

Exploited Children

A COMPREHENSIVE BLUEPRINT FOR
CHILD LABOUR REHABILITATION

Edited by
M. KOTESWARA RAO

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Problems of Child Labour: A Case Study of Goa

—Silvia M. de Mendonca C Noronha

This paper focusses on the problems faced by child labour in Goa. It also gives a socio-economic background of child labour in Goa and offers a few suggestions to ameliorate their working lives.

Introduction

The territory of Goa is situated on the Western Coast of India between the parallels of 15° — 47' — 59" North and 14° — 53' — 54" East and 74° — 20' — 11" West.¹ It was an erstwhile Portuguese colony, alongwith Daman and Diu. After liberation from the Portuguese rule on 19th December 1961, Goa, Daman and Diu were constituted as a separate union territory in 1962. On 30th May, 1987, Goa attained statehood and today it is a separate State in the Indian Union.

The territory of Goa has an area of 3,701 sq. kms. It is made up of 11 talukas, namely, Tiswadi, Bardez, Pernem, Bicholim, Sattari, Ponda, Sanguem, Canacona, Quepem, Salcette and Mormugao. For administrative purposes, it has been constituted into two districts i.e. North Goa and South Goa.

According to the 1991 census, the population of Goa was 11,69,793 out of which 6,90,041 is in the rural areas and 4,79,752 is in the urban areas. Of the total population males comprise 5,94,790 and females comprise 5,75,003.

The total labour force in Goa as per the 1991 census was 4,12,736.

This paper highlights the problem of child labour in Goa.

In Goa, child labour by and large comprises of children of migrant workers, in particular, children of migrant construction workers. Due to the boom in construction activity in Goa after liberation, there has been an influx of a large number of migrant construction workers, as, very few Goans are willing to offer themselves for this hard labour. As a result, many migrant labourers have settled in Goa, alongwith their families—some on a temporary basis and others on a permanent basis. It is the children of these workers by and large, that form the bulk of the child labour force in Goa. This paper also brings to light this aspect of child labour in Goa.

Child Labour as Per Census Records in Goa

As per the Census of India 1961, 1971 and 1981 (Goa, Daman & Diu) (Table 14.1), throughout the 1961-81 period, the percentage of child labour was low in Goa and has been on the decline. According to the census, it was 3% of the total work force in 1961, it came down to 2.6% in 1971 and declined further to 2.3% in 1981.² Out of this, the male children accounted for 3% of the total workforce in Goa in 1961 and females accounted for 3.6%. In 1971, male child workers were 2% of the total workforce and female child workers were 5%. In 1981, male child workers were 1% of the total workforce and female child workers were 4% of the total workforce.

From the above figures, we note that the percentage of male children working has shown a decline during the 1961-81

Table 14.1
Male-Female Comparison of the Total Child Labour Force

<i>Years</i>	<i>Percentage of Male Child Labour</i>	<i>Percentage of Female Child Labour</i>	<i>Total</i>
1961	3%	3.6%	3%
1971	2%	5.0%	2.6%
1981	1%	4.0%	2.3%

Source : Based on Census of India, 1961, 1971 and 1981 for Goa, Daman and Diu (Economic Tables).

period, whereas that of female child workers shows a rise in the year 1971 by 1.4% points from 1961-71 and then a 1% point fall from 1971-81. We note that, more female children are employed than males for the period from 1961-81, which shows that there is sex discrimination. When parents have to opt to send children to work, it is more often than not that females are sent to work rather than males. This is with regard to the male-female distribution of the child labour force.

With regard to rural-urban distribution of the child labour force, we find that in rural areas male children comprise 2.7% of the total rural workforce and female children comprise 3.4% of the total rural workforce, in the year 1961 (Table 14.2). In 1971, male children comprised 2% of the total rural workforce and female children comprised 4.4% of the total rural work force. In 1981, male children comprised 1.6% of the total rural workforce and female children comprised 4.2% of the total rural workforce. Here too, we note that there are more female children working in rural areas as compared to male children. Further, we note that the percentage of male child workers to the total workforce declined from 1961-81 as against that of female child workers, which shows a rise from 1961-81.

