to Rs.10 per day.  
Most of our family members  
depend on me and consider me as  
the bread-earner of the family.*

The National Child Labour Policy (1987) [The National Policy on Child Labour was formulated in 1987 which, apart from requiring enforcement of legal provisions to protect the interests of children, envisage, focusing of general development programmes for the benefit of build labour and project-based plans of action in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the project action plan, of the policy, National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) has been set up in different areas to rehabilitate child labour. A major activity undertaken under the NCLP is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment] emphasizes the role of education and its core rehabilitation programme through joint venture of Government and NGOs, but actually it's implication has very mere existence. The incidence of child labor in the beedi industry is partly linked to the level of socio-economic development of an area and partly to the attitude of parents and employers. Stringent enforcements of existing

laws are required to tackle the problem. By enforcing universal primary education, the scourge could be curbed to an extent.

### NATIONAL POLICY ON CHILD LABOUR



Paradoxically, government interventions have worsened in West Bengal of the beedi rollers. After the promulgation of the Beedi and Cigar Act, 1960, factory-based beedi rollers (all men) were thrown out of the factories, and the work shifted to home-based among children and women rollers. The Minimum Wages Act is not strictly followed. Owing to the significant rise in cost of tendu leaves after the nationalization of their collection in West Bengal, improving the returns to the tendu leaf pickers, the beedi industrialists managed the increased costs by slashing the wages of the beedi rollers.

Beedi workers of forty years ago said that their livelihood had been adequate, whereas of today's beedi rollers have a precarious and subsistence livelihood. Major problems faced by the beedi workers were –

- ☐ Perpetual poverty;
- ☐ Very low wages;
- ☐ No wage bargaining system;
- ☐ No access to entitlements;
- ☐ No benefits and gratuity;
- ☐ Delayed payments;
- ☐ Illiteracy;
- ☐ Hidden child labour;
- ☐ Constant exposure to tobacco dust;

- ☐ Postural pains;
- ☐ Indurations of the hands.

A large proportion of the beedi worker households were landless while others are small and marginal farmers. Alternative livelihood options were analyzed - the practical snag was that women workers would not go out of the villages to seek these compatible jobs in the industrial estates.

*When the breadwinner of a family loses his/her mental or physical balance, the children are forced to work. Social securities are very limited. Efficient social structures such as family protection and community systems are also slowly breaking up.*

One of the objectives of this research was to give a gender perspective of the child labourers on the employment situation in the beedi industry and to highlight the policy issues relating to children's employment in this industry. According to the National Sample Survey (NSS), three fourths of the total employment in the tobacco industry is in beedi manufacture. Amongst the working children in the tobacco industry, 91% are employed in manufacture of beedi. According to the NSS, the total number of women/girls in the beedi industry constitutes three fourths of the total beedi workforce. According to the NSS, 192,000 girls under the age of 14 years are employed in the beedi industry.

Children those are working in beedi factories consist of roasting, sorting, grading and packaging the beedi. Large numbers of home-based child labourers are mostly underreported to the authorities and only a small fraction of them have been issued identity cards by the employers. Women and girl children constitutes the bulk of the home-based workforce

*According to National Child Labour Policy, any child below 15 years of age engaged to earn his/her livelihood for the family members is a child labour. They are mostly involved in the unorganised production sectors beedi making, matches, crackers, domestic work, etc. They do not get any education and their childhood is denied in many ways. Beedi industries and factories are interested in child labour because they are cheap, easily*

because this arrangement is convenient to them for simultaneously fulfilling their role as homemakers. Employers and their contractors find this arrangement convenient because they can avoid reporting the workers to the government and providing any legally required benefits. The bargaining position of beedi workers in general and of child home-based workers in particular is weak, due to the low level of importance given to child workers.

controllable, easy to hire and fire and there is no fear about labour unrest. These children start their work playfully, but the contractors and middlemen were very strict, not allowing them to talk or turn round, in some cases beating in hands and legs is the nominal punishment. They started working mechanically. Their fingers became misshapen and their happiness faded away - they felt they were in prison.

Beedi making child labourers rarely secure minimum wages, often receiving just over half of their minimal entitlement, yet their contribution to their household income is one third to one half of the total. Illness is common among these home-based beedi workers, especially, tuberculosis, asthma, backache, joint pain, and arthritis. Various strategies suggested for empowering beedi making children and their families included better counting of home-based workers, providing them with access to education and healthcare, organizing them to demand their rights, and creating new livelihoods for them.

In this context, it is needed to adopt effective strategies of poverty alleviation; rural development schemes along with schemes for the provision of social security and infrastructure coupled with universal primary education provide a way to progressively eliminate child labour. Rapid economic development alone can provide the sound economic base to combat child labour. The intervention of the NGOs and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the development of the scope and ambit of the Fundamental Rights as provided for in the Constitution of India along with the different legal provisions relating to child labour also provide a sound legal foundation for the elimination of the child labour. A campaign to eliminate child labour on the lines of the Total Literacy Campaign with the convergence of all related

and relevant policies and scheme seems to be the most appropriate method to ensure elimination of child labour in India.

On the basis of the above statement some current trends of child labour in Murshidabad district, West Bengal is –

☐ The beedi making child labourers exist under the most difficult conditions. They work, on an average, 12 hours a day, and contribute significantly to India's GNP.

☐ But in return they receive:

- † An average salary of Rs. 90 per month;
- † Emotional and physical abuse;
- † Incalculable damages to their health before they are 14 years old;
- † Limited access to the basic rights—education, food, water and shelter;
- † Complete loss of their invaluable childhood;
- † An entire lifetime of frail health and penury;
- † An underpaid or unemployed status as adults.

*In Village Talibpur my name is Baby Khatun, 9 years old, where I work in home and make beedies along with my friends. My country is one of the world's largest beedi producers and many children like my friends are involved in this industry.*

The research project was covering some important thematic areas, which directly address the problems of the beedi making child labourers in Bharatpur – II CD Block in Murshidabad District, these were –

- † Socio – Economic Status;
- † Emotional and physical abuse;
- † Calculable and Incalculable damages to their health before they are 14 years old;
- † Access to the basic rights—education, food, water and shelter;
- † Complete loss of their invaluable childhood;
- † An entire lifetime of frail health and penury;
- † An underpaid or unemployed status as adults;



245

- † Verification of Government and Other Sources of Information and Data in relation to exploring the actual situation of the beedi making child labourers in concern area;
- † Law enforcement [Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986];
- † Policy (*National Policy on Child Labour, 1987*) and Programme (National Child Labour Project) Implications from Government and Non Governmental sector.

**The specific objectives of the research project were –**

- ☐ To highlight the living and working conditions of beedi workers in general and child workers in particular;
- ☐ To unveil the social and economic realities that forces the children to start beedi rolling at an early age;
- ☐ To understand the current trends in child labour in beedi industry and to find a proper explanation as to why child labour in beedi industry is growing, while it is showing, a clear cut decline at national level as a general trend; and
- ☐ To enumerate Go - NGO level intervention towards protection of rights and rehabilitation programs for the beedi making child labour.

246

## Chapter – II: Methodology & Research Settings

In this chapter the methodologies used in this study has been discussed in detail. It consists of the following major heads:

- (a) The research design
- (b) Selection of Universe
- (c) Selection of samples, sampling method and sample size
- (d) Tools of data collection
- (e) Field Work
- (f) Pilot study
- (g) Data processing and analysis
- (h) Interpretation of key words
- (i) Methodological Gains
- (j) Limitation of the Study
- (k) Organizational structure and problems

### (a) The Research Design

In this study, exploratory research design has been followed because the main purpose of such design was to formulate a problem for more precise investigation or to develop some working strategies from an operational point of view. The major emphasis was to explore ideas and insights. This research design is therefore flexible enough to provide opportunity for considering different aspect of the child labour problem under study.

### (b) Universe

Several surveys have already established that Murshidabad is one among the largest beedi manufacturing districts in the country. Studies have also revealed that a large number of households, majority of which are Muslims, survives through this industry. Bharatpur – II Block has been purposively selected for this study. If the map of the District is studied, it could be found that Bharatpur – II Block has very close

proximity with two of its neighbouring districts i.e. Burdwan and Birbhum apart from being one of the largest beedi manufacturing units in the district.

The study has been conducted in ten villages within the geographical area of Bharatpur-II CD Block of the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal. The rationale behind adopting this block was that among all the blocks in the district, this block produces highest amount of beedi and understandably large number of child worker are involved which really was expected to give much deeper insight about the problem we are dealing with.

#### About the District

Murshidabad district has rich historical past. It was the capital of Bengal. During seventh century A.D. Karnasubarna which is near the present district Headquarters on the opposite side of the river Ganga was the capital of a mighty King of Gourh, Sasanka who was contemporary to Harsha-Vardhana of Kanauj. Then again in the seventeenth and eighteenth century it was the capital of the Nawabs of the Bengal till taken over by the East India Company and shifted to the provincial capital of Kolkata. The dynasty was founded by Murshid-Kuli-Khan, the famous Mughal general and administrator and later the Subedar of Bengal from whose name the then capital town of Murshidabad, and the present name of the district has evolved.

Murshidabad had been a land of palaces, most of which now remain as relics and heritage sites. Among those that still prosper, HAZARDUARY stands out. Situated on the east bank of river Bhagirathi at Lalbagh, this palace was built during the reign of Nawab Nazim Humayun Shah at a cost of Rs. 16.50 lakhs in the 19<sup>th</sup> century A.D. It was designed by Colonel Duncan McLeod of the Bengal Corps of Engineers and took 17 years for completion (completed in 1837), and was inaugurated during the administration of the then Governor General, Lord Auckland.

Reminiscent of Italian style, as seen in its huge flight of stairs and colossal pillars, this palace has about thousand real and false doors, and hence the name HAZARDUARY. The palace was used for holding DURBAR and other official work of the Nawabs as also for the residence of high ranking British officials. It now houses a

museum displaying the stupendous and rare collection of books, manuscripts, statues, arms, paintings and furniture of the Bengal Nawabs.

Bharatpur – II Block – At a glance

The tables which have been depicted below are going to reflect the significance with appropriate situational background:

- (a) General Data (Populations & Workers' Statistics) of the CD Block
- (b) Educational Infrastructure of the CD Block
- (c) Health Infrastructure of the CD Block
- (d) Drinking Water Facilities of the CD Block
- (e) Electric Supply Facilities of the CD Block
- (f) Road Communication Infrastructure of the CD Block
- (g) Communication Amenities (Bus, Rail, Navigable Waterways)
- (h) Total Cultivable Land, Land Forest, Irrigated Land, Unirrigated Land, Culturable Waste and Total Uncultivated Land Amenities

(a) General Data

Area (Sq.km)	No. of Household	Population (Total)	Population (Male)	Population (Female)
158.50	29492	150133	76713	73420

Population Density: 947 persons / Sq.km  
Average Size of Household: 5.09 persons / household  
Sex Ratio: 957 female per 1000 male

Population (0 – 6 Years) (Total)	Population (0 – 6 Years) Male	Population (0 – 6 Years) Female	SC Population	SC Population (Male)	SC Population (Female)
25712	13229	12483	27580	14158	13422

Population (0-6 years): 17.12% of total population  
(51.45% male & 48.55% female)  
SC Population: 18.37% of total population  
(51.33% male & 48.67% female)

ST Population (Total)	ST Population (Male)	ST Population (Female)	Literate Population	Literate Population (Male)	Literate Population (Female)
155	84	71	68029	39257	28772

ST Population: 0.10% of total population  
(54.19% male & 45.81% female)

Literate Population: 45.31% of total population  
(57.70% male & 42.30% female)

Illiterate Population (Total)	Illiterate Population (Male)	Illiterate Population (Female)	Total Worker	Total Worker (Male)	Total Worker (Female)
82104	37456	44648	49783	40508	9275

Illiterate Population: 54.68% of total population  
(45.50% male & 54.50% female)

Total Worker: 33.15% of total population  
(81.37% male & 18.63% female)

Main Worker (Total)	Main Worker (Male)	Main Worker (Female)	Cultivator	Cultivator (Male)	Cultivator (Female)
42624	37189	5435	9012	8757	255

Main Worker: 85.61% of the total worker  
(87.25% male & 12.75% female)

Cultivator: 12.07% of total worker  
(97.17% male & 2.83% female)

Agricultural Labour (Total)	Agricultural Labour (Male)	Agricultural Labour (Female)	Worker (Household Industry)	Worker (Household Industry) Male	Worker (Household Industry) Female
13244	13048	196	2585	1441	1144

Agricultural Labourer: 26.60% of total worker  
(98.52% male & 1.48% female)

Household Industry Worker: 5.19% of total worker  
(55.74% male & 44.26% female)

Other Worker (Total)	Other Worker (Male)	Other Worker (Female)	Marginal Worker (Total)	Marginal Worker (Male)	Marginal Worker (Female)
17783	13943	3840	7159	3319	3840

Other worker: 15.66% of total population  
(89.34% male & 10.66% female)

Marginal Worker: 8.05% of total population  
(64.87% male & 35.13% female)

Marginal Cultivator (Total)	Marginal Cultivator (Male)	Marginal Cultivator (Female)	Marginal Agril. Labour (Total)	Marginal Agril. Labour (Male)	Marginal Agril. Labour (Female)
901	702	199	2094	1550	544

Marginal Cultivator: 12.58% of marginal worker  
(71.91% male & 28.09% female)

Marginal Agril Labourer: 29.24% of marginal worker  
(74.02% male & 25.98% female)

Marginal Household Industry Worker (Total)	Marginal Household Industry Worker (Male)	Marginal Household Industry Worker (Female)	Marginal Other Worker (Total)	Marginal Other Worker (Male)	Marginal Other Worker (Female)
1416	193	1223	2748	874	1874

Marginal Cottage Industry Worker: 19.77% of marginal worker  
(13.62% male & 86.38% female)

Marginal Other Worker: 31.80% of other worker  
(31.80% male & 68.20% female)

Non Worker (Total)	Non Worker (Male)	Non Worker (Female)
100350	36205	64145

251

Non Worker: 90.83% of total population  
(36.07% male & 63.93% female)

**(b) Educational Amenities & Accessibility**

Total no. Villages	Total no. Of inhabited villages	Total no. Of uninhabited villages	No. Of villages having primary school within the village		Distance range of nearest pri. Sch. If not available within the village			No. Of villages having middle school within the village	
					< 5 Km.	5-10 Km.	10+ Km.		
		2001	1991	2001	2001			1991	2001
52	52	--	70	49	3	--	--	5	16

Average Population / Village: 2887.17 Persons  
Villages Covered by Primary School 94.23%  
Population Covered / Primary School 3063.93 / School  
Villages Covered by Middle School 30.76%  
Population Covered / Middle School 9383.31 / School

Distance range of nearest middle sch. If not available within the village			No. Of villages having secondary school within the village		No. Of villages having senior secondary school within the village		No. Of villages having college within the village		Distance range of nearest college if not available within the village		
									< 5 Km.	5-10 Km.	10+ Km.
2001			1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	2001		
26	8	2	6	11		4	1	1	15	20	16

Villages Covered by Secondary School 28.84%  
Population Covered / Secondary School 10008.86/ School  
Villages Covered by Higher Secondary School 5.76%  
Population Covered / Middle School 50044.33/ School  
Villages Covered by College 1.92%  
Population Covered / College 150133 (Total)

252

**(c) Health Amenities & Accessibility**

Total no. Villages	Total no. Of inhabited villages	Total no. Of uninhabited villages	No. Of villages having health centre within the village		No. Of villages having allopathic dispensary within the village		No. Of villages having primary health centre within the village	
	2001		1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
52	52		0	3	0		1	

Distance range of nearest pri. Health cntr. If not available within the village			No. Of villages having primary health sub-centre within the village	
< 5 Km.	5-10 Km.	10+ Km.	1991	2001
2001			1991	2001
26	13	13	3	7

**Source of Drinking Water**

Total no. Villages	Total no. Of inhabited villages	No. Of villages having drinking water source within the village							
		Tap		Tubewell		Well		Other sources	
2001	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
52	52	0	14	80	50	80	1	0	

**(d) Electrical Power Supply**

TOTAL NO. VILLAGES	TOTAL NO. OF INHABITED VILLAGES	TOTAL NO. OF UNINHABITED VILLAGES	NO. OF VILLAGES HAVING ELECTRIC POWER FOR DOMESTIC USE		NO. OF VILLAGES HAVING ELECTRIC POWER FOR AGRICULTURAL USE	
2001	2001	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
52	52		21	49	1	42

**(e) Road Communication**

TOTAL NO. VILLAGES	TOTAL NO. OF INHABITED VILLAGES	TOTAL NO. OF UNINHABITED VILLAGES	NO. OF VILLAGES HAVING APPROACH BY PAVED ROAD		NO. OF VILLAGES HAVING APPROACH BY METAL ROAD	
2001	2001	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
52	52		67	21	12	49



**(f) Communication Amenities (Bus, Rail, Navigable Waterways)**

NO. OF VILLAGES HAVING BUS CONNECTIVITY WITHIN THE VILLAGE		DISTANCE RANGE OF NEAREST BUS CONNECTIVITY IF NOT AVAILABLE WITHIN THE VILLAGE			NO. OF VILLAGES HAVING RAIL CONNECTIVITY WITHIN THE VILLAGE		NO. OF VILLAGES HAVING NAVIGABLE WATER WAY FACILITY WITHIN THE VILLAGE	
		< 5 Km.	5-10 Km.	10+ Km.				
1991	2001	2001	2001	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
52	52		10	19	23	8	2	0

**(g) Total Cultivable Land, Land Forest, Irrigated Land, Unirrigated Land,  
Culturable Waste and Total Uncultivated Land Amenities**

\* Areas in hectares

Areas in hectares

TOTAL AREA (in hectares)	TOTAL LAND UNDER FOREST		TOTAL AREA UNDER CULTIVATION		TOTAL CULTIVABLE AREA UNDER IRRIGATION	
2001	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
15850.49	0.00	22.67	13103.95	13111.02	5947.88	11405.97
	TOTAL CULTIVABLE AREA NOT UNDER IRRIGATION		TOTAL CULTURABLE WASTE		TOTAL AREA NOT AVAILABLE FOR CULTIVATION	
	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
	7156.07	1705.05	0	246.62	5318.94	2470.18

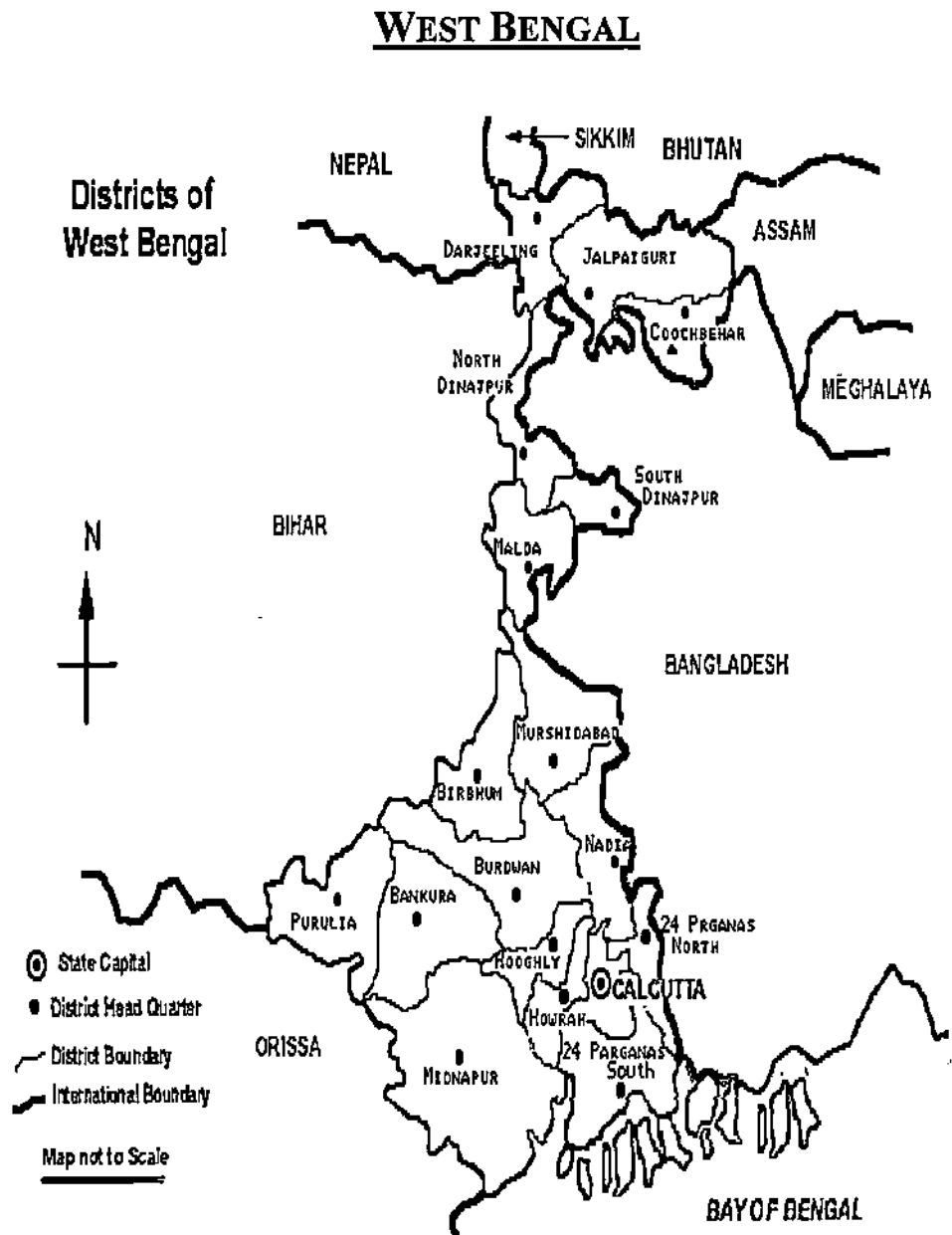
The Bharatpur-II Development block is under Kandi Sub-Division of Murshidabad District.

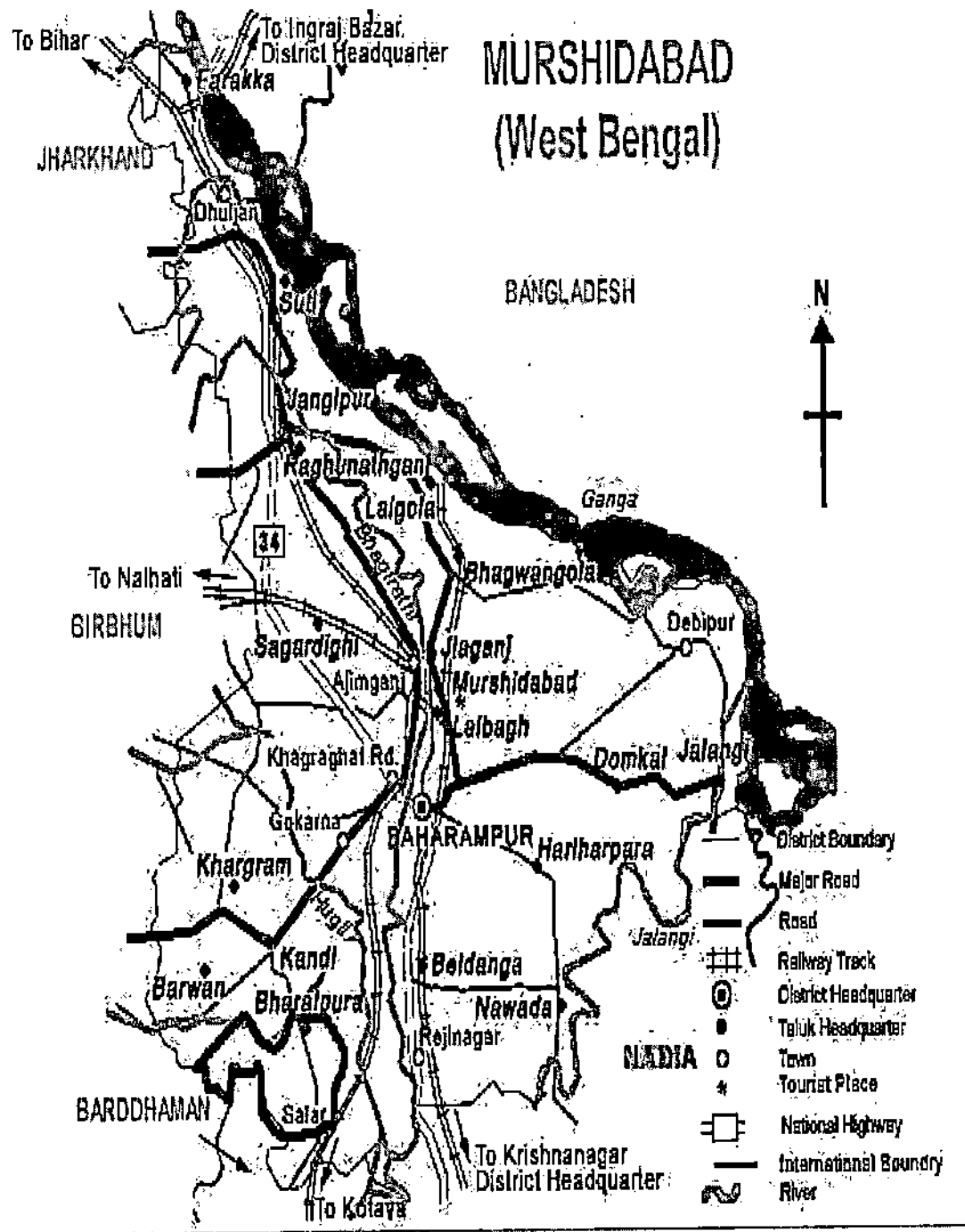
The present study is concentrated mostly on the villages under the Talibpur Gram Panchayat of the Block. The villages which were taken as operational zone on the basis of the assumption that, the severity of the problem in these villages were much in abundance. This will be truly highlighted in the analysis and interpretation chapter and subsequently certain suggestions and intervention strategy will be evolved.


- (1) Tenya
- (2) Ghoshpara
- (3) Kachunia
- (4) Baidyapur
- (5) Barutia
- (6) Babla

- (7) Kagram
- (8) Bahara
- (9) Sarmastapur
- (10) Talibpur

The study area has been shown through the following maps of West Bengal State, Murshidabad District and Bharatpur-II block:

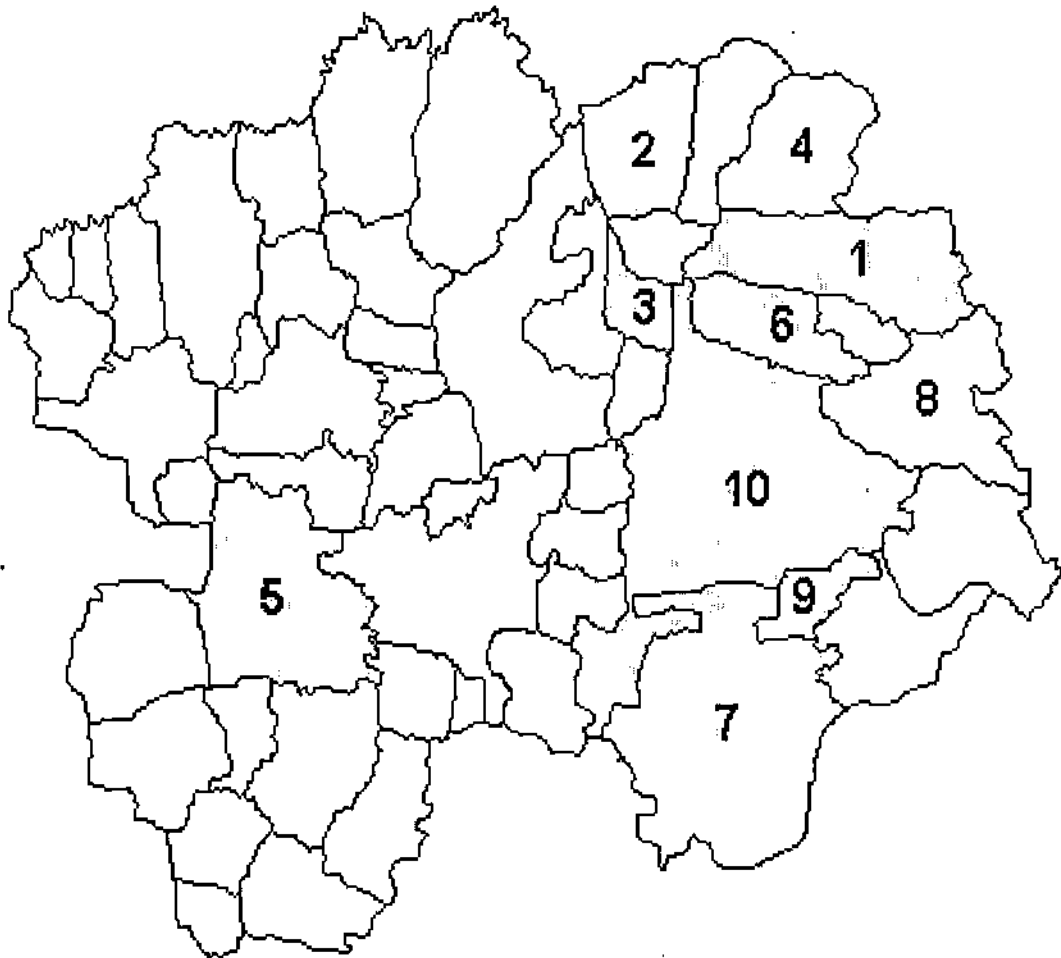




 The study area (Bharatpur II CD Block)

## BHARATPUR - II CD BLOCK

(Not to Scale)



Name of the Study Villages (number-wise) as Shown in the Map

1. Tenya
2. Ghosh Para
3. Kachunia
4. Baidyapur
5. Barutia
6. Babla
7. Kagram
8. Bahara
9. Sarmastapur
10. Talibpur

(c) Selection of samples, sampling method and sample size

The study was carried out in ten villages under Talibpur Gram Panchayat of Bharatpur – II Block. The study area was chosen as because the research team had substantial amount of knowledge about the area.

Purposive sampling is a non-random sampling method in which the sample is arbitrarily selected because characteristics, which they possess, are deemed important for the research. In purposive sampling, the investigator has some belief that the sample being selected is typical of the population or is a very good representative of the population. This method ensures that those individuals will be included in the sample that is relevant to the research design.

The method of purposive sample was followed to select the samples in the selected village of Bharatpur-II Community Development Block. The collection of sample was done after obtaining secondary level information regarding existence of beedi rolling child labour in the selected villages. The villages were therefore selected primarily. The respondents were selected after getting necessary information about them from Block Office, websites of different voluntary organizations, Census of India. The beedi rolling workers were selected purposively and interviewed accordingly to their availability at their houses or workplace. The time and venue for face-to-face interview was selected by the respondents. Samples were selected from the villages under Talibpur Gram Panchayat area. The respondents were selected randomly from the villages prior to their availability for interviewing.

Types of samples and sample size

Two types of respondents have been included in the study. Firstly the beedi rolling children, who are the reference group in the present study and secondly the stakeholders i.e. local school teachers, Panchayat functionaries, government administrators (block and sub-division level), police personnel etc. whose orientation and perception about the present study was very important.



Total 420 (four hundred twenty) child beedi rolling workers were selected from ten villages using proportional allocation method considering the number of households in the study villages. Fifteen stakeholders were purposively selected for the purpose of this study. Twenty respondents were selected for detail case study where special features have been found in the concerned child.

(d) Tools of data collection

Semi-structured interview schedule was developed as major tool for data collection for this survey. Close-ended questions were used in maximum possible number for convenient of coding the responses and presentation of the collected data through tables and graphs. Open ended questions were also used in the schedule in order to facilitate exploration of the root-causes of the problem area. Inferences were drawn from the subjective analysis of the facts and figures on the basis of frequency distribution method. Case study of selected respondents has also been used as a tool with the objective to study the in-depth problem of beedi rolling child labour.

(e) Field Work

The field work activities were carried out in two phases. In the first phase a pilot study was carried out with 30 children who were not in the sampling frame after preparing the draft interview schedule. Informal discussions were also done with as many as people in the communities as possible to gather specific information on the social, cultural and economical situation of the children employed in beedi rolling industry. This process took about two weeks. The interview schedule was then modified with necessary expansions.

The field work was carried out by the Research Associates for about five and half months. After completion of data collection among the four hundred and twenty samples, another interview schedule was developed for the orientation and perception of the stakeholders about the problem of child labour in the study area. The entire activity was periodically monitored by the Project Director to make sure that the study was carried out considering what was intended to find out.

The field work team also faced a lot of difficulties to access the children at home and workplace because of the strong network of employer and agent recruiters. It could be understood that the employers as well as the middleman network was very well aware of the exploitation they were practicing in the study area. It was finally possible to access the respondents because of the assistance by the Panchayat and Block Administration.

(f) Pilot study

After completion of the pilot study among the non-samples, the research team did an assessment of the situational background. Relevant reviews were also examined in order to develop questions on socio-economic conditions of the respondents. Questions on the status of the respondents as beedi rolling worker were given utmost priority. Before detailed survey, a pilot study was carried out by the survey team in the study area to understand the basic situational background of the households. This study did help to a large extent to make necessary modification in the interview schedule as well as placement of proper questions needed for the study.

(g) Data processing and analysis

Data was collected through interview schedule and then it was coded on the code sheet and transferred into the codebook developed for this study. Data was processed with the help of computer using SPSS software. Various tabular and graphical representations were used towards meaningful interpretation of the facts and figures. Both univariate and bivariate tables and graphs have been drawn for comparative analysis of the gathered data. No statistical tests have been employed for the purpose of this study.

(h) Interpretation of Key Words

In the study title “Current Trends in Child Labor – A Study of Beedi Industry in Bharatpur – II Block, Murshidabad District, West Bengal”, two key words was found i.e. child labour and beedi industry.

Child Labour (*theoretical definition*): Francis Blachard, the former Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), has defined child labour as that which includes "children prematurely leading adult lives, working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities that could open up for them a better future".

According to the Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, "when the business of wage earning or of participation in itself or family support conflicts directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education, the result is child labour." In a nutshell, therefore, the definition of child labour is any work within or outside the family that involves a time and energy commitment, which affect children's ability to participate in leisure, play and educational activities. It is work, which impairs the health and development of children.

Child labour (*operational definition*): In this study, child labour has been defined as children working under hazardous condition willingly or forcefully in a most unorganized manner under the terms and conditions dictated by the agents / brokers or employers. This work force does even have the recognition as a child labour.

Beedi Industry: The term industry theoretically refers to an establishment where large number of workers is working for beedi production in large scale. In this study beedi industry has been referred as an fragmented industry where there is no specific working hours exists and where large number of labours are engaged contractually without any social security and recognitions.

