

## EXISTING FACILITIES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR CHILD WORKERS IN GOALPARA DISTRICT

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### Abstract

Researching good working conditions is crucial and essential for understanding working children's problems and prospects. The environment varies from place to place, often lacking essential facilities like drinking water, bathrooms, transportation, and canteens. This paper aims to detail facilities accessible to working children and their working environments. India's development is largely influenced by its young population, with over half of the population below 25 years old. However, the country's future lies in its ability to train these potential human resources effectively. Child labour, where children are forced to work before completing basic education, is a significant issue. Although the number of child labourers has declined, it is mostly seen in rural areas, with a rise in urban areas. Despite various laws and regulations to address this issue, the reality remains far from what is expected. Child labour is prevalent in Goalpara district, particularly in rural areas, where it has become a new normal.

### Introduction .

Good working conditions are essential for both the welfare of employees and the maximum return on their investment, according to all industrial sociologists. When we discuss working circumstances, we often mean the general ambiance of a particular house and place of employment, the availability of essential services, the availability of vacations and vacation time, etc. Researching working conditions is crucial to understanding the problem and prospects of working children. The district's economic and commercial activity has outpaced the expansion of housing and recreational facilities. Working conditions are also related to the kind of work that children do and the atmosphere in which they work. The working environment differs from place to place, and most workplaces are devoid of essential facilities like drinking water, bathrooms, transportation, and even a canteen. This paper has made an effort to detail the facilities accessible to working children and their working environments.

**Objective:** To study the Employers' attitude towards child worker in Goalpara district.

### **Child Labour in Assam:**

For many years, child labour has been one of the biggest obstacles to social development in Assam. The northeast, particularly in Assam, is emerging as one of the biggest source area, transit route and destination for trafficking of children for forced labour. Assam is the choicest place for child traffickers to thrive on account of frequent natural calamities, insurgency, social unrest, acute poverty, illiteracy and ignorance of the masses and weak law enforcement. Every year good number of children go missing from the state. They are sold off at the rate of Rs. 1 lakh for marriage purposes, Rs. 1.5 lakh for prostitution and Rs. 5000-Rs. 6000 for bonded labour. In Assam, hundreds of incidents of child disappearances are a daily reality even in today. According to a report from Assam Crime Investigation Department, at least 4754 children in Assam have gone missing since 2012, of which 2753 are girls. Assam's history of economic under-development conditions and ethnic tensions has made a large section of its population vulnerable to trafficking. In Assam, as per 2011 census, 4.9 percent (3.47 lakh) of the state total 5-14 years population were child workers. 5 in every 100 children between 5-14 years in Assam is a child worker. There are extreme examples of bonded labour in Assam. Slavery was a recognized institution of the child labour in ancient period was very common and could be witnessed in different occupations where they were engaged by the rich landlords to carry out activities directly or indirectly related to agriculture. The price of slaves was dependent on his/her caste. The price of high caste man being Rs. 20/- and of low caste girl being Rs. 3/-. Hamilton writes that a Kock boy cost Rs. 25/- and a Kalita boy Rs, 50/-. Girls were purchased mainly by the prostitutes.

### **Child Labour in Goalpara District:**

In the Goalpara district of Assam, children in many places are engaged as handyman in tempos, helpers in garages and in car washing units, waiters, etc. At a time when government has initiated strict measures to stop any form of child labour in the State, child labourers were rescued from different hotels and restaurants at various locations in Goalpara district. The Child Line and Labour Officers rushed to the hotels and restaurants in Dudhnoi town and detected the children of

twelve years of age who were engaged as labourers in the hotels and restaurants. The children are school dropout students who hailed from rural areas. They were paid only Rs. 1500/- per month for their labour. The Assistant Commissioner and the District Labour Officer rescued the children and they were produced before the Child Welfare Committee, Goalpara and later they were sent to the Social Welfare Department for necessary rehabilitation.