Table 14.2
Total Child Labour in Goa in 1961, 1971 and 1981

Year	Age Group	Total Child Workers					
		Males			Females		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1961	0-14	3393	394	3886	2969	512	3481
		(2.7%)	(2.3%)	(3.0%)	(3.4%)	(5.8%)	(3.6%)
1971	0-14	2771	713	3484	2256	772	3028
		(2.0%)	(1.3%)	(2.0%)	(4.4%)	(7.0%)	(5.0%)
1981	0-14	2581	874	3462	3575	1176	4750
		(1.6%)	(1.0%)	(1.0%)	(4.2%)	(5.0%)	(4.0%)

Source : Based on Census of India, 1961, 1971 and 1981 for Goa, Daman and Diu (Economic Tables)

In the urban areas, the percentage of male child workers in 1961 was 2.3% of the total urban workforce and female children were 5.8% of the total urban workforce. In 1971, male child labour was 1.3% of the total urban workforce and female child workers comprised 7% of the total urban workforce. In 1981, male child

workers comprised 1% of the total urban workforce and female child workers comprised 5% of the total urban workforce. Here too, we note a fall in the percentage of male child labour in urban areas. We note too, that in urban areas, as in rural areas there are more female child workers as compared to males, although, there is a fall in this percentage from 5.8% in 1961 to 5% in 1981, a marginal fall of 0.8% points.

To conclude, we can say that the census data shows us that over the period 1961-81, there has been a decline in child labour, albeit a marginal one. It also shows that female children form a larger percentage of the total child labour force in Goa.

Given this background, we proceed to study the problem of child labour in Goa. The present study is based on primary data collected with the help of a questionnaire.

Methodology of the Study

A random sample of 113 children, representing all age groups and a variety of occupations wherein child workers are generally found, was selected for the purpose of this study. The children were interviewed with the help of a questionnaire. The interviewed children were engaged in the formal and informal sector of activity. The study covered the major cities/towns of Goa i.e. Panjim, Mapusa, Margao, Vasco, Ponda as well as villages³ spread all over the 11 talukas of Goa. Thus, it was a sample representing a large cross section of population from the North to the South of Goa.

Out of the 113 children interviewed, 75 were boys and 38 were girls. For the purpose of analysis, the children were divided into the following broad age groups *viz.* below 10, 10-12 and 13-14.

PROFILE OF CHILD WORKERS IN GOA

Educational Background

Out of the total children in the below 10 age group, it was found that 71.43% were illiterate, i.e. had no education at all and 14.29% had 3rd and 4th standard respectively (Table 14.3). In the 10-12 age group, 42.43% were illiterate, 1.52% had finished the Ist Standard, 7.58% IInd Standard; 7.58% IIIrd Standard, 15.15% IVth Standard, 10.61% Vth Standard, 7.58% VIth Standard and 7.58% in VIIth Standard and above. In the 13-14 age group, 30% were illiterate, 2.5% finished the Ist Standard, 5% IInd Standard; 12.5% IIIrd Standard, 12.5% IVth Standard, 2.5% Vth Standard, 15% VIth

Table 14.3
Age-Wise Educational Background of Child Workers

Age Group	Illiterates	IST STD	IIND STD	IIIRD STD	IVTH STD	VTH STD	VITH STD	VIITH STD and Above	Total
Below 10	5 (71.43)	—	—	1 (14.29)	1 (14.29)	—	—	—	— (100.00)
10-12	28 (42.43)	1 (1.52)	5 (7.58)	5 (7.58)	10 (15.15)	7 (10.61)	5 (7.58)	5 (7.58)	66 (100.00)
13-14	12 (30.00)	1 (2.5)	2 (5.00)	5 (12.5)	5 (12.5)	1 (2.5)	6 (15.00)	8 (20.00)	40 (100.00)
Total:	45 (39.82)	2 (1.77)	7 (6.19)	11 (9.73)	16 (14.16)	8 (7.08)	11 (9.73)	13 (11.50)	113 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey.