#### (i) Methodological Gains

Since this study has been analyzed with simple frequency distribution and percentage, and no as such standardized tools for data collection have been prepared and utilized for the study. A very comprehensive pilot study has been done to gather an in depth knowledge about the issue of child labour in the study area and data have been

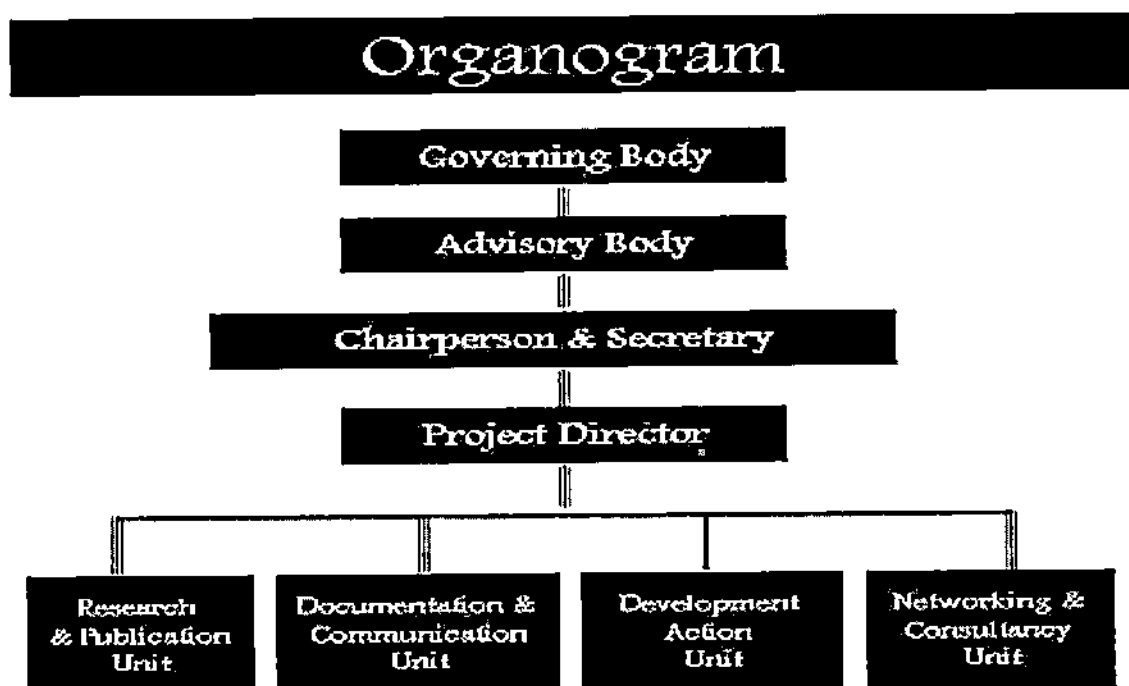


collected with comprehensive semi-structured interview schedule. It has been taken care that no stone remains unturned. The issue of child labour in the study area has been analyzed in different dimensions like analysis of the reference group, stakeholders' orientation and selected case studies. So these approaches to the issue of child labour will be helpful for other study in the future related to child labour.

(j) Limitation of the Study

The study has been conducted in a particular block of Murshidabad district. Therefore there could be difference in the child labour situation in other blocks of the district which could not be covered due fund and time constraint. The stakeholders suppressed facts and figures about the seriousness of the child labor problem in the area. In majority of the cases the respondents were not allowed to give interview in absence of either their parents or relatives. This caused certain suppression of facts on the part of the situation of the respondents.

(k) Organizational Structure and SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threat)



### **Strength (S)**

- Professional and equipped staffs & volunteers available to take any development initiative;
- Ten multi-disciplinary experienced faculties of Visva Bharati University are involved with the organization in voluntary basis and providing their expertise in research and implementation programs;
- District and Block level support and guidance available;
- Well-equipped institutional facilities are available in the organization;
- Documentation and Project Design.

### **Weakness (W)**

- Need to be strengthened resource mobilization segments;
- Network with PRIs for better coordinating approach in field intervention;
- Financial constraints to reach the development goals of the organization.

### **Opportunities (O)**

- Village level participation and commitment towards development activities, mainly among the youth club members.
- Initiate any research and development initiatives on immediate social problems.
- Collation, cooperation and coordination are maintained at different stakeholders level;
- Active and experienced management body of the organization makes easier to initiate any development intervention;
- Management information System.

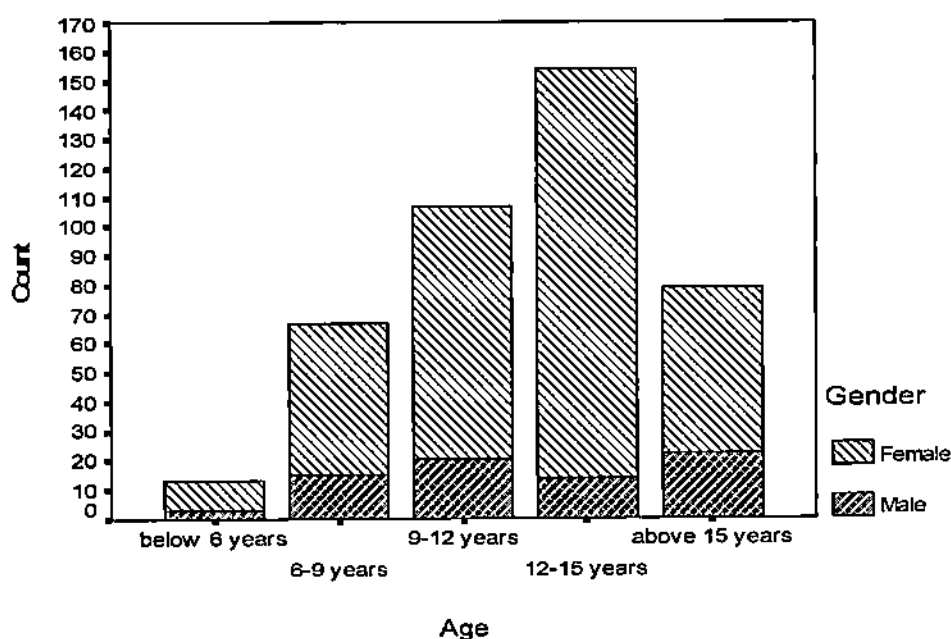
### **Threat (T)**

- Challenge in fund rising grows insecurity among the professionals;
- The organization is still small in size and also its activities, where in this stage it needs to make some credentials to stand in the position to take development initiatives for the marginalized.

### Chapter – III: Data Analysis & Interpretation

**Table –1**  
**Gender & Age of the Respondents**

Age	Gender		Total	Percentage (%)
	Male	Female		
Below 6 years	3	9	12	2.86
6 years - 9 years	15	52	67	15.95
Above 9 years - 12 years	20	88	108	25.71
Above 12 years - 15 years	14	140	154	36.67
Above 15 years	22	57	79	18.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>17.62</b>	<b>82.38</b>	<b>100</b>	



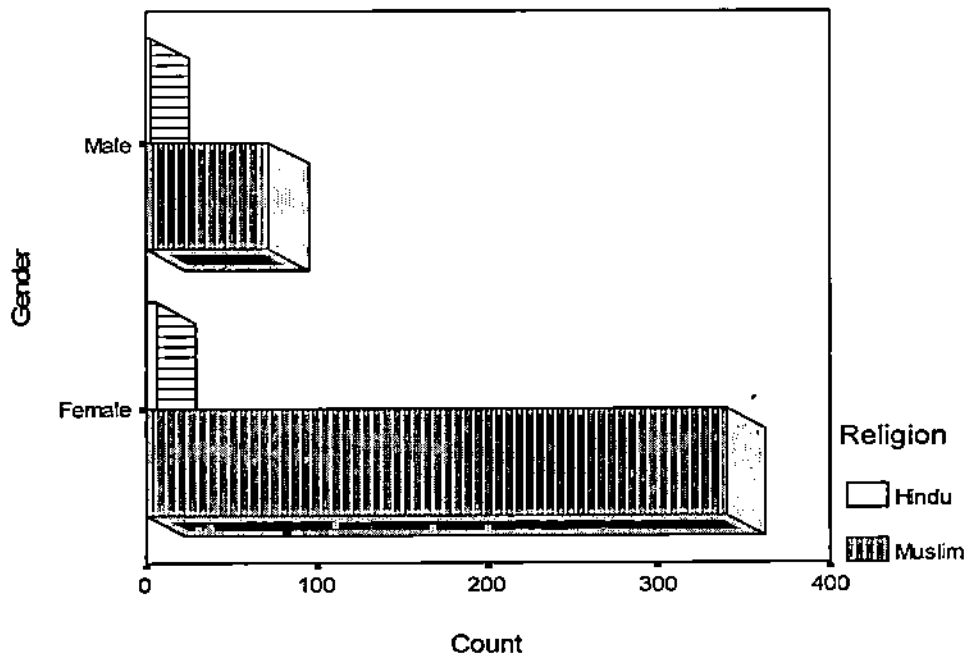
The table ascertains that majority of the beedi rolling children belong to the age group of above 12 to 15 years (36.67%) and above 9 to 12 years (25.71%) respectively. The significant dimension which is emerging out from the table is that out of 420 beedi rolling workers, 346 (82.38%) are girls.

264

Table – 2

Gender & Religion of the Respondents

Gender	Religion		Total	Percentage (%)
	Hindu	Muslim		
Male	2	72	74	17.62
Female	6	340	346	82.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>98.10</b>	<b>100</b>	

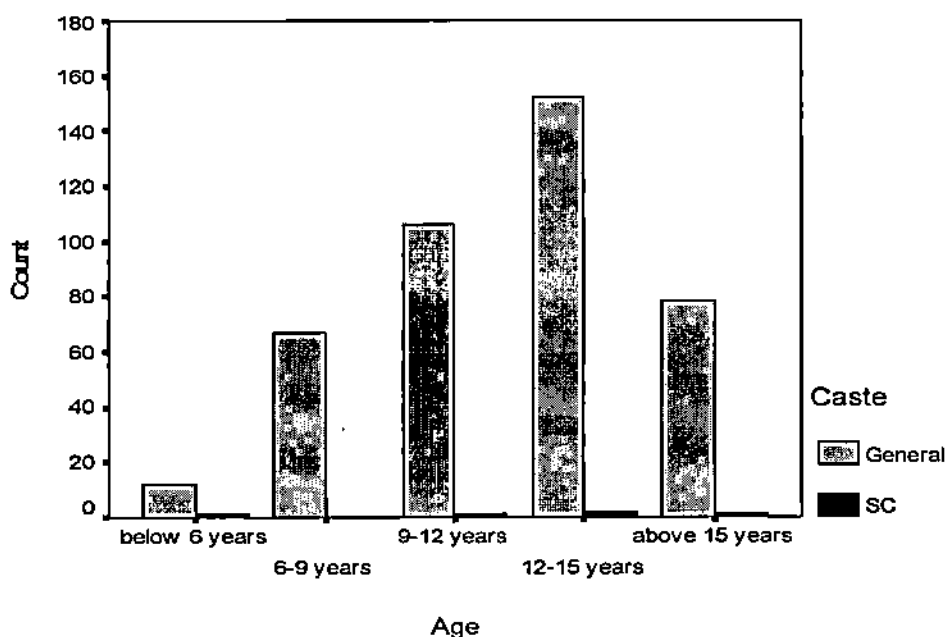


The religion-wise gender distribution of the respondents depicts that muslims constitutes 412 (98.1%) of the total sampling frame. Though the study was conducted in predominantly muslim populated area; the table -2 suggests that presence of muslim children in the trade of beedi rolling is higher than that of hindu children because the proportion of hindus and muslims in the selected study area is 1:4 (approx.).

Table – 3

## Age &amp; Caste of the Respondents

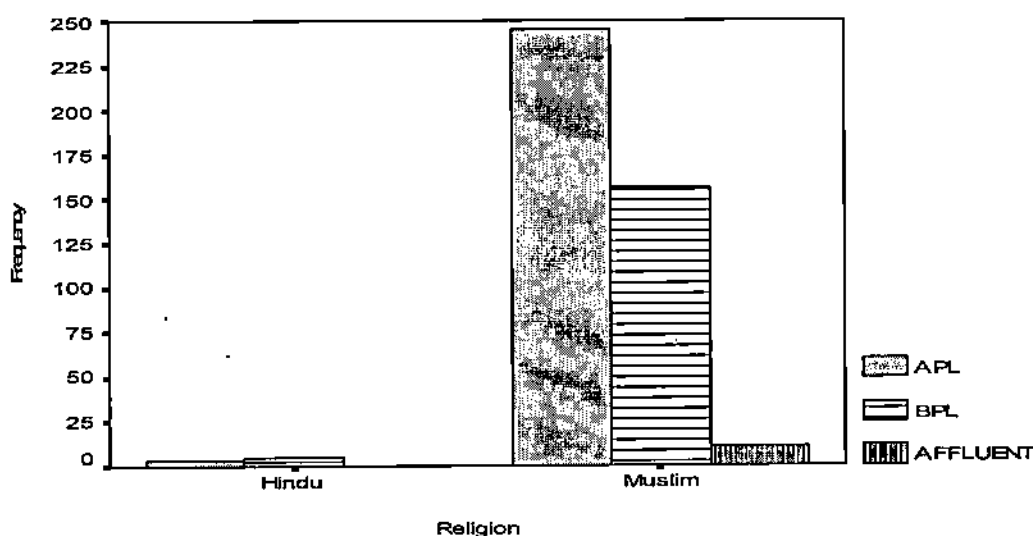
Age	Caste		Total	Percentage (%)
	General	SC		
Below 6 years	11	1	12	2.86
6 years - 9 years	67		67	15.95
Above 9 years - 12 years	107	1	108	25.71
Above 12 years - 15 years	152	2	153	36.43
Above 15 years	78	1	79	18.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>98.81</b>	<b>1.19</b>	<b>100</b>	



The above table is trying to give us an impression that the majority of the beedi rolling workers fall under the general caste because it was reiterated earlier that the study was conducted in muslim dominated block. This also needs to be stated that the classification of caste among the muslim community has never been reconed as per muslim religion , hence all of the muslim respondents have been considered as general caste.

**Table – 4**  
Religion-wise Economic Condition of the Respondents

Religion	Economic Condition			Total	Percentage (%)
	Above Poverty Line	Below Poverty Line	Affluent		
Hindu	3	5	0	8	1.90
Muslim	245	156	11	412	98.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>59.05</b>	<b>38.33</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>100</b>	

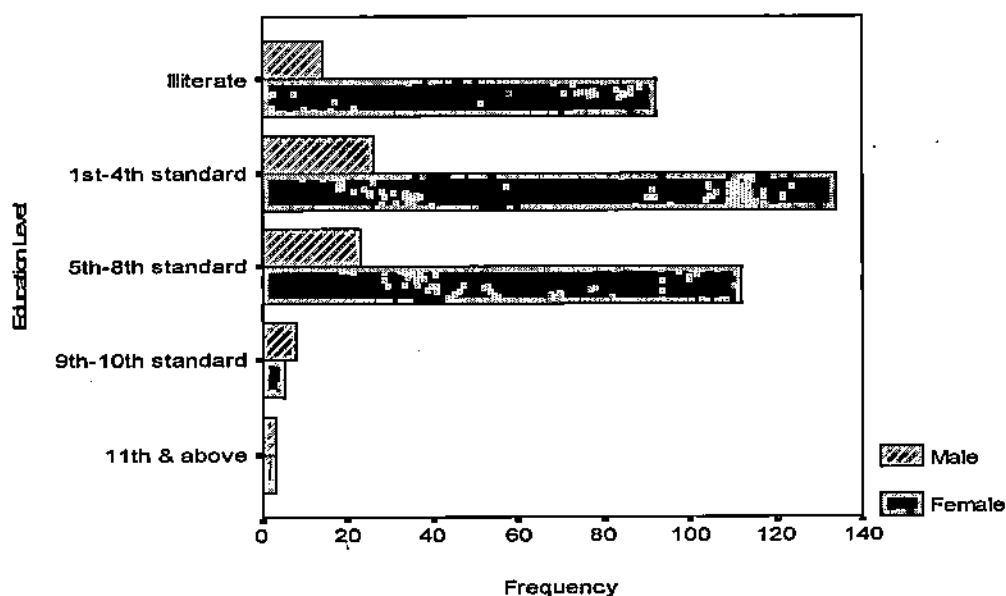


As per the Government order, the households whose income is more than Rs.1184.00 fall under the category of above poverty line but the research team came across that 11 households whose income were much more than the stipulated amount (Rs.1184.00). So we also would like to categorise them in above poverty line for the convenience of conducting the research without giving rise to any controversial finding.

The table projects that majority of the respondents (59.05%) belong to above poverty line in contrary to 38.33% respondents which come under the purview of below poverty line households. As it is evident that out of total 420 beedi rolling workers, 412 are from muslim community and only 8 from hindu. So it becomes insignificant to draw a line of demarcation between the economic condition of muslim and hindu community. Among the muslims, majority of the respondents belong to the below poverty line (59.46%) and a meager percentage i.e. 2.66% from above poverty line.

**Table – 5**  
Gender-wise Education level of Respondents (Children)

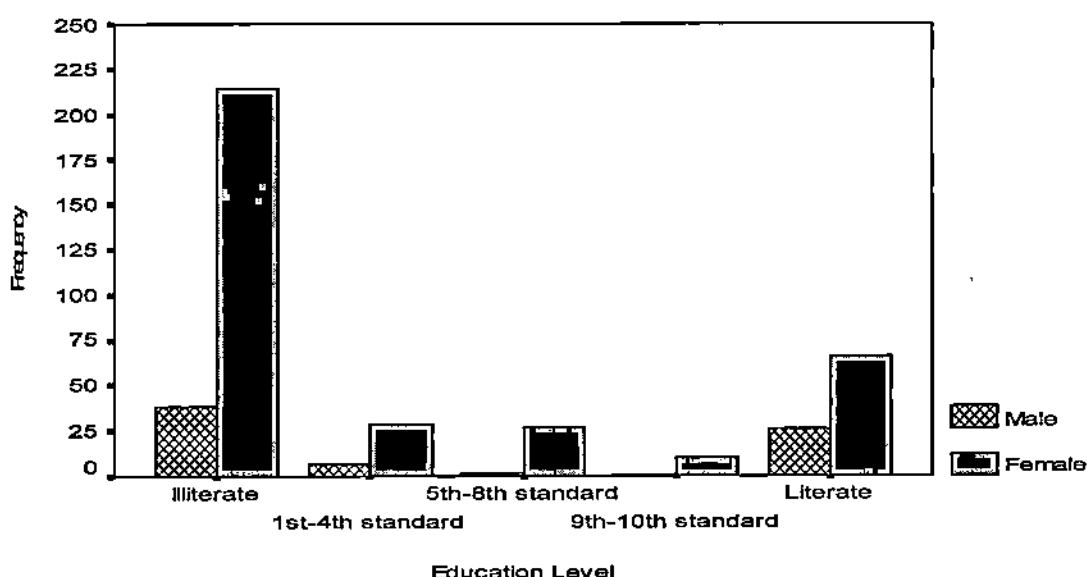
Education	Gender		Total	Percentage (%)
	Male	Female		
Illiterate	14	92	106	25.24
1st-4th standard	26	134	160	38.10
5th-8th standard	23	112	135	32.14
9th-10th standard	8	5	13	3.10
11th standard & above	3	3	6	1.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>17.62</b>	<b>82.38</b>	<b>100</b>	



The percentage of illiterate children is 25.24. Among the illiterates, majority of the respondents ( 86.89%) are females . Upto VIII standard it could be observed that girls have attended school in large numbers in comparison to that of boys. It is also significant to note that the majority of the respondents have dropped out from school after VIII standard. The table gives a very gloomy picture when enrollment is concerned at IX standard.

**Table – 6**  
Gender-wise Education Level of the Respondents' Parents

Education	Gender		Total	Percentage (%)
	Male	Female		
Illiterate	38	214	252	60.00
1st-4th standard	7	29	36	8.57
5th-8th standard	2	27	29	6.90
9th-10th standard	1	10	11	2.62
Literate	26	66	92	21.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>17.62</b>	<b>82.38</b>	<b>100</b>	



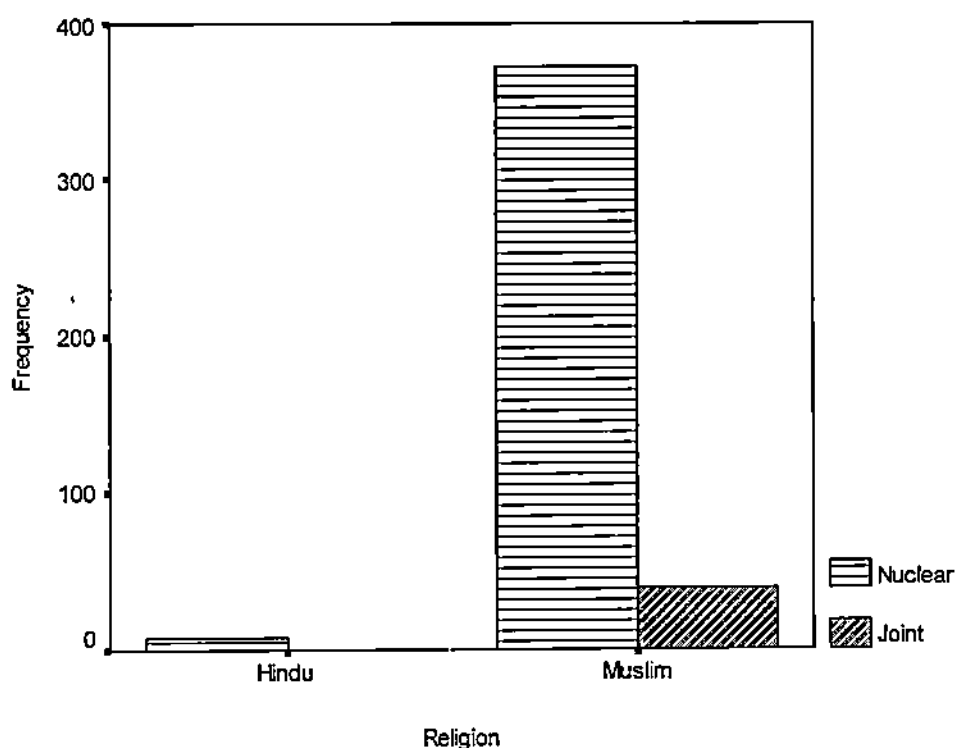
The table suggests that majority of the parents are illiterate (60%), only 21.90% parents are literate. The female illiteracy rate is significantly higher than the male counterpart. Among the literate parents the trend is same like that of the education of the respondents (children). Again the female illiteracy rate is significantly higher than the male counterpart but the percentage of female literates is significantly lower than the males. It could also be observed in the table that the higher the education level, the lower the percentage of male and the females have been found to have attended higher standards in large numbers in comparison to that of the males. This phenomenon is uniform in more or less every standard of education among the parents.



Table – 7

Crosstabulation: Religion &amp; Family Type of the Respondents

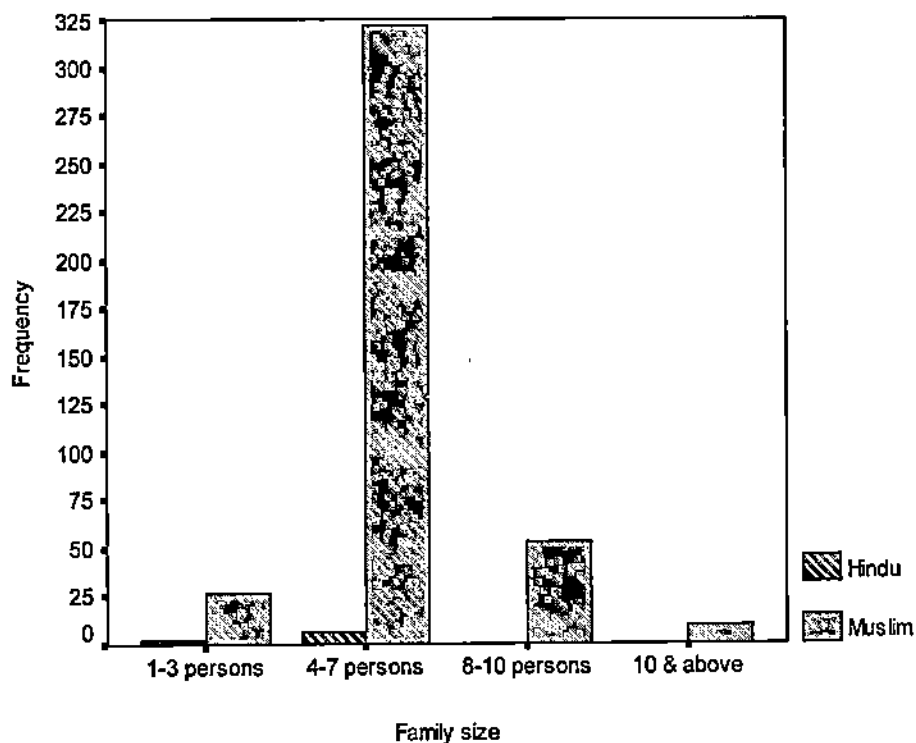
Religion	Family Type		Total	Percentage (%)
	Nuclear	Joint		
Hindu	8		8	1.90
Muslim	373	39	412	98.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>90.71</b>	<b>9.29</b>	<b>100</b>	



As it was stated earlier that majority of the beedi rollers were from Muslim community and that is again envisaged in this table. Here an attempt is made to highlight the family type of the workers in different religion. From the table it is clear that the most of workers (90.71%) belong to nuclear family and only 9.29% are from joint families. The most interesting feature is that there are no Hindu workers from joint families.

**Table – 8**  
Crosstabulation: Family size & Religion of the Respondents

Family Size	Religion		Total	Percentage (%)
	Hindu	Muslim		
1-3 persons	2	27	29	6.90
4-7 persons	6	322	328	78.10
8-10 persons	0	53	53	12.62
10 & above	0	10	10	2.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>98.10</b>	<b>100</b>	

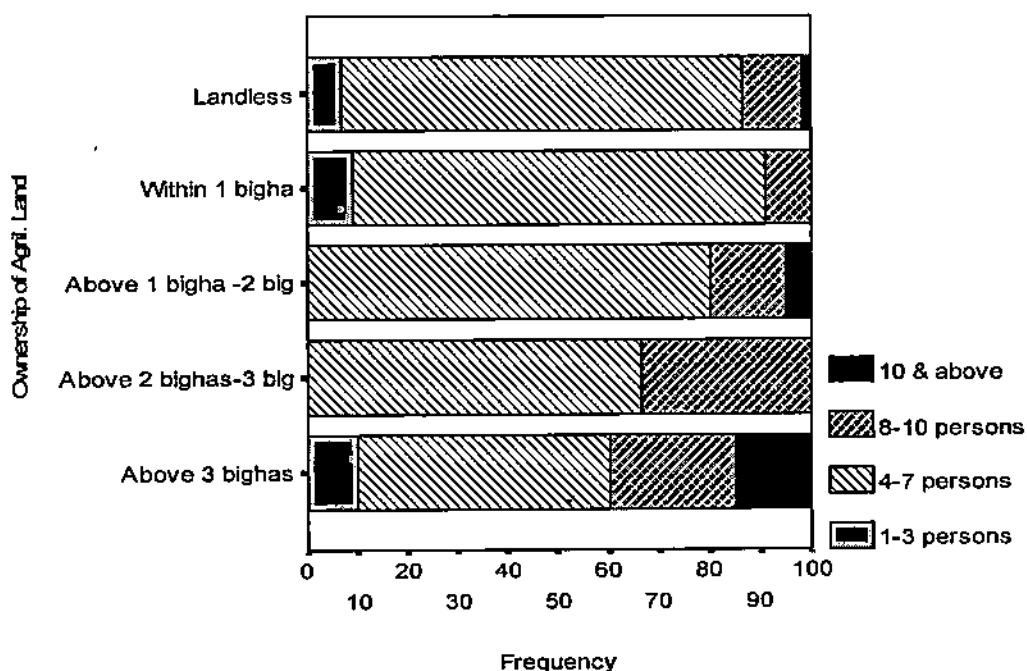


This table suggests that majority of the beedi rolling workers (78.10%) belong to 4-7 persons family size group in both Hindu and Muslim communities and only 2.38% in the 10 & above group. There are no workers in Hindu community in '8-10 persons' and '10 & above' groups.

Table – 9

Distribution of agricultural land ownership according to family size of the respondents

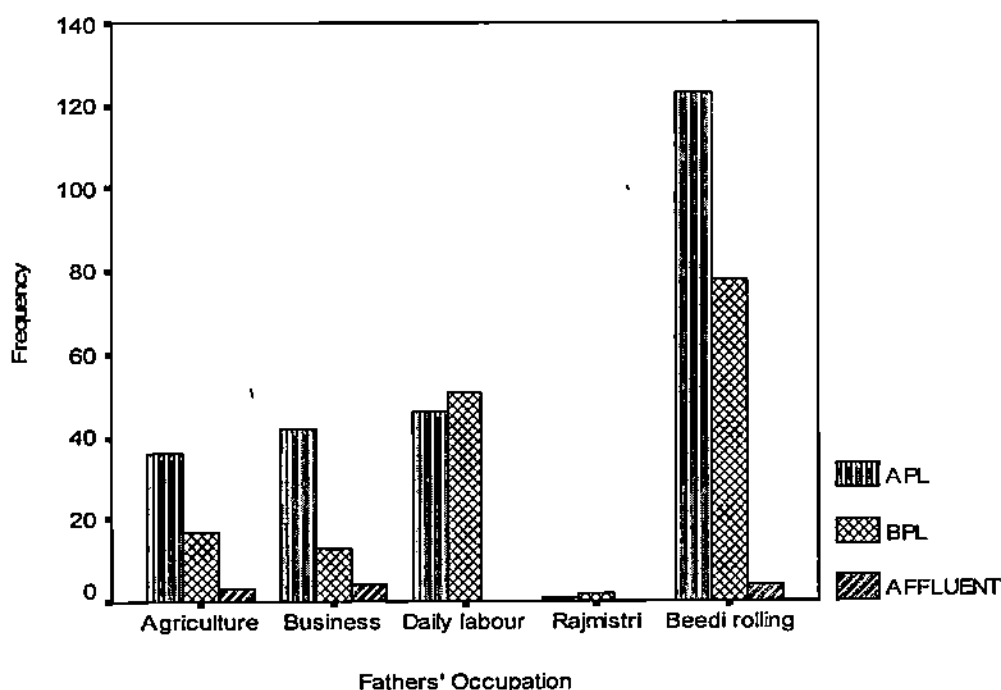
Agricultural Land	Family size				Total	Percentage (%)
	1-3 Persons	4-7 Persons	8-10 Persons	10 & above		
Landless	23	262	39	6	330	78.57
Within 1 Bigha	4	36	4	0	44	10.48
Above 1 Bigha-2 Bighas	0	16	3	1	20	4.76
Above 2 Bighas-3 Bighas	0	4	2	0	6	1.43
Above 3 Bighas	2	10	5	3	20	4.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>6.90</b>	<b>78.10</b>	<b>12.62</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>100</b>	



The table envisages that 78.57% workers have no land and those who possess land most of them (10.48%) have within 1 bigha of land. Those families consist of 4-7 family members are landless and some of them in the same family size possess more than 3 bighas of land.

**Table – 10**  
Distribution of Fathers' occupation vis-à-vis Economic Condition of the Respondents

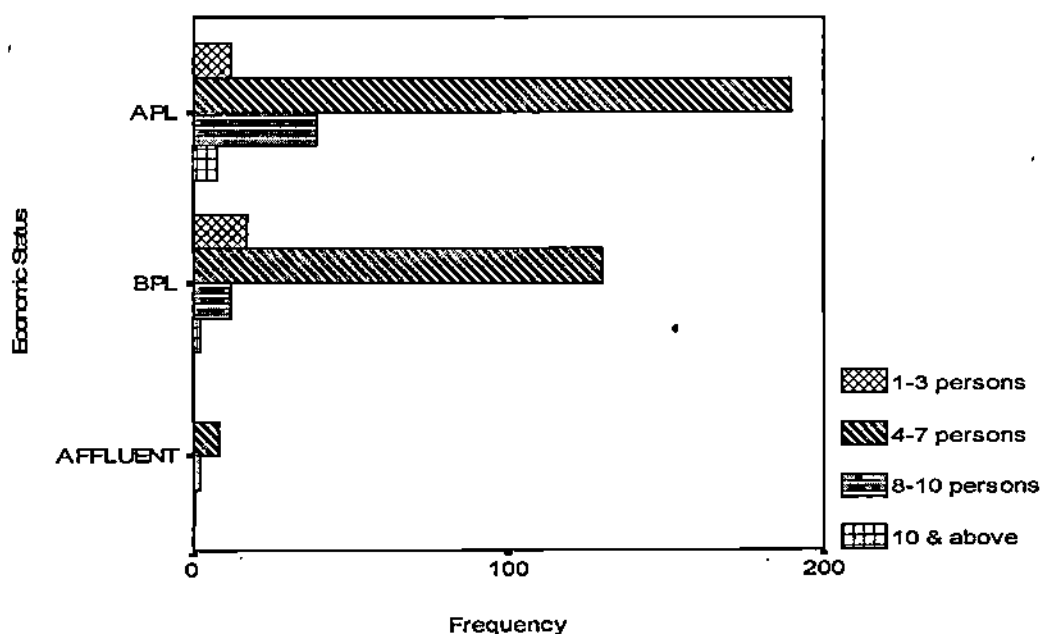
Fathers' Occupation	Socio-economic Condition			Total	Percentage (%)
	Above Poverty Line	Below Poverty Line	Affluent		
Agriculture	36	17	3	56	13.33
Business	42	13	4	59	14.05
Daily labour	46	51	0	97	23.10
Rajmistri	1	2	0	3	0.71
Beedi rolling	123	78	4	205	48.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>59.05</b>	<b>38.33</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>100</b>	



The table clearly speaks of that mostly the fathers of the children are engaged in the same profession. This is also to note that many bread earners of the family are involved in agriculture, small business, construction work as well as daily labour for any profitable trade with a poultry amount. If we see from another perspective it is evident that 59.05% children are above poverty line in contrary to 38.33% who belong to below poverty line. Only a very meager percentage (2.62%) belong to affluent families.

**Table-11**  
Economic condition vis-à-vis family size of the respondents

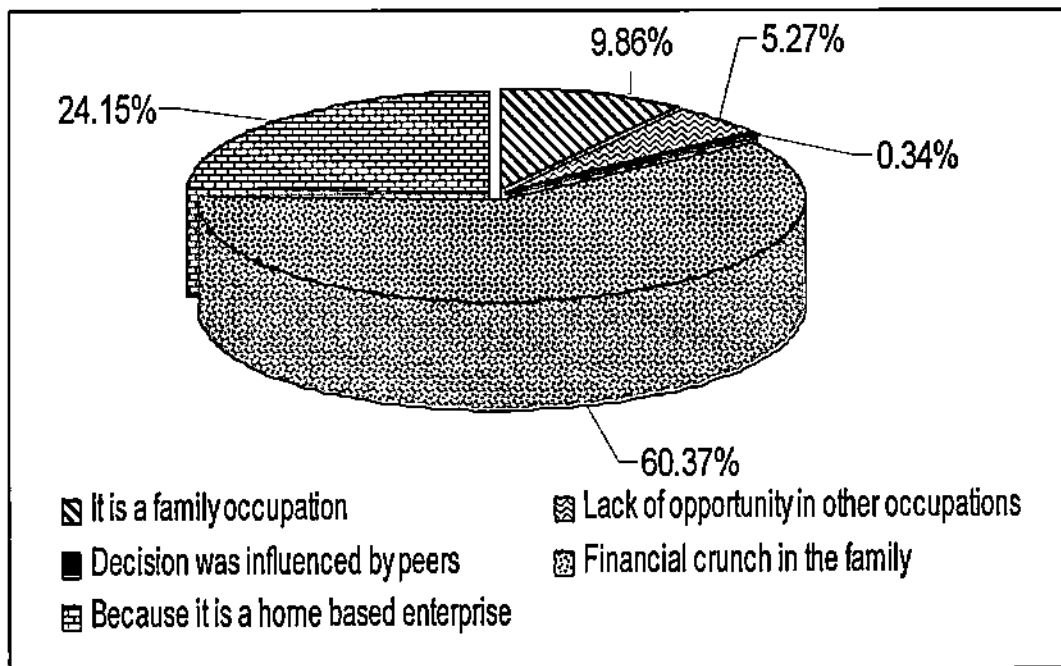
Economic Condition	Family size				Total	Percentage
	1-3 persons	4-7 persons	8-10 persons	10 & above		
Above Poverty Line	12	190	39	7	248	59.05
Below Poverty Line	17	130	12	2	161	38.33
Affluent		8	2	1	11	2.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>6.90</b>	<b>78.10</b>	<b>12.62</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>100.00</b>	



The above table shows the distribution of the households of the respondents in accordance with their economic condition. The table suggests that 61.67% of the total sample population living above the poverty line where 2.62% of these households are enjoying better economic standards in comparison to that of the remaining 59.05%. Among the above poverty line households, majority comprise of 4 to 7 members followed by the next higher frequency of the households comprising 8 to 10 members. The table also ascertains that 38.33% of the total population is living below the poverty line. Again the distribution of the households with different size is proportionately the same to that of the above poverty line households.