### **STUDY AREA: GOALPARA DISTRICT OF ASSAM:**

The present Goalpara district is situated in the western part of Assam where the mighty Brahmaputra following all along thorough its northern bordering from east to west while the southern part is surrounded by the foot hills of Meghalaya. In the eastern side, there is Kamrup district and Dhubri district its west.

Sample size A convenience sample is simply one where the units that are selected for inclusion in the sample are the easiest to access. This is in stark contrast to [\*probability sampling techniques\*](#), where the selection of units is made randomly. In our example of the 1000 working children, we were only interested in achieving a sample size of 300 children who would take part in our research. As such, we would continue to invite children to take part in the research until our sample size was reached. Since the aim of convenience sampling is easy access.

**Sample unit:** A decision has to be taken concerning a sampling unit before selecting sample. • Sampling unit may be geographical one such as state, district, block village etc. or construction units such as or house flat or social units such as family, club school etc or may be an individual. • The researcher selected one working child as a sample unit.

### **Sampling methods**

The localities participating in the door-to-door enumeration were organized alphabetically before selecting a sample of 300 individuals. To ensure convenience in the selection process, random number tables were used. Special precautions were observed to avoid including siblings performing similar roles in the sampled group, as indicated in the accompanying table. As data collection progressed, it was discovered that 1000 children had either changed their jobs or relocated from their previous homes. This information underscores the dynamic nature of the data and highlights the challenges of maintaining accurate records throughout the enumeration process. By effectively managing sampling methods and being aware of participant movement, the study aimed to ensure the reliability of its findings while accounting for external factors that may influence the results. Such efforts were crucial for drawing valid conclusions from the

collected data and understanding the demographic landscape in the localities surveyed.

## Sources of data collection<sup>1</sup>

Data is a set of values of qualitative or quantitative variables. Data is facts or figures from which conclusions can be drawn. Before one can present and interpret information, there has to be a process of gathering and sorting data. Just as trees are the raw material from which paper is produced, so too, can data be viewed as the raw material from which information is obtained (Ajayi, 2016). Data as a general concept refers to the fact that some existing information or knowledge is represented or coded in some form suitable for better usage or processing. Data is collected and analyzed; data only becomes information suitable for making decision in some fashion. Gathering data can be accomplished through a primary source (researcher is the first person obtain the data) or a secondary source (the researcher obtains the data that has already been collected by other sources, such as data disseminated in a scientific journal Sources of Primary Data Primary data refer to the first hand data gathered by the researcher himself. Some sources of primary data are surveys, observations, questionnaires, focus groups, case study and interviews as highlighted:

- i. **Survey:** Survey method is one of the primary sources of data which is used to collect quantitative information about items in a population. Surveys are used in different areas for collecting the data even in public and private sectors. A survey may be conducted in the field by the researcher. The respondents are contacted by the research person personally. This method takes a lot of time, efforts and money but the data collected are of high accuracy, current and relevant to the topic. When the questions are administered by a researcher, the survey is called a structured interview or a researcher administered survey.
- ii. **Observations:** Is one of the primary sources of data. Observation is a technique for obtaining information involves measuring variables or gathering of data necessary for measuring the variable under investigation. Observation is defined as accurate watching and noting of phenomena as they occur in nature with regards to cause and effect relation.
- iii. **Questionnaires:** Questionnaire as one of the primary sources of data is an observational technique which comprises series of items presented to a respondent in a written form, in which the individual is expected to respond in writing. Here the respondent's are given list of written items which he responds to by ticking the one he considers appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Koul Lokesh, *Methodology of Education Research*, 2005, Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd P.435.

- iv. **Case Study:** Understand an experience or conduct comprehensive examination through cross comparison of cases.
- v. **Interview:** Interviewing is a technique that is primarily used to gain an understanding of the underlying reasons and motivations for people's attitudes, preferences or behavior. Interviews can be undertaken one personal one-to-one basis or in a group.