Table 14.4
Educational Background of Male and Female Child Workers

<i>Male/Female Children</i>	<i>Illiterates</i>	<i>IST STD</i>	<i>IIND STD</i>	<i>IIIRD STD</i>	<i>IVTH STD</i>	<i>VTH STD</i>	<i>VITH STD</i>	<i>VIIITH STD and Above</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male	25 (33.33)	1 (1.33)	4 (5.33)	9 (12.00)	12 (16.00)	6 (8.00)	11 (14.67)	7 (9.33)	75 (100.00)
Female	19 (50.00)	1 (2.63)	3 (7.89)	2 (5.26)	4 (10.53)	3 (7.89)	—	6 (15.79)	38 (100.00)
Total	44 (38.94)	2 (1.77)	7 (6.19)	11 (9.73)	16 (14.16)	9 (7.96)	11 (9.73)	13 (11.50)	113 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey

Table 14.5
Age and Sex Distribution of Working Children

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Below 10	7 (87.5)	1 (12.5)	8 (100.00)
10—12	30 (75.0)	10 (25.0)	40 (100.00)
13—14	38 (58.46)	27 (41.53)	65 (100.00)
Total	75 (66.37)	38 (33.63)	113 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey.

Standard and 20% in VIIIth Standard and above. Out of the total child workers interviewed, 45% were illiterate, 2% had Ist Standard, 7% IInd Standard; 11% IIIrd Standard, 16% IV Standard, 8% Vth Standard, 11% VIth Standard and 13% in VIIth Standard and above.

From the above figures, we note that a large percentage of the child labour is illiterate. The highest percentage of illiterate children is in the below 10 age group. In the other age groups, we find the percentage of school drop-outs is very high and the reason obviously is the need to work which compells them to leave school. Some of the children interviewed said that they would have liked to study, but their economic conditions did not permit it. However, some of them despite working were attending school part time, but such children complained that they could not get sufficient time to study.

With regard to the literacy rate by sex, we find that a larger percentage of female child workers are illiterate (50%) as against that of male child workers (33.33%) (Table 14.4) which confirms the fact that parents tend to sacrifice the schooling of their girls to send them to work, more than that of boys.

Age Group of Child Workers

It was found in the survey that 7.08% of the children were in the below 10 age-group (Table 14.5), 35.39% in the 10-12 age group and 57.52% were in the 13-14 age group. From these figures, we conclude that a larger percentage of the child workers are in the 10-14 age group.

Child Workers Having Living Parents

As per the data, it was found that 66.37% of the children had both parents alive; 24.78% had a single parent alive and 8.85% were orphans⁴ (Table 14.6). Amongst the female children, 71.05% had both parents living; 26.32% had only one parent and 2.63% were orphans. Amongst the male children 64% had both parents alive, 24% had only one parent and 12% were orphans.

We conclude that, most of the child workers come from homes where both parents are alive, but, due to economic necessity, as is evident from their responses, they have to work. Parents are engaged in low paying jobs and some of them are unemployed. As Table 14.7 shows 82.30% of parents are working, but in menial jobs, like

Table 14.6
Male and Female Working Children Having Living Parents

<i>Children</i>	<i>Both Parents Alive</i>	<i>Either Parents Alive</i>	<i>Neither Parent Alive</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male	48 (64.00)	18 (24.00)	9 (12.00)	75 (100.00)
Female	27 (71.05)	10 (26.32)	1 (2.63)	38 (100.00)
Total	75 (66.37)	28 (24.78)	10 (8.85)	113 (100.00)

Source : Field Survey.

casual labourers, drivers, petty vendors, domestic servants, etc. and so their earnings do not suffice to make both ends meet. Some unemployed parents are handicapped and some have the vice of alcoholism and so do no work, forcing their children to take up jobs for survival.

Table 14.7
Child Workers and Occupation of Parents

<i>Children</i>	<i>Parents Working</i>	<i>Parents Not working</i>	<i>N.A. (Orphans)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male	61 (81.33)	5 (6.67)	9 (12.00)	75 (100.00)
Female	32 (84.21)	5 (13.16)	1 (2.63)	38 (100.00)
Total	93 (82.30)	10 (8.85)	10 (8.85)	113 (100.00)

Source : Field Survey.