**Table – 12**  
Respondents' Reason for Coming to this Occupation

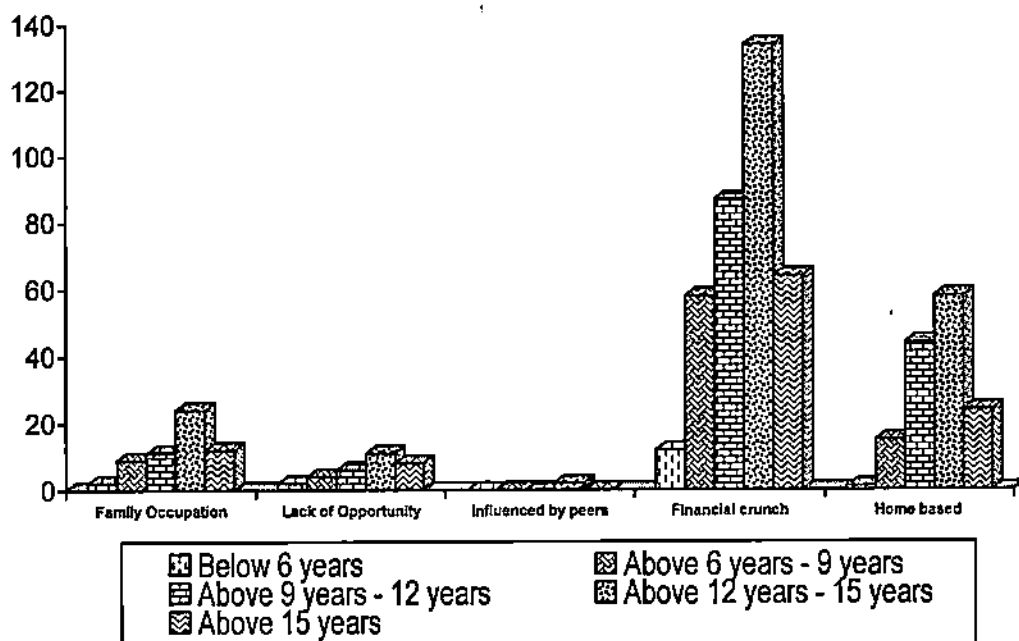
Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
It is a family occupation	58	9.86
Lack of opportunity in other occupations	31	5.27
Decision was influenced by peers	2	0.34
Financial crunch in the family	355	60.37
Because it is a home based enterprise	142	24.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>100</b>



Most of the cases children have come to this profession due to financial problem in the family (60.37%). In considerable number of cases workers have joined in this profession as because it is a home-based enterprise (24.15%). Only 9.86% cases workers had opined that they had joined in this profession because it is family occupation.

**Table – 13**  
Age-wise distribution of the Respondents according to their reason for being beedi roller

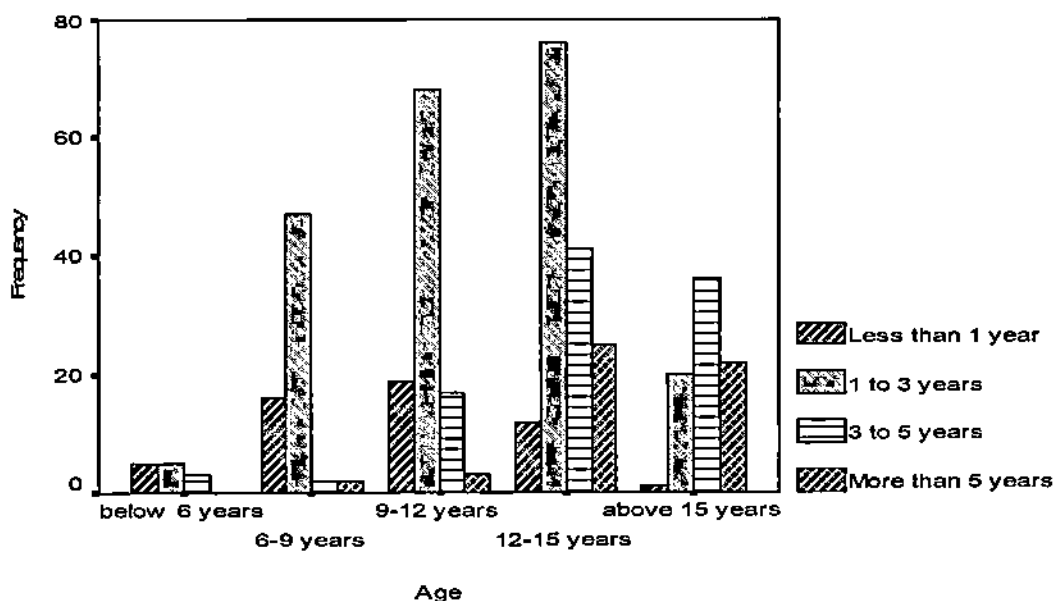
Age	Reasons					Total	Percentage (%)
	It is a family occupation	Lack of opportunity in other occupations	Decision was influenced by peers	Financial crunch in the family	Because it is a home based enterprise		
Below 6 years	2	2		12	1	17	2.89
6 years - 9 years	9	4		58	15	86	14.63
Above 9 years - 12 years	11	6		87	44	148	25.17
Above 12 years - 15 years	24	11	2	134	58	229	38.95
Above 15 years	12	8		64	24	108	18.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>9.86</b>	<b>5.27</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>60.37</b>	<b>24.15</b>	<b>100</b>	



The table suggests that in all the age group most of the cases workers joined this profession due to financial crunch in the family (60.37%). Most of the worker (38.95%) belongs to above 12-15 years age group. From the table it is clear that there is no as such significant change in the decision making for joining in this profession as the age progresses.

**Table – 14**  
Age-wise distribution of respondents vis-à-vis duration of attachment with beedi rolling

Age	Duration of attachment with Beedi Rolling				Total	Percentage (%)
	Less than 1 year	1 to 3 years	More than 3 to 5 years	More than 5 years		
Below 6 years	5	5	3		13	3.10
6 years - 9 years	16	47	2	2	67	15.95
Above 9 years - 12 years	19	68	17	3	107	25.48
Above 12 years - 15 years	12	76	41	25	154	36.67
Above 15 years	1	20	36	22	79	18.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>12.62</b>	<b>51.43</b>	<b>23.57</b>	<b>12.38</b>	<b>100</b>	

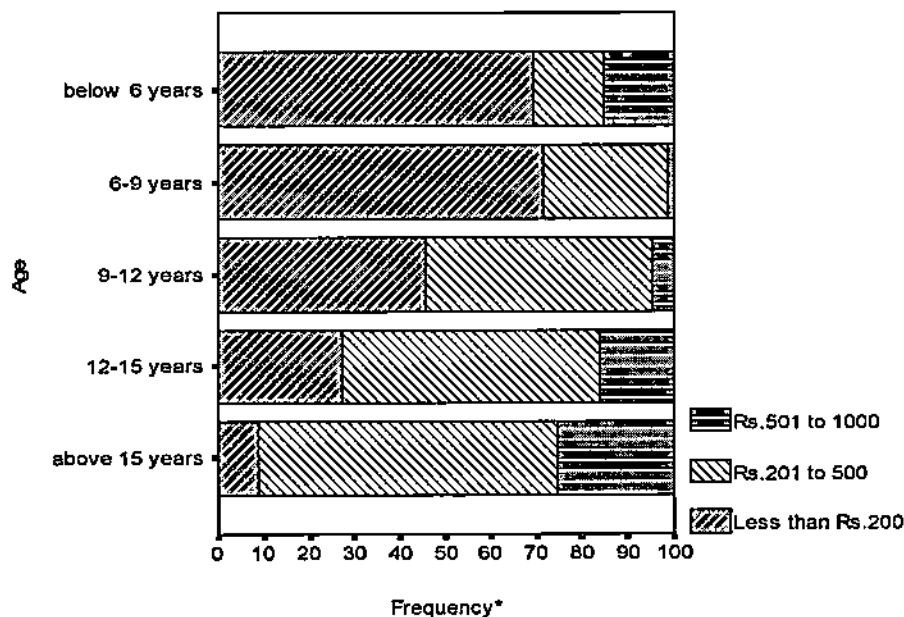


The table envisages that most of the beedi rolling workers (51.43%) are attached with this profession between 1-3 years. Out of them 23.57% are attached between more than 3-5 years and only 12.38% are engaged in his profession more than 5 years. So it suggests that their involvement in the profession is in declining order.



**Table – 15**  
Age of the Respondents & Monthly income out of this profession

Age	Monthly Income out of this Profession			Total	Percentage (%)
	Less than Rs.200	Rs.201 to 500	Rs.501 to 1000		
Below 6 years	9	2	2	13	3.10
6 years - 9 years	48	18	1	67	15.95
Above 9 years - 12 years	49	53	5	107	25.48
Above 12 years - 15 years	42	87	25	154	36.67
Above 15 years	7	52	20	79	18.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>36.90</b>	<b>50.48</b>	<b>12.62</b>	<b>100</b>	



\*Graph converted to 100%

The table states that 50.48% of workers earn between Rs.201-500 per month and 36.90% earn less than Rs.200 per month. It also reflects from the table that out of total respondents 49 workers in the age group 9-12 years earn less than Rs.200 per month. On the other hand children in the age group 12-15 years among which 87 & 25 workers earn Rs. 201-500 and Rs.501-1000 respectively in a month.

**Table – 16**  
Monthly income from this profession vis-à-vis daily working hours of the respondents

Monthly Income	Daily working hours					Total	Percentage (%)
	Upto 4 hours	Above 4 to 6 hours	Above 6 to 8 hours	Above 8 to 10 hours	More than 10 hours		
Less than Rs.200	57	73	17	7	1	155	36.90
Rs.201 to 500	12	110	75	8	7	212	50.48
Rs.501 to 1000	5	7	24	13	4	53	12.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>17.62</b>	<b>45.24</b>	<b>27.62</b>	<b>6.67</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>100</b>	

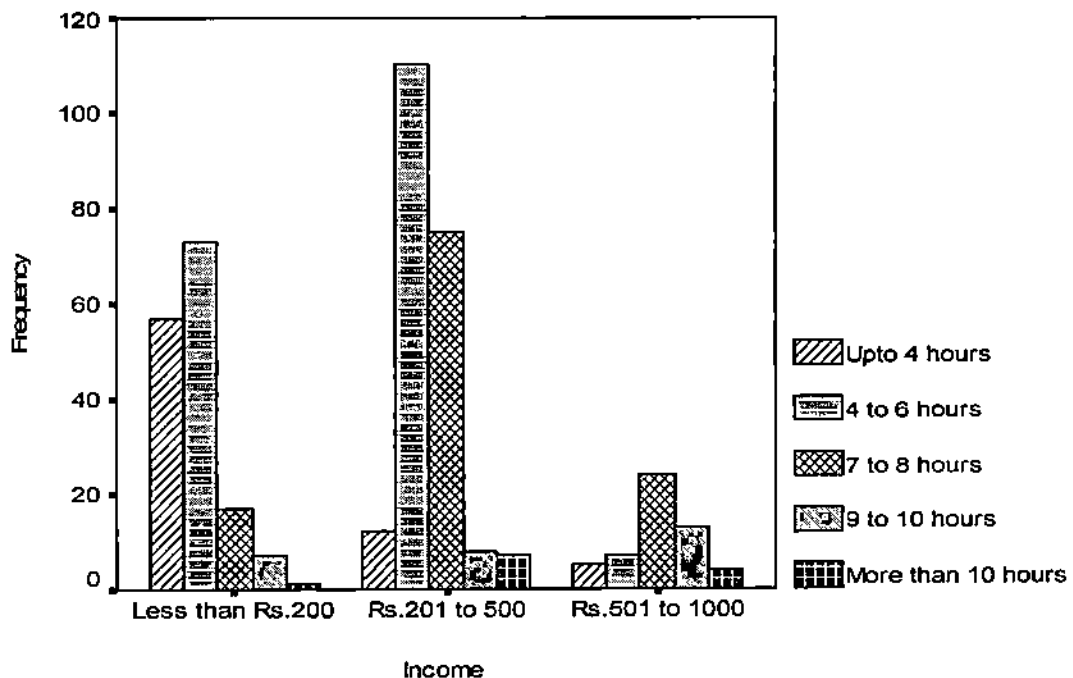
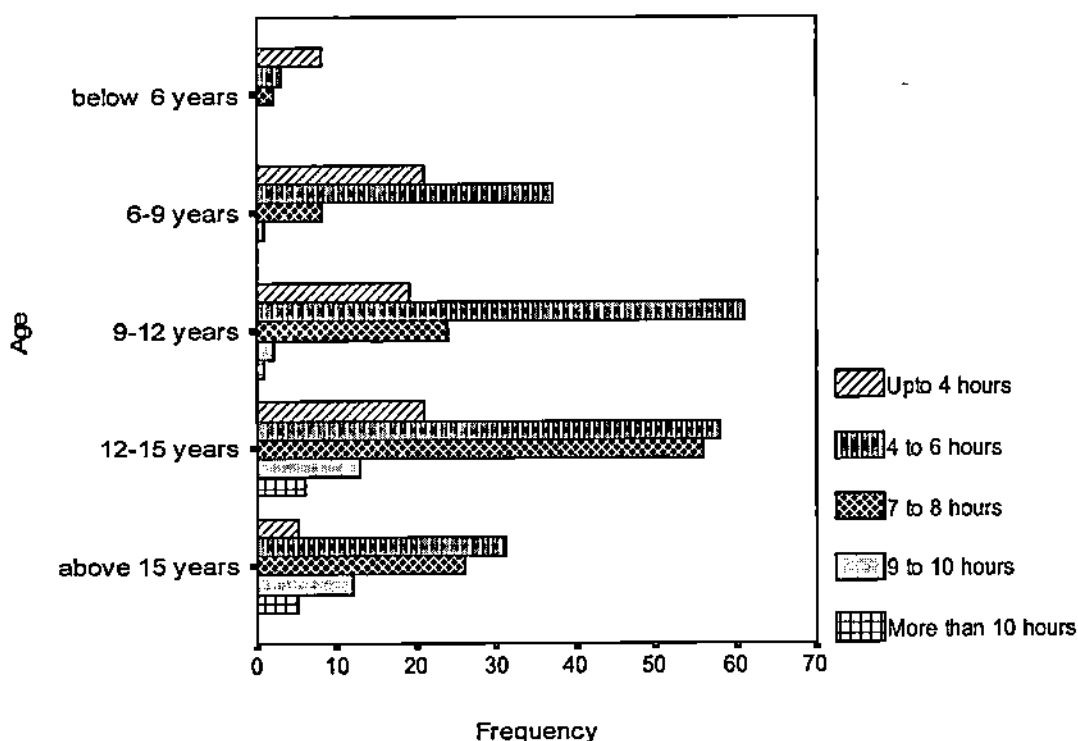


Table envisaged that 45.24% of workers work above 4 to 6 hours daily and 27.62% works above 6 to 8 hours daily. A good number of workers also work more than 8 hours, which is not according to the International labour rule. It is also seen from the table that 57% children work up to 4 hours a day and earn less than Rs. 200/ month. The earning group which falls into the category of Rs.201-500 per month is the highest and it accounts to the frequency of ( In Number) 110 ,75 and 77 in case of 4-6 hours, 6-8 hours and more than 10 hours respectively. On the contrary a number of 24 working children who work upto 8 – 10 hours a day and earn Rs.501 – 1000 per month.

Table – 17

Age-wise daily working hours of the respondents

Age	Daily Working Hours					Total	Percentage (%)
	Up to 4 hours	Above 4 to 6 hours	Above 6 to 8 hours	Above 8 to 10 hours	More than 10 hours		
Below 6 years	8	3	2			13	3.10
6 years - 9 years	21	37	8	1		67	15.95
Above 9 years - 12 years	19	61	24	2	1	107	25.48
Above 12 years - 15 years	21	58	56	13	6	154	36.67
Above 15 years	5	31	26	12	5	79	18.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>	



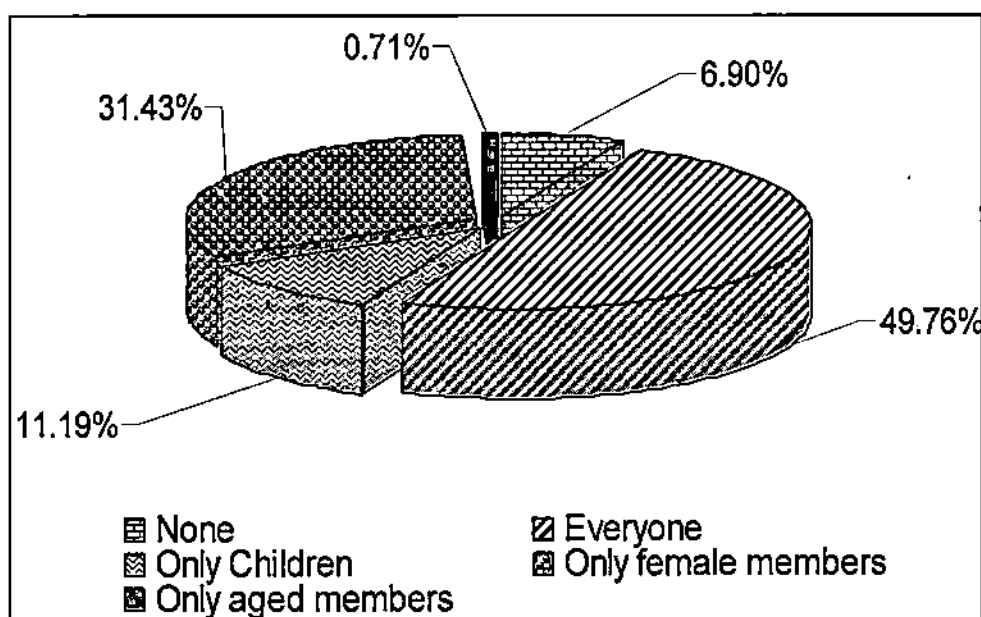
The table suggests that children in the age group ( 6- 15 years) work stretching from 4-6 hours a day. Children in the age group ( 8 – 9 years) and 12 years work between 8 to 10 hrs. and more than 10 hours a day respectively.

280

**Table – 18**

**Involvement of other Family Members in the Profession**

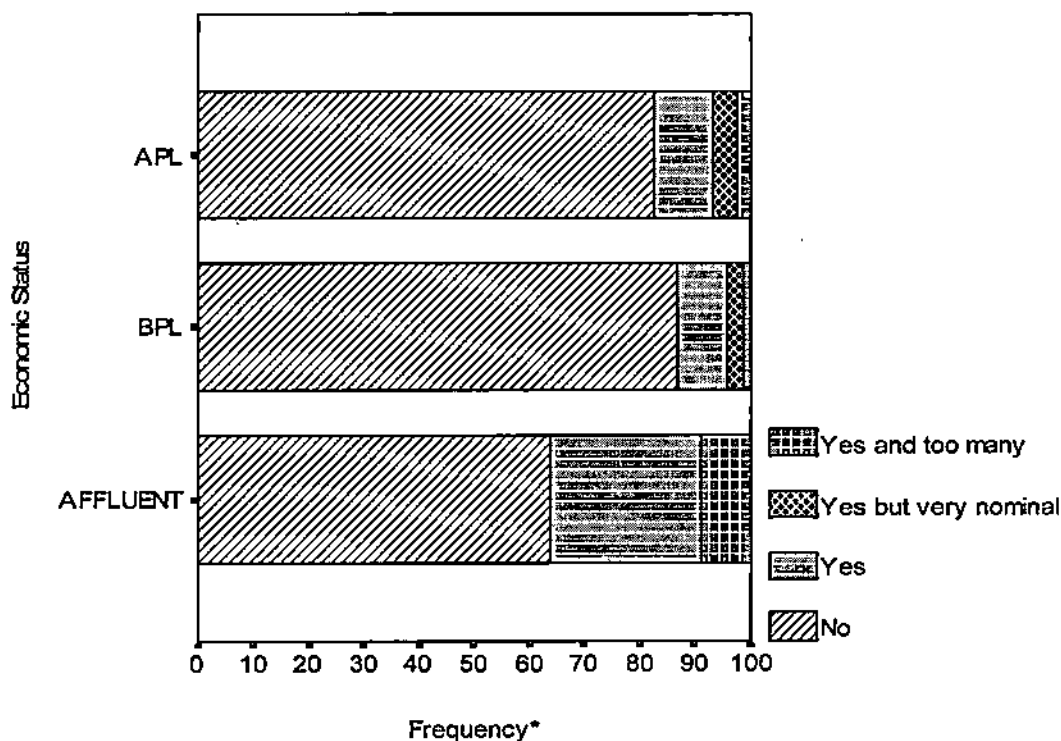
Family Member	Frequency	Percent (%)	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
None	29	6.9	6.9	6.9
Everyone	209	49.8	49.8	56.7
Only Children	47	11.2	11.2	67.9
Only female members	132	31.4	31.4	99.3
Only aged members	3	.7	.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	



The table reflects that in 49.8% case every family member is involved in beedi rolling profession and in 31.4% cases only female members in the family are engaged in this profession. This table again suggests female are preferred more than male in this profession as it is discussed in table 1.

**Table – 19**  
Existence of traditional bonded labours in various economic stratas

Economic Condition	Whether bonded labour exists				Total	Percentage (%)
	No	Yes	Yes but very nominal	Yes and too many		
Above Poverty Line	205	26	11	6	248	59.05
Below Poverty Line	140	14	5	2	161	38.33
Affluent	7	3		1	11	2.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>87.62</b>	<b>10.24</b>	<b>1.19</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>100</b>	



\*Graph converted to 100%

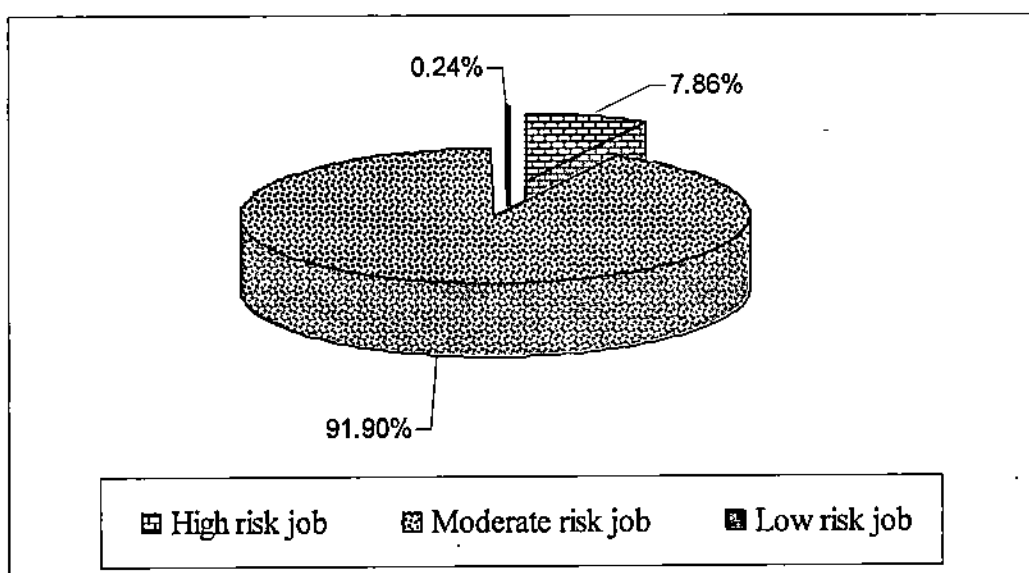
Majority of workers (87.62%) opined that traditional bonded labourers do not exist in this profession and very few (10.24%) responded assertive as it is shown in this table. About 38.33% & 2.62 % workers are from below poverty line and above poverty line respectively.

282

**Table – 20**

Risks in this occupation

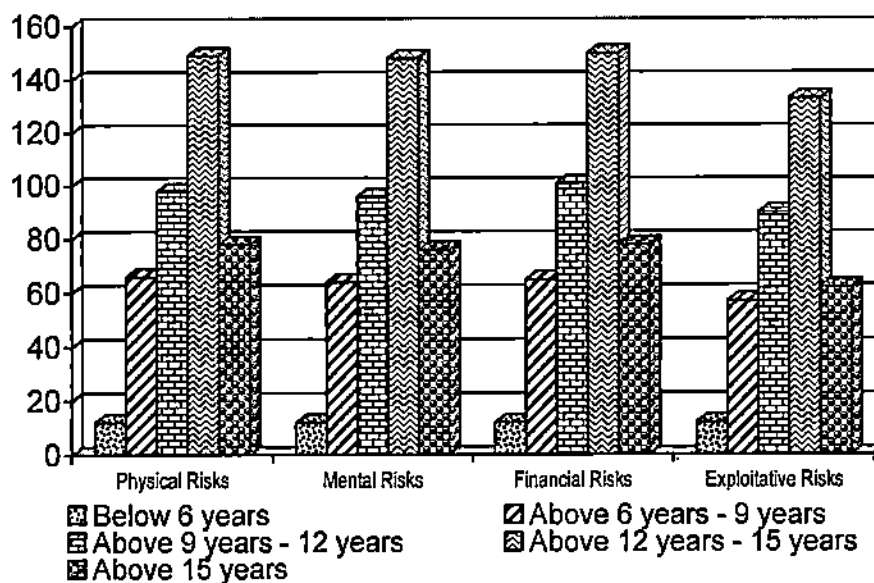
Amount of Risk	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
High risk job	33	7.9	7.9	7.9
Moderate risk job	386	91.9	91.9	99.8
Low risk job	1	.2	.2	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	



Majority of the workers (91.9%) opined beedi rolling can be categorized as moderate risk job. Only 7.9 % thinks this profession is a high risk job.

**Table – 21**  
Age-wise distribution of the types of risks involved in the occupation  
as perceived by the respondents

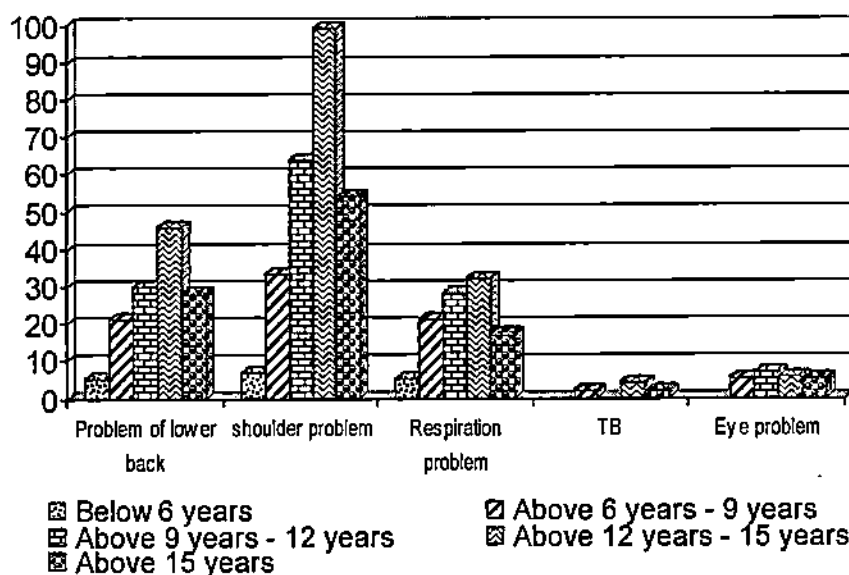
Age	Types of risks involved				Total	Percentage (%)
	Physical risks	Mental risks	Financial risks	Exploitative risks		
Below 6 years	12	12	12	12	48	3.08
6 years - 9 years	66	64	65	57	252	16.16
Above 9 years - 12 years	98	96	101	90	385	24.70
Above 12 years - 15 years	149	148	150	133	580	37.20
Above 15 years	78	76	78	62	294	18.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>1559</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>25.85</b>	<b>25.40</b>	<b>26.04</b>	<b>22.71</b>	<b>100</b>	



This table suggests that there is no clear-cut idea about type of risk involved in this profession among the children. Children opined that physical risks, mental risks, financial risks and exploitative were all interplaying and concomitant dimensions of the profession. Financial risk (26.04%) is ranked highest in the order followed by exploitative risk.

**Table – 22**  
Age-wise distribution of the types of physical risks involved in the occupation as perceived by the respondents

Age	Physical Hazards					Total	Percentage (%)
	Permanent problem of lower back	Permanent problem of shoulder and spine	Respiration problem	TB	Permanent eye problem		
Below 6 years	5	7	5			17	3.26
6 years - 9 years	21	33	21	2	5	82	15.74
Above 9 years - 12 years	30	64	28		7	129	24.76
Above 12 years - 15 years	46	99	32	4	6	187	35.89
Above 15 years	28	54	17	2	5	106	20.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>24.95</b>	<b>49.33</b>	<b>19.77</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>4.41</b>	<b>100</b>	

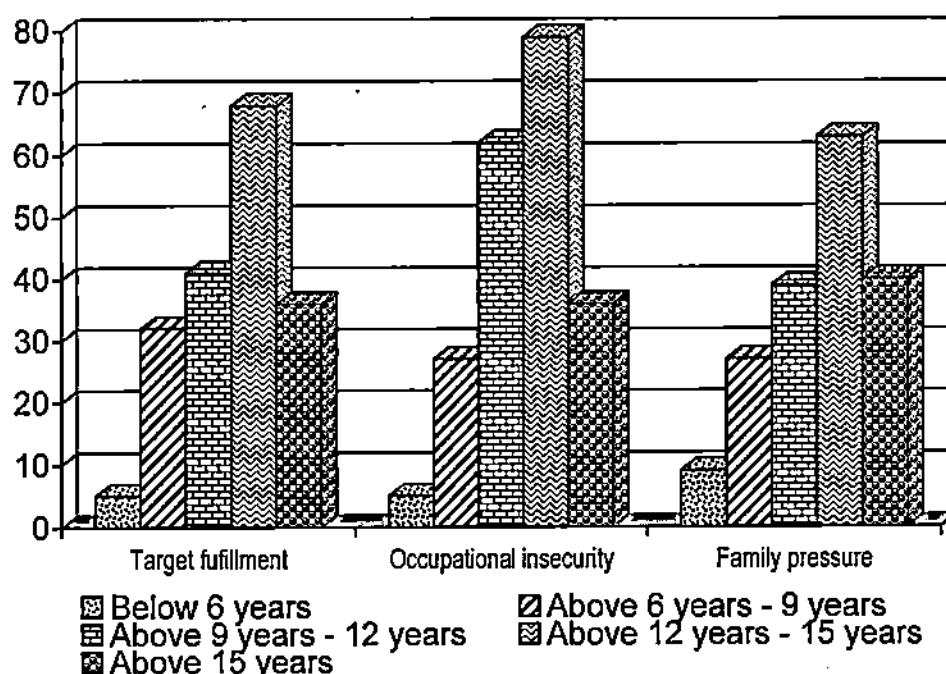


This table suggests that permanent problem of shoulder and spine (49.33%) and permanent problem of lower back (24.95%) are found in most of the cases among workers. These indicate that continuous work, sitting on floor perhaps creating chronic problem on spinal cord. Suffering from respiration problem (19.77%) is also found among workers. This is probably because continuous working with nicotinous substances.



**Table – 23**  
Age-wise distribution of the types of mental hazards involved in the occupation  
as perceived by the respondents

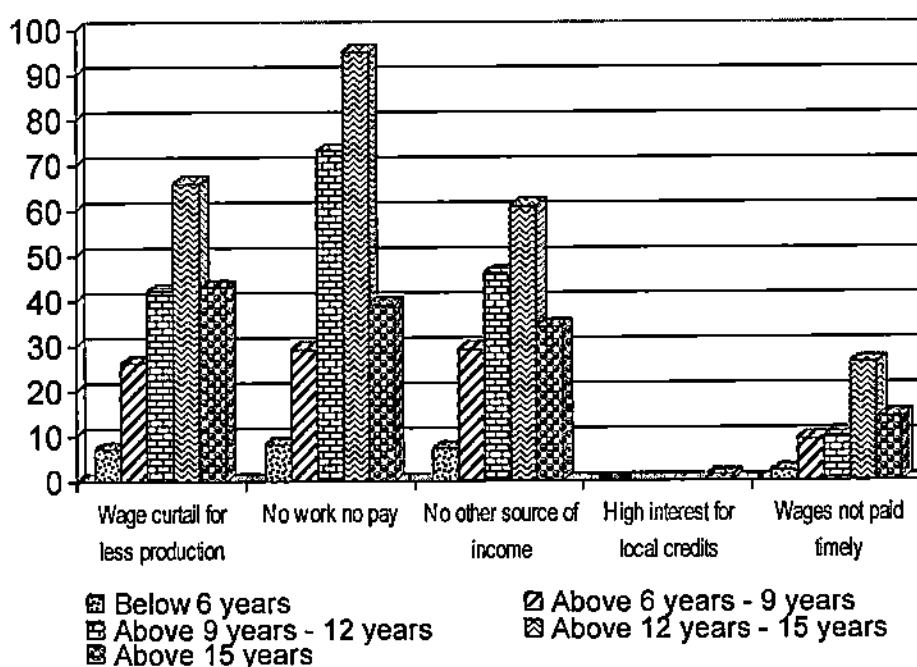
Age	Mental Hazards			Total	Percentage (%)
	Fulfillment of increased daily targeted production	Lack of occupational security	Family pressure		
Below 6 years	5	5	9	19	3.34
6 years - 9 years	32	27	27	86	15.11
Above 9 years - 12 years	41	62	39	142	24.96
Above 12 years - 15 years	68	79	63	210	36.91
Above 15 years	36	36	40	112	19.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>31.99</b>	<b>36.73</b>	<b>31.28</b>	<b>100</b>	



Beedi rolling workers are facing mental hazards like pressure of fulfillment of increased daily targeted production (31.99), lack of occupational security (36.73) and family pressure (31.28) as it is reflected in the above table.