## Source of Secondary Data

Secondary data collection phase was initiated, involving door-to-door enumeration. The locations visited during this stage included the Labour Department, the Goalpara District Library, the District Court of Goalpara, the Goalpara Law College Library, and the Rangjuli Tribal Development Block. The primary aim was to gather data on previous studies concerning child workers carried out by various organizations.

The study conducted by collecting both primary as well as secondary data. Primary data were based on closed ended questions arranged in the form of a questionnaire which were distributed among the target group in various rural and urban areas of Goalpara district. Secondary data were collected from journals, books, reports and various websites in the internet and previous studies.

Both primary and secondary data sources are incorporated into the research methods used in this study. The secondary data was collected from a range of sources in order to provide a basic understanding of child abuse, especially as it relates to child labor. Since there was a conspicuous dearth of data, the emphasis was on comprehending child abuse among child professionals. Various regions with high concentrations of child labor were pinpointed for further investigation, leading to personal visits aimed at identifying these young workers. Notable visits included areas such as Makri, Dariduri, Bardamal, Barjuli, and Rampur, all of which feature numerous cottage and small-scale industries. The Balijana Block, Rangjuli Block, and Matia Block were also visited, where several factories and garment workshops were highlighted as locations where child labor was prevalent. Within these districts, especially in areas like Goalpara, West Goalpara, Krishnai, Dudhnoi, Matia, and Darrangiri, slums were identified where many child workers reside. A visit to the local railway station was also conducted, although only a limited number of child workers were found there. Following these observational visits, interview schedules were developed tailored to various stakeholders, including working children, self-employed minors, parents or guardians, employers, working mothers, and superintendents of destitute homes. In early December 2021, an additional secondary data collection phase was initiated, involving door-to-door enumeration. The locations visited during this stage included the Labour Department, the Goalpara District Library, the District Court of Goalpara, the Goalpara Law College Library, and the Rangjuli

Tribal Development Block. The primary aim was to gather data on previous studies concerning child workers carried out by various organizations

**Table 5.1 Occupation of the child workers**

Sl. NO.	Occupation	Male	%	Fem	ale	%	Total	%	Regular		
									Full time	Part time	Casual
1.	Factoryworkers	8	3.38	16	25.40	24	8.00	24			
2.	Hotelworkers	34	14.35			34	11.33	34			
3.	Garageworkers	61	25.74			61	20.33	61			
4.	Shopworkers	34	14.35			34	11.33	34			
5.	DomesticServants	-	-	20	31.75	20	6.67	14	6		
6.	Daily wagesearners	5	2.11	6	9.52	11	3.67	11			
7.	Sweepers	3	1.27			3	1.00	1	2		
8.	Handy man	4	1.69			4	1.33	4			
9.	Helpers	34	14.35	14	22.22	48	16.00	37	9	2	
10.	Vendors	26	10.97	1	1.59	27	9.00	24	2	1	
11.	Rag Pickers	15	6.33	2	3.17	17	5.67	13	4		
12.	Daily wagesearner	13	5.49	4	6.35	17	5.67	9	3	5	
<b>Total</b>		<b>237</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>	

Twelve

occupational groups comprise the child workers in the survey, with garage workers making up the largest occupational category with 61 males (25.74%) and no females. This amounts to 20.33 percent of all garage workers, with hotel and stall workers following closely behind with 48 (16%) apiece. In addition, there are 29 (6.67%) domestic workers, 27 (9%), vendors, rag pickers, and daily wage earners, each of whom makes 17 (5.67%), while 11 (3.67%) are daily wage earners (with employers). However, there are three (1%), and 1.33%, sweepers and handymen. While there are no female children working at hotels, garages, shops, sweepers, or handymen, all domestic child laborers are female. Males make up the majority of workers in all other categories, with the exception of manufacturing and domestic workers. 26 (8.67%). Eight (2.67%) of the child laborers are seasonal or casual workers, whereas the remaining child laborers are regular or part-time employees (Table No. 5.1).