Place of Origin of Child Workers

With regard to their place of origin, it was found that a large percentage of the interviewed children were those of migrant workers *i.e* 61.94% and only 38.05% were Goans (Table 14.8). The highest percentage of child workers (40.71%) came from the State of Karnataka. The other States from where children come are

Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, etc. These are the States from where most of the migrant workers come to Goa. This provides a strong basis to say that most of the child labourers in Goa are from other States. However, we cannot ignore the fact that 38.05% (not an insignificant percentage) of child workers were Goan by origin.

Table 14.8
Child Workers According to Their Place of Origin

<i>Children</i>	<i>Goa</i>	<i>Karna- taka</i>	<i>Bihar</i>	<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male	26 (34.67)	31 (41.33)	2 (2.67)	1 (1.33)	1 (1.33)	14 (18.67)	75 (100.00)
Female	17 (44.73)	15 (39.47)	—	1 (2.63)	—	5 (13.16)	38 (100.00)
Total	43 (38.05)	46 (40.71)	2 (1.77)	2 (1.77)	1 (0.88)	19 (16.81)	113 (100.00)

Source : Field Survey.

Occupation of Child Workers

The survey found that child workers are engaged in a variety of occupations, like helpers in construction activity, hotels and restaurants, shops and commercial establishments, automobile tinkering, domestic service, as petty vendors,⁵ etc. The highest percentage i.e. 24.78% are engaged as petty vendors, followed by domestic service 23.01% (Table 14.9). The percentage of boys engaged as petty vendors is 24%, higher than in other occupations followed by employment in hotels and restaurants 18.67%. The highest percentage of girls are employed in domestic service 55.26%, followed by petty vendors 26.32%. The percentage of girls found in other employments is comparatively low. As girls are better suited for household work, they are normally preferred. In Goa, there is a great demand for domestic servants with the increasing number of families going nuclear and both husband and wife taking up jobs.

Hours of Work of Working Children

The survey also considered the hours of work put in by these

Table 14.9
Types of Job of Working Children (Males and Females)

Children	Small Scale/ Cottage Industries	Auto-mobile/ Tinkering	Shops and Commercial Establishments	Hotels and Restaurants	Construction Activity	Domestic Service	Agriculture	Petty Vendors	Shoe Shiners	Other Jobs	Total
Males	3 (4.00)	8 (10.67)	5 (6.67)	14 (18.67)	4 (5.33)	5 (6.67)	2 (2.67)	18 (24.00)	1 (1.33)	15 (20.00)	75 (100.00)
Females	—	—	1 (2.63)	—	2 (5.26)	21 (55.26)	1 (2.63)	10 (26.32)	—	3 (7.83)	38 (100.00)
Total	3 (2.65)	8 (7.08)	6 (5.31)	14 (12.39)	6 (5.31)	26 (23.01)	3 (2.65)	28 (24.78)	1 (0.88)	18 (15.93)	113 (100.00)

Source : Field Survey.

children. It was found that 75% of the children below 10 put in 6-8 hours of work per day and the remaining 25% below 6 hours per day (Table 14.10). 6-8 hours per day for a child below 10, is quite a lot of work. In the 10-12 age group 44.62% of the children put in 6-8 hours of work per day; 23.08% of the children put in 9-10 hours of work per day. In this age group there were also children who put in above 12 hours per day, but fortunately they were only 54%. In the 13-14 age group, 47.5% of the children worked for 6-8 hours per day; 22.5% for a 9-10 hours per day. It is generally found that, in unorganised and informal sectors of employment, where most of the children are employed, there is no legislation regulating their working hours, and hence, they are made to work for longer hours. Children who are employed in hotels and restaurants and domestic service are made to work for even longer hours.