**Table – 24**  
**Age-wise distribution of the types of financial risks involved in the occupation as perceived by the respondents**

Age	What are the financial risks					Total	Percentage (%)
	Wage curtail in case of less production	No income in case of sickness or other reasons	No other financial security except daily/monthly wage	Payment of high interest in case of loan consumption	Wages not paid timely		
Below 6 years	7	8	7		2	24	3.60
6 years - 9 years	26	29	29		9	93	13.94
Above 9 years - 12 years	42	73	46		10	171	25.64
Above 12 years - 15 years	66	95	61		26	248	37.18
Above 15 years	43	39	34	1	14	131	19.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>27.59</b>	<b>36.58</b>	<b>26.54</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>9.15</b>	<b>100</b>	

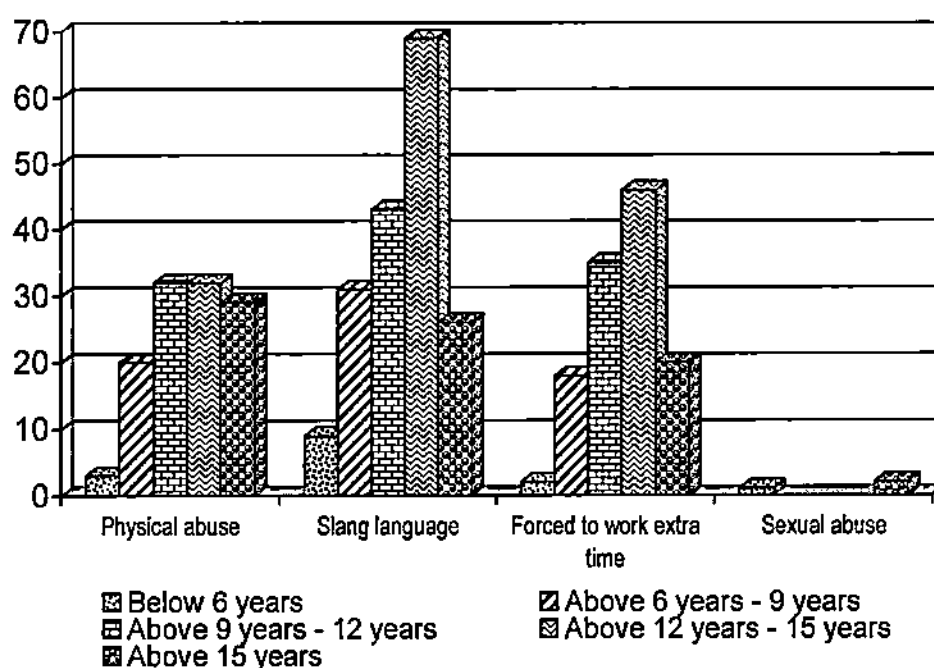


This table indicates that children frequently face financial problem due to curtailment of wages in time of sickness or other reasons ( 36.58 % ) or in case of below the targeted level of production.

Table – 25

Age-wise distribution of the types of financial risks involved in the occupation as perceived by the respondents

Age	What are the exploitative risks				Total	Percentage (%)
	Physical exploitation	Use of slang language by the employer	Forced to work overtime	Sexual abuse		
Below 6 years	3	9	2	1	15	3.59
6 years - 9 years	20	31	18		69	16.51
Above 9 years - 12 years	32	43	35		110	26.32
Above 12 years - 15 years	32	69	46		147	35.17
Above 15 years	29	26	20	2	77	18.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>27.75</b>	<b>42.58</b>	<b>28.95</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>100</b>	



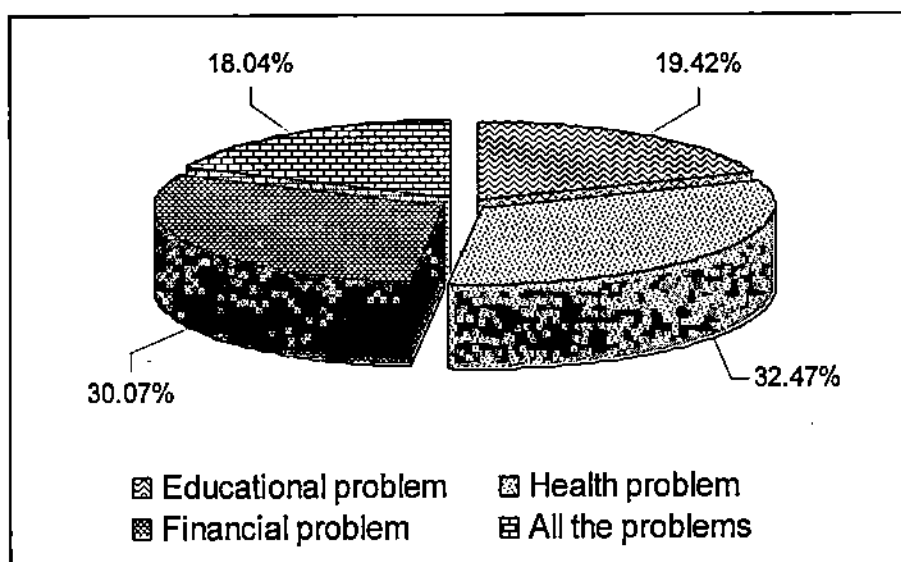
As child workers are mainly engaged in the beedi rolling profession, they face various kind of exploitation. This table suggests that use of slang language by the employer to the workers creates problem in 42.58% cases. Forceful working of overtime (28.95%) and physical exploitation (27.75%) also creating problem to many of them.

284

**Table – 26**

**Respondents' Perception of the Problems which Needs Immediate Intervention**

Problems	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percentage
Educational problem	113	19.42	19.42
Health problem	189	32.47	51.89
Financial problem	175	30.07	81.96
All the problems	105	18.04	100
Total	582	100	

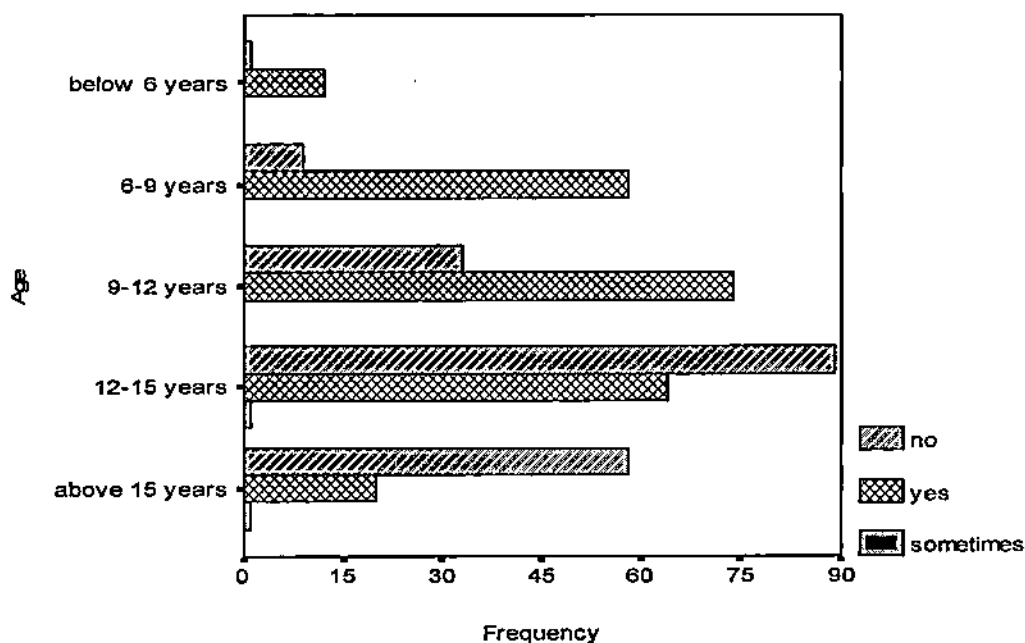


The workers opined that health problem (45%) and financial problem (41.7%) are the major problematic areas, which needs immediate intervention as the table depicts. Educational Problem (26.9%) and the problem as a whole in this profession (25%) also need intense intervention.

209

**Table – 27**  
Age-wise distribution of the Respondents according to their School Going Status

Age	Whether children involved in this occupation go to school			Total	Percentage (%)
	No	Yes	Sometimes		
Below 6 years	1	12		13	3.10
6 years - 9 years	9	58		67	15.95
Above 9 years - 12 years	33	74		107	25.48
Above 12 years - 15 years	89	64	1	154	36.67
Above 15 years	58	20	1	77	18.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>45.24</b>	<b>54.29</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>100</b>	

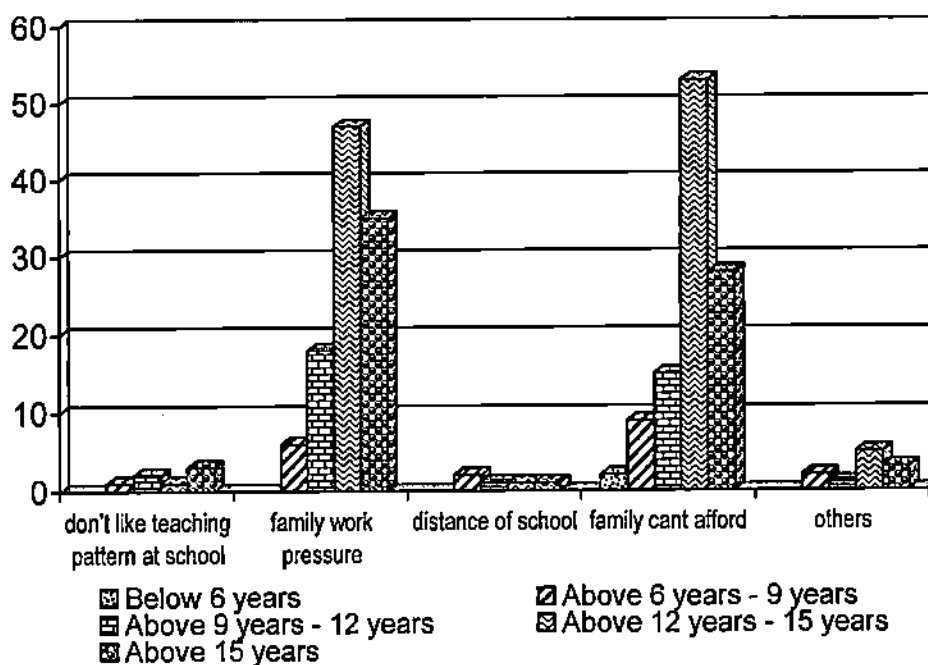


This table shows that the most alarming situation is that 45.24% child workers do not go to school. Lack of elementary education of these children may create more complicated problem in future. Above 12 years children are mostly not going to school. Table shows that almost 55% children go to school. So it is clear that there is opportunity for going to school in spite of working in beedi industry if proper facilities, accessibilities, encouragement and initiative prevail.

Table – 28

Age-wise distribution of the respondents with their reasons for not going school

Age	Reasons for not going school					Total	Percentage (%)
	do not like the teaching pattern of the school	Family and work pressure	The school is at long distance from home	Poor financial condition	others		
Below 6 years				2		2	0.85
6 years - 9 years	1	6	2	9	2	20	8.47
Above 9 years - 12 years	2	18	1	15	1	37	15.68
Above 12 years - 15 years	1	47	1	53	5	107	45.34
Above 15 years	3	35	1	28	3	70	29.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>44.92</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>45.34</b>	<b>4.66</b>	<b>100</b>	



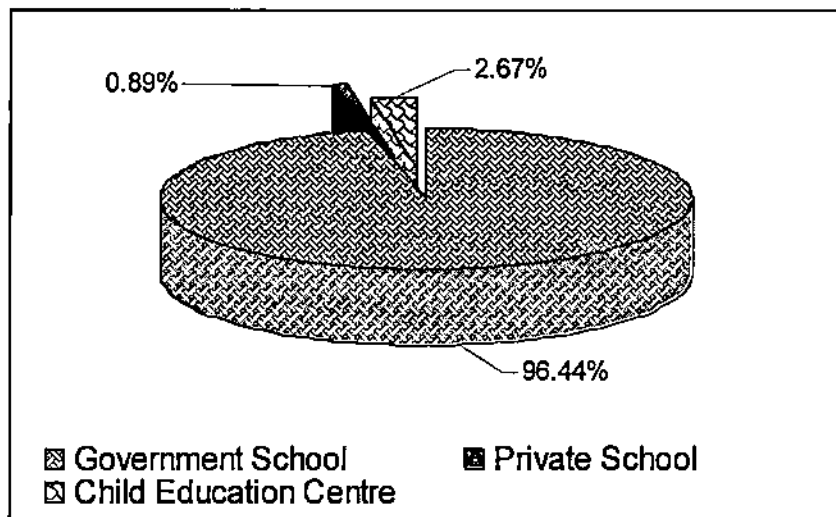
This table strongly suggests that primarily children above the age of nine years are not attending school either due to poor financial family condition ( 45.34% )or family work pressure (44.92%).

291

**Table – 29**

Distribution of the school going respondents with the types of school they are studying in

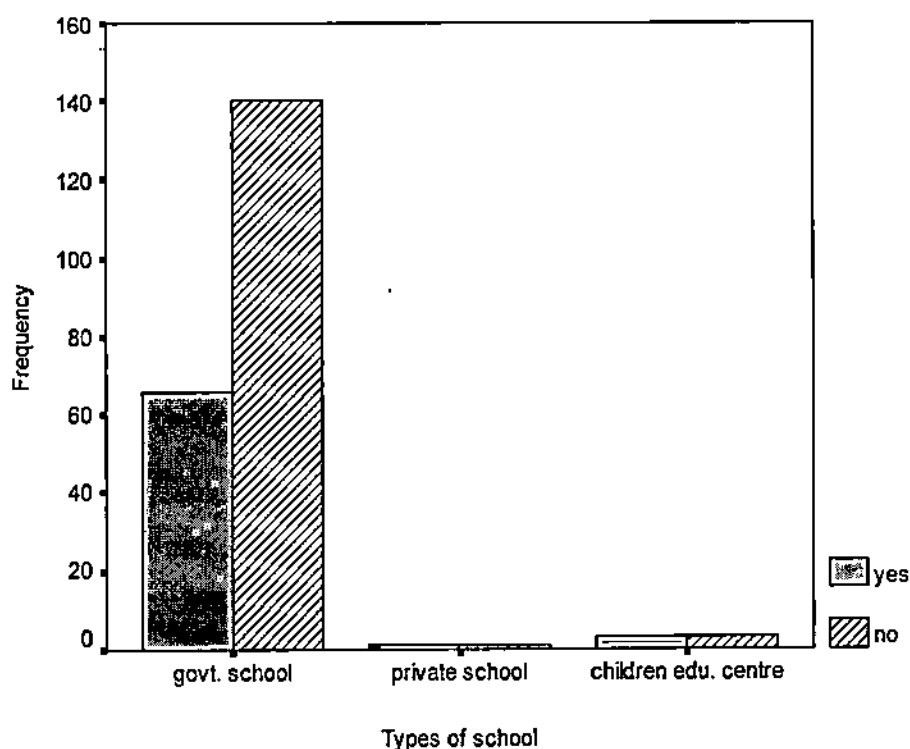
Type of School	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Government School	217	96.44	96.44
Private School	2	0.89	97.33
Child Education Centre	6	2.67	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100</b>	



The table shows that beedi rolling child workers are mostly (96.44) admitted to Government School. So acceptability of Government school to these child workers is much better than that of other kind of school. So Government should take proper policy to bring those non-school going workers under minimum elementary education.

**Table – 30**  
Availability of Tiffin in different types of schools the respondents are studying in

Type of School	Tiffin Provided		Total	Percentage (%)
	Yes	No		
Government School	66	151	217	96.44
Private School	1	1	2	0.89
Child Education Centre	3	3	6	2.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>31.11</b>	<b>68.89</b>	<b>100</b>	

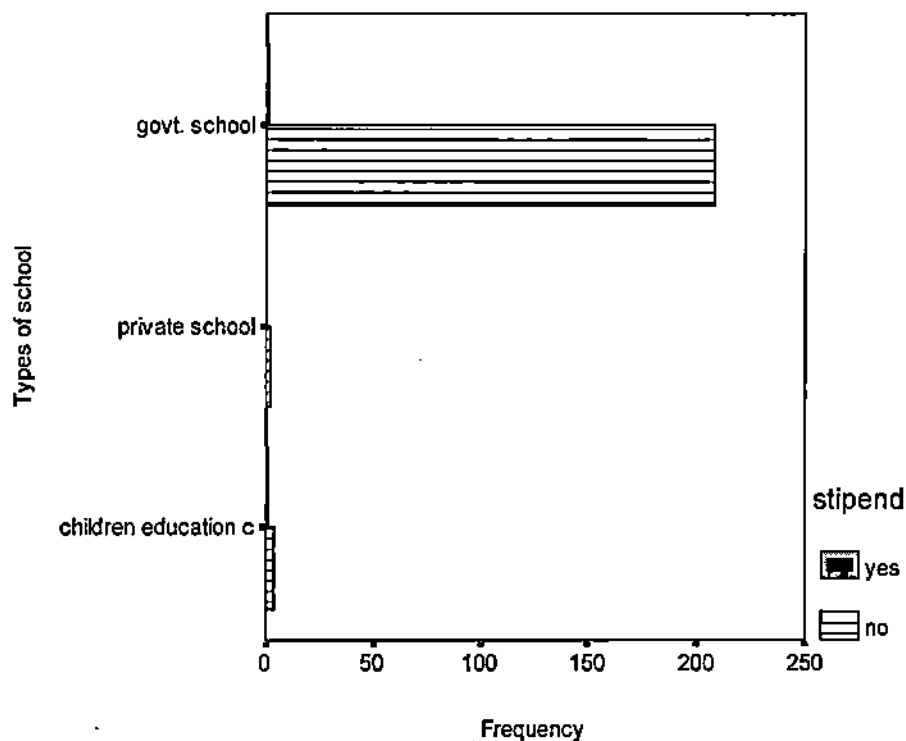


This table suggests that 31.11% children responded affirmative in question of provision of tiffin in school. But 68.89% opined that they do not get any kind of tiffin. So there should be lack of proper monitoring activities in the policy, which can bring the other non-school going children under the umbrella of elementary education.



**Table – 31**  
Availability of stipend in different types of schools the respondents are studying in

Type of School	Stipend Given		Total	Percentage (%)
	Yes	No		
Government School	1	216	217	96.44
Private School		2	2	0.89
Child Education Centre	1	5	6	2.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>99.11</b>	<b>100</b>	

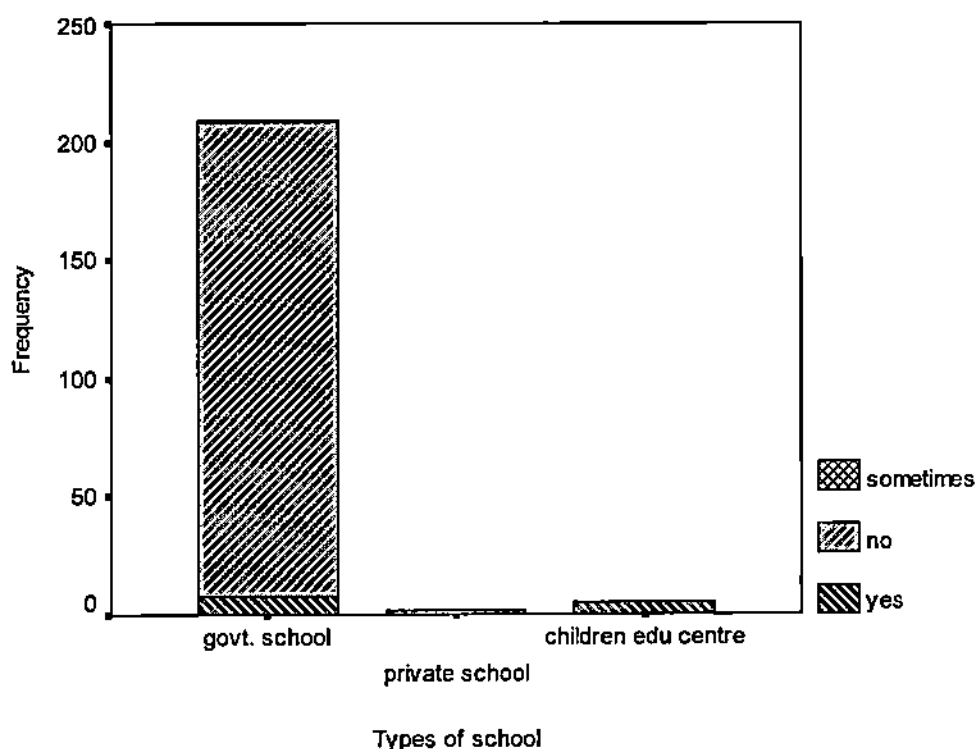


Availability of stipend is limited to only 0.98 % cases. Majority of the children i.e. (99.11%) are deprived of this type of opportunities .The strong policy and its implementation may be extended to such kind of socially and financially challenged children.

**Table – 32**

Availability of iron tablets in different types of schools the respondents are studying in

Type of School	Iron Tablet Given			Total	Percentage (%)
	Yes	No	Sometimes		
Government School	8	208	1	217	96.44
Private School		2		2	0.89
Child Education Centre	5	1		6	2.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>5.78</b>	<b>93.78</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>100</b>	

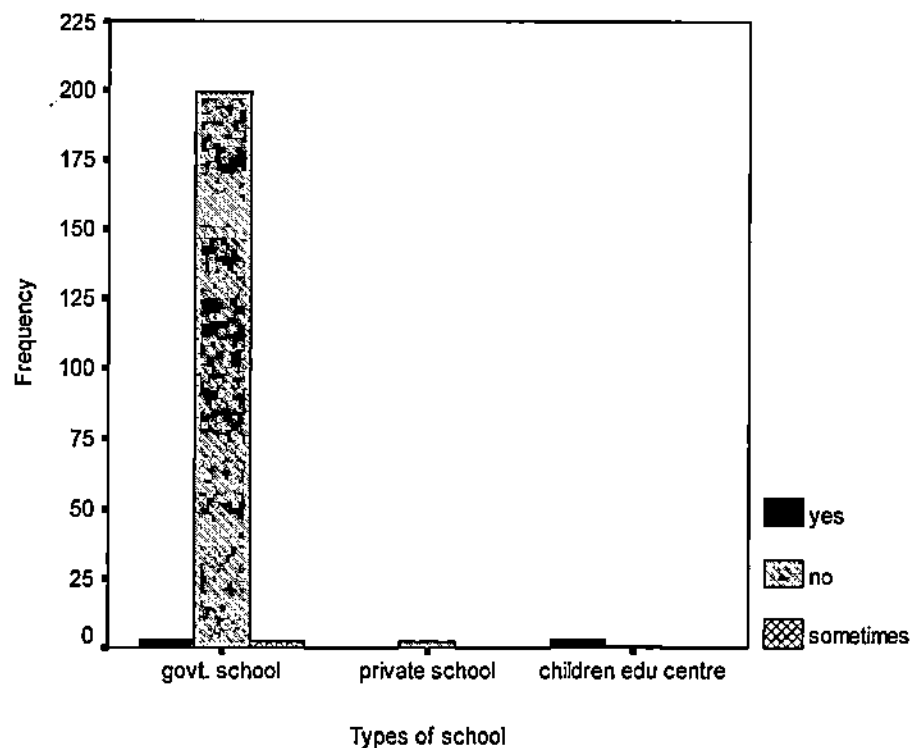


Iron tablets are not supplied to majority of the children (93.78 %). Only 5.78% Children get it. It clearly shows the loopholes in the government policy and especially in elementary education.

**Table – 33**

Crosstabulation: Availability of Health Check-up Facility & Types of School

Type of School	Health Check-up done			Total	Percentage (%)
	Yes	No	Sometimes		
Government School	3	212	2	217	96.44
Private School		2		2	0.89
Child Education Centre	3	3		6	2.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>96.44</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>100</b>	



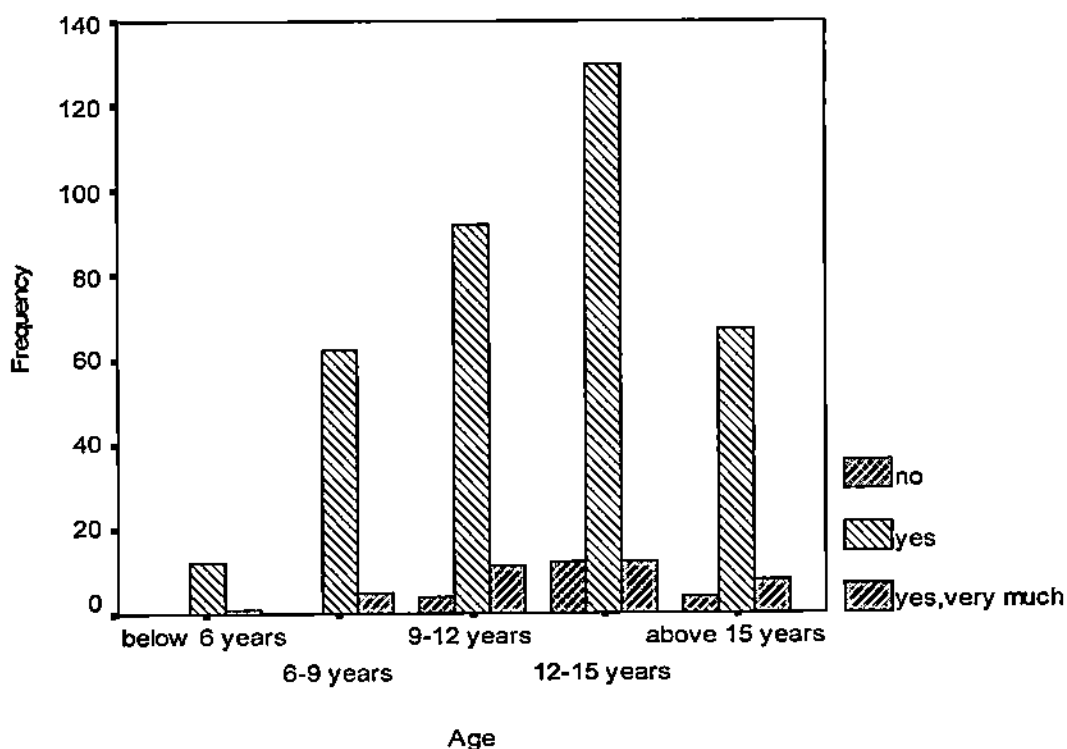
The same story is again repeated here. This table conveys that 96.44% children opined there is no Health Check-up is done but just more than 3% said it is done. So proper monitoring is not done if the provision for Health Check-up is there in the policy.

296

**Table-34**

Age-wise distribution of the respondents whether beedi rolling create any blockage in your education

Age	Does this profession create any blockage in your education			Total	Percentage
	No	Yes	Yes, very much		
Below 6 years		12	1	13	3.10
6 years - 9 years		62	5	67	15.95
Above 9 years - 12 years	4	92	11	107	25.48
Above 12 years - 15 years	12	130	12	154	36.67
Above 15 years	4	67	8	79	18.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>4.76</b>	<b>86.43</b>	<b>8.81</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

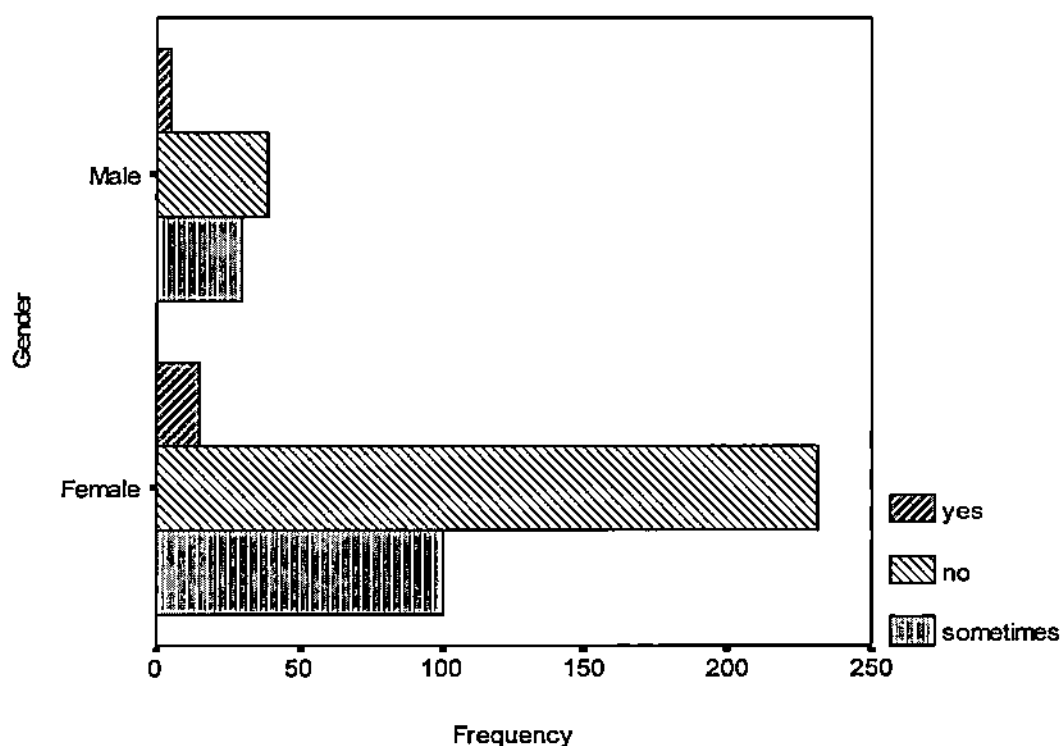


The table indicates that 86.43% child workers very adversely replied that due to their active involvement in this profession as their source of livelihood they do not get time and opportunity to attend school. So proper policy provision is necessary for these unorganized sectors of child labourer to secure their basic fundamental right of getting elementary education.

297

**Table-35**  
Age-wise distribution of the respondents whether they get any  
leisure time being a beedi roller

Gender	Do you get time for leisure			Total	Percentage
	yes	no	sometimes		
Male	5	39	30	74	17.62
Female	15	231	100	346	82.38
Total	20	270	130	420	100.00
Percentage	4.76	64.29	30.95	100.00	

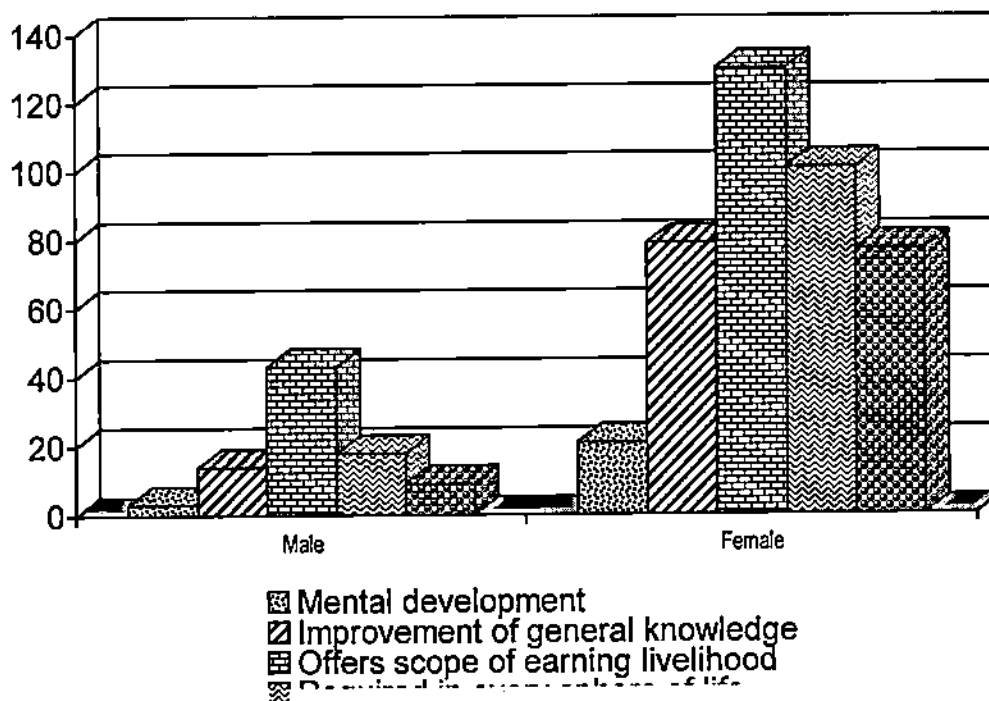


It is estimated that 64.29% worker responded that they have no leisure time. As most of the beedi rolling worker are very tender in age, this hectic daily schedule create mental blockage, for them which make persistent psychological problem in the later age. So utmost care should be taken in this regard to boost up their psychological growth.

Table-36

Gender-wise distribution of the respondents in accordance with their perception on the merits of education

Response	Gender		Total	Percentage
	Male	Female		
Mental development	3	21	24	4.85
Improvement in general knowledge	14	79	93	18.79
Scope for earning livelihood	43	130	173	34.95
Required in every sphere of life	18	101	119	24.04
Do not have any knowledge	9	77	86	17.37
Total	87	408	495	100.00
Percentage	17.58	82.42	100.00	



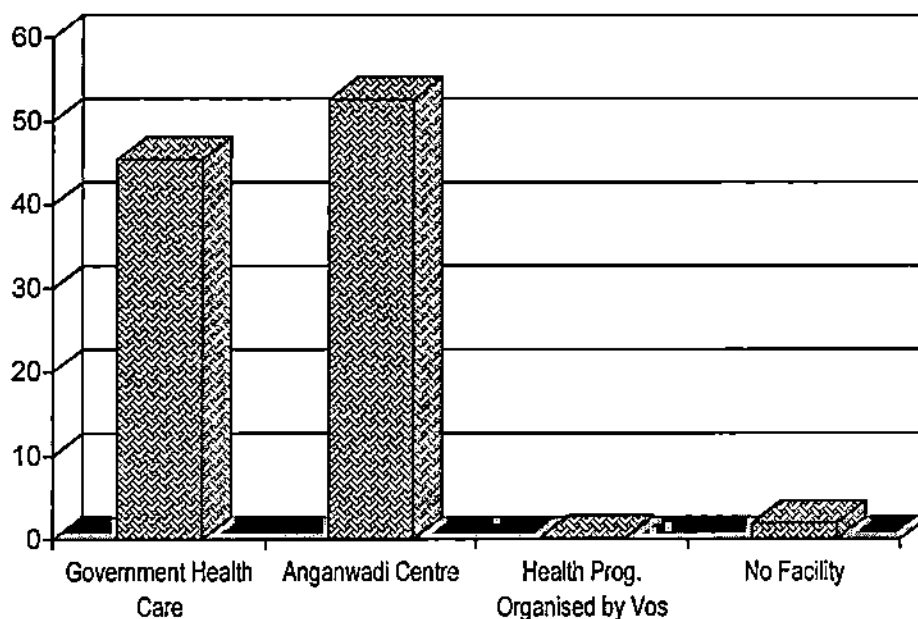
Workers responded that education provides better scope for earning livelihood (34.95%) in most of the cases as it is envisaged in the table. They also think education is required in every sphere of life (24.04%), help in improving general knowledge (18.79%). Most surprisingly in 17.37% cases, workers do not have any knowledge about the merit of education as it is found in the study.

299

**Table-37**

Availability of health care facilities in the locality accessed by the respondents

Response	Total	Percentage
Government health centre	304	45.44
Anganwari centre	351	52.47
Health programmes organised by voluntary organization	1	0.15
No facility	13	1.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>100.00</b>

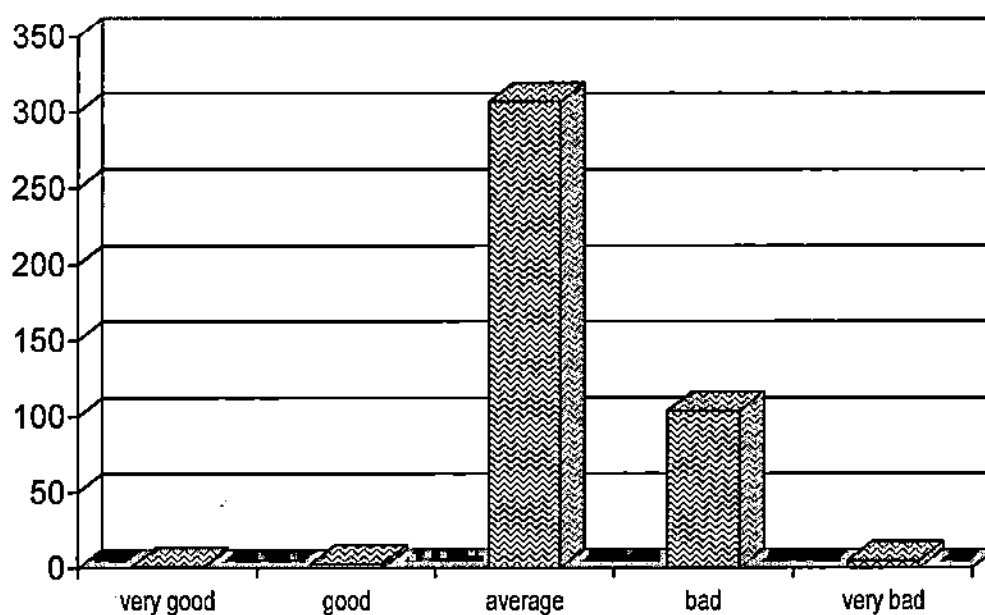


In the workers opinion, Anganwary centre (52.47%) and Government health centre (45.44%) provide most of the health facilities to the beedi rolling workers as it is depicted in the table.