**Table 5.2 Starting age of child workers**

S.No.	Ageatwhich started working (inyears)	Number of Children					
		Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
1.	6-8	28	11.81	13	20.63	41	13.67
2.	8-10	58	24.47	24	38.10	82	27.33
3.	10-12	93	39.24	17	26.99	110	36.67

4.	12-14	58	24.47	09	14.29	67	22.33
<b>Total</b>		<b>237</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The age at which the child laborers began working is displayed in Table 5.2. The largest percentage, 110 (36.67%), began working between the ages of 10 and 12.82 (27.33%) began working when they were 8–10 years old. 41 (13.67%) were between the ages of 6 and 8 and 67 (22.33%) were between the ages of 12 and 14.

**Table 5.4 Period of working previous employment**

S.No.	Reason for joining work	No.ofChildren male	%	No.ofChildren female	%	Total	%
1.	To learn a trade	26	10.97	2	3.17	28	9.33
2.	Pressure from guardians	7	2.95	1	1.59	08	2.67
3.	Financially help	175	73.84	57	90.48	232	77.33
4.	To reduce burden on family	1	0.42	2	3.17	3	1.00
5.	To earn money to spend	9	3.98	-	-	9	3.00
6.	Death of parents	1	0.42	-	-	1	0.33
7.	Not interested in school	5	2.11	-	-	5	1.47
8.	Child wanted to work	13	5.49	1	1.59	14	4.67
<b>Total</b>		<b>237</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 5.3: shows the duration of service by the child workers in the employment immediately preceding the present occupation. The age at which the child laborers began working is displayed in Table 5.2. The largest percentage, 110 (36.67%), began working between the ages of 10 and 12.82 (27.33%) began working when they were 8–10 years old. 41 (13.67%) were between the ages of 6 and 8 and 67 (22.33%) were between the ages of 12 and 14.

**Table No: 5.5 Income of the child per month**

Sl. No.	Income per month	Number of Children					
		Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
1.	Less than Rs.50	2	1.02	4	3.84	6	2.00
2.	Rs.50 to Rs. 100	8	4.08	15	14.42	23	7.67

3.	Rs.100toRs. 150	20	10.20	5	4.80	25	8.33
4.	Rs.150toRs. 200	23	11.73	22	21.15	45	15.00
5.	Rs.200toRs. 250	8	4.08	23	22.11	28	9.33
6.	Rs.250toRs. 300	9	4.60	2	1.92	11	3.67
7.	Rs.300toRs. 350	18	4.60	4	3.84	22	7.33
8.	Rs.350toRs. 400	10	5.10	14	13.46	24	8.00
9.	Above Rs. 400	19	9.70	-	-	19	6.33
10.	Noincome	79	40.30	18	17.30	97	32.34
Total		196	100	104	100	300	100.00

Six (2.00%) of the child workers make less than Rs. 50 per month, twenty-three (7.67%) make between Rs. 50 and Rs. 100, twenty-five (8.33%) make between Rs. 100 and Rs. 150, forty-five (15.00%) make between Rs. 150 and Rs. 200, twenty-eight (9.33%) make between Rs. 250 and Rs. 300, twenty-four (8%) make between Rs. 350 and Rs. 400, and nineteen (6.33%) make over Rs. 400.

**Table no: 5.6 Number of hours worked per day by the children**

S. No.	No. of hours worked per day	Number of Children					
		Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
1.	Lessthan4 hours	10	4.72	8	9.09	18	6.00
2.	4to6	10	4.72	6	6.82	16	5.33
3.	6to8	12	5.66	9	10.23	21	7
4.	8to10	30	14.15	18	20.45	48	16.00
5.	10to12	100	47.17	25	28.41	125	41.67
6.	Above 12	50	23.58	22	25.00	72	24.00
Total		212	100	88	100	300	100.00

There are a maximum of 125 children (41.67%) who work 10 to 12 hours a day, and 72 children (24%), who work more than 12 hours a day. 48 (16%) put in 8 to 9 hours a day at their jobs. 18 (6%) work fewer than four hours, 16 (5.33%) work four to six hours, and 21 (7%) work six to eight hours. Therefore, 81.67% of kid laborers put in more than eight hours a day at their jobs. This is displayed in Table No. 5.6.