Table 14.10
Age of Working Children and Their Hours of Work

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Below 6 hours</i>	<i>6-8 hours</i>	<i>9-10 hours</i>	<i>11-12 hours</i>	<i>Above 12 hours</i>	<i>Total</i>
Below 10	2 (25.00)	6 (75.00)	—	—	—	8 (100.00)
10-12	15 (23.08)	29 (44.62)	15 (23.08)	5 (7.69)	1 (1.54)	65 (100.00)
13-14	7 (17.5)	19 (47.5)	9 (22.5)	5 (12.5)	—	40 (100.00)
Total	24 (21.24)	54 (47.79)	24 (21.24)	10 (8.85)	1 (0.88)	113 (100.00)

Source : Field Survey.

With regard to male-female children, it is found that only 8% of the boys work for 11-12 hours as against 10.53% of girls (Table 14.11). As a high percentage of the girls are engaged in domestic service, it probably accounts for this long working hours. However, many girls in Goa now prefer to work in domestic service on a daily basis, rather than as live-ins. Very few like to stay with their employers. This, to some extent, regulates their working hours to between 6-8 hours a day, as, a live-in maid is required to be at the back and call of her employers from 6.00 a.m. in the morning to

the time the employers retire for the night, which means longer hours of work.

Table 14.11
Hours of Work of Working Children (Male and Females)

Age Group	Below 6 hours	6-8 hours	9-10 hours	11-12 hours	Above 12 hours	Total
Males	16 (21.33)	32 (42.67)	20 (26.67)	6 (8.00)	1 (1.33)	75 (100.00)
Females	9 (23.69)	21 (55.26)	4 (10.53)	4 (10.53)	—	38 (100.00)
Total	25 (22.12)	53 (46.90)	24 (21.24)	10 (8.85)	1 (0.88)	113 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey.

Wages of Child Workers

The Survey found that those children paid on a monthly basis were in a better position to disclose their incomes. Children employed in small scale/cottage industries, automobile tinkering, shops and commercial establishments, hotels and restaurants and domestic service could give reliable figures. Those children engaged in occupations where the sales are erratic i.e. petty vendors, shoe shiners and other casual jobs, could not give their exact earnings per month. The wages in most occupations are in the range of Rs. 101 to Rs. 800. A few children earn above Rs. 800 mainly in construction activity, domestic service and in agriculture. About 20.35% children earn Rs. 101-300, 18.58% children earn Rs. 301-500; 17.69% earn in the range of Rs. 501-800; 7.08% earn above Rs. 800; 26.55% do not know how much they earn; 7.96% earn no wages and 1.77% earn upto Rs.100 per month.

In the course of survey, it was found that some children were not paid as much as they were promised by the employer *e.g.* one boy was promised a payment of Rs. 250 per month to assist in a shop, but, the owner paid him only Rs. 125 at the end of the month. The survey also found that children in the age group of 12-14 earn higher wages than those below 12 years of age.

Table 14.12
Type of Work and Monthly Earnings of Working Children

Type of Work	No Wages	Upto Rs. 100	Rs. 101 to 301	Rs. 301 to 500	Rs. 501 to 800	Above Rs. 800	Does not Know	Total
Small Scale/Cottage Industry	—	—	—	—	2 (66.66)	—	1 (33.33)	3 (100.00)
Automobile Tinkering	—	—	2 (25.00)	—	6 (75.00)	—	—	8 (100.00)
Shops & Commr. Establishments	1 (16.67)	—	1 (16.67)	2 (33.33)	2 (33.33)	—	—	6 (100.00)
Hotels and Restaurants	—	1 (7.14)	3 (21.43)	7 (50.00)	3 (21.43)	—	—	14 (100.00)
Construction Activity	—	—	—	—	1 (16.67)	3 (50.00)	2 (33.33)	6 (100.00)
Domestic Service	2 (7.69)	—	10 (38.46)	8 (30.77)	4 (15.38)	1 (3.85)	1 (3.85)	26 (100.00)
Agriculture	2 (66.67)	—	—	—	—	1 (33.33)	—	3 (100.00)
Petty Vendors	1 (3.57)	1 (3.57)	5 (17.86)	3 (10.71)	1 (3.57)	—	17 (60.71)	28 (100.00)
Shoe Shiners	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 (100.00)	1 (100.00)
Miscellaneous	3 (16.67)	—	2 (11.11)	1 (5.56)	1 (5.56)	3 (16.67)	8 (44.4)	18 (100.00)
Total	9 (7.96)	2 (1.77)	23 (20.35)	21 (18.58)	20 (17.69)	8 (7.08)	30 (26.55)	111 (100.00)

Source : Field Survey.