Table-38

Status of the present health care facilities as ranked by the respondents

Respondents' Rating of Health Facility	Total	Percentage
Very good	1	0.24
Good	3	0.71
Average	307	73.1
Bad	104	24.76
Very bad	5	1.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>

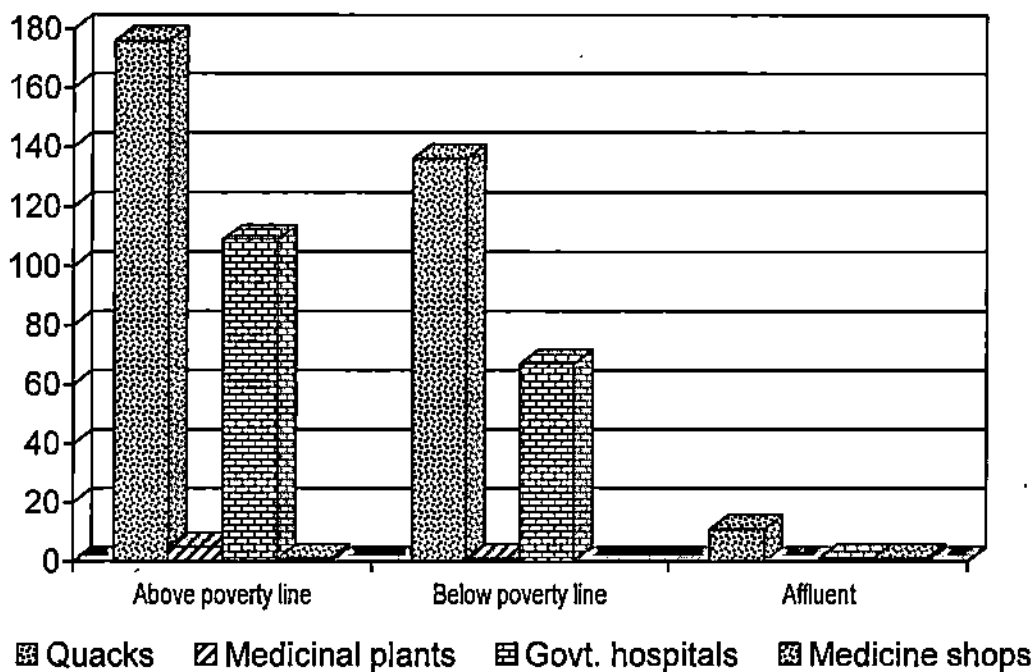


This table suggests that health care facility for the workers is average (73.10%) as it is stated by the workers. 24.76% workers also opined that status of health care facilities is bad. So as a whole health care facilities for the workers not in a very good status as in the opinion of the beedi rolling workers in the area.



**Table-39**  
Major dependency of health facility of the respondents

Response	Economic Condition			Total	Percentage
	APL	BPL	AFFLUENT		
Quacks	176	136	11	323	63.58
Medicinal plants available in the village	5	1		6	1.18
Government hospitals	109	67	1	177	34.84
Nearby medicine shop	1		1	2	0.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>57.28</b>	<b>40.16</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

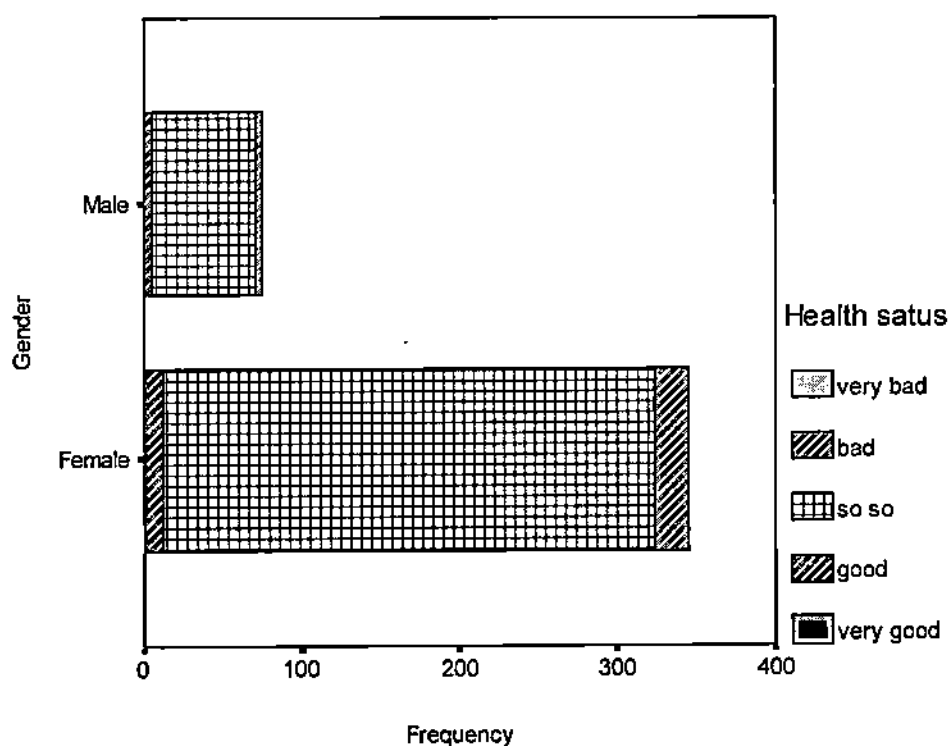


The status of health care facilities is not so very good as again highlighted in this table. In most of the cases workers depend on Quacks (63.58%) who are not at all very registered medical practitioner and do not possess no or little medical education or training. But there is a silver lining is that still in 34.84% cases workers go to Government hospital or health centre. It is also stated by the respondents (52.47%) that they go Anganwadi centre quite often for medical treatment.

3.2

**Table-40**  
Gender-wise status of basic health standards of the respondents

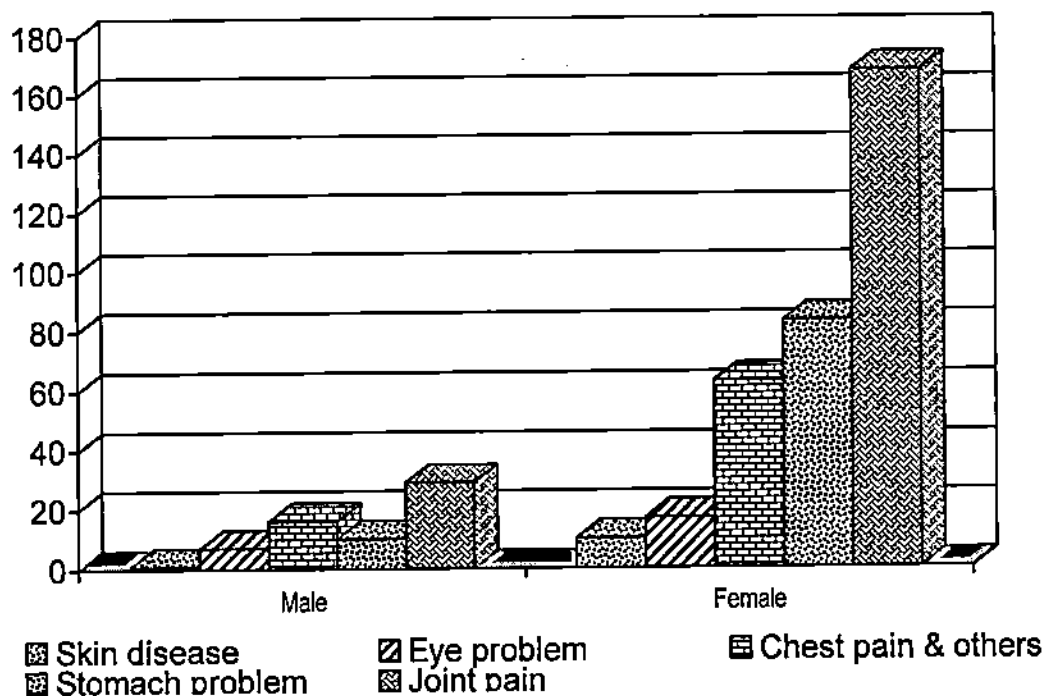
Gender	What is the status of your basic health					Total	Percentage
	Very good	Good	Average	Bad	Very bad		
Male		5	65	4		74	17.62
Female	1	11	312	21	1	346	82.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>89.76</b>	<b>5.95</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>100.00</b>	



As because picture of health facilities for the beedi rolling workers are not so adequate and accessible, the basic health status is also average as the table suggests.

**Table-41**  
Types of health problems existing among the respondents

Health Problem	Gender		Total	Percentage
	Male	Female		
Skin disease	1	10	11	2.72
Eye problem	7	17	24	5.94
Chest pain and others	16	63	79	19.55
Stomach problem	10	83	93	23.02
Joint pain	29	168	197	48.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>15.59</b>	<b>84.41</b>	<b>100</b>	

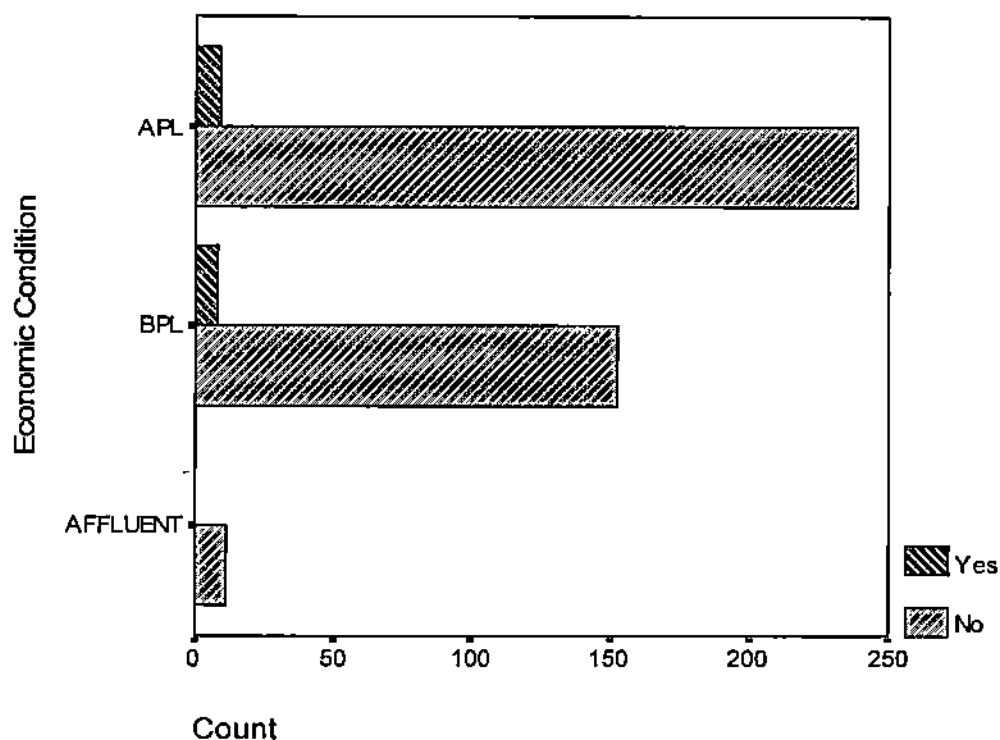


Most of the children (48.76%) Had complaint of joint pain which might be due to prolonged hour of work sitting with continuous folded legs and almost uninterrupted engagement of hands and fingers. Apart from that skin diseases (2.72 %), eye problems (5.94%), Chest pain & others (19.55%), stomach problem (23.02%) were some of the health problems encountered by them from time to time.

**Table-42**

Economic Condition-wise Possession of Health Card among the Respondents

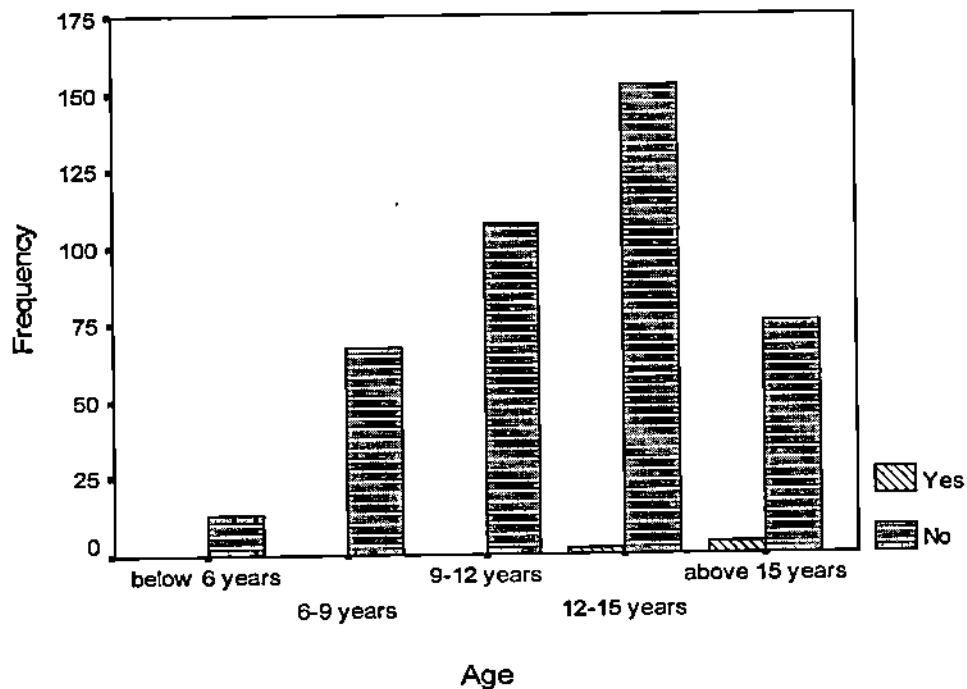
Economic Condition	Do you have any health card		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
Above Poverty Line	9	239	248	59.05
Below Poverty Line	8	153	161	38.33
Affluent		11	11	2.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>4.05</b>	<b>95.95</b>	<b>100</b>	



Majority of the respondents (95.95%) do not have health card or any other kind of identification which invariably is an indication of lack of attention in health scenario.

**Table-43**  
Age-wise smoking habits among the respondents

Age	Do you smoke		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
Below 6 years		13	13	3.10
6 years - 9 years		67	67	15.95
Above 9 years - 12 years		107	107	25.48
Above 12 years - 15 years	2	152	154	36.67
above 15 years	4	75	79	18.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>98.57</b>	<b>100</b>	

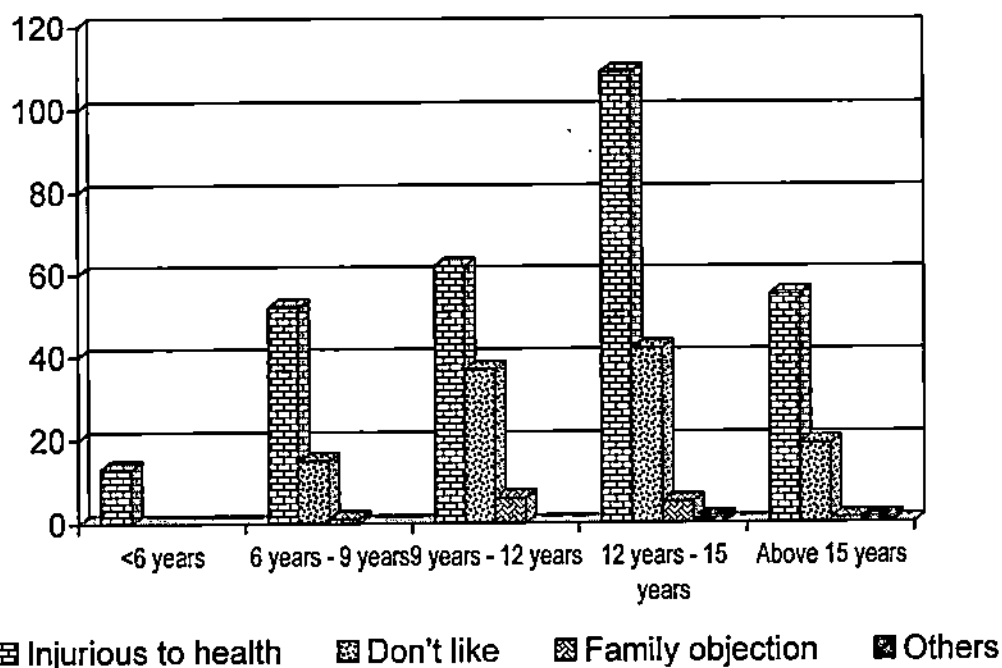


Most encouraging finding from this table is that most of the beedi rolling workers (98.57%) do not smoke. Very few workers smoke, who belong to above 12 years of age. It has also been presumed during the survey that some of the respondents denied having smoking habits despite smoking. However, that number is not alarming.

306

**Table-44**  
Age-wise orientation of the respondents about the risks of smoking

Orientation	Age					Total	Percentage
	Below 6 years	6 years - 9 years	Above 9 years - 12 years	Above 12 years - 15 years	Above 15 years		
Injurious to health	13	52	62	109	55	291	69.45
Do not like		15	37	42	19	113	26.97
Objection of the family		1	6	5	1	13	3.10
Others				1	1	2	0.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>3.10</b>	<b>16.23</b>	<b>25.06</b>	<b>37.47</b>	<b>18.14</b>	<b>100</b>	

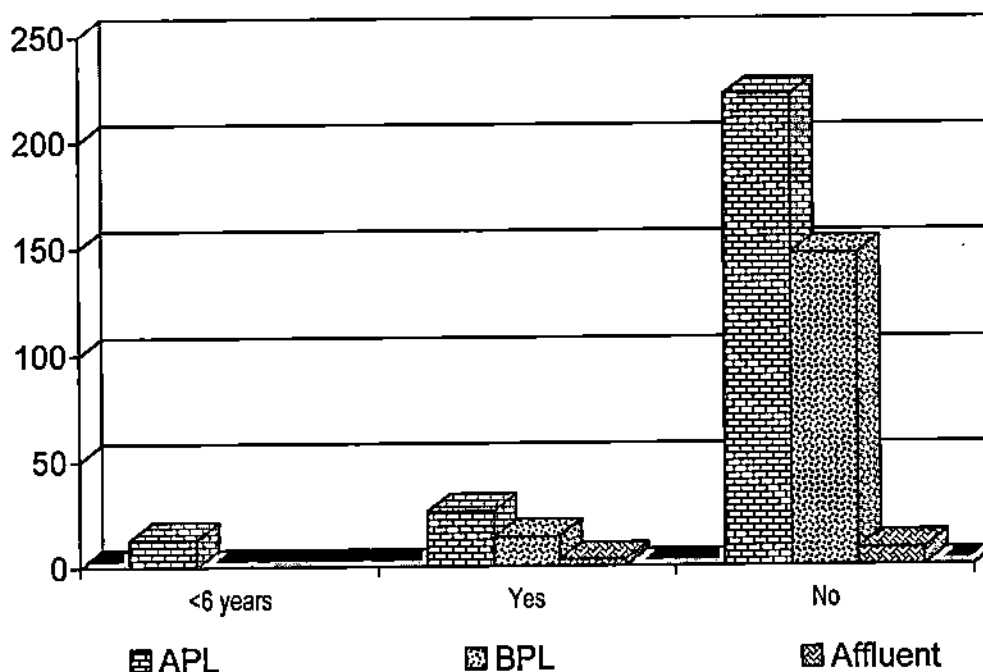


This table states that smoking is injurious to health (69.45%) is main reason for not smoking among the workers. Considerable cases workers do not smoke because do not like smoking (26.97%).

302

**Table-45**  
Economic Condition-wise distribution of the respondents with regard  
to availability of latrine at home

Economic Condition	Do you have latrine facility at home		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
APL	26	222	248	59.05
BPL	14	147	161	38.33
AFFLUENT	3	8	11	2.62
Total	43	377	420	100.00
Percentage	10.24	89.76	100	



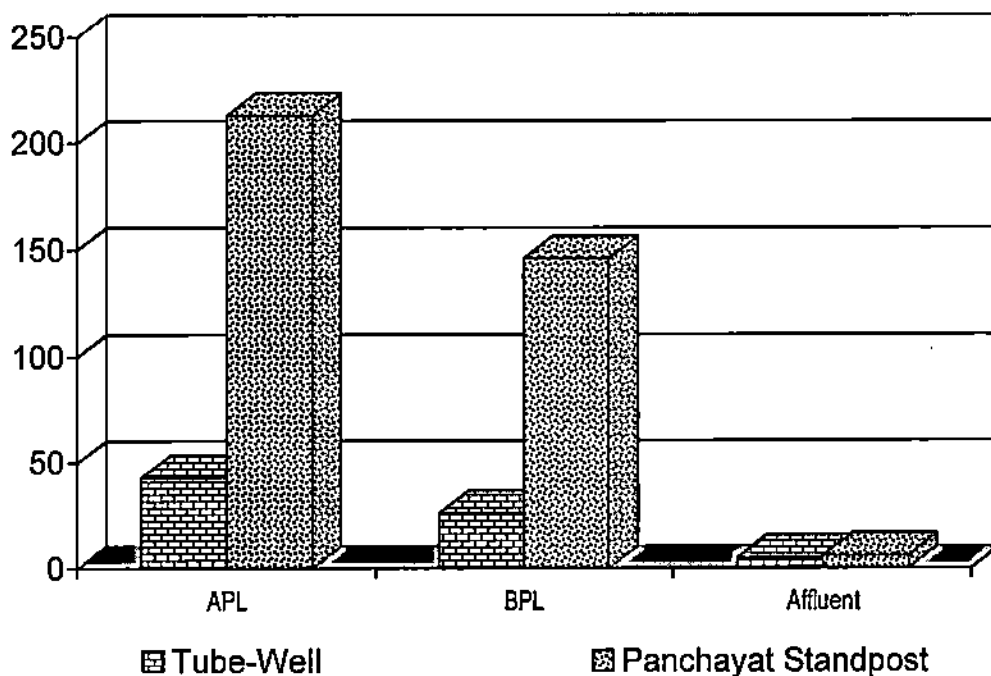
The basic sanitary facility is also poor to these beedi rolling farmers. Among the children 89.76% workers not have latrine facility whatsoever. This can create major health hazards among the workers in the area.

708

**Table-46**

Economic Condition-wise distribution of the respondents with  
regard to sources of drinking water

Source of Drinking Water	Economic Condition			Total	Percentage
	APL	BPL	AFFLUENT		
Tube-Well	43	26	5	74	16.86
Panchayat Stand post Tap	213	146	6	365	83.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>58.31</b>	<b>39.18</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>100</b>	



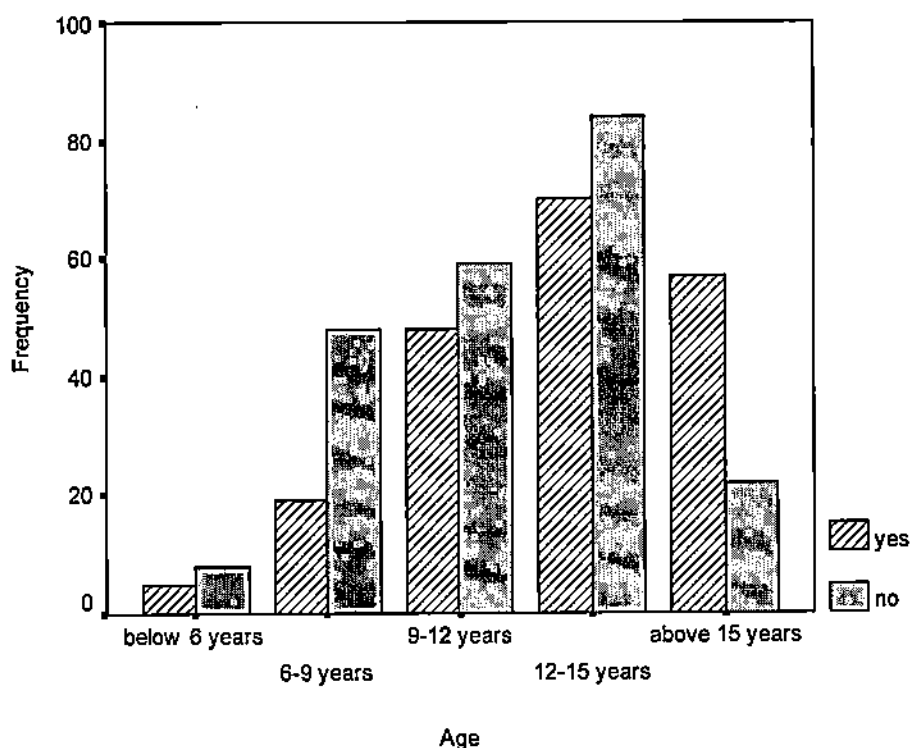
This table suggests that drinking water facility is really good because most of them (83.14%) get the drinking water from Corporate or Municipality water supply and rest (16.86%) depends on tube-well.

**Table-47**



**Awareness of ill effects of beedi rolling among different age groups among the respondents**

Age	Do you know about the ill effects of beedi-rolling		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
Below 6 years	5	8	13	3.10
6 years - 9 years	19	48	67	15.95
Above 9 years - 12 years	48	59	107	25.48
Above 12 years - 15 years	70	84	154	36.67
Above 15 years	57	22	79	18.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>47.38</b>	<b>52.62</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

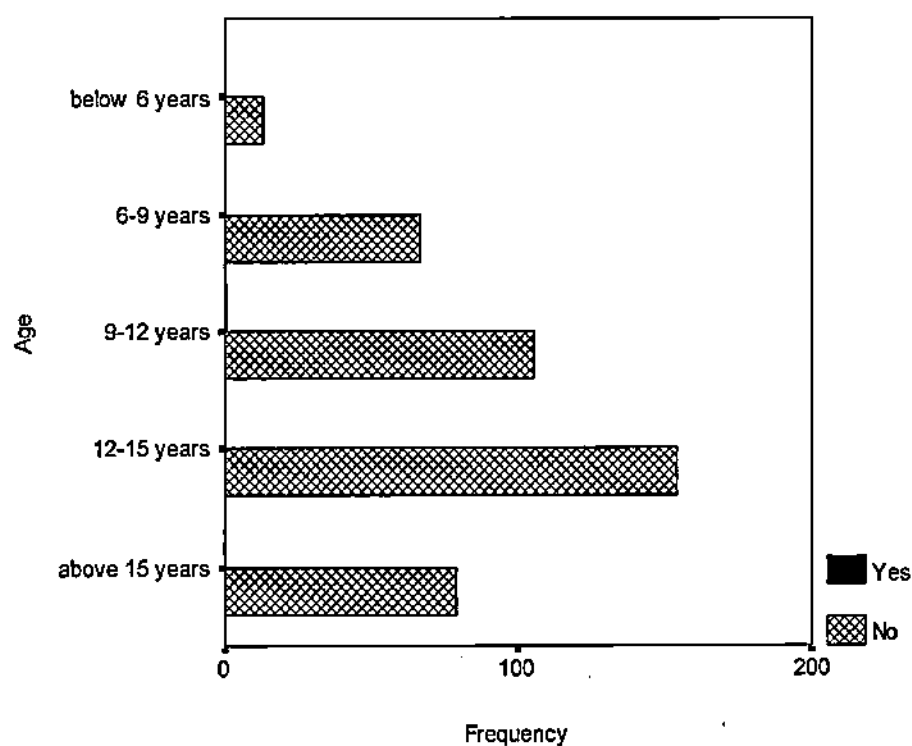


Most astonishing feature emerging out from the table is that almost half of the population (47.38%) of the beedi rolling workers is not aware of ill effects of beedi rolling. They are working in this industry without knowing possible danger that shows their lack of awareness and economic compulsion.

310

**Table-48**  
Age-wise orientation of alternative occupation in the study area among the respondents

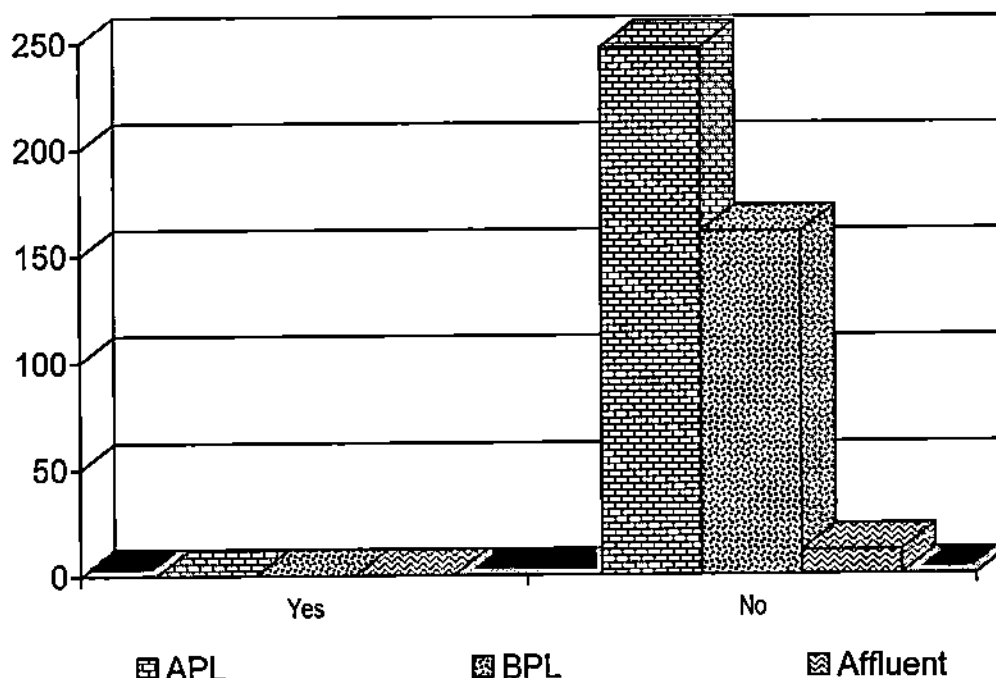
Age	Is there any scope for an alternative occupation other than beedi rolling		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
Below 6 years		13	13	3.10
6 years - 9 years		67	67	15.95
Above 9 years - 12 years	1	106	107	25.48
Above 12 years - 15 years		154	154	36.67
above 15 years		79	79	18.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>99.76</b>	<b>100.00</b>	



Almost cent percent respondents had no other option than accepting beedi making as heir only source of livelihood.

**Table-49**  
Economic condition-wise status of the respondents in accordance with receiving vocational training

Economic Condition	Did you receive vocational training from any Government or NGO		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
APL	0	248	248	59.05
BPL	0	161	161	38.33
AFFLUENT	0	11	11	2.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

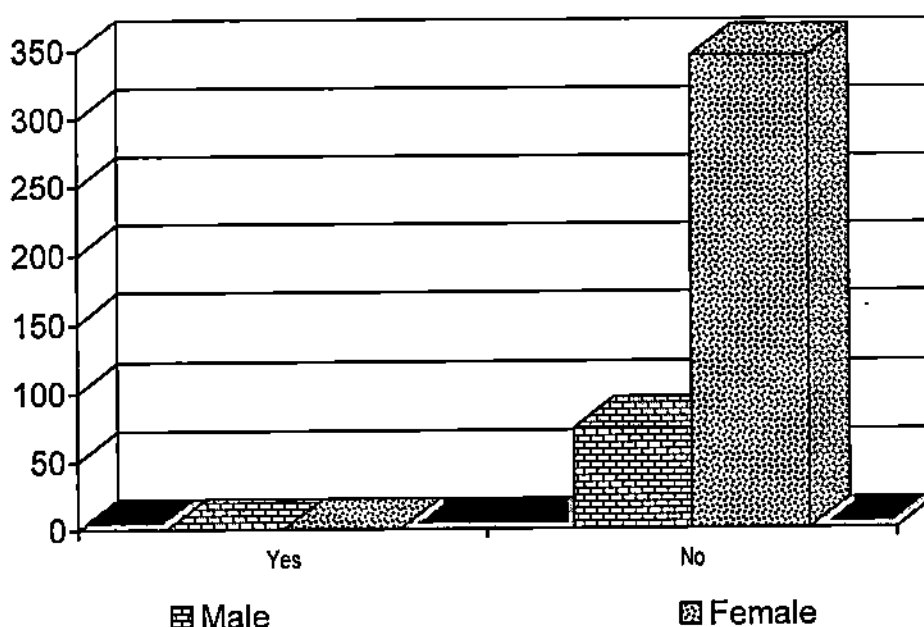


This table suggests that not a single child receives any kind of training from Government or Non-Government Organization as mentioned by the workers. GO and NGO should impart need based vocational training to these child workers so that they have more option in their hand to earn their livelihood and can avoid exploitation.

**Table-50**

**Gender-wise awareness level of the respondents regarding**

Gender	Do you know about the national child labour act		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
Male	0	74	74	17.62
Female	0	346	346	82.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	



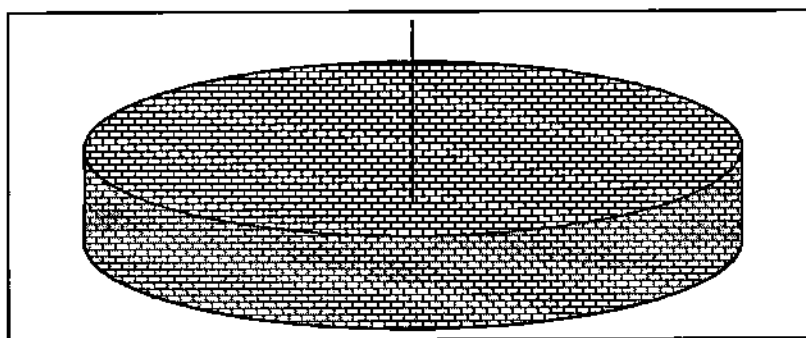
From this table it is found that none of them is aware of National Child Labour Act. Probably it is one of the main reasons of exploitation of child labour in this industry and their basic rights are being violated. In this respect, GO and NGO's can provide proper awareness campaign about exploitation of child labour, restoration of their basic rights and conduct continuous monitoring activities against violation of Child Labour Act.

