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## CONTENTS

Sr. No.	Name & Author	Pages
1	Issues of Child Labourers in the Metropolitan City of Mumbai Deepak C. Naik Dr. Chhanwal I. L.	1-5
2	Transformation in Marriage and Family Institutions in India With Special Reference to- 'Divorce and Role of Counselor Sangita Dhupe (Bagul) Dr. V. V. Patil	6-11
3	Impact of ICT on Internal Auditing and Required Proficiency of HR Dr. Sunil J. Bhavsar	12-17
4	Human Resource Management Dr. Anand V. Kulkarni	18-23
5	Empowerment of Women Adv. Mrs. Rekha M. Bhosale	24-28
6	Features of Constitutional of India Kashyam Ashok Shinde	29-32
7	Green Computing: Computer Resources Wast \Recycling Management Dr. Ujjwala Mantri	33-37
8	High Acquittal Rate under Criminal Justice System in State of Maharashtra- Issues and Challenges Mr. Vilas Mahadeo Chaudhari Dr. N.D. Chaudhari	38-44
9	A Conceptual Study of Interdependence between Industrialisation, Agriculture and Services Dr. Kanchan Mukund Sananse	44-49
10	Importance of Human Resource Management in Business Dr. Mahavir N. Sadavarte	50-54
11	Dryport in Jalna: Opportunities and Challenges Dr. J. D. Kabra	55-60
12	Challenges and Opportunities of Rural Marketing in India Avinash Manohar Kharat	61-67
13	Wastewater Treatment Technology Dr. S. J. Kulkarni	68-72
14	Women Empowerment in Recent Era Rathi Mamta	73-80
15	Child Protection and Their Rights Adv. Bhosale Rekha Madhavrao	81-88

# Issues of Child Labourers in the Metropolitan City of Mumbai

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## Abstract

Although there are number of stringent provisions to prevent Child Labour, it continues to be a chronic problem of all economies of the world, developed as well as developing. The problem is more profuse in the industrialized towns and cities, where large number of children are employed in hotels, restaurants, workshops, domestic help and so on. Of the world's largest child labour force in India, Mumbai is estimated to have more than 30,000 working children, most of whom are migrants. As per a study conducted in Dharavi, the biggest slum in Asia, located in the heart of the city of Mumbai, 68% were working as hotel boys; 22% had started working before their 10th birthday, a large number doing so to increase the family income, but earning less than Rs. 100 (\$1.1) per month. Forty percent worked more than 12 hours a day and only 16% continued schooling. This pilot study itself points towards the large magnitude of child labour in different towns and cities of the country. Against this background, the present study intends to achieve the following objectives:

- a) Review of studies on Child Labour in India.
- b) Factors contributing to the problem of child labour with reference to Mumbai.
- c) Remedies for the problem of child labour.

**Key words:** Child Labour, Dharavi, Child Exploitation, Child Labour Act.

## Introduction

Although there are number of stringent provisions to prevent Child Labour, it continues to be a chronic problem of all economies of the world, developed as well as developing. The problem is more profuse in the industrialized towns and cities, where large number of children are employed in hotels, restaurants, workshops, domestic help and so on.

Maharashtra has the second highest number of child labourers in the country. A large proportion of this resides in the city of Mumbai. For many children in the state and other parts of the country, Mumbai, with