Problems Faced by Child Workers in Goa

The following were the problems faced by child workers:

1. *Long hours of work:* 8.8% of the children complained of long hours of work. The complaints were from children employed in hotels and restaurants and domestic services.
2. *Harsh treatment from employers:* Another 8.8% of the children complained that their employers were too severe and demanding from them. Sometimes, they were made to do work beyond their capacity.
3. *Hard work:* 12.8% of the children felt that they had to work really hard and that tired them.
4. Children engaged in selling plastic bags, lottery tickets, newspapers, peanuts, ice-creams, etc. i.e. petty vendors complained of erratic sales which affected their earnings. There were times when the sales were very poor, which meant less or no income for them, making their life miserable.
5. *Less/no food to eat:* 3.2% of the children complained that the food given to them was less and they were left unsatisfied. Ironically, this was the complaint from boys working in hotels and restaurants. Not only they were given less food, but that too, late.
6. *Not paid on time:* 2.4% of the children complained that they were not paid their wages on time. The employer took advantage of them and paid them as and when he liked.
7. They have to work in all types of weather i.e. in the hot sun or in the heavy rain. 3.2% of children had this complaint. Petty vendors were most affected by this factor.
8. 1.6% of children complained that their jobs were risky. One of the children worked as a cleaner in a bus and he complained that at times when the bus was full to capacity, he hardly had place to stand and he had to hang out of the bus, which was dangerous, as, he could have a fatal fall. Another child engaged in extracting sand from the river had to dive in the river to do his job, which again was risky.
Rag pickers have to handle not only dirty and harmful materials but also hazardous items like broken glasses, rusted metal, etc. Children working as assistants and

welders have to sometimes hold welding parts together without any protection.

9. *No proper accommodation*: 0.8% of the children complained that they were not given a proper place to live by the employer, especially, children employed in hotels and restaurants.
10. *Harassment from senior workers*: 0.8% of the children complained of being harassed by senior workers. These were children employed in hotels and restaurants. They complained that the senior workers often beat them up.
11. *Harassment from relatives*: 0.8% of children complained that their earnings were snatched by their relatives. This occurred amongst children staying with relatives.
12. *Non-payment for goods sold or service rendered*. 1.6% of the children complained that sometimes customers did not pay for the goods sold on the pretext of having no change, etc.
13. *Exploitation by guards at the bus stand*: 3.2% of the children complained that the guards at the bus stand exploited them. They had to pay them some money to be able to sell their goods at the bus stand e.g. the peanut sellers at the bus stand in particular, were harassed by them.
14. *Poor working conditions*: 2.4% of the children felt that the conditions they worked-in were poor. Besides their wages, no other facilities were given.
15. 0.8% of the children complained that sometimes the employers made them do work not contracted for. Whether they liked it or not, they had to do it or else risk losing their jobs.
16. *No extra pay for extra work*: 3.2% of the children complained that their employers did not pay them extra, when they had to do more work. The payment remained the same irrespective of the work.
17. *Continuous work without a break*: 0.8% of the children complained that they had to work continuously without any rest. This happened particularly in hotels and restaurants and domestic services. The work demanded of them was endless. One child working as a domestic servant complained that she did not even have time to eat her food.

18. *Not paid the amount agreed upon:* 0.8% of the children complained that the employers often went back on their word and paid them less than that agreed upon.
19. *Low wages:* 2.4% of the children complained that they were paid low wages.
20. *No payment when sick:* 1.6% of the children complained that if they fell sick, their pay was cut. Thus, even when they were not well they had to work.
21. *Fights with other children:* 2.4% of the children complained that they had to sometimes fight with other children because of sales. This happened particularly to children engaged as petty vendors e.g. selling plastic bags, peanuts, etc.