713

**Table-51**

Whether the Government sanctioned any project for economical development of the beedi rolling worker

Have the govt. sanctioned any project	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	0	0
No	420	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>



☒ Yes

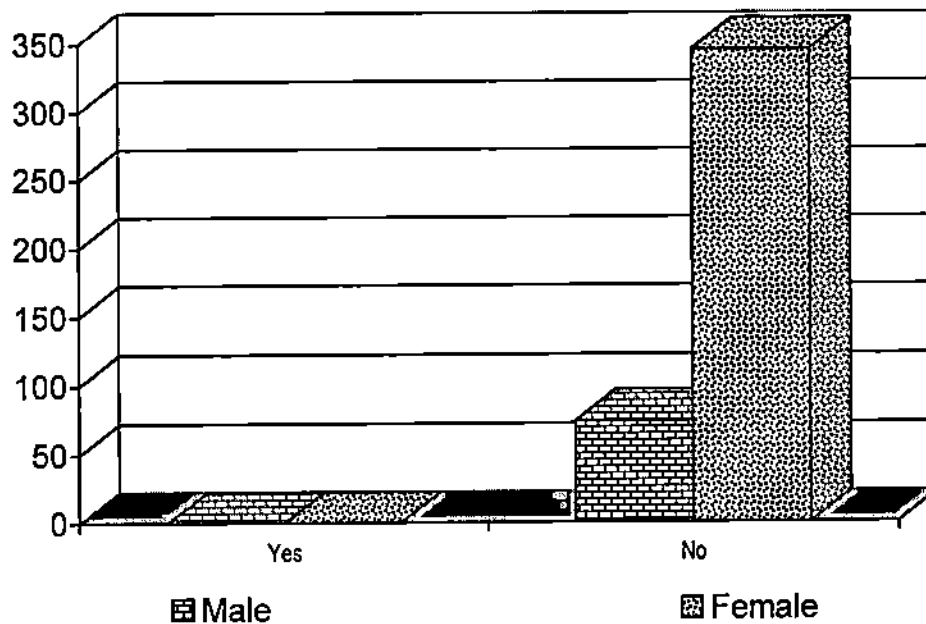
☐ No

This table envisages that not a single project (financial) has been conducted for these beedi rolling workers of the area as responded by the workers. So it is one of the most neglected sectors, which needs immediate attention.

**Table-52**

Distribution of the respondents in accordance with their idea  
about developmental projects

Gender	Idea about this type of projects		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
Male	0	74	74	17.62
Female	0	346	346	82.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

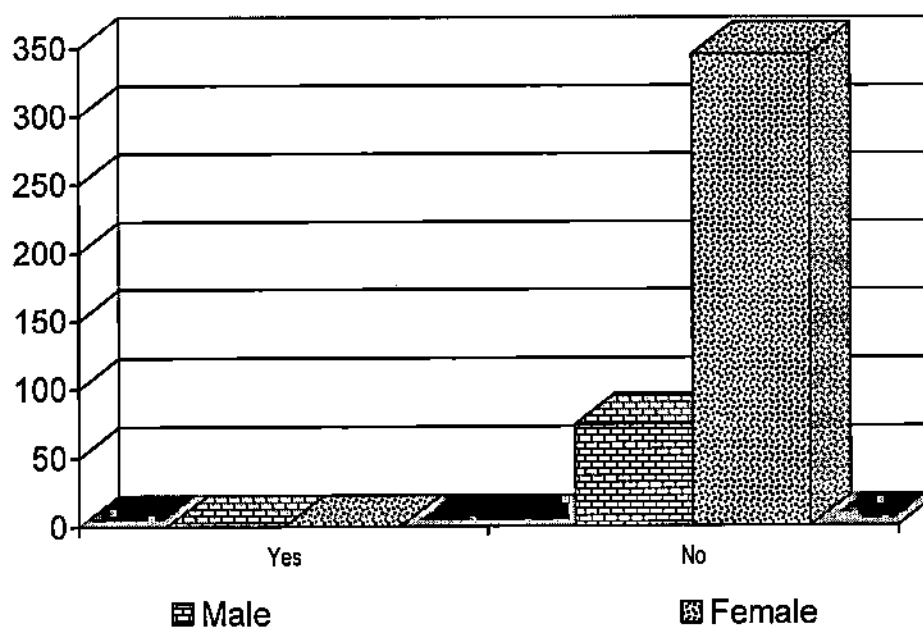


As it is depicted in the table that not a single worker even has any idea about these kinds of projects and how much they can be benefited from that.

Table-53

Whether any voluntary / other organization is functional in the study area about the problems of beedi rolling workers

Gender	Whether any organization is functional in the survey area		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
Male	0	74	74	17.62
Female	0	346	346	82.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

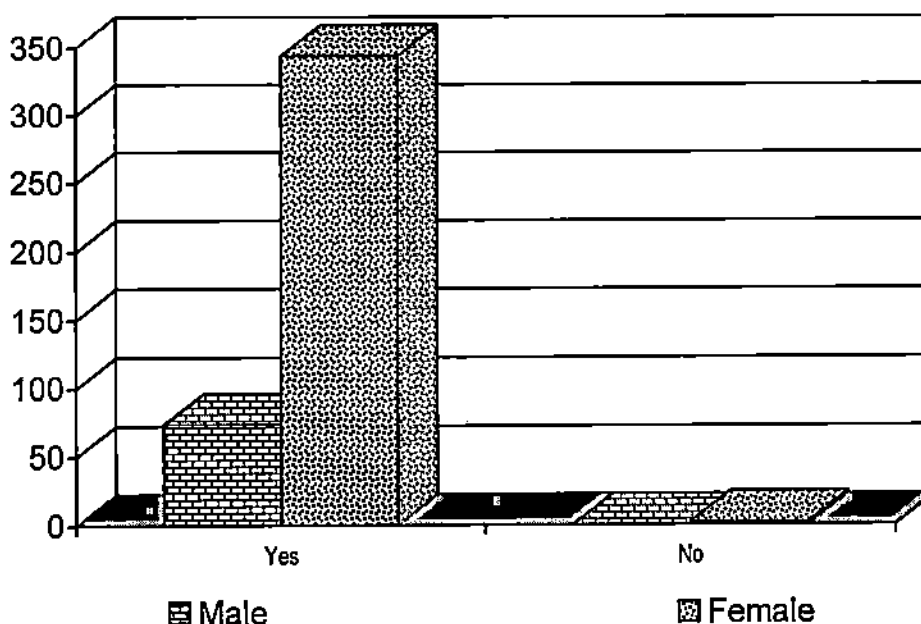


All the beedi rolling workers opined that no voluntary organization whatsoever is working for their socio-economic development, as it is clear from the table. So it is again pointed out that this is much-neglected sector.

**Table-54**

Opinion of the respondents whether Government / NGOs should initiate developmental projects and social security measures for them

Gender	Whether Government / NGOs should initiate developmental projects and social security measures		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
Male	74		74	17.62
Female	344	2	346	82.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>99.52</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>100</b>	



It is found from the table that almost all the beedi rolling workers (99.52%) feel that GO and NGO's should take the initiative to bring about financial and social security for them. So there is strong felt need for change the situation among the workers. GO and NGO's should capitalize this felt need for change for the development of these disadvantage group of children.

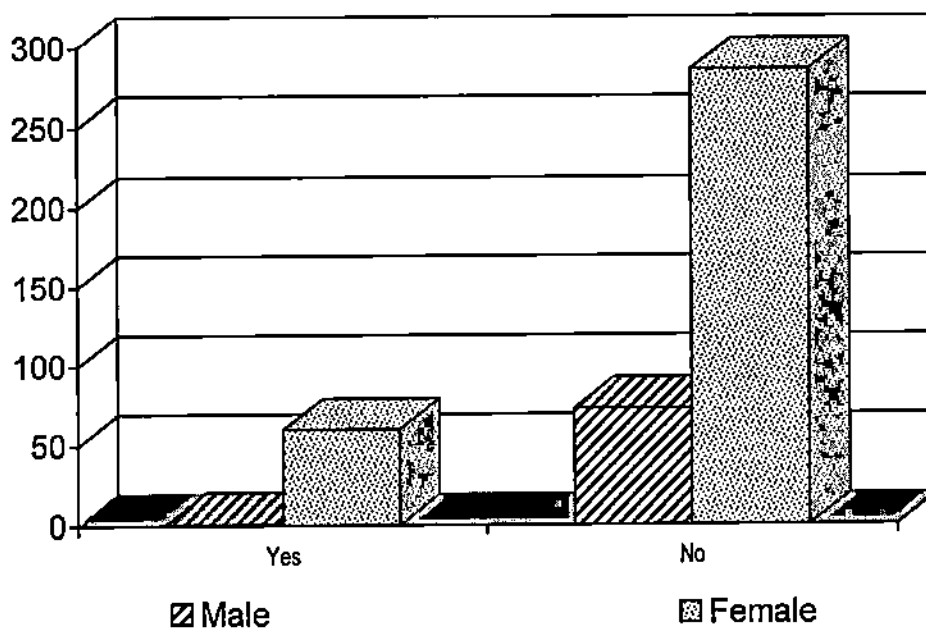


312

**Table-55**

Opinion of the respondents whether children of their age should get involved with beedi rolling

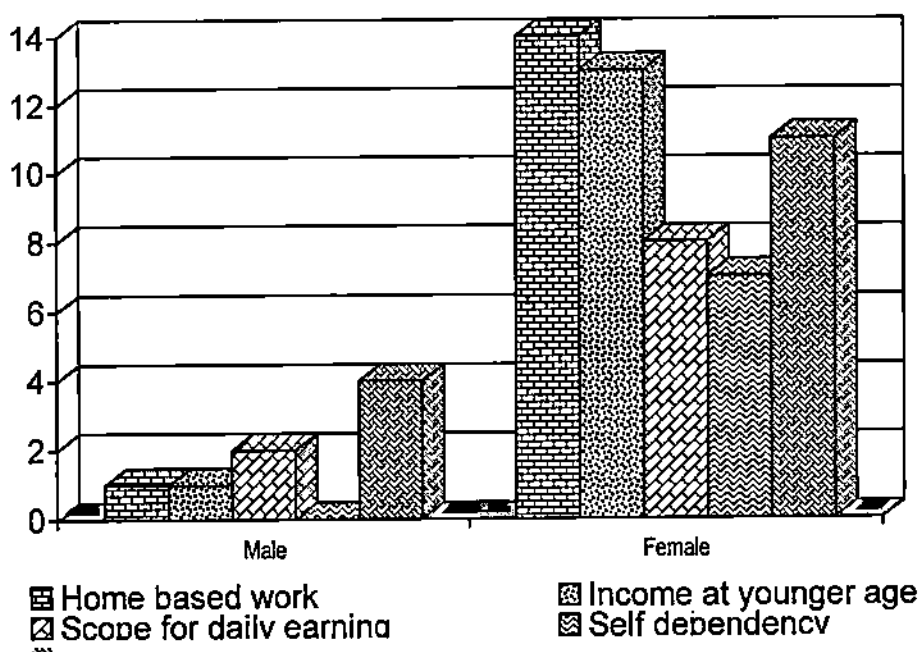
Gender	Whether children of your age get involved with beedi rolling		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
Male	1	73	74	17.62
Female	60	286	346	82.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>14.52</b>	<b>85.48</b>	<b>100.00</b>	



Most of the respondents (85.48%) do not think that children of their age should not get involved in this work as it is stated in the table. So these workers have a sense of violation of their rights and they are being exploited due to their compulsion.

**Table-56**  
Respondents' reason for being in favour of their involvement with beedi rolling  
(among those who answered "Yes" in Table – 51)

Reasons	Gender		Total	Percentage
	Male	Female		
Home based work	1	14	15	24.59
Income generation at a younger age	1	13	14	22.95
Scope for daily earning	2	8	10	16.39
Self dependent	0	7	7	11.48
Others	4	11	15	24.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>13.11</b>	<b>86.89</b>	<b>100</b>	

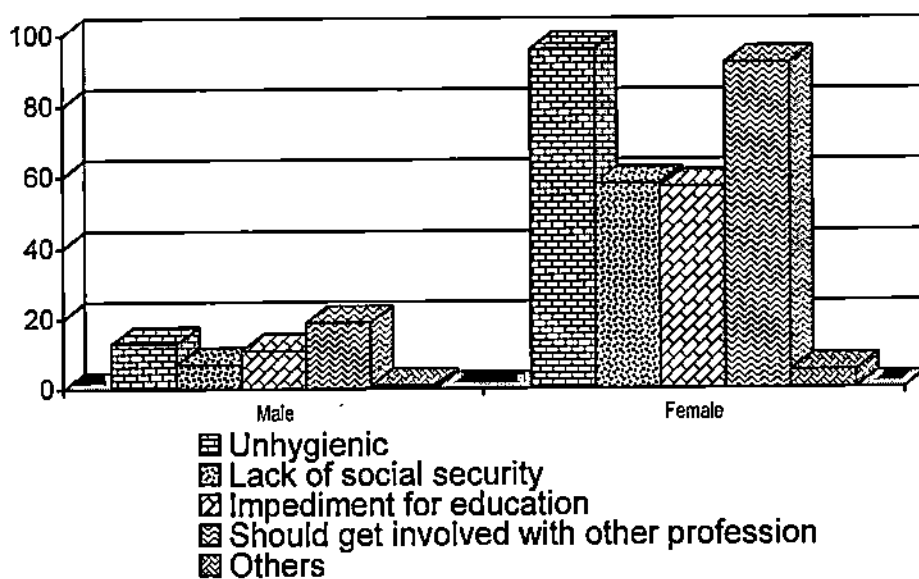


Opinion of those workers who think that children of their age should get involved in this work is envisaged in this table. Most of the respondents suggested that they should get involved in this work because it is a home-based work (33.98%). Income generation at younger age (24.27%), scope for daily earning (21.36%) and scope of being self dependent (18.45%) are the other reasons suggested by them.

**Table-57**

Respondents' reason for not being in favour of their involvement with beedi rolling  
(among those who answered "No" in Table – 51)

Response	Gender		Total	Percentage
	Male	Female		
Unhygienic and unhealthy condition	13	96	109	30.36
Lack of social security	7	58	65	18.11
Impediment for getting education	11	57	68	18.94
Should get involved in other profession	19	92	111	30.92
Others	1	5	6	1.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>14.21</b>	<b>85.79</b>	<b>100.00</b>	



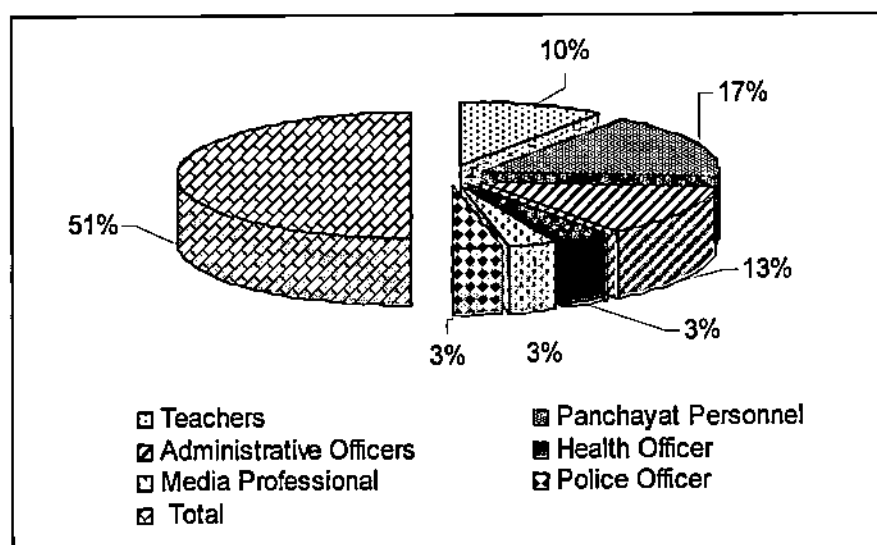
As the above table indicates that they are not satisfied with their profession because of the reasons of occupational hazard (34.62%), unhygienic and unhealthy condition (20.98%), lack of social security (19.14%), impediment for getting education (24.03%) and others respectively.

## Orientation and Perception of the Stakeholders

Table-1

Distribution of the types of stakeholders interviewed for the study

Stakeholders	Frequency	Percentage
Teachers	3	20.00
Panchayat Personnel	5	33.33
Administrative Officers	4	26.67
Health Officer	1	6.67
Media Professional	1	6.67
Police Officer	1	6.67
Total	15	100



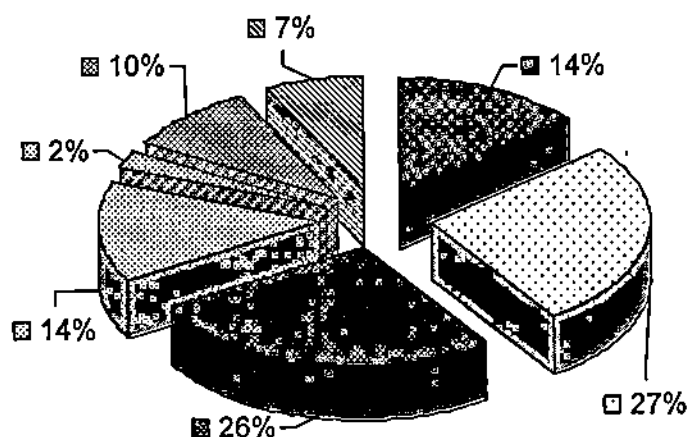
This table indicates that 15 stakeholders are interviewed with semi-structured interview schedule about the problem of child labour in beedi rolling industry in the study area. Out of 15, five are Panchayat Personnel of different tiers, four are Administrative Officers of different levels and three are teachers. One Health Officer, one Media Professional and one Police Officer are also selected.

321

Table-2

Perception of the stake holders about the condition of child worker

Perception on Child Labour	Frequency	Percentage
Children leading adult lives at premature stage	6	14.29
Working long hours for low wages	11	26.19
Working condition is damaging their physical and mental development	11	26.19
Frequently deprived of education and vocational training	6	14.29
Involvement in this profession due to direct or indirect family conflict	1	2.38
Work within or outside the family	4	9.52
Minimum time for leisure	3	7.14
Total	42	100



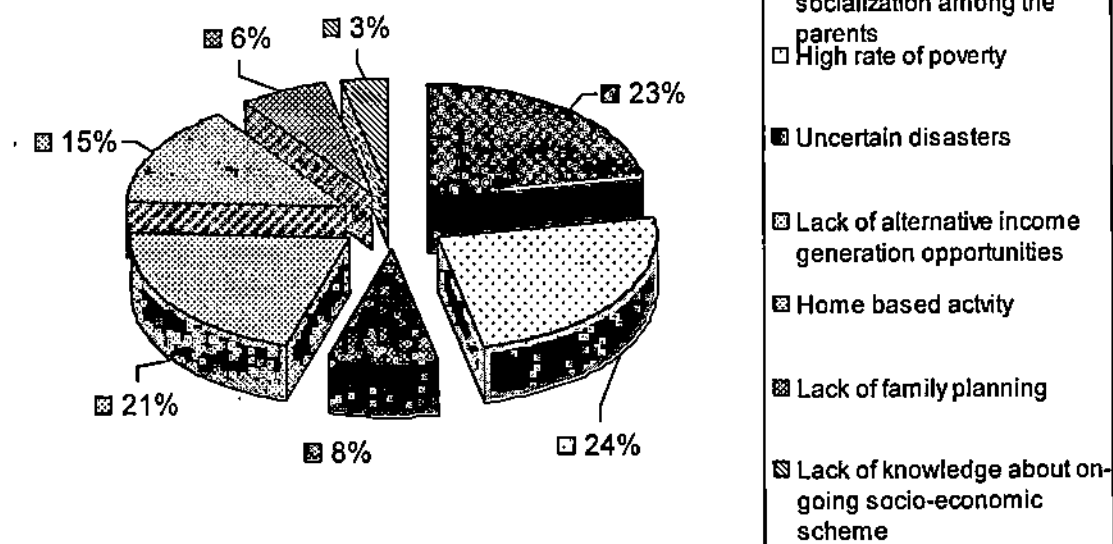
- Children leading adult lives at premature stage
- Working long hours for low wages
- Working condition is damaging their physical and mental development
- Frequently deprived of education and vocational training
- Involvement in this profession due to direct or indirect family conflict
- Work within or outside the family
- Minimum time for leisure

The table ascertains that working long hours for low wages (26.19%) and working condition is damaging their physical and mental development (26.19%) are the main perception of the stakeholders on problem of child labour. Children leading adult lives at premature stage (14.29%) and frequently deprived of education and vocational training (14.29%) are also considerable opinion according to stakeholders about the issue. So the stakeholders categorically pointed out the violation of basic child rights due to involvement of children in beedi rolling profession.

Table-3

## Causes for becoming a Child Labour

Causes for becoming a Child Labour	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of education and socialization among the parents	14	22.58
High rate of poverty	15	24.19
Uncertain disasters	5	8.06
Lack of alternative income generation opportunities	13	20.97
Home based activity	9	14.52
Lack of family planning	4	6.45
Lack of knowledge about on-going socio-economic scheme	2	3.23
Total	62	100

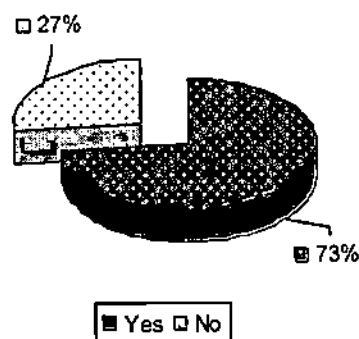


The stakeholders opined that high rate of poverty (24.19%) is main cause for becoming a child labour as it is envisaged in the table. Lack of education and socialization among the parents (22.58%), lack of alternative income generation opportunities (20.97%) are also the causes of child labour in the area according to the stakeholders. So the poor socio-economic condition of these child workers is forcing them to become a child labour as it is extracted from the stakeholder analysis.

**Table-4**

**Knowledge about 'Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986'**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	11	73.33
No	4	26.67
Total	15	100.00

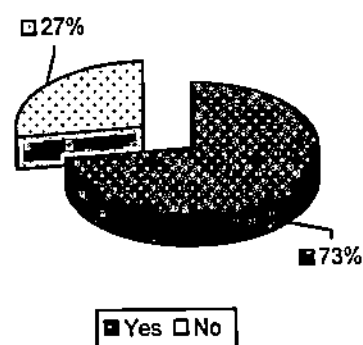


This table envisages that 73.33% stakeholders know about 'Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986'. But it is astonishing that 26.67% stakeholders even do not know about existing of such kind act though they can play a vital role in improving the situation.

**Table-5**

**Knowledge about the enforcement of the act (among those who responded yes in previous question).**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	8	72.73
No	3	27.27
Total	11	100

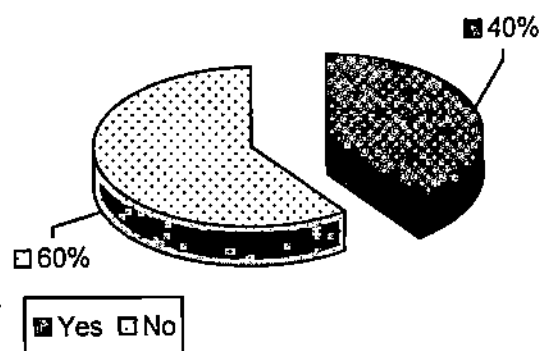


Those who responded positively about existence of the act, out of them 72.73% opined that the act is enforced as it is found in the study. 27.27% stakeholders are not about the enactment of this act. But the detailed study during the project depicted different picture about the matter.

**Table-6**

**Knowledge about the existence of any committee/body/task force formed or assigned to monitor the law enforcement**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	40
No	9	60
Total	15	100



This table depicts that 60% stakeholders do not have any knowledge about any kind of committee or body or task force formed or assigned to monitor the law enforcement. From the analysis of the opinion of the beedi rolling workers we also find the poor monitoring activities for the law enforcement. This table reinforces the lacking of the good monitoring activities.

**Table-7**

**Opinion about the presence of health hazards associated with this work mainly for the children**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	15	100
No	0	0
Total	15	100

It is evident from the table that all the stakeholders aware of the fact that beedi making itself a health hazardous work mainly for the children. So this problem is unanimously recognized by the stakeholders, which can be exploited to improve this hazardous situation.

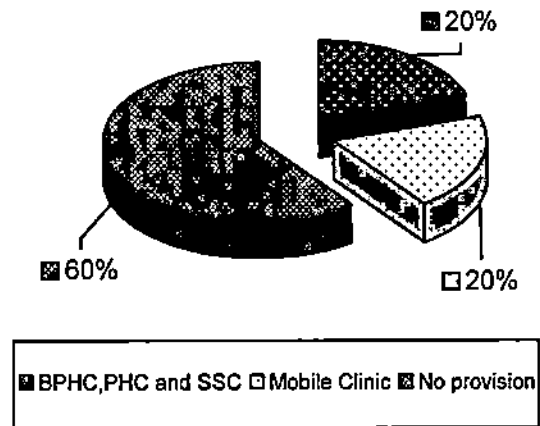


325

**Table-8**

**Provision of health facilities available for the child workers**

Health facilities available	Frequency	Percentage
BPHC, PHC AND SSC	3	20
Mobile Clinic	3	20
No provision	9	60
Total	15	100

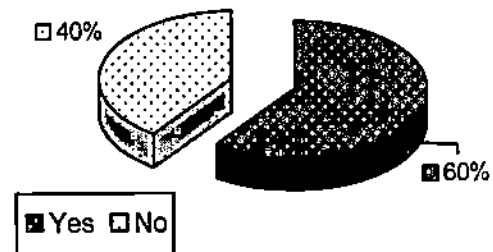


This table suggests that 60% stakeholders cannot provide any kind of health facilities to these working children. Rest of the stakeholders answered that health facilities are provided through BPHC, PHC and SSC or through mobile clinic. All the stakeholders are not responsible to provide health facilities to these children as because it is highly specialized job. But still the picture of providing health facilities is not so bright. At the same time the stakeholders excluding health personnel cannot wash out their hands and should take part actively in the management of providing health facilities to these working children.

**Table-9**

**Knowledge about the existence of complete rehabilitation programme for the beedi making child labourers in terms of survival.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	9	60
No	6	40
Total	15	100

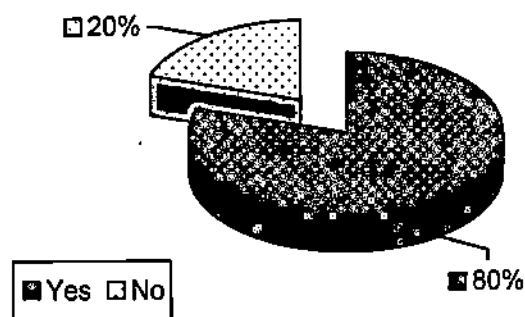


This table depicts that 60% stakeholder aware of the existence of complete rehabilitation programme for these child workers in terms of survival, development and protection. But most unfortunately 40% stakeholders even do not know about any kind of rehabilitation programme. Though all the stakeholders are very much concerned about this issue of child labour still some are not actively involved in improving the situation.

**Table-10**

**Opinion about the social and political conditions is the main responsible factors to increase the rate of child labour in the area.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	12	80
No	3	20
Total	15	100

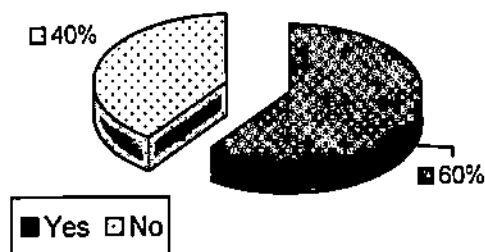


According to 80% stakeholder's opinion existing social and political conditions are the main responsible factors to increase the rate of child labour in this area as it is envisaged in the table. Rest of the stakeholders opined negatively. So an effort is needed on part of stakeholders to improve the existing social and political condition to stop the increasing rate of child labour on the area.

**Table-11**

**Opinion of the stakeholders about the existence of middleman in the beedi making industry**

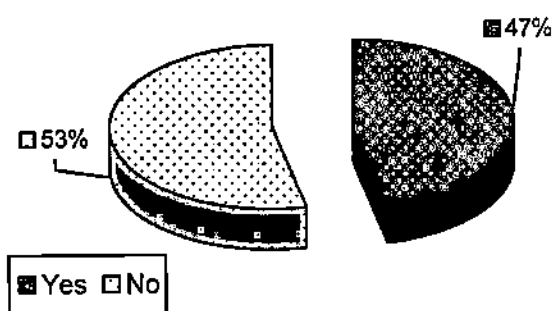
Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	9	60.00
No	6	40.00
Total	15	100.00



This table ascertains that 60% stakeholders think that there are middleman and brokers in this industry who exploited the child workers as cheap labour. But 40% stakeholders denied that presence of such kind of middleman or brokers.

**Table - 12**  
**Knowledge about 'National Child Labour Project (NCLP)' supported by Ministry of Labour, GOI.**

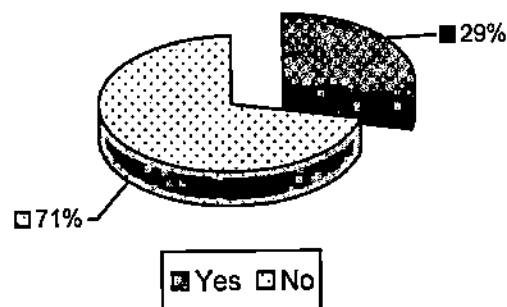
Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	7	46.67
No	8	53.33
Total	15	100.00



This table ascertains that only 46.67% stakeholders know about 'National Child Labour Project (NCLP)' supported by Ministry of Child Labour, GOI and more than 50% of stakeholders even do not know at all about this project. This depicts the status of involvement of stakeholders on issue of child labour though they are very concerned about the problem in words.

**Table-13**  
**Knowledge of the stakeholders about the initiation of any kind of activities through NCLP in the block (Those who responded yes in previous question)**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	2	28.57
No	5	71.43
Total	7	100.00

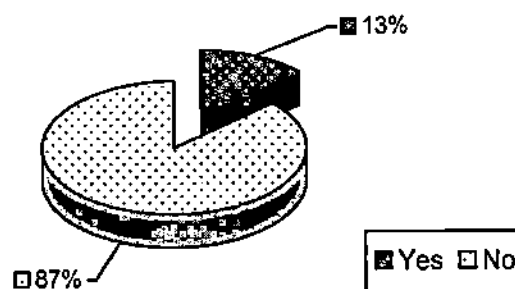


Among those who know about NCLP, most unfortunately 71.43% do not know at all whether this project initiated or to be initiated in this block as the table envisages. That means only 2 out of total 15 stakeholders (13.33%) know quite well about this project in this block. So this again indicates the minimum involvement of the stakeholders in improving condition of child workers in the area.

**Table-14**

**Knowledge about the availability of minimum financial assistance/ package for the child labourers**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	2	13.33
No	13	86.67
Total	15	100.00

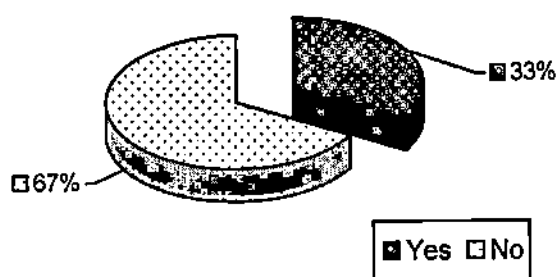


86.67% stakeholders responded that there is absence of any minimum financial assistance or package available for the child labourers as the table shows. It indicates that endeavour to improve the condition of the child workers in the area at its minimum level.

**Table-15**

**Perception about the social security measures of the child labourers in terms of provident fund, micro-credit facilities from bank, life insurance etc.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	5	33.33
No	10	66.67
Total	15	100.00

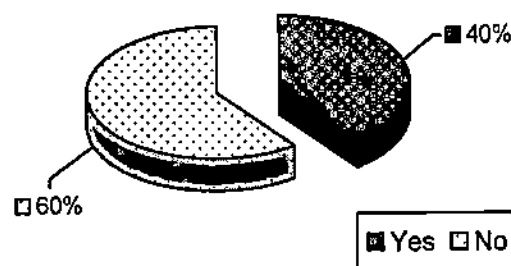


This table indicates that there are no social security measures for the child labourers in terms of provident fund, micro-credit facilities from bank, life insurance etc. according to 66.67% stakeholder's opinion. Though considerable number of stakeholders (33.33%) opined assertively, but still the social and financial security is also in poor condition of these child workers.

**Table-16**

**Perception on alternative income generation opportunities to reduce the number of child labourers in the area.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	40
No	9	60
Total	15	100



This table ascertains that 60% stakeholders responded that some alternative income generation opportunities including vocational training/entrepreneurship development programme cannot reduce the number of child labourers in this area and only 40% responded positively. It suggests that the complication of the problem of child labour in the area.

**Table-17**

**Opinions about any kind of such initiatives have been taken for them (Those who responded yes in the previous question).**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	0	0
No	6	100
Total	6	100

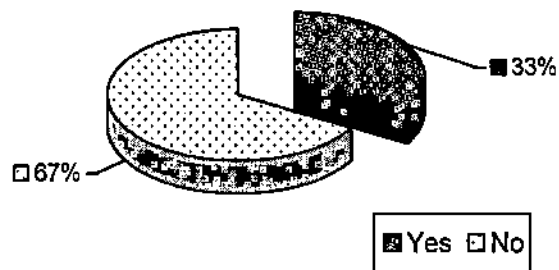
Among those who think some alternative income generation opportunities including vocational training/entrepreneurship development programme can reduce the number of child labourers in your area, no one of them suggests any such initiatives have been taken for them. This ascertains the role performed by the stakeholders in terms of reducing the child labour in the area.

33-

**Table-18**

**Opinion of the stakeholders about the role of the parents and employers to stop this child labour practice.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	5	33.33
No	10	66.67
Total	15	100.00



This table envisages that 66.67% stakeholders think that parents and employers can not stop this child labour practice and only 33.33% opined positively. So overall the approach of the stakeholders on the issue of child labour in the area is not at all positive. Much more positive approach is needed to combat this social evil of child labour in the area.

## Case Studies

### Case – 1

Name – Baby Khatun

Age – 9 Years

Village – Talibpur

“We are poor.....my  
father can't buy me  
medicine”



Baby Khatun, a nine years old girl child and youngest member of the family has joined beedi making profession since her early childhood days. She has been witnessing acute poverty in the family and had no choice except to join hands to the others in beedi rolling. Since she has started beedi rolling, she had never seen any improvement in the static economy of the family. The profession might have helped the family to survive somehow but the income was never sufficient for survival. As a result, over a period of time no perceptible change was observed. No significant improvement was therefore taken place in the economic condition of the family. Presently she could earn only Rs.5.50 – 7.50 per day by working 5-6 hours. This prolonged duration of her association with this work has forced her to quit school forever. She does not have any peer except those of her age, engaged in the same profession without having any choice. Dealing with the dusty tobacco of the beedi for such a long time has already caused breathing trouble to Baby. When the problem attacks Baby, she feels a lot of problem and tries to breathe properly by the window. Her family can not even afford the luxury of getting Baby treated properly or to ask her to quit this job. Baby needs urgent medical attention on sustained manner. Urgent intervention in the case of Baby is essential both on the part of Government and Non-Governmental Organisation.

Case – 2

Name – Hasina Khatun

Age – 14 Years

Village – Talibpur



“I feel bad when I think about my school days...”

Hasina Khatun is a 14 years old girl who came into this occupation when she was 11 and has been working for last 3 years. Hasina had no choice other than being an earner when her father died two years ago. Hasina's mother is also in this occupation for years. Hasina is the eldest among sisters and her younger sister is now an infant therefore her mother remain busy most of the time in feeding her or taking care of her. Before started rolling beedi, Hasina was going school and studying in sixth standard. Therefore when she started giving hands to her mother in rolling beedi, simultaneously she quit her school forever. Hasina said, it was not a pleasant experience for her to leave the school, the environment and all the friends. Hasina has two brothers and both are senior to her but both of them stay separately with their families and extend no financial support to their mother even after their father's death. Therefore, presently the family survives on the earning of Hasina and her mother. Due to her mother's engagement with her younger sister, Hasina shoulders most of the workloads to meet the target of production. Shouldering this extra workload on sustained basis for a longer time has already caused multiple health problems to Hasina. She is already suffering from mild breathing problem, has acute eye problem due to prolonged attention to her work and lower back pain which is growing to be acute arthritis if proper care is not taken at the early stage. Hasina and her mother earns about Rs.800 to 900 per month. Her mother said that when Hasina's father was alive, they had better financial condition and they use to earn about Rs.1400 to 1600 per month. Hasina's father was associated with this trade for over last two decades and died due to lung cancer.