**Table No: 5.7 Leisure time activities**

S.	Activity in Leisure Time	Number of Children
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No.							
		Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
1.	WatchT.V.Movies	80	33.90	09	14.06	89	29.67
2.	Sleepand Rest	89	37.71	21	32.81	110	36.67
3.	Playwithfriends	38	16.10	25	39.06	63	21
4.	Donothingin particular	27	11.44	7	10.93	34	11.33
5.	Personal work	2	0.85	-	-	2	0.67
6.	Study		-	2	3.12	2	0.67
<b>Total</b>		<b>236</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The child workers' leisure activities are presented in Table No. 5.7. Because the kids occasionally provided more than one response, the percentages in the table do not add up to 100. 180 (41.28%) of the 300 kid workers sleep and rest during their free time, 98 (32.67%) play with friends, and 102 (23.4%) watch TV and movies.

**Table No: 5.8 Number of hours worked per day (Employer's view)**

S.No.	No. of hours worked	No. of Children	%
1	Lessthan5 hours	64	21.33
2.	5hours to7hours	125	41.67
3.	7hours to9hours	60	20.00
4.	9hours to11hours	29	9.67
5.	11hoursto12hours	2	0.67
6.	Above12hours	2	0.67
<b>Total</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Employers of child workers gave the number of hours worked by child workers which is shown in Table No.5.8: 125 (41%) of the child workers work between 5 hours to 7 hours and 2 (0.67%) works for above 12 hours per day. Thus 21.33% of the child workers in the 64 establishments work for less than 5 hours per day.

### Case Study-A

Goalpara district's working children deal with a variety of issues. Many more youngsters might have to

adapt to an unpleasant working environment if housing shortages are one kind of issue. The issues may vary from person to person depending on subjective and personal factors or variations in the type of work, living conditions, and working conditions. The four case studies that follow illustrate the real circumstances faced by working children in the Goalpara district. Four working children from various backgrounds were chosen to create these case studies. Deba, who is eight years old, works in his father's pan shop. The store is situated in a busy neighborhood. His father is a rickshaw puller and his home are just behind the shop.

### **Family Background:**

Many years ago, Deba's parents moved from Bihar to Assam. After arriving in Assam as a daily wage earner, his father eventually started pushing rickshaws. He is 48 years old and makes between Rs. 65 and Rs. 110 a day. Deba's older brother, who is fifteen years old, does not attend school or work. Using his resources, his father opened this pan store and hired his younger son, Deba, to run it. Like him, his brother dropped out of school. Their home is situated in a crowded slum area, directly behind the pan business. The town of Goalpara, located on the Brahmaputra River's bank, is to the north.

There are too many people on the little road that passes through the slum. Sweeper Patti, the slum, is primarily populated by sweepers. The child lives in a three-room house with his family. The boy makes between Rs 60 and Rs 70 a day from the pan business, but it's not a steady or enough income. The family's monthly income comes to around Rs 2,500. The parents said they had no precise plans for the child's future when I asked them about them. Their older kid, who is currently idle, is their main worry.

### **Case Study No: B**

Ten-year-old Anjali is a young child. She resides in Dudhnoi with her employers. She is a part-time domestic helper that works in multiple homes. The mother of the child told the researcher about her child when they first met during the door-to-door enumeration. The child was unable to attend school due to a change in location, financial limitations, and the father's passing. Financial limitations, according to her mother, were the primary cause of her absence from school. She admitted to knowing that primary education is free and required for everyone when I inquired if she was aware of this.

