

The Educational Status of the Child Labourers and the Special Schools in Gem Polishing Industry of Jaipur

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ABSTRACT The study was conducted in the walled city of Jaipur. Majority of the parents favored sending the children to school irrespective of the sex of the child. Many parents were of the opinion that if male children learned work, it would be useful to them later on. Majority of the parents favoured providing vocational training to boys, and only 4.9 percent of the total parents were in favour of sending girls for training. As far as the working children were concerned 42.4 percent of them had formal schooling, 17.1 percent had dropped out and 40.5 percent had never attended school. The special schools were started in 1988. As of 1992, there were 20 such schools in Jaipur city. The minimum age for enrollment is 8 years and the maximum age 11 years. In the schools the same text books are being used. However, certain lessons which are not relevant to the urban settings are deleted for the syllabus. Besides formal education they have other vocational courses in crafts. In these schools, sixty percent are boys and forty percent are girls. There is one Gem Stones Artisans Training schools (GATS) in Jaipur. The main objective of GATS is to impart the latest technical knowhow of gem cutting and polishing and update knowledge of scientific developments in the field of gemology. To make use of their skills to improve their economic condition, steps should be taken to co-ordinate the activities of special schools and GATS. In other words preference should be given to the students that who passed out from special schools.