Case – 3

Name – Kusoom Khatun

Age – 10 Years

Village – Babla

“I work very fast...my  
mother and me work  
together...”



Kusum is associated with beedi rolling activity for the last three (3) years. She is only 10 years old now. She came to this profession as because her parent's income was not sufficient to maintain a huge family. They live in a joint family with 11 members. So she was forced to join this profession. In Muslim community in the area, girls are not allowed to work outside, so this profession is more acceptable to all to work at home. This is another reason of Kusum's association with beedi rolling. Kusum reads in class-V and can not go to school regularly due heavy workload. Kusum's elder sister also read up to class-IV and left the study due to work of beedi rolling. Kusum's father is new literate and her mother is illiterate. Still they think that there is no need of education for girls. Poor financial condition also compels them to engage their child in this profession for earning. Kusum earns Rs.15 per day by rolling 500 beedies per day. In her age of 10 years she is really taking a lot of pressure to earn. Almost all the members in her family are engaged in the profession of beedi rolling. Due to heavy workload she can not get time for her study. She has also no leisure time to play with her friends or other kind of entertainment. So it is hampering her mental development. Though she is not suffering any kind of disease still now but continuous hard work in such kind of hazardous profession can create problem in her future life.

### Case – 4

Name – Gunnihar Khatun

Age – 9 Years

Village – Sarmastapur

“I was very ill...but now I  
am better...I am going  
school”



Gunnihar Khatun, a nine year old girl is the eldest member amongst three children of her parents. Gunnihar has two younger brothers; one of them is still infant. Gunnihar's father has a stitching machine and he has a tailor at home. Her mother is associated with beedi rolling for long time. Gunnihar has been suffering from acute health problem since she is six months old. She has a hole in one of her heart valve which needs intensive medical attention and immediate surgery. Gunnihar's father is well aware of the expenses for treatment of her daughter but he is in no position to bear the sum. She is attached with beedi rolling activity for the last one year. She has come to this profession because her parents' income was not enough to run the family. Despite Gunnihar's heart problem, the family can afford only homeopathy medicines. This treatment has certainly helped Gunnihar to lead a better life. Gunnihar is now school going and now studying in first standard. According to her age she should have been studying in third standard by now. Now Gunnihar works around 4 to 6 hours a day. The expense for her treatment is Rs.400/- for every fortnight. Earlier she couldn't even walk for long, couldn't play with friends but now after few months of treatment her health condition has certainly improved and she can enjoy a comparatively better life now. The expense for Gunnihar's treatment has made things further difficult for Dulal Sekh, Gunnihar's father to meet the expenses for the household. This factor has compelled him to engage her sick daughter in this hazardous occupation. Gunnihar's addition to beedi rolling has caused contribution of another Rs.250 to 300 to the family and this income certainly helps Dulal Sekh to continue her treatment.

Case – 5

Name – Maqbul Sekh

Age – 11 Years

Village – Bahara



“I cannot roll beedi properly...I take a lot of time ”

Maqbul Sekh, an eleven year old boy found himself as a beedi roller when he was eight. He was then studying in third standard in the village primary school nearby to his house. Maqbul is still studying despite a number of difficulties and is presently in the fifth standard. Maqbul belong to a large family where he used to live with two of his elder brother, a younger brother and a younger sister along with his parents. Maqbul's two elder brother already got married and staying separately. His family enjoyed better economic stability as long as his elder brothers didn't get married. Since his elder brothers got separated, the economic condition of the family witnessed a steady degradation because their income no more contributed to the survival of the household. Maqbul's father Sultan Sekh is a daily wage earner and mother Jillehar Khatun is a beedi roller for more than a decade. Sultan Sekh doesn't get employment regularly through out the year and that is why he joins hands with his wife and Maqbul. Jillehar Khatun also remains busy with her infant daughter and five year old son most of the time and therefore can accommodate very little time for beedi rolling. Sultan Sekh doesn't want Maqbul to continue his education any longer and he wants him to engage as a whole-day beedi rolling worker. Like many others of his community, Sultan Sekh has the opinion that education is not going to yield anything as far as his son's future is concerned; he therefore wants Maqbul to learn the skills of beedi rolling and get acquainted with this occupation for earning. Presently Maqbul and his parents could earn about rupees forty to forty five a day from all sources. Little Maqbul can contribute only five to seven rupees a day to the family. He is already suffering from mild breathing problem and skin disease as a result of his association with beedi rolling. Maqbul loves his school and enjoys it with this friends but he is not sure about how long his father will allow him to go there.

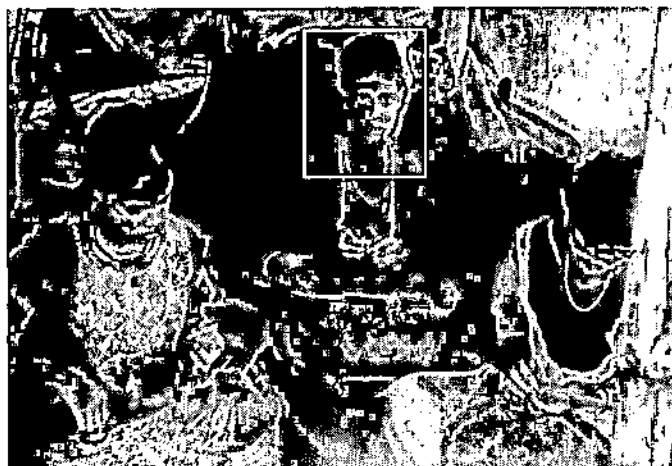
### Case – 6

Name – Arif Khan

Age – 11 Years

Village – Bahara

“I don’t want my brothers to  
start beedi rolling”



Arif Khan is an eleven year old boy has one younger brother and sister along with his parents in the family. Arif’s father Jaher Khan is a lottery ticket seller. His mother Alo Bibi is a housewife and beedi roller. In Arif’s family everyone is presently engaged in beedi rolling except his father. The monthly earning of this family is about one thousand from all sources which is insufficient for their survival, says Arif. The situation get even more difficult during September – November when the beedi business slows down its pace to some extent. Arif started rolling beedi about four years back. Arif said that he wasn’t forced to be a beedi roller, rather it was his choice. He has been observing his mother since his early childhood and gradually he grown interest in this work and started learning the skills of beedi rolling from his mother. Presently this occupation is hampering his education to a large education because he can not study as long as he is rolling beedi. Arif works about 4 to 5 hours a day and earns about 10 to 12 rupees a day. Arif knows that he can’t continue his schooling for too long from now on. He is in fifth standard now. Arif’s says he will have to work more and earn more for better survival of his family but he doesn’t want his younger brother and younger sister to be in this occupation. He is ready to bear the additional responsibility to keep his brother and sister away from this occupation. Arif doesn’t get time to play with his friends because of his work. Arif is already from headache and neck ache when he works for more than 2 to 3 hours.

Case – 7

Name – Eqbal Sekh

Age – 14 Years

Village – Baidyapur



“Heavy workload hampers my education”

Eqbal Sekh joined to this profession because parents' income was insufficient to cope up the financial crisis in the family. Eqbal is the student of class VIII, wants to study but economic condition does not permit to do so. His younger brother also goes to school but his two sisters are not sent to school. He had to support his family by beedi rolling so he is irregular in his school. He does not have money to expend for books and copies. His parents are illiterate and for them education is secondary purpose of life. Eqbal spends maximum of his time in beedi rolling along with other members of his family. His family earns as much as Rs. 1400 per month which often found to be insufficient for his family. He also wants to play and interact with his peers and go to school regularly and continue his studies but situation is such that he is forced to work. During the month of September-October, Eqbal's family faces more acute financial crisis due to lean period of this beedi making industry. His parents do not find any other jobs in this period as because they are illiterate. So they took extra workload in rest of the months and it hampers Eqbal's education. Eqbal started this occupation at the age of eight and he is facing mild health problem of breathing trouble which needs early intervention. Due to heavy workload he always feels mental pressure to reach the target which also hampers his education.

Case – 8

Name – Mafuza Khatun

Age – 15 Years

Village – Kagram

“If my father was alive, I would have been going to school.”



Mafuza Khatun, is a 15 years old girl and sole bread earner of the family. Family members in her family are two, Mafuza and her mother. Her father is not alive, died in the catastrophic flood of the year 2000 which damaged larger parts of West Bengal. Her mother is seriously ill so she was forced to join beedi rolling activity and run the family. They don't even have their own shelter and stay in others house. Mafuza has been working in this profession of beedi making for last 5 yrs and she works very hard as she had to take care of her ill mother who can't do anything. She didn't get any scope for education. People of their neighbourhood is very much helpful towards them, they try to give their level best support to her family. Mafuza works as much as she can, therefore, most of the days she is suffering from chest pain and joint pain. Mafuza is literate but could not continue her education due of her father's death. She feels insecure for her future life and also suffers anxiety due to her mother's deteriorating health condition. She has no personal life because of staying in other's house and need help from Government to improve her condition.

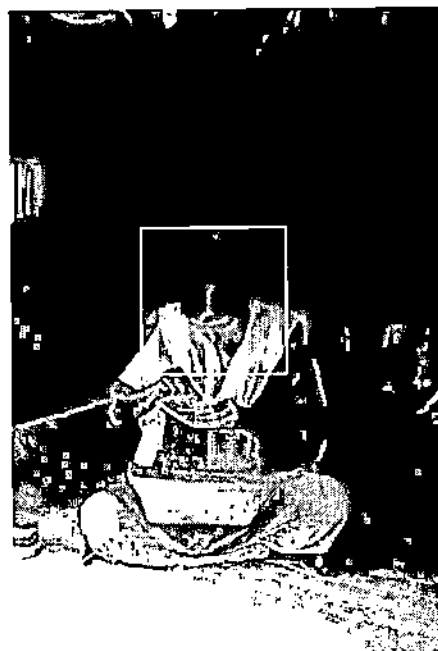
Case – 9

Name- Akruma Khatun

Age - 12 Years

Village - Barutia

“I want to play with my friends but ....”



Akruma Khatun is the elder daughter of the family and she is the only earning members of the family. Though she is only 12 yrs old, she has the responsibility to maintain the family of 5 members. Her father is very ill and almost bed ridden can not do anything. Her mother is also not in very good health condition and becomes ill often. Still she manages to do work of beedi making and to help her daughter. .Akruma doesn't go to school. She has also a brother and a sister but they in very tender age. So Akruma has a mammoth task of survival of her family in her shoulder at very young age. They stay in small hut in a very unhealthy environment. They don't have any land of their own, so beedi rolling is the only source of income. They are living a very hard life. Akruma gives her maximum time and effort to raise her income and maintain her family. She has to work even when she is ill, as because she is the only earning member of family. She is illiterate and literally she has no time for education. She has even no time for playing and entertainment with her friends. She often gets frustrated with her life and feels mental fatigued. If proper care is not taken at this stage it can create a persistent mental problem. She try to find more prosperous work but she has no option except beedi making and she also thinks beedi rolling provides very low income according to their labour and the are being exploited.

Case – 10

Name - Habiba Khatun

Age - 14 Years

Village – Kagram

“There are hundreds like me .....”



Habiba Khatun is associated with beedi rolling activity as because her parent's income is not sufficient to maintain their 9 member family. Habiba completed her primary education but could not continue her studies after class IV. Habibas's father works as a daily labour and mother is attached with beedi making. Economic crisis is very acute in the family and can not even afford meals twice every day. Habiba is now 14 years old and had left education when she started beedi rolling. Habiba works very hard as she knows her contribution means a lot for the family. Due to overstress at work she is suffering from backache, pain in spinal chord and neck and she also has indigestion problem. As she remains concern for the family she is also suffering from mental stress. Being a girl child of fourteen years she is overburden by various aspects. She also feels that beedi making industry does not give them any facilities as it is provided by other industries to their workers and they are very much unorganized. This industry helps them to survive somehow but does not provide support for their upliftment.



Case – 11

Name – Rupchand Sekh

Age – 6 Years

Village – Kachunia



“I get sick very often.....but I  
still keep working”

Rupchand Sekh is a young boy of 6 years. He is associated with beedi rolling from his this early childhood. His family income is very low and family size is large. So to support his parents he often joins beedi rolling whenever he is free. Rupchand goes to school, he is student of class I, so after school hours he seats for beedi rolling. As a result of which his education was disturbed, he has no scope to enjoy playing with his friends. Rupchand's father is only literate and mother is illiterate. They are not so much aware of their children's education and poor financial condition also forced them to engage Rupchand in this profession in so much early age. Rupchand's father, Rijali Sekh is farmer by profession but they have not enough land and he also work as a labour in others field. Rupchand's mother and elder sister are associated with beedi making. But still they can not manage the financial problem of their family well due to large family size. Rupchand is physically also not strong enough; he often suffers from persistent fever which takes long time to cure. He is also suffering from eye problem; blood clots in his eyes and which restricts his clear vision. However, his poor physical condition has never been got proper attention. A family which is struggling hard to ensure there existence by meeting the minimum food requirement is not in a position to go for medical examination of their son. So in such a small age and with all the adverse health condition he is forced to be with beedi rolling activity.

Case – 12

Name – Nasrin Khatun

Age – 8 Years

Village – Ghoshpara

“If I don’t work, my mother  
gets angry.....”



Nasrin Khatun is an 8 years old girl child and elder daughter of the family. She is associated with beedi rolling at home with her mother. Though she is a student of class II, she hardly goes to school. Her parents are also interested to engage her in the work rather than to send school, because economic aspect is more vital for them. Her father works as daily labour, and mother is associated with beedi rolling. The income is low; to support the family, economic conditions they wanted their daughter to be in the profession. They both are illiterate and they are not able to find any other job which can provide better income. They are also not so much aware of the necessity of education. The income generation activity is undertaken at home, so it is necessary to them to engage Nasrin in it. It is such a profession for which they need not send their daughter outside and she can work under her mother’s supervision. At so much young age it is not possible to send her outside for work. So Nasrin’s parent has no other option rather than engaging her in work. She can not attend her school regularly and has no leisure time to play and entertainment. Nasrin often suffers from acute stomache but they are not in a position to consult a medical practitioner for her treatment. They visited to a quak but it did not give any result at all. So it is hampering her childhood and her basic rights as a child.

Case – 13

Name – Firdousi Khatun

Age – 12 Years

Village – Tenya

“The target is very difficult to meet  
everyday...”



Firdousi Khatun is 12 years old girl, associated with beedi rolling activity since her early childhood days. Being the elder daughter of the Kuddus and Azufa, she had to bear the responsibility to overcome the economic stress existing in the family. Father of Firdousi is daily labour and mother is engaged beedi rolling work at home. Firdousi need to work at home as because their earning is not enough to support the family of six members. She is in class V, but is very irregular to school due engagement in beedi rolling activity. She has a target of rolling 500 pieces of beedi every day by which she earns Rs.15 per day. Her health condition does not permit to work in such a hazardous work atmosphere, as she is suffering from chest pain. However she has no other alternative of earning money by working at home. She wants to continue her study and has a dream of higher education. Due to poor financial condition in the family, she is not very much hopeful about her study. Sometimes her chest pain create problem to her but she can not ignore work. She needs long term treatment which is quite impossible and continuous work in such unhygienic work of beedi rolling making her condition more critical.

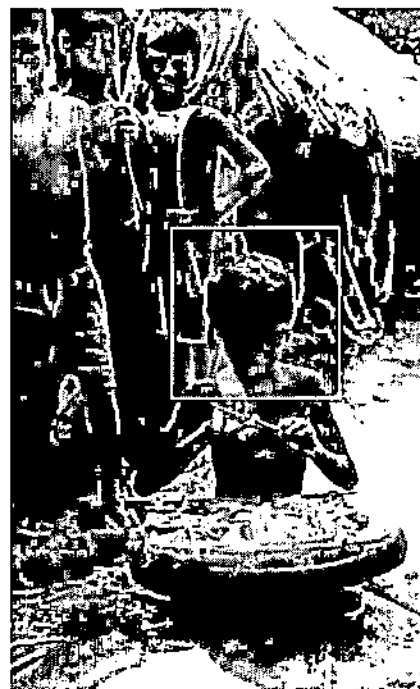
Case – 14

Name – Hansi Khatun

Age – 7 Years

Village – Tenya

“My father drinks alcohol every evening and comes home late at night....”



Hansi works in beedi rolling activity for last one year. She is doing this particular work for earning money because this is the profession in which other members of her family are also attached. This activity can also be undertaken at home, so in a Muslim community this is more acceptable for a girl. Hansi's father is a van-rickshaw puller; his earning is very much insufficient, so Hansi joined the profession to support the income of their family and has been working since last year. Her mother is also attached with this profession though she is sick. Their family earning is around Rs. 1000 per month. From this earning they can not fulfill their basic needs of the family. Hansi is the youngest child of the family and even in this young age she has been thrown in such hazardous job situation. At the time of this study she was very much sick, still she was working. She does not go to school regularly due to heavy workload. She is encouraged by the family to stay at home and help in beedi rolling. Both of her parents are illiterate, so it is evident that encouragement for education is not available to her. Hansi's earning is Rs.2.50 to Rs.3.00 every day and the family wants to be more expert in this area so that she can earn more in future days. So this pressure of over work creates a huge psychological pressure on her. She has no leisure time for playing or other entertainment activities so that she can get some mental relief.

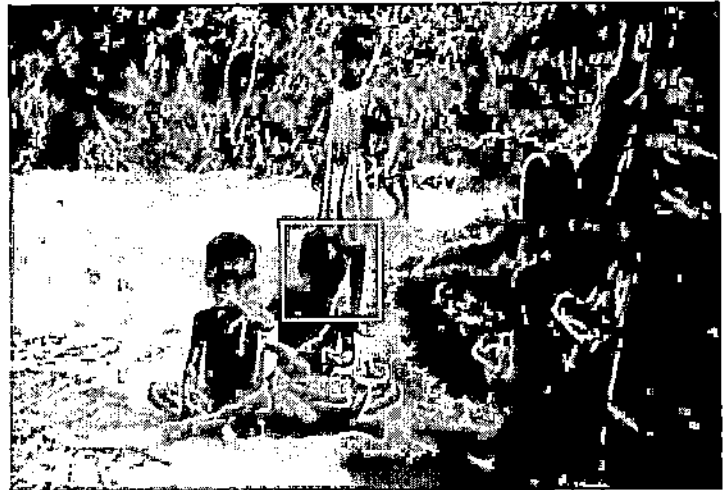
Case – 15

Name – Rajina Khatun

Age – 7 Years

Village – Kachunia

“I work very slowly and  
quality of work  
is also not good.....”



Rajina is a young girl of seven (7) years only and student of Class-I. Poor economic condition of the family and low income influenced her father to involve their elder child in beedi rolling activity. Rajina works throughout the day and till night. As a result of which she seldom goes to school. She has no contact with outside world; no means of amusement is available for her. They stay in a very bad situation at home and they have no sanitary system and home is also in very fragile condition which needs immediate repair. She works too hard and earns only Rs.2.50 to Rs.3.00 every day. She feels a mental pressure as she has to roll the heads of at least 500 pieces of beedies everyday. Is this profession wage is given daily basis and on the number of beedi rolled, so money can be earned as much as beedi can be rolled. This creates a sort of competition and pressure on Rajina as she wants to earn more for her family. This heavy workload and unhygienic condition is creating some continuous health problem like persistent cold and cough. This needs immediate care; otherwise it can develop into some complicated diseases like T.B and chronic fungal infection. But poor financial condition in the family does not support to bear such kind if expensive treatment. Moreover they have also some other obligations which needs immediate attention as it is mentioned earlier.

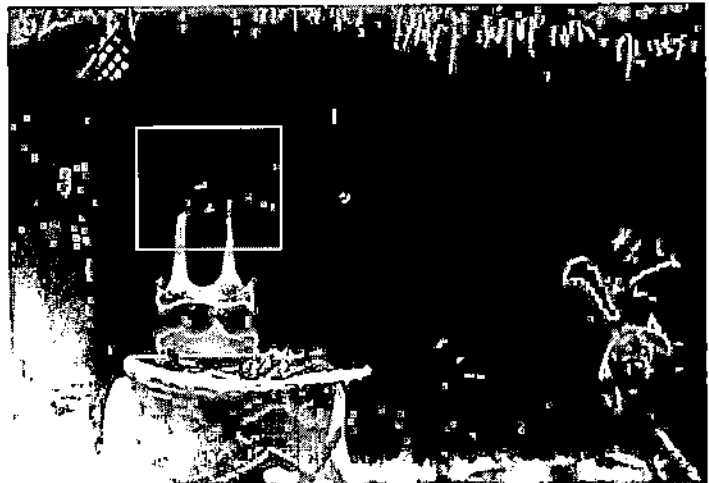
Case – 16

Name – Araj Khan

Age – 15 Years

Village – Talibpur

“I continue my work even  
when everyone sleeps at  
night.....”



Araj khan is a boy of 15 years. He has joined in this profession three years back. His father is a daily labour, does not get work everyday .There is acute financial crisis existing in the family. Araj has left school and works throughout the day and till late night for earning money. In such situation Araj had no other choice but to share the responsibility along with his father. He has also one brother and a sister. They also do not go to school. His parents are both illiterate. Araj's father also works at home in beedi rolling activity when he does not get any job. Araj can earn Rs. 5-10 per day after such a hard job. They earn less than Rs.1000 per month which is undoubtedly in sufficient for their family. Their dwelling place is very small and it is not enough for his family and it has no sanitary system, potable water facility and electricity. Araj is facing eye problem as because he works in kerosene lamp light at night. In such severe environmental condition he is spending his days. The only objective of Arij is to earn money and have food for the family; nothing else is in his dream. He works long day and night also and he has no time to take rest and leisure and working like a machine which makes him sometimes mentally fatigued.

Case – 17

Name – Bani Khatun

Age – 17 Years

Village – Kagram



“My husband left me with another woman...I am surviving somehow with this profession .....”

Bani is a girl of seventeen years and she is engaged in the profession of beedi rolling. Already Bani was married but she was left by her husband. She came back to her parent's home. Bani's father is a patient of tuberculosis, mother's physical condition is also not good and she also shows the symptoms of tuberculosis. So she had to take the responsibility of the family members. As she was left alone by her husband she joined beedi rolling activity to become self sufficient and also help her family. She works hard and earns Rs 20 –25 per day. Saheb Shekhi, father of Bani has no agricultural land, proper accommodation and his age and health condition does not permit to work hard. So Bani have to bear all responsibility. Bani studied up to class-V and she has also two sisters and a brother. Bani's brother reads in class-III and sisters have left the study and started the work of beedi rolling. Her mental condition is undoubtedly stressful because short period after marriage her husband has left her, she is forced to come back to her father s house and at home she is burdened with responsibility for taking care of her parents, brother and sisters. So she is trying to acquire some social status at her own home by helping her family financially.

348

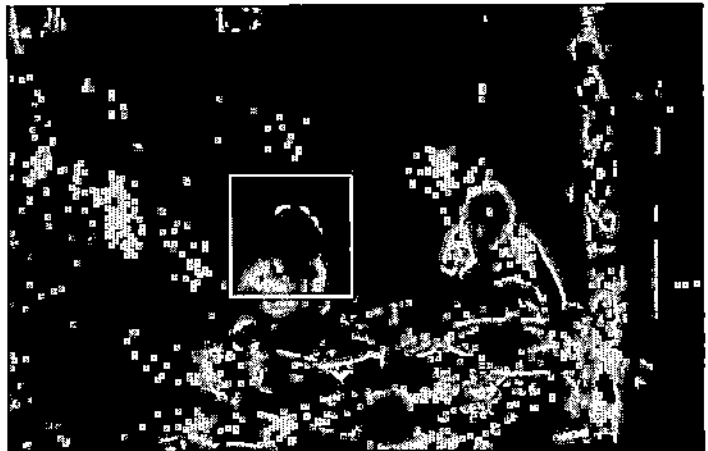
### Case – 18

Name – Alimuddin Sekh

Age – 12 Years

Village – Sarmastapur

“I am still studying....my  
school teachers help me....”



Alimuddin Shekh, son of Hanif Shekh came to this profession because it is their family occupation and due to poor financial condition in the family. Hanif and his wife both works as beedi roller in their house. But their earning is not at all sufficient to meet the expenses of a family. So, Alimuddin joined this profession to provide some support to his parents though he is only 12 years old. Both of Alimuddin's parents are illiterate and his mother has been suffering from chronic chest pain. Doctor suggested her not to engage in beedi rolling activity but poor financial condition forced her to continue her work like her children. As in that locality beedi rolling is a common phenomenon to be noticed in almost cent percent dwellings, children of their families easily came to the profession due to daily earning in cash. Alimuddin has one brother and one sister and both are engaged in the same profession of beedi rolling. They earn Rs. 1200 per month and which insufficient for their family. They have no agricultural land, so they have not any other alternatives source of earning livelihoods. Alimuddin can not go to school regularly after joining this profession 3 years back. He does not get any encouragement from his family to continue studies rather than work hard at home. Education is not at all any primary requirement for them but they want to earn more so that they can have food for them and ensure their existence. They think education is not for the poor working people.



Case – 19

Name – Ranu Khatun

Age – 13 Years

Village – Talibpur

“Education of girls is not at all a matter of importance in our community....”



Ranu is a 13 yrs old girl child associate with beedi rolling activity for the last 4 yrs. Her parents are also attached to beedi rolling. Her father, Shyam Sekh is suffering from heart problem and mother has eye problem so they can not work hard as a result of which earning is insufficient and consequently pressure comes on Ranu. In such a situation, Ranu had no other choice than to help her father to enhance the earning of the family by engaging herself in beedi rolling activity. This is their only source of income to maintain their 3 members' family. Another important reason of Ranu's introduction in this profession is conservative Muslim society in the area. Society does not permit girls to go outside of home for work. So beedi rolling is the better option to her to work at home and earn livelihoods. Ranu's name is enrolled in class VI in their village school but more than last 6 months she is absent from school. To her parents, education is nothing but a sort of luxury and it has no importance to them. Ranu is suffering from chronic cervical pain due to continuous work. But they can not even think of Ranu's treatment due to their financial crisis. Moreover Ranu's parents have been bearing the expense of their own treatment. But it is necessary to take care on the Ranu's problem; otherwise it will turn into more complicated in the future.

Case – 20

Name – Wasim Akram

Age – 17 Years

Village – Talibpur



“I help my parents whenever  
I get time....”

Wasim is a student of class X, he goes to school regularly and continues his studies at home. Through her father is an illiterate person he gives importance to education .His mother studied up to class VIII and she wants her son to go forward. However he came to this profession voluntarily to help his parents and works at home during his free time and also wants to take beedi rolling activity as his future profession. They have no agricultural land and his father, Dulal Sekh has his own business of beedi making. They earn Rs.1800-Rs.2000 per month and maintained their 5 members' family. Wasim earns no an average Rs.15 per day. Wasim has one brother, reads in class-V and one sister, reads in class-II. They have water facility and sanitary arrangement at home. Wasim has a problem of hysteria and sometimes get unconscious. He is going through treatment for that. It is quite noticeable that Wasim's family lives better life in the area, probably because of their importance to education and wider outlook. But still Wasim wants to take beedi making as his profession. His parents do not think of any other profession due to his illness. He can do his work in his own home in supervision of others in this profession and can continue his father's business.



## Chapter – IV: Major Findings

The findings of the present study are drawn out of the subjective analysis of the collected data. The findings have been arranged in order of responses received from the child workers of Bharatpur - II CD Block.

- Majority of the child beedi rolling worker belong to the age group of 12 – 15 years. During the study, child beedi roller has been found from 4 years (minimum) to maximum of 18 years age. About 83% of the sample population is girl child. This implies the presence of girl children in the trade of beedi rolling is much more than that of boys.
- Since the study was carried out in a predominantly Muslim populated area, about 98% of the sample population is Muslims and a very meager presence of Hindu is there.
- Majority of the respondents belong to the above poverty line households (59%), though 38% households belong to below poverty line very marginally. Significantly 3% respondents have found in such households where no such financial crunch exists.
- Majority of the respondents (38%) have completed their primary level education. The next higher percentage (32%) was found among those who completed their education upto eighth standard. It was significant to observe that a meager percentage (4%) of respondents continued their education after eighth standard.
- Majority of the parents (60%) of the respondents have been found illiterate. Only 22% of them have been found literate. The rest of the parents have achieved very little educational qualification and none of them went passed the secondary level.
- Majority of the households (78%) are comprised of 4 to 7 members. 13% households of the respondents have ten or more members.
- Majority of the households (78%) are landless. About 11% households have less than 1 bigha of land in their possession. Majority of the households in both landless and land holding category are comprised of 4 to 7 members.

- Majority of the (head of the households) fathers (49%) of the respondents have taken beedi rolling as primary occupation. The next higher percentage (23%) is the households where fathers are daily labours.
- Majority of the respondents (60%) said that they came into beedi rolling occupation because of financial crisis in the family. The next higher 33% respondents said that they are in this occupation because it is home based activity and it is also done by the family members.
- Majority of the respondents (51%) said that their association with this occupation is between 1 to 3 years. The next higher percentage (24%) said that they are attached to beedi rolling for about 3 to 5 years. Majority among these respondents are between 9 to 15 years old.
- Majority of the respondents (51%) earns between Rs.201 to 500 every month followed by the next higher 37% respondents who earns less than Rs.200 a month.
- Majority of the respondents (45%) works between 4 to 6 hours every day where majority of them earns between Rs.201 to 500 per month. The next higher 28% respondents works between 8 to 10 hours a day and again majority of them earns between Rs.201 to 500 per month.
- It has been found that the working hours of the child increased with age. This has been observed among all the age groups of the respondents.
- It has been found that involvement of the entire family along with the respondent is in maximum cases (50%) followed by 31% cases where only female members are involved with beedi rolling along with the child.
- Majority of the respondents (88%) said that bonded labour system does not exist in their communities but 10% respondents said that bonded labour system does exist in their communities.
- An absolute majority (92%) of the respondents rated that the occupation of beedi rolling as a job with “moderate risk”. As meager as 7% of the respondents rated beedi rolling as a “high risk” activity.
- Among the types of risks involved with beedi rolling, the respondents rated physical, mental, financial and exploitative risks almost in equal percentage. It

could therefore be ascertained that all these risks are very much involved with beedi rolling occupation.

- Majority of the respondents (49%) said that they are suffering from of shoulder and spinal chord pain due to prolong working duration in sitting head-down position while rolling beedi. Respiration problem and problem of lower back pain has been found to be among the physical risks, which occupied the next higher percentage.
- Among the mental hazards, the respondents rated the pressure of target fulfillment, lack of occupational security and family pressure with equal percentage. This implies that all these mental risks are very much involved with beedi rolling occupation.
- Among the financial risks attached to this occupation, no income in case of sickness (37%), wages curtail in case of less production (28%) and non-availability of any other financial security (27%) is the factors, which have been highlighted by the respondents. High interest in case of loan consumption from the employer and delayed payment of wages are among the other financial risks suffered by the respondents.
- Among the exploitative risks attached with beedi rolling, use of abusive language by employers (43%), physical punishment by family members (28%) and force to work overtime (29%) are the risks rated highly by the respondents.
- Majority of the respondents (32%) said that their health problems needs urgent intervention by external agencies where 30% respondents said that financial problem should be given utmost priority for intervention.
- Majority of the respondents (54%) are school going but the case studies revealed that most of them are not very regular. A high percentage of (45%) respondents have stopped going school. This implies that beedi rolling had a big impact on the education of the working children.
- Majority of the respondents (45%), who have stopped going school said that their families couldn't afford education. The next higher percentage (44%) said they had to quit school because of work pressure.

354

- Majority of the respondents (96%) were enrolled in the Government primary or secondary schools. A meager percentage was enrolled in child education centres and private schools respectively.
- Majority of the respondents (69%) said that their schools did not provide Tiffin during the school hours.
- An absolute majority (99%) said that their schools did not provide any stipend to the poor students.
- Majority of the respondents (94%) said that their schools did not provide iron tablets or any types of medicine to the students.
- An absolute majority (96%) said that their schools did not organize any health check-up programmes for the students.
- Majority of the respondents (86%) perceived that their association with beedi rolling occupation has created a blockage between them and education.
- Majority of the respondents (64%) said that they do not get any leisure time out of beedi rolling. 31% respondents said that they do get very little time for leisure.
- Majority of the respondents (35%) perceived that education is necessary for earning livelihood followed by 24% respondents who opined that education is essential in every sphere of life.
- Majority of the respondents (52%) opined that Anganwadi centres provide the most effective health care facilities to the respondents. The next higher percentage (45%) said that Government health centre provide health facilities of the community.
- Majority of the respondents (73%) have rated the health facility accessed by them as 'average' followed by the next higher 25% respondents who rated the same as 'bad'.
- Majority of the respondents (64%) depends on the quacks (untrained medical practitioner) of their respective areas as immediate resource for medical treatment. The next higher 35% respondents opined that they depend on the Doctors of local primary health centres for immediate treatment.

- As many as 83% respondents rated their general health condition as “average” followed by the next higher 6% whose health condition has been regarded as “bad” by the respondents.
- Majority of the respondents (49%) have been suffering from joint pain as major occupational health hazard. The next higher percentage (23%) said that they have been suffering from stomach problem.
- As many as 96% respondents said that they do not have any health card issued by the Government health institutions.
- Majority of the respondents (99%) said that they are not smokers but during the process of interaction with several informal sources, it was explored that majority of the child beedi rollers in the age group of 15 to 18 years are regular smokers. This is mainly because of the availability of tobacco to them in abundance. It is therefore understandable that the respondents while responding to this question have suppressed the actual fact.
- Majority of the respondents (70%) said that they do not smoke because of it is injurious to health.
- As many as 90% respondents do not have a latrine in their households. Majority of them said they couldn't afford this due to their financial condition.
- Majority of the respondents (83%) use the Panchayat pipeline water as the major source of drinking water. The next higher percentage (17%) use the tube-well installed by the panchayat for consumption of drinking water.
- Majority of the respondents (53%) are not aware of the ill effects of beedi rolling.
- Almost cent percent respondents perceived that there is no other income generation avenue present in the study area.
- No vocational training has been provided by either Government or Non-Governmental Organizations to any of the respondents.
- The respondents do not have any idea whatsoever about existing legislation for child labour prohibition.
- No initiative has been taken by the Government to introduce any programme for development of the disadvantaged beedi rolling workers as yet.

- The respondents do not have any idea about development projects or the benefit it could have delivered to them.
- The respondents opined that no voluntary organization has taken any initiative for their development.
- Almost all the respondents perceived that the Government or Non-Government Organisations should take initiative for their economic upliftment and social security.
- Majority of the respondents (82%) opined that children of their age should not be involved with beedi rolling occupation. This reveals that the respondents have a sense of awareness for their betterment to a certain extent. 18% of the respondents disagreed with this opinion.
- Home based work (34%), income generation at younger age (24%), Scope for daily earning (21%) and become self-sufficient (18%) are the main causes that 18% responded that children should involved in this occupation.
- Those who responded that children should not be involved in this occupation because of high amount of occupational hazard.

#### **Problems for working with beedi rolling child labour**

- Beedi Rolling Child Labours are difficult to protect since majority of them remain in the confines of their homes in most of the cases. Protecting them at the workplace is even more difficult because of the monitoring by the employers.
- The civil society, government and legislation alike do not recognize Beedi Rolling Child Labours as “workers”.
- Cultural acceptability attributed to household based work. Very often parents believe that it promises better prospects for their children.
- From the analysis of stakeholders’ orientation about the problem of beedi rolling child labour, it has been found that majority (52%) has opined that children in this industry are working long hours for low wage and consequently it is damaging their physical and mental development.