However, she said that since she works all day, no one is available to get the youngster ready for school. For the past year, the child has been employed. Her current position is her second employment. She had spent eleven months working in a different household before to this. She said that she would attend school if given the chance when I inquired if she would like to. If given the chance, she is also ready to study during her free

time. In addition to receiving a monthly wage of Rs. 500, her employer provides her with all food and clothing. Her mother helped her land her current position by introducing her to her boss. Her primary responsibilities include cleaning kitchenware, washing clothes, and mopping floors. She told me that washing clothes is really hard because she has to wash things like bed linens and covers. She did, however, state that she does not find the labor to be exhausting. Aside from tea, she receives three meals at her employer's place. She said that her employer treats her well and does not mistreat her when questioned about it. She never receives group company and doesn't play with friends.

However, she is content with her current position and hasn't considered changing it. She does not, however, believe that her work has had an impact on her health. The husband, a builder, and the wife make up the household where the child works. The wife spends the entire day at home. As a result, she handles all of the housework and cleaning while keeping the child company. The sole worker in the house is the child. She also acknowledges that she has occasionally warned the child with harsh words if they disobey her. The mother receives the child's pay directly. When questioned whether she believes the youngster is denied access to certain basic amenities, she responds that she does, but she is unable to offer any recommendations. She then responded that youngsters are trustworthy and obedient when the inspector questioned why she preferred child labor.

This instance serves as an example of the discrimination and prejudices that lower-class girls face in a nation such as India. Due to her own busy schedule, the child's mother is unable to send her to school. Despite the fact that her employer's home is close to her own, she keeps her child there for safety and security purposes. As a result, the mother of the kid is not burdened with raising the girl or dealing with any security issues. The girl will not receive an education or learn any particular trade as she grows up. She is not permitted to cook by her employment. However, given that the girl is just 10 years old, cooking is not as difficult as sweeping, washing, cleaning, etc.

### **Case study No. C**

Lalit, who is eight years old, resides in Bapujinagar, Goalpara, with his parents and sister. He picks rags. She goes out every morning to gather pieces of hard board, glass, tins, plastics, etc. She sells the materials to a vendor and makes two rounds in the morning and evening, earning between Rs. 35 and Rs. 40 per day. Lalit's parents had moved from Kokrajhar district's Fakiragram to Goalpara. His mother works as a domestic servant in the home, and his father, who is fifty years old, is a thela-walla. In addition, she has a sister who is

two years old. His father's daily income ranges from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200.

### **The child's work life:**

Lalit had never attended any kind of school. When I questioned him about why, he said that his parents' lack of funds prevented them from sending him to school. Furthermore, he has little interest in attending school. For the past two years, he has been employed as a rag picker. For the past two years, he has been employed as a rag picker. He leaves at 7 a.m. every morning and gets back at 11 a.m. He then takes a brief rest before leaving again at noon and returning at three o'clock. He mostly gathers scraps of hardboard, tin, plastic, etc. He goes to the rag vendors after he gets home and gives them what he has gathered. He then takes care of household chores like bringing water and going to the market. He claimed that he dislikes being a rag picker and finds the work challenging. After seeing other boys and girls his age engaging in rag picking, he started doing it himself. He stated that he would like to work for an employer and launch a successful career when asked about his future. He considers his current job to be quite filthy. According to an examination of the types of exploitation that women and children who are trafficked from and within Assam endure, trafficking occurs for both sexual exploitation and labor. Additionally, both can occasionally be mixed, and sexual exploitation may take place under the pretense of marriage. The nature of the exploitation experienced by women, girls, and boys from various Assamese regions who had been away from home, as well as by those who had been trafficked into the state, has been attempted to be broken down in this chapter. Since the majority of the other datasets just reference "child labor," it is important to make clear right away that the variety of labor engagements that can be analyzed from the DoLE data cannot be done with the other datasets. Because of this, it is difficult to document the various forms of child labor outside of the DoLE dataset. However, additional study has been tried wherever possible to go beyond the general categorization of the kind of exploitation into labor vs. sexual exploitation. To the best of our ability, sexual exploitation has also been documented in all of its manifestations. DoLE information has been carefully examined in order to document the many types of labor that children perform. Every dataset that permits such a classification has been examined using a broad division between domestic and other sorts of labor. It's also critical to keep in mind that, unlike in cases of rescue in transit, the kind of exploitation only matters in destination rescue situations. Additionally, as seen in the figures below, the distinctions in destination points for women, girls, and boys take on crucial importance when paired with the type of exploitation. According to documented statistics, the only type of exploitation that boys experience is labor engagement. However, there are significant differences in the types of exploitation that girls experience. According to CID data, the number of girls who are sexually exploited is more than the number of females who work. However, in the vast majority of cases, adult women merely experience sexual