The above are the problems encountered by the child workers in Goa. It is, however, interesting to note that 33.6% of the children replied that they faced no problems when approached by the interviewer. We conclude from this response that these children were afraid to tell their problems for fear of reprisal from their employers.

Suggestions for Improving the Plight of Working Children

Child labour is a phenomenon that cannot be wished away. As long as there is poverty, there will be child labour. So, what can be done is to see to it that the children who are employed are protected by effective legislations and punitive measures are taken against violators of the norms.

1. Prohibiting the employment of children in hazardous occupations. The Employment of Children Act, 1938 which was repealed in 1986 after enacting the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, prohibited the employment of children below 15 years in hazardous occupations. This act should be vehemently pursued.
2. Regulate the hours of work of child labour. We note from the survey that many children work for 8 hours and more which is too tedious for a young body and mind. The maximum hours a child should work should be 4-6 hours with a break in between. This has also been mentioned in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

3. The wages of child labour in various occupations should be fixed, so that there is no scope for exploitation.
4. The problem of child labour should be tackled at its root. The root cause of child labour being poverty, the government should concentrate on vigorously implementing the anti-poverty programmes in their respective States. A general rise of a large percentage of the population above the poverty line, will lead to progressive elimination of child labour.
5. Measures to promote employment-oriented development both in rural and in urban areas, adequate facilities for both formal and non-formal education, vocational education and training, social security and family welfare measures, etc. would go a long way to tackle the basic and root causes of child labour.
6. Those children who have to work to make both ends meet for their families should be allowed the facility to attend part time schools. Special schools can be set up to cater to the needs of such children. In Goa, there are some NGOs doing this, but they should be given encouragement and support to do it on a larger scale. Thus, these children do not miss out on school education and at the same time can help their families. However, committed teachers will be required to take up this type of teaching.
7. Working children should also be provided with free meals, rest room for freshening up before classes begin, as we have to remember that these children are coming to school straight from work.
8. A stipend can be given to those children who are removed from prohibited employment.
9. Health care should be provided for such children.
10. The general public should be sensitised to the plight of working children, so that they are more sensitive to the needs of such children. A large percentage of the children especially in Goa, as we see from the survey, are engaged in the informal sector activities and if people sympathise with them, then a lot of their misery can be alleviated e.g. in the case of domestic servants. If employers are sensitised, they can treat these children

in a human way and not make them work for long hours with no rest, or give them work beyond their capacity to perform and pay them less than what they would pay an adult worker for the same work done. The media, especially the television, can be used to sensitise the public to the plight of working children.

Concluding Remarks

From the foregoing analysis of data, we can conclude that child labour in Goa is a reality, though we would like to think otherwise, as Goa, is one of the most developed States in the Indian Union. However, the bulk of the child labour force comprises of children of migrant workers, but since they are working in Goa, they cannot be neglected and the Government of Goa must take steps to give these child workers a decent life.

Notes and References

1. Government of Goa, Daman and Diu, Agricultural Census, 1970-71, p. 3.
2. All the percentages have been worked out from the absolute figures given in the Census of India, 1961, 1971 and 1981, Goa, Daman and Diu, (Economic Tables).
3. The villages covered were Keri, Sanguem Honda, Mandrem, Sanvordem, Pale, Navelim, Camurlim, Bambolim and Saligao.
4. Here the word 'orphan' is used to mean children without both parents living.
5. Petty vendors refers to children selling plastic bags, lottery tickets, peanuts, newspapers, etc.

References

1. *Census of India, 1961, 1971, and 1981, Goa, Daman and Diu (Economic Tables).*
2. *Census of India, 1991.*
3. Kanbargi, R., (1991), *Child Labour in the Indian Sub-continent—Dimensions and Implications*, Sage Publications, New Delhi.
4. Patil, B.R., (1988), *Working Children in Urban India*, D.B. Publisher (P.) Ltd., Bangalore.
5. Singh, A.N., (1990), *Child Labour in India—Socio-Economic Perspective*, Shipra Publications, Delhi.