- Majority of the stakeholders (47%) have said that children are becoming beedi rolling workers because of acute poverty and lack of education among parents and their socialization. The next higher 21% stakeholder identified non-availability of other income generation opportunity in the study area as the main reason behind the child labour problem.
- Majority of the stakeholders (73%) know about the child labour prohibition and regulation act of 1986.
- Majority of the stakeholders (73%), who has knowledge about Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, opined that the act is enforced properly by the Government.
- Majority (60%) of the stakeholders does not have any knowledge about any kind of committee or body or task force formed or assigned to monitor the law enforcement.
- All the stakeholders agreed that the children involved with beedi rolling suffers from occupational health hazard.
- Majority of the stakeholders (60%) opined that there are no specific health facilities for the children in beedi rolling occupation.
- Majority of the stakeholders opined that there is rehabilitation programme for the beedi rolling children. But during data collection, almost all the respondents (child labours) disagreed to it. Some secondary sources revealed that rehabilitation programme under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is being implemented in some other blocks of the district. This reveals the amount of information gap between the stakeholder and actual reality.
- Majority of the stakeholders (80%) agreed that the present socio-political situation is primarily responsible for huge increase in the number of the child labour.
- Majority of the stakeholders (60%) agreed that the middleman / broker in beedi industry does play an important role and they are also responsible for exploiting the workers to the maximum extent.
- Majority of the stakeholders (53%) did not have any knowledge about National Child Labour Project (NCLP) under the Ministry of Labour, Government of India.

- Majority among the stakeholders (73%) who have knowledge about NCLP did not have any idea about the status of its implementation in the study area as well as the entire block.
- Majority of the stakeholder (87%) agreed that the minimum financial assistance is not given to the below poverty line households.
- Majority of the stakeholders (60%) opined that there is no other income generation opportunities are there in the study area to reduce the number of child labour in beedi rolling industry.

### **Immediate Causes for Engagement of Beedi Rolling Child Labours by their Parents**

#### **/ Agents / Relatives:**

- Ignorance on Child Rights
- Poor attitude of the civil society
- Low risk and easy availability of children in large number
- Consistent demand for cheap labour in large number
- Illiterate or very little educated parents and large families and inability to earn average livelihood

#### **Root Causes for Engagement of Beedi Rolling Child Labour by their Parents / Agents / Relatives:**

- Sustained poverty in agriculture based economy in the study area
- Non-availability of agricultural land to majority of the workers' households
- Improper implementation of poverty alleviation programmes by Government machineries
- Unorganized labour force in large number
- Lack of educational opportunities for the affected households
- Poor quality of educational standard as well as educational infrastructure
- Globalization, social inequality and structural maladjustment

- Parental attitude towards education of children; girl child in particular
- Parental debt; exploitation by the private money lender prevailing in the study area since decades
- Absence of proper legislation to protect the children from such hazardous occupation
- Absence of political wisdom to address this problem as an 'issue'.

In the present scenario, the following Constitutional safeguards are there for protection of Children:

- Article 15
- Article 39(f)
- Article 45 of the Directive Principles of State Policy
- Article 39(e) of the Directive Principles of State Policy
- Article 23

The National Child Labour Policy, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and National Child Labour Project should be reviewed in order to bring justice to the child. The existing National Child Labour Policy has the various provisions to give justice to the child labourers. But most of the cases registered child labourers are getting benefit from it. But there are lot of unregistered child labourers in the country who are not getting justice and being exploited like beedi rolling child workers of the present study. So from the study it is very clear that some modification is necessary in the existing National Child Labour Policy as well as legislations to bring these unregistered child labourers under the umbrella of the policy.

Payment of very low wage is one dimension, which, according to this study had a big impact over the households of the respondents. If proper wage would have paid to the parents, then engagement of children by the parents could have been avoided.

## Chapter – V: Conclusion & Suggestions

High amount of exploitation, insecure future and massive occupational hazards are some the salient features of what the children in beedi rolling profession are suffering in Bharatpur – II Block. This study has already unfolded the situational background of the reference group of the present study as well as the influencing factors which has compelled them to participate in beedi rolling occupation generation after generation. The occupation may have helped thousands of households to survive somehow but the economic condition and standard of living has never improved. This has caused mainly because of wage discrimination between adults and children, illiteracy, non-availability of agricultural land and large family size. Children are exploited to the maximum extent because they are available in large numbers for this purpose. The practice of employment and exploitation of children in beedi rolling occupation is a common phenomenon in Murshidabad district which urgently demand for intervention on the part of the state as well as the NGO sector. Children are denied to their rights of survival, protection, development and participation in every sphere of life in the study area.

The findings of the present study attest to the fact that the lives of thousands of children in the entire region is at stake. Specific measures need to be adopted in order to give livelihood support to the parents of each household so that the children could be mainstreamed to education, standard health facilities and restoration of normal childhood pleasures.

In the previous chapters, the problem of beedi rolling child labours have been analyzed from different dimensions to project the amount of injustice being done with the children. Considering the analysis and the findings of the present study, a multi-dimensional approach needs to be designed for effective intervention and proper addressing to the problem of beedi rolling child labour. The strategy may consist of the following points:-

361

- a) Direct household level intervention with the families of the beedi rolling children for counseling and motivating the parents
- b) Constant review and research on the results and impacts of direct intervention
- c) Influencing existing policies on child labour along with strong public advocacy
- d) Curative and rehabilitative approach targeting the households of the beedi rolling children.
- e) Preventive and promotional approach comprising of alternative income generation avenues for the parents

(a) Direct household level intervention:

- Bridge course education for potential beedi rolling child labour for their re-enrollment to the schools
- Afternoon recreation (play sessions) with the children
- Massive awareness and sensitization programmes in the communities through posters, meetings, rallies etc.
- Sensitization and capacity building of the school teachers so as to enable them to orient the students in the schools
- Vocational training for children for opening up future employment opportunities.
- Motivating the mothers for formation of self-help group and undertake income generation programme after careful assessment of their resource position and skill orientation.

(b) Constant Review and Research:

- Conducting Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) meetings in the study area including every village
- Intensive survey of the households of child labours for pinpointing of the variables which influence the children to be a potential beedi rolling worker.

- Research and collection of facts and figures on the issue of child labour with emphasis on beedi rolling occupation at state and national level
- Review of existing policies and legislation for necessary modification and amendments
- Information Education Communication (IEC) workshop at the community level with the legal instruments

(c) Policy influencing and public advocacy

- Networking at the local level with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), block level as well as district level administration.
- Networking with community based organizations (CBOs), local bodies, judiciaries and law enforcement agencies
- Formation of neighbour hood groups against employment of child labour in beedi rolling occupation
- State and national level interactions with different major stakeholder and actors

(d) Curative and rehabilitative approach targeting the households of the beedi rolling children.

- Re-enrollment of the drop outs to the schools
- Formation of parents groups towards co-operative formation of beedi rolling workers
- Motivating and mobilizing the agent / brokers and employers for payment of proper and minimum wages to the parents.
- Mobilizing the employers for introduction of social security measures including provident fund account.
- Greater stress is on increasing the children's access to good quality relevant education
- Efforts to ensure participation of children and their families in the implementation, monitoring and evaluative phase of the initiative.

- (e) Preventive and promotional approach comprising of alternative income generation avenues for the parents
- Changes in policies and practice affecting children & young people
  - Changes in equity & non discrimination of children & young people
  - Changes in children & young people's Participation & active citizenship
  - Change in civil society & communities Capacity to support children's rights
  - Mobilizing credit institutions for financial support to the head of the households after assessment of the resource position and skill orientation.
  - Development of constant joint monitoring mechanism comprising of Government agencies, PRI representatives and community leaders for follow-up of the process.



SCH. No.

Village:

## Interview Schedule

Socio-economic condition of Beedi making Children in Bharatpur -II CD Block of Murshidabad District						
Name:		Father's/ Mother's Name:		Place/ Village Name:		
General Information						
Sl. No.	Parameter(s)	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sex	Male	Female			
2.	Age	>6 yrs	6 - 9 yrs	<9 - 12 yrs	<12 - 15 yrs	<15 yrs
3.	Religion	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Others	
4.	Caste	General	SC	ST	OBC	
5.	Socio-economic condition of the family	APL	BPL	Affluent		
6.	Educational Status (Child)	Illiterate	Class I - IV	Class V - VIII	Class IX - X	Class XI onwards
7.	Educational Status (Parents)	Illiterate	Class I - IV	Class V - VIII	Class IX - X	
8.	Family Type	Nuclear	Joint			
9.	Family Size	1 - 3	4 - 7	8 - 10	<10	
10.	Land holding status	Land less	Within 1 bigha	<1-2 bighas	<2-3 bighas	<3 bighas
11.	Father's Occupation	Agriculture	Business	Daily labour	Rajmistri	Beedi rolling

**Socio-economic Reasons**

Sl. No.	Parameter(s)	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Reasons for coming in this profession	It is a family occupation	Lack of opportunity in other occupations	Decision was influenced by peers	Financial crunch in the family	Home based enterprise
2.	Period of association in this profession	Less than 1 year	1 to 3 years	More than 3 to 5 years	More than 5 years	
3.	Monthly income	>Rs.200	Rs.201 to 500	Rs.501 to 1000	Rs.1001 - Rs.1500	<Rs.1500
4.	Duration of work	Up to 4 hours	Above 4 to 6 hours	Above 6 to 8 hours	Above 8 to 10 hours	More than 10 hours
5.	Family members associated in this Profession	None	Everyone	Only Children	Only female members	Only aged members
6.	Existence of bonded labour system	No	Yes	Yes but very nominal	Yes and too many	
7.	Amount of risk involved	High risk job	Moderate risk job	Low risk job	No risk job	
8.	Types of risk involved	Physical risks	Mental risks	Financial risks	Exploitative risks	
9.	Types of physical hazards involved	Permanent problem of lower back	Permanent problem of shoulder and spine	Respiration problem	TB	Permanent eye problem
10.	Types of mental hazards involved	Fulfillment of increased daily targeted production	Lack of occupational security	Family pressure		

56

11.	Financial risks involved	Wage curtail in case of less production	No income in case of sickness or other reasons	No other financial security except daily/monthly wage	Payment of high interest in case of loan consumption	Wages not paid timely
12.	Types of exploitative risks involved	Physical exploitation	Use of slang language by the employer	Forced to work overtime	Sexual abuse	
13.	Problems which needs immediate intervention	Educational problem	Health problem	Financial problem	All the problems	
<b>Education</b>						
1.	Respondents' School Going Status	No	Yes	Sometimes		
2.	Reasons for Not Going School	Do not like the teaching pattern of the school	Family and work pressure	The school is at long distance from home	Poor financial condition	Others
3.	Types of School the Respondents are Studying	Government School	Private School	Child Education Centre	NCLP	
4.	Facilities available from school					
a.	Availability of Tiffin	Yes	No	Sometimes		
b.	Availability of Stipend	Yes	No			
c.	Availability of Iron Tablet	Yes	No	Sometimes		
d.	Availability of Health Check-up Facility	Yes	No	Sometimes		

257

5.	Profession create any blockage in education	No	Yes	Yes, very much	
6.	Get time for leisure	yes	no	sometimes	
7.	Knowledge about the merits of education	Mental development	Improvement in general knowledge	Scope for earning	Required in every sphere of life
					Do not have any knowledge
<b>Health</b>					
1.	Health care facilities in your area	Government health centre	Anganwari centre	Health programmes organised by voluntary organization	No facility
2.	Status of the health care facilities	Very good	Good	Average	Bad
3.	Major dependence on what type of health facility	Quacks	Medicinal plants available in the village	Government hospitals	Nearby medicine shop
4.	Status of your basic health	Very good	Good	Average	Bad
5.	Types of health problems you have	Skin disease	Eye problem	Chest pain and others	Stomach problem
6.	Have any health card	Yes	No		Joint pain
7.	Do you smoke	Yes	No		
8.	Reasons for no smoking	Injurious to health	Do not like	Objection of the family	Others
9.	Latrine facility available at your home	Yes	No		

318

10.	Sources of drinking water	Tube-Well	Corporate/municipality water	Pond	Well
<b>Awareness</b>					
1.	Knowledge about the ill effects of biri-rolling	Yes	No		
2.	Is there any scope for an alternative occupation other than this	Yes	No		
3.	Did you receive vocational training from any govt. or non govt. orgn.	Yes	No		
4.	Do you know about the national child labour act	Yes	No		
5.	Have the govt. sanctioned any (financial) project	Yes	No		
6.	Do you have any idea about this type of projects	Yes	No		
7.	Role of voluntary organizations for socio - economic development	Yes	No		
8.	Perception of the children towards the initiative of govt/non govt sector	Yes	No		
9.	Opinion of the children regarding their involvement in this work	Yes	No		
10.	If yes, then why?	Home based work	Income generation at a younger age	Scope for daily earning	Self dependent Others
11.	If no, then why?	Unhygienic and unhealthy condition	Lack of social security	Impediment for getting education	Occupational Hazard Others

Signature of the Investigator

569

Perceptions of the Government and Non Government Functionaries on  
Beedi Making Child Labour Issue

Interview Schedule

1. Name of the person contacted:
2. Designation:
3. Office Address:

Some Basic Information on Child Labour Issues:

1. How many child labour involved in beedi making activities in Bharatpur – II Block (as per Block Record or Approximate Figure)

Male:
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Female:
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2. Your perception on child labour and the probable causes for joining in beedi making activities–

Perception on Child Labour:

- (a) Children prematurely leading adult lives
- (b) Working long hours for low wages
- (c) Working conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development
- (d) Frequently deprived of meaningful education and vocational training opportunities
- (e) It is a cause of direct and indirect family conflict
- (f) Work within or outside the family
- (g) Long time and energy commitment which affect children's ability to participate in leisure
- (h) Other any if you think please add –
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii.
  - iv.
  - v.

Causes for becoming a child labour:

- a. Lack of Education and socialization among the parents.
- b. High rate of poverty
- c. Uncertain disasters
- d. Lack of alternative income generation opportunities
- e. It is a large and easy home based activity
- f. Other if any –

62

**Perceptions of the Government and Non Government Functionaries on  
Beedi Making Child Labour Issue**

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.

3. Do you know about 'Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986?  
if yes, is it enacted in this block? Yes / No  
Yes / No
4. if yes, how you able to implement the act provisions , among whom and which age group members?
5. Is there any committee/ body/ task force formed or assigned to monitor the law enforcement?  
Yes / No
6. Do you think that beedi making itself a health hazardous work mainly for the children?  
Yes / No
7. if yes, what provisions have been taken by your office to remove the children from that workplace or what type of health facilities available for those working children?
8. Can you consider beedi making and processing itself a high health risk activity in terms of physical and mental? Yes / No
9. In your perception what should be the main priority area(s) to reduce the number of child labour from their work place?  
a. Education  
b. Health  
c. Economic condition  
d. All
10. Is there any complete rehabilitation programme for the beedi making child laboureres in terms of survival (e.g. health), development (e.g. education) and protection (e.g. legal support)?  
Yes / No

(371)

**Perceptions of the Government and Non Government Functionaries on  
Beedi Making Child Labour Issue**

11. Do you think existing social and political conditions are the main responsible factors to increase the rate of child labour in your area? Yes / No
12. Do know about 'National Child Labour Project (NCLP)' supported by Ministry of Labour, Government of India? Yes / No
13. If yes, is there NCLP initiated or to be initiated in this block? Yes / No
14. Is there any minimum financial assistance / package available for the child labourers? Yes / No
15. If yes, than what is the selection process of the child labour or duration (Monthly / Half Yearly / Yearly) of financial assistance?
16. Do you concern about the social security measures of the child labourers in terms of provident fund, micro credit facility from bank, life insurance, etc.? Yes / No
17. Do you think some alternative income generation opportunities including vocational training / entrepreneurship development programme can reduce the number of child laboureres in your area? Yes / No
18. If yes, any such initiatives have / have to be taken for them? Yes / No
19. Do you think that parents and employers can easily stop this child labour practice? Yes / No
20. As per National Child Labour Policy, Government of India, what should be the suggestive measures from your point of view to reduce the number of child labour?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.

Date:

Signature of the Research Investigator



# **Executive Summary**

**Project Title: "CURRENT TRENDS IN CHILD LABOUR" - A STUDY OF BEEDI  
INDUSTRY IN BHARATPUR - II BLOCK, MURSHIDABAD  
DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL.**



**Submitted By: SURUL CENTRE FOR SERVICES IN RURAL AREA (CSRA)  
BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL**

**Submitted To: NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
NEW DELHI**

## **The Problem:**

The term, child labour, has been defined differently by different organizations, agencies and countries and many a time the terms "child labour" and child work" have been used interchangeably. This has often led to a lot of confusion and a failure to focus and mobilize significant attention on the real priorities within the field. Child labour, distinguished from child work, is that which "impairs the health and development of children". Francis Blachard, the former Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), has defined child labour as that which includes "children prematurely leading adult lives, working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities that could open up for them a better future".

India, the largest democracy in the world also has the highest child labour population in the world. These are children, between 6-14 years, belonging to the most deprived sections of the society and are engaged in labour—when actually, they should be studying and playing. Majority of them are girls. In the recent Supreme Court judgment on abolishing child labour it was observed, "none of the official estimates include child labour in the unorganized sector, and therefore, are obviously gross under-estimates. Estimate from various non-governmental sources as to the actual number of working children range from 44 million to 100 million."

Child Labor is increasingly becoming an important issue of concern for the world community, with over 250 million children working around the world (Collingsworth p.1). India is one of the worlds' leading countries in terms of employing children with an estimated number between 60 and 115 million children working. Most of these children work in the agricultural sector, leaving about 15 percent of these children in the service and small-scale industries (Human Rights Watch p.15).

According to government estimates, beedi rolling employs nearly 4.45 million people, of whom 65% are women and 15 to 25% are children. Women often face discrimination and are paid less than men. Children are even worse off with no wage structure and usually get paid the least. Most families working in the beedi industry live below the poverty line. While the children work at home, usually more girls stay home to roll beedi than boys, who are more likely to attend school. The principal employers work through contractors, who each employ workers in a village or cluster of villages. According to the Government of India, as of April 1999, there were an estimated 43,99,644 beedi workers out of which only 35,85,018 had ID cards. The lack of ID cards exposes workers to exploitation. About 10% of the beedi rolled by workers are arbitrarily taken away as 'standard deduction' by the contractor to replace defective beedi, regardless of the numbers of beedi actually rejected. Thus the workers lose an average of 20 - 25% of their daily wages. Contractors remove or change names of beedi workers from their registers every two months, depriving workers of their legally stipulated benefits. Neither women nor children are mentioned in the employees' registers, but are considered 'helping hands' to a male worker who is registered. Only small numbers of workers have

formed cooperatives, avoiding the contractor system. Even in the co-operatives, when a roller without an ID card dies, the next of kin or dependants are denied any compensation. Being unorganized, women and children cannot fight back to protect their rights. They are reluctant to openly join any movement, fearing reprisal from the contractors and loss of their jobs. Employers tend to shift the industry to other places in order to pay lower wages.

Children who are working as wage labourers belong to beedi making categories are typically paid wages much lower than the wage rates for adult workers and thus provide a cheap alternative form of labour power. This is typical of the early stages of industrialization where the dependence is primarily on cheap labour power rather than on relatively expensive capital and machinery. Unregistered and undercapitalized productive enterprises often operate in a competitive and highly volatile market where they have to compete with much larger and more productive production units. Such units prefer to employ children not only so that they can be paid lower wages than adults but also because children are also better suited to fluctuating labour demand. Child labour has been more or less excluded from the highly organised and capital-intensive formal sector. These are characterized by large enterprises using mechanized technologies that often subcontract part of their production output to the labour intensive unorganised sector where child labour is prevalent. These labour intensive industries employ child labour as a cost minimizing strategy keeping in view the variability in the volume of demand for their products. The recent trends in the Indian economy towards greater liberalization, privatization and globalization are having certain identifiable effects as far as the labour markets are concerned. These may be characterized as short-term responses as compared to medium and long-term adjustments. The short-term responses of the labour market represent the immediate reaction of the different units of production to the increased competitive environment to which they are exposed. The medium and long-term adjustments, on the other hand, may take place with relation to new production units, which enter, in the market due to liberalization of the economic policies as well as the longer term increases in productivity as a result of investments in social infrastructure and capital and human resource development. There may be not only a variation in overall growth or shrinkage in employment prospects in different sectors of the economy but also variations between different levels of enterprises as well as social groups participating in the production process.

Beedi workers of forty years ago said that their livelihood had been adequate, whereas of today's beedi rollers have a precarious and subsistence livelihood. Major problems faced by the beedi workers were –

- ☐ Perpetual poverty;
- ☐ Very low wages;
- ☐ No wage bargaining system;
- ☐ No access to entitlements;
- ☐ No benefits and gratuity;
- ☐ Delayed payments;
- ☐ Illiteracy;

- ☐ Hidden child labour;
- ☐ Constant exposure to tobacco dust;
- ☐ Postural pains;
- ☐ Indurations of the hands.

With this backdrop, the present study was under taken in order to analyze the situation from researcher's point of view as well as to develop a comprehensive plan of action and work out some intervention strategies based on the findings of the study.

### **Objectives of the Study:**

The study has been carried out with the following objectives:-

- ☐ To highlight the living and working conditions of beedi workers in general and child workers in particular;
- ☐ To unveil the social and economic realities that forces the children to start beedi rolling at an early age;
- ☐ To understand the current trends in child labour in beedi industry and to find a proper explanation as to why child labour in beedi industry is growing, while it is showing, a clear cut decline at national level as a general trend; and
- ☐ To enumerate Go - NGO level intervention towards protection of rights and rehabilitation programs for the beedi making child labour.

### **Research Methodology**

The methodology used or the present study is as follows:-

#### **(a) The Research Design**

In this study, exploratory research design has been followed because the main purpose of such design was to formulate a problem for more precise investigation or to develop some working strategies from an operational point of view. The major emphasis was to explore ideas and insights. This research design is therefore flexible enough to provide opportunity for considering different aspect of the child labour problem under study.

#### **(b) Universe**

The study has been conducted in ten villages within the geographical area of Bharatpur-II CD Block of the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal. The rational behind adopting this block was that among all the blocks in the district, this block produces highest amount of beedi and understandably large number of child

worker are involved which really was expected to give much deeper insight about the problem we are dealing with.

(c) Selection of samples, sampling method and sample size

The study was carried out in ten villages under Talibpur Gram Panchayat of Bharatpur – II Block. The study area was chosen as because the research team had substantial amount of knowledge about the area and moreover the problem was acutely persisting in the selected area.

The method of purposive sample was followed to select the samples in the selected village of Bharatpur-II Community Development Block. The collection of sample was done after obtaining secondary level information regarding existence of beedi rolling child labour in the selected villages. The villages were therefore selected primarily. The respondents were selected after getting necessary information about them from Block Office, websites of different voluntary organizations, Census of India. The beedi rolling workers were selected purposively and interviewed accordingly to their availability at their houses or workplace. The time and venue for face-to-face interview was selected by the respondents. Samples were selected from the villages under Talibpur Gram Panchayat area. The respondents were selected randomly from the villages prior to their availability for interviewing.

Types of samples and sample size

Two types of respondents have been included in the study. Firstly the beedi rolling children, who are the reference group in the present study and secondly the stakeholders i.e. local school teachers, Panchayat functionaries, government administrators (block and sub-division level), police personnel etc. whose orientation and perception about the present study was very important.

Total 420 (four hundred twenty) child beedi rolling workers were selected from ten villages using proportional allocation method considering the number of households in the study villages. Fifteen stakeholders were purposively selected for the purpose of this study. Twenty respondents were selected for detail case study where special features have been found in the concerned child.

(d) Tools of data collection

Semi-structured interview schedule was developed as major tool for data collection for this survey. Close-ended questions were used in maximum possible number for convenient of coding the responses and presentation of the collected data through tables and graphs. Open-ended questions were also used in the schedule in order to facilitate exploration of the root-causes of the problem area. Inferences were drawn from the subjective analysis of the facts and figures on the basis of frequency distribution method using univariate and bi-variate tables. Case

study of selected respondents has also been used as a tool with the objective to study the in-depth problem of beedi rolling child labour.

(e) Data processing and analysis

Data was collected through interview schedule and then it was coded on the code sheet and transferred into the codebook developed for this study. Data was processed with the help of computer using SPSS software. Various tabular and graphical representations were used towards meaningful interpretation of the facts and figures. Both univariate and bi-variate tables and graphs have been drawn for comparative analysis of the gathered data. No statistical tests have been employed for the purpose of this study.

(f) Methodological Gains

Since this study has been analyzed with simple frequency distribution and percentage, and no such standardized tools for data collection have been prepared and utilized for the study. A very comprehensive pilot study has been done to gather an in depth knowledge about the issue of child labour in the study area and data have been collected with semi-structured interview schedule. It has been taken care that no stone remains unturned. The issue of child labour in the study area has been analyzed in different dimensions like analysis of the reference group, stakeholders' orientation and selected case studies. So these approaches to the issue of child labour will be helpful for other study in the future related to child labour problems.

(g) Limitation of the Study

The study has been conducted in a particular block of Murshidabad district. Therefore there could be difference in the child labour situation in other blocks of the district, which could not be covered due fund and time constraint. The stakeholders suppressed facts and figures about the seriousness of the child labor problem in the area. In majority of the cases the respondents were not allowed to give interview in absence of either their parents or relatives. This caused certain suppression of facts on the part of the situation of the respondents.

**Major Findings:**

Some of the important findings have been accommodated here to project the intensity of the problem in the study area from different dimensions.

- Majority of the child beedi rolling worker belong to the age group of 12 – 15 years. During the study, child beedi roller has been found from 4 years (minimum) to maximum of 18 years age. About 83% of the sample population is

girl child. This implies the presence of girl children in the trade of beedi rolling is much more than that of boys.

- Majority of the respondents belong to the above poverty line households (59%), though 38% households belong to below poverty line very marginally.
- Majority of the respondents (38%) have completed their primary level education. The next higher percentage (32%) was found among those who completed their education upto eighth standard.
- Majority of the parents (60%) of the respondents have been found illiterate. Only 22% of them have been found literate. The rest of the parents have achieved very little educational qualification and none of them went passed the secondary level.
- Majority of the households (78%) are comprised of 4 to 7 members. 13% households of the respondents have ten or more members.
- Majority of the households (78%) are landless. About 11% households have less than 1 bigha of land in their possession. Majority of the households in both landless and land holding category are comprised of 4 to 7 members.
- Majority of the (head of the households) fathers (49%) of the respondents have taken beedi rolling as primary occupation. The next higher percentage (23%) is the households where fathers are daily labours.
- Majority of the respondents (60%) said that they came into beedi rolling occupation because of financial crisis in the family. The next higher 33% respondents said that they are in this occupation because it is home based activity and it is also done by the family members.
- Majority of the respondents (51%) said that their association with this occupation is between 1 to 3 years. The next higher percentage (24%) said that they are attached to beedi rolling for about 3 to 5 years. Majority among these respondents are between 9 to 15 years old.
- Majority of the respondents (51%) earns between Rs.201 to 500 every month followed by the next higher 37% respondents who earns less than Rs.200 a month.
- Majority of the respondents (45%) works between 4 to 6 hours every day where majority of them earns between Rs.201 to 500 per month. The next higher 28% respondents works between 8 to 10 hours a day and again majority of them earns between Rs.201 to 500 per month.
- It has been found that the working hours of the child increased with age. This has been observed among all the age groups of the respondents.
- It has been found that involvement of the entire family along with the respondent is in maximum cases (50%) followed by 31% cases where only female members are involved with beedi rolling along with the child.
- Majority of the respondents (88%) said that bonded labour system does not exist in their communities but 10% respondents said that bonded labour system does exist in their communities.
- An absolute majority (92%) of the respondents rated that the occupation of beedi rolling as a job with "moderate risk". As meager as 7% of the respondents rated beedi rolling as a "high risk" activity.
- Among the types of risks involved with beedi rolling, the respondents rated physical, mental, financial and exploitative risks almost in equal percentage. It

could therefore be ascertained that all these risks are very much involved with beedi rolling occupation.

- Majority of the respondents (49%) said that they are suffering from of shoulder and spinal chord pain due to prolong working duration in sitting head-down position while rolling beedi. Respiration problem and problem of lower back pain has been found to be among the physical risks, which occupied the next higher percentage.
- Among the metal hazards, the respondents rated the pressure of target fulfillment, lack of occupational security and family pressure with equal percentage. This implies that all these mental risks are very much involved with beedi rolling occupation.
- Among the financial risks attached to this occupation, no income in case of sickness (37%), wages curtail in case of less production (28%) and non-availability of any other financial security (27%) is the factors, which have been highlighted by the respondents. High interest in case of loan consumption from the employer and delayed payment of wages are among the other financial risks suffered by the respondents.
- Among the exploitative risks attached with beedi rolling, use of abusive language by employers (43%), physical punishment by family members (28%) and force to work overtime (29%) are the risks rated highly by the respondents.
- Majority of the respondents (32%) said that their health problems needs urgent intervention by external agencies where 30% respondents said that financial problem should be given utmost priority for intervention.
- Majority of the respondents (54%) are school going but the case studies revealed that most of them are not very regular. A high percentage of (45%) respondents have stopped going school. This implies that beedi rolling had a big impact on the education of the working children.
- Majority of the respondents (45%), who have stopped going school said that their families couldn't afford education. The next higher percentage (44%) said they had to quit school because of work pressure.
- Majority of the respondents (96%) were enrolled in the Government primary or secondary schools. A meager percentage was enrolled in child education centres and private schools respectively.
- Majority of the respondents (69%) said that their schools did not provide Tiffin during the school hours.
- An absolute majority (99%) said that their schools did not provide any stipend to the poor students.
- Majority of the respondents (94%) said that their schools did not provide iron tablets or any types of medicine to the students.
- An absolute majority (96%) said that their schools did not organize any health check-up programmes for the students.
- Majority of the respondents (86%) perceived that their association with beedi rolling occupation has created a blockage between them and education.
- Majority of the respondents (64%) said that they do not get any leisure time out of beedi rolling. 31% respondents said that they do get very little time for leisure.



- Majority of the respondents (35%) perceived that education is necessary for earning livelihood followed by 24% respondents who opined that education is essential in every sphere of life.
- Majority of the respondents (52%) opined that Anganwadi centres provide the most effective health care facilities to the respondents. The next higher percentage (45%) said that Government health centre provide health facilities of the community.
- Majority of the respondents (73%) have rated the health facility accessed by them as 'average' followed by the next higher 25% respondents who rated the same as 'bad'.
- Majority of the respondents (64%) depends on the quacks (untrained medical practitioner) of their respective areas as immediate resource for medical treatment. The next higher 35% respondents opined that they depend on the Doctors of local primary health centres for immediate treatment.
- As many as 83% respondents rated their general health condition as "average" followed by the next higher 6% whose health condition has been regarded as "bad" by the respondents.
- Majority of the respondents (49%) have been suffering from joint pain as major occupational health hazard. The next higher percentage (23%) said that they have been suffering from stomach problem.
- As many as 96% respondents said that they do not have any health card issued by the Government health institutions.
- Majority of the respondents (99%) said that they are not smokers but during the process of interaction with several informal sources, it was explored that majority of the child beedi rollers in the age group of 15 to 18 years are regular smokers. This is mainly because of the availability of tobacco to them in abundance. It is therefore understandable that the respondents while responding to this question have suppressed the actual fact.
- Majority of the respondents (70%) said that they do not smoke because of it is injurious to health.
- As many as 90% respondents do not have a latrine in their households. Majority of them said they couldn't afford this due to their financial condition.
- Majority of the respondents (83%) use the Panchayat pipeline water as the major source of drinking water. The next higher percentage (17%) use the tube-well installed by the panchayat for consumption of drinking water.
- Majority of the respondents (53%) are not aware of the ill effects of beedi rolling.
- Almost cent percent respondents perceived that there is no other income generation avenue present in the study area.
- No vocational training has been provided by either Government or Non-Governmental Organizations to any of the respondents.
- The respondents do not have any idea whatsoever about existing legislation for child labour prohibition.
- No initiative has been taken by the Government to introduce any programme for development of the disadvantaged beedi rolling workers as yet.

- The respondents do not have any idea about development projects or the benefit it could have delivered to them.
- The respondents opined that no voluntary organization has taken any initiative for their development.
- Almost all the respondents perceived that the Government or Non-Government Organisations should take initiative for their economic upliftment and social security.
- Majority of the respondents (82%) opined that children of their age should not be involved with beedi rolling occupation. This reveals that the respondents have a sense of awareness for their betterment to a certain extent. 18% of the respondents disagreed with this opinion.
- Home based work (34%), income generation at younger age (24%), Scope for daily earning (21%) and become self-sufficient (18%) are the main causes that 18% responded that children should involved in this occupation.
- Those who responded that children should not be involved in this occupation because of high amount of occupational hazard.

### **Conclusion and Suggestions:**

Serious exploitation, insecure future and massive occupational hazards are the salient features of what the children in beedi rolling profession are suffering in Bharatpur – II Block. This study has already unfolded the situational background of the reference group of the present study as well as the influencing factors, which has compelled them to participate in beedi rolling occupation generation after generation. The occupation may have helped thousands of households to survive somehow but the economic condition and standard of living has never improved. This has caused mainly because of wage discrimination between adults and children, illiteracy, non-availability of agricultural land and large family size. Children are exploited to the maximum extent because they are available in large numbers for this purpose. Children are denied to their rights of survival, protection, development and participation in every sphere of life in the study area.

The findings of the present study attest to the fact that the lives of thousands of children in the entire region is at stake. Specific measures need to be adopted in order to give livelihood support to the parents of each household so that the children could be mainstreamed to education, standard health facilities and restoration of normal childhood pleasures.

Considering the analysis and the findings of the present study, a multi-dimensional approach needs to be designed for effective intervention and proper addressing to the problem of beedi rolling child labour. The strategy may consist of the following:-

- a) Direct household level intervention with the families of the beedi rolling children for counseling and motivating the parents
- b) Constant review and research on the results and impacts of direct intervention

- c) Influencing existing policies on child labour along with strong public advocacy
- d) Curative and rehabilitative approach targeting the households of the beedi rolling children.
- e) Preventive and promotional approach comprising of alternative income generation avenues for the parents

(a) Direct household level intervention:

- Bridge course education for potential beedi rolling child labour for their re-enrollment to the schools
- Afternoon recreation (play sessions) with the children
- Massive awareness and sensitization programmes in the communities through posters, meetings, rallies etc.
- Sensitization and capacity building of the school teachers so as to enable them to orient the students in the schools
- Vocational training for children for opening up future employment opportunities.
- Motivating the mothers for formation of self-help group and undertake income generation programme after careful assessment of their resource position and skill orientation.

(b) Constant Review and Research:

- Conducting Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) meetings in the study area including every village for identification of available resources.
- Intensive survey of the households of child labours for pinpointing of the variables, which influence the children to be a potential beedi-rolling worker.
- Research and collection of facts and figures on the issue of child labour with emphasis on beedi rolling occupation at state and national level
- Review of existing policies and legislation for necessary modification and amendments
- Information Education Communication (IEC) workshop at the community level with the legal instruments

(c) Policy influencing and public advocacy

- Networking at the local level with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), block level as well as district level administration.
- Networking with community based organizations (CBOs), local bodies, judiciaries and law enforcement agencies
- Formation of neighbour hood groups against employment of child labour in beedi rolling occupation