exploitation, which is occasionally coupled with forced marriage. All other rescued women in the CID and CSO datasets had experienced sexual exploitation; only 22 incidents of women involved in forced labor are reported in the CSO data.

Therefore, it may be concluded that adult Assamese women are primarily trafficked to Mumbai for sex employment, while girls are trafficked to Delhi for labor, sexual exploitation, or both. No women have ever been rescued from a situation of labor alone, or even from any situation of labor combined with sexual exploitation, according to information regarding the type of exploitation experienced by rescued girls, boys, and women that is documented in CID data. Though most of the rescued girls have experienced sexual exploitation, either alone or in conjunction with forced marriage or labor, there are few instances of females being rescued from labor-only situations. Only boys have been saved from such a precarious circumstance.

## **Nature of Exploitation: CWC Data**

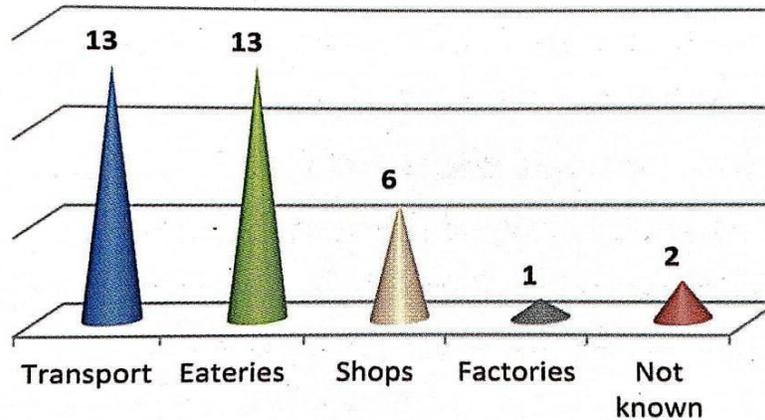
Some incidents are documented as "trafficking," while others—with or without details—are reported as "child labor." out of all the CWCs. Does Nagaon CWC have the most trafficking-related cases? 'Trafficking' has been used to describe all of the cases. Whenever feasible, additional instances of labor participation have been categorized as "domestic" and "other forms of labor." These variances are depicted in the following charts. The overall number of girls (348) generated in CWCS is significantly greater than the number of boys (244), as the first chapter illustrates. But. The primary form of exploitation in the CWC dataset is domestic and other forms of labour. Shown in this graph. Given that they make up the majority of the girls brought to CWCs, this indicates that females who travel within Assam are primarily trafficked for labor. Even still, the fact that there are 59 instances of females being sexually exploited is noteworthy because it accounts for over 17% of all cases. Incidentally, every instance of sexual exploitation involving children who were brought back from outside the state of Assam has been documented.

The most detailed information of the type of child laborer employment in Assam may be found in this data set. These differences primarily pertain to male child labor, though, as there are relatively few girls saved by Labour Inspectors or other DCLTF personnel. The specifics of their engagement are shown in the preceding chart. Additionally, it shows that the majority of girls work as domestic helpers (17 out of 22, more than 77%). Three of the remaining girls are working on a plantation (perhaps tea gardens, though that isn't mentioned), and one is working in a restaurant and another in construction. The remaining boys are roughly equally split across the other types of labor indicated in the data, with over 51% of them (95 out of 187) working

in restaurants. When combined with these facts, transportation becomes just as significant a means of interaction for young laborers as restaurants.

