

The SAARC countries had declared the 90s the Decades of Girl Child to achieve a universal coverage of education and health services for children and ensure their survival, growth and development. Hence effective economic and social policies are needed for the low income groups to bring about a significant improvement in the quality of life.

Women and children welfare is never high on the agenda of national governments. Sustained political will and united action is required by the government, international agencies and non-governmental organisations to ensure the protection and development of children.

Check Your Progress 4

Tick mark the correct answer.

- i) Which one of the following is expected to play a crucial role in reducing the child labour participation rate?
 - a) High wage
 - b) Good work condition
 - c) Universalisations of elementary education.
 - d) None of the above.

- ii) The 1990s was declared as the ‘Decade of the Girl Child’ by the
 - a) European Countries
 - b) Latin American Countries
 - c) African Countries
 - d) SAARC Countries.

12.6 LET US SUM UP

The problem of child labour is related to the problem of poverty in India. Most of the child workers come from the families of landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, artisans and migrants living in urban slums. There are no reliable estimates of child labour. However child labour is used as a survival strategy by poorer households. Children work as wage earners, unpaid family helpers and as self-employed workers selling various products. They are also employed in several hazardous occupations like match and fireworks, glass and bangle industries, carpet weaving etc. despite the legislation prohibiting their employment in such occupations.

Providing education, health care, nutrition and better living standards to millions of deprived children is the biggest challenge facing the country. To deal with all these aspects in this unit we have covered the social background and estimates and the nature of employment of child labour in India. We have also discussed the constitutional and legal provisions made in India to deal with the issues of child labour. Lastly we have discussed the challenges that need to be faced in meeting the needs of the child labour.

12.7 KEY WORDS

Home-based Production : Items produced exclusively using the labour of the family members.

- Informal Sector** : In India production activity can broadly be defined as formal and informal. The formal sector is governed by statutes enacted by formal bodies. By informal sector we mean various economic that are performed but no record is maintained as per the statutes. Their activities are scattered throughout the county. Most of the self-employed persons belong to this category.
- Piece-rates** : Wage given for per piece of work.
- Self-employed** : Persons employed in their own enterprise.

12.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Gupta, M. 1987, *Young Hand at Work: Child Labour in India*. Atma Ram and Sons Publications: New Delhi

UNICEF, 1990, *Development Goals and Strategies for Children in the 1990s*. A UNICEF Policy Review: New York.

12.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress 1

- i) A significant proportion of Indian population live in poverty. Many of them are forced to migrate to urban areas in search of employment. Millions of children from poor households in rural and urban areas are forced to work at an early age to supplement the family's inadequate income.
- ii) According to census definition a child worker is one who works for a major part of the day and is below the age of 14 years.

Check Your Progress 2

- i) a)
- ii) In urban areas children work as wage earners in small industries and workshops such as bidi, match and fireworks, glass and bangle, carpet weaving, handloom, gem polishing, potteries, paper bags, plastic goods and fish processing. They also work at construction sites, stone quarries and in loading and unloading.

Check Your Progress 3

- i) False
- ii) False
- iii) In 1975, after the National Policy Resolution for Children was adopted, a National Children's Board was constituted with the objective of creating greater awareness about children's problem, to promote their welfare and to review and coordinate education, health and welfare programmes for children.

Check Your Progress 4

- i) c
- ii) d

REFERENCES

- Ahuja, R., 1992. *Social Problems in India*. Rawat publications : New Delhi.
- Bardhan, P.K., 1984, *Land, Labour and Rural Poverty*. Oxford University Press: New Delhi.
- Behari, B. 1983, *Unemployment, Technology and Rural Poverty*, Vices Publishing House: New Delhi.
- Chattopadhyay M., 1982. “*Role of Female Labour in Indian Agriculture*”. *Social Scientist*. Vol. 10. No.7 pp. 45-54.
- Desai, A.R., 1978, *Rural Sociology in India*. Popular Prakashan: Bombay.
- Govt. of India, 1963. *Census of India 1961*. Govt. of India: New Delhi
- Gupta, M. 1987, *Young Hands at Work : Child Labour in India*. Atma Ram and Sons Publications : New Delhi
- 1966. *Education and National Development*. Report of the Education Commission 1964-66, Ministry of Education: New Delhi.
- 1974. *Towards Equality —Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India*. Department of Social Welfare : New Delhi.
- 1972. *Census of India 1971*. Govt. of India: New Delhi.
- 1980. *Profile of the Child in India: Policies and Programme*. Govt. of India : New Delhi.
- 1982. *Census of India 1981*. Govt. of India: New Delhi.
- 1988. *National Perspective Plan For Women 1988-2000 AD*. Department of Women and Child Development Ministry of Human Resource Development : New Delhi.
- 1988. *Shram Shakti*. Report of the National Commission on Self-employed Women in Informal Sector. Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development: New Delhi.
- 1990. *India 1990*. Publications Division. Govt. of India: New Delhi.
- Holmstrom, H., 1987. *Industry and Inequality*. Orient Longman: New Delhi.
- Jose, A.V., (Ed.) 1989. *Limited Options: Women Workers in Rural India*. Asian Regional Team for Employment Promotion. ILO: New Delhi.
- Kamat, A.R., 1985. *Education and Social Change in India*. Samaiya: New Delhi.
- National Sample Survey Organisation, 1980. *National Sample Survey*. NSSO: New Delhi.
- 1982. *National Sample Survey*. NSSO : New Delhi.
- 1985. *National Sample Survey*. NSSO : New Delhi.
- 1987. *National Sample Survey*. NSSO : New Delhi.

Ramaswamy E.A.D. and U.Ramasswamy, 1987. *Industry and Labour*, Oxford University Press: Delhi.

Singh Andrea M. and Anita K. Vitanen (Eds.), 1987, *Invisible Hands: Women in Home-based Production*, Sage Publications: New Delhi.

SinghaRoy, D.K. 1992. *Women in Peasant Movements: Tebhaga, Naxalite and After*, Manohar; New Delhi.

Singh, M.A. and A.K. Vitanam, (Eds.) 1987. *Invisible Hands: Women in Home-based Production*. Sage Publications: New Delhi.

Thorner, D. and A. Thorner, 1962. *Land and Labour in India*. Asia Publishing House: Bombay.

UNICEF, 1990, *Development Goals and Strategies for Children in the 1990s*. A UNICEF Policy Review : New York.

UNICEF, 1990. *Development Goals and Strategies for Children in the 1990s*. UNICEF: New Delhi.



ignou
THE PEOPLE'S
UNIVERSITY