It should be mentioned in this context that the data presented does not specify the gender of certain youngsters.

**Type of Labour: Children of Unspecified Gender  
DoLE Data**



Separate recordings of their engagement patterns have been made. According to this graph, transportation employs as many child laborers as restaurants.

### **Girls in Domestic Labour: an alarming picture**

As this chapter's study shows, only two datasets—DoLE and CWC—allow for the classification of child labor into domestic and other types; in CID and CSO data, labor has not been further classified. But as was already said, the use of young females for household work paints a very concerning image, as seen below:As the adjacent chart reflects, out of 199 children rescued from situations of domestic labour, an overwhelming 89% are girls, Further; such engagement is majorly concentrated in Guwahati, Kamrup Metro district. One more point to be noted in this connection, as already depicted earlier in this chapter. DoLE data reflects only 28 of these 199 cases, with 171 cases being captured in CWC data only. It deserves further probe to find out why the number of girls rescued from domestic labour in Kamrup Metro features in so limited a manner, with all such rescues being credited to Childline in CWC data. The charts below capture the district-wise disaggregation of boys and girls engaged in domestic labour in CWC and DOLE datasets.

### **Conclusion:**

Child labour, where children are forced to work before completing basic education, is a significant issue. Although the number of child labourers has declined, it is mostly seen in rural areas, with a rise in

urban areas. Despite various laws and regulations to address this issue, the reality remains far from what is expected. Child labour is prevalent in Goalpara district, particularly in rural areas, where it has become a new normal. According to all industrial sociologists. When we discuss working circumstances, we often mean the general ambiance of a particular house and place of employment, the availability of essential services, the availability of vacations and vacation time, etc. In Assam, as per 2011 census, 4.9 percent (3.47 lakh) of the state total 5-14 years population were child workers. 5 in every 100 children between 5-14 years in Assam is a child worker. There are extreme examples of bonded labour in Assam. In the Goalpara district of Assam, children in many places are engaged as handyman in tempos, helpers in garages and in car washing units, waiters, etc. At a time when government has initiated strict measures to stop any form of child labour in the State, child labourers were rescued from different hotels and restaurants at various locations in Goalpara district. The Child Line and Labour Officers rushed to the hotels and restaurants in Dudhnoi town and detected the children of twelve years of age who were engaged as labourers in the hotels and restaurants. The children are school dropout students who hailed from rural areas. They were paid only Rs. 1500/- per month for their labour. The Assistant Commissioner and the District Labour Officer rescued the children and they were produced before the Child Welfare Committee, Goalpara and later they were sent to the Social Welfare Department for necessary rehabilitation. Twelve occupational groups comprise the child workers in the survey, with garage workers making up the largest occupational category with 61 males (25.74%) and no females. This amounts to 20.33 percent of all garage workers, with hotel and stall workers following closely behind with 48 (16%) apiece. In addition, there are 29 (6.67%) domestic workers, 27 (9%), vendors, rag pickers, and daily wage earners, each of whom makes 17 (5.67%), while 11 (3.67%) are daily wage earners (with employers). The largest percentage, 110 (36.67%), began working between the ages of 10 and 12.82 (27.33%) began working when they were 8–10 years old. 41 (13.67%) were between the ages of 6 and 8 and 67 (22.33%) were between the ages of 12 and 14. . Employers of child workers gave the number of hours worked by child workers which is shown in Table No.5.8: 125 (41%) of the child workers work between 5 hours to 7 hours and 2 (0.67%) works for above 12 hours per day. Thus 21.33% of the child workers in the 64 establishments work for less than 5 hours per day.