

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Nepal is a landlocked country. Geographically, it lies in 26°22' to 30°27' North latitude and 84°5' to 88°12' East longitude and its elevation ranges from 305 meters to 8,848 meters with the total area 1, 47,181 sq. km, with the length 885 km and the width ranging from 144km to 240km. Nepal is a country of soaring mountains, beautiful valleys and subtropical jungle. Its steep terrain, lack of natural resources and inaccessibility has meant that it has remained one the very poorest and least developed countries in the world with 24% of the population living on less than US \$1 a day.

The UN's Human Development Index (2010) ranks Nepal 138th out of 177 countries and shows a life expectancy of 67.5 years, adult literacy rate of 60.3% and a GDP per capita of US \$1,189. However these figures mask major differences between the majority who live in the countryside and those who live in urban environments as well as very significant gender and income inequality (HDI 2010).

Many visible and invisible factors are associated with the homelessness of children. Some of the main factors are: family breakdown, poverty, natural and man made disasters, physical and sexual abuse, exploitation by adults, urbanization and overcrowding etc. which in fact force them to spend their life on to street.

Street children are the common problem that has been occurring through out the world for a long time. In the context of Nepal, the problem of street children has emerged as a major social problem. The change in the political system also did not bring much difference in terms of addressing this serious problem as it was expected.

"According to Human Rights Watch, "The term street children refers to children for whom the street, more than their family has become their real home. It includes children who might not necessarily be homeless or without families, but who live in situations, where there is no protection, supervision, or direction from responsible adults."

Moreover, UNICEF has sub-categorized and defined street children into three types: Street-Living, Street-Working, and Street-Family.

According to UNICEF, children from street families are children who live on the streets with their families.

Street working children are children who spend most of their time working in the streets and markets of cities, but return home on a regular basis. Among these three categories, the reality of street living children is pathetic. According to UNICEF, "Street living children are children who may have lost their families through war or illness, or have been abandoned because they had become too much of a burden, or else ran away from their abusive, dysfunctional, poverty-stricken families and now live alone on the streets."

"They work, living and sleeping in the streets, often lacking any contact with their families. These children are at highest risk of murder, constant abuse and inhumane treatment. They often resort to petty theft and prostitution for survival," reports UNICEF.

Though the U.N. has estimated the population of street children worldwide at 150 million, nobody knows their exact number in Nepal -- street children are not easy to count because they move around a lot, within and between cities like Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur.

Many children come from structurally disadvantaged homes where poor living conditions result in many difficulties. Parent's loss through death or abandonment and/or family conflict or shortage of housing may force children onto the streets. In many cases the move to street life is an adaptive response to the stress and severe oppression experienced by families living in a society of conflict. Thus, the move to the streets often represents a desire to take control of one's life and displace old values and conditions with new ones (Hickson and Gaydon 1989).

Generally, they can be classified into three main groups for this study:-

1. Runway children:- These children run away from their homes generally from rural areas to urban areas with high hopes and dreams to escape from their hard lives, abuse or neglect.

2. Squatter children:- These children comes to the street from the neglected families who lives in the poor and shanty areas of the town. Some of them are to support their family.
3. Orphan or abandoned children:- These children are forced to stay in a street life either due to loss, desertion of parents, or due to maltreatment of the step parents

All these street children fight for their own survival by either begging or rag picking or any other work similar to this on the street. In fact they are the most neglected group of children who have denied all the privileges and rights of our society.

According to the swart the street child phenomenon is directly linked to rapid industrialization and urbanization with the concomitant breakdown of extended family ties: "Harsh or neglectful treatment of children by their families frequently derives from parental depression, anger, anxiety and frustration at life circumstances" (Swart 1998).

Children are an integral part of the society and they deserve the childhood, as it is their in born human right. The UN convention on the rights of the child has ensured that every child in the world has right to survival, development, protection and participation (ILO 1997).

However, an overwhelming majority of children in the world are deprived and denied of their fundamental rights. Nepal is one of the examples of nation plagued by the problems of street children. As mentioned above, rigid socio-cultural norms, illiteracy, economic backwardness and ignorance of basic human rights are the major determinants of street children.

According to children Act and labour Act of Nepal (2063) the groups of under age of 16 years old are known as children. According to Central Bureau of statistic (2001) there is over 12 million children population of which child labour at risk is about 2.6 million. According to the CWIN (2003), there are 5000 street children and out of them around 2000 on the street and 3000 off the street, among which 800-900 street children are in Kathmandu valley. The same report also mentioned that there are about 32,000 children in India and 5,000 children within Nepal and below 16 years

are involved in trafficking and child prostitution. Though there is no investigation and study made by the government to verify the above mentioned street children increasing trend, it is envisioned that the number has been increase because of high poverty level and unstable political turmoil.

Government of Nepal has signed the CRC on children right and this indicates that the government has promulgated some rules and laws but specifically not addressed the problems and issues of street child. We talked about Juvenile Justice in Nepal for Children right. We regard children as the "Foundation stone of the nation" but generally we do not treat children well in practice. Children have been entitled as the "future stars" and the "rising sun" in most of the societies since the time immemorial; survival and protection. It is therefore utmost important to develop a concrete future plan so that the street children problem can be minimized.

Similarly, the children's Act, 1992 makes provision relevant to this situation. Street Children Act highlights on:-

-) Equal rights of children born in and out of the wedlock and of natural or adopted children. |
- |) The responsibility of guardians and the circumstances under which they may be replaced. |
- |) The establishment of homes for orphan abandoned and handicapped children. |
- |) The prohibition of using children for the purpose of begging. |
- |) Children under 10 years of age are not criminal liable. |

However in practice, these acts are widely ignored. According to the statistics, there are nearly 500,000 children are migrated from rural to the urban. Among them, there are approximately 300,000 child labors in different kinds of jobs and 1500 street children, 100 are in prison (CWIN, 1995).

The dramatic increase in the number of street children has been linked to societal stress associated with rapid industrialization and urbanization. Conversely, in industrialized countries, inner-city decay and chronic unemployment accompanying

economic downturns are held responsible. In agricultural societies, drought and famine may be to blame.

Economic and social upheavals have led to the breakdown of traditional family structures and values. The reduction in family size, from extended to nuclear, has led to the availability of fewer child-support resources. Family disruption, in the form of death, desertion, separation, and divorce, has shrunk family size still further, often resulting in poor, single-parent, mother-headed households. This leaves children vulnerable, and with the general absence of community and governmental support, they have few options in times of crisis other than life on the street.

In circumstances where there is family pathology, such as alcoholism, child abuse (physical or sexual), or neglect, children are motivated to leave home, or may even be driven out. Other reasons for turning to the streets include overcrowding, social disruption caused by frequent relocation (migrant labor), as well as parent-child friction in reconstituted families. Contrary to popular belief, only a small percentage of street children have been orphaned.

Poverty is another cause. Some families could not survive with another mouth to feed, or without the financial contributions of working or self-supporting children (which sometimes involves prostitution).

Many children reportedly run away from home to escape the boredom, humiliation, and failure they experience in school. Others are drawn to the streets to be "part of the action," or are motivated to seek a better life than the one to which they would be destined if they remained at home.

Political factors have also played a role. In South Africa during the 1980s, black youths left home to participate in the political struggle to end apartheid, as well as to hide from the authorities.

Generally speaking, the root cause of being street child could be as shown in the Figure 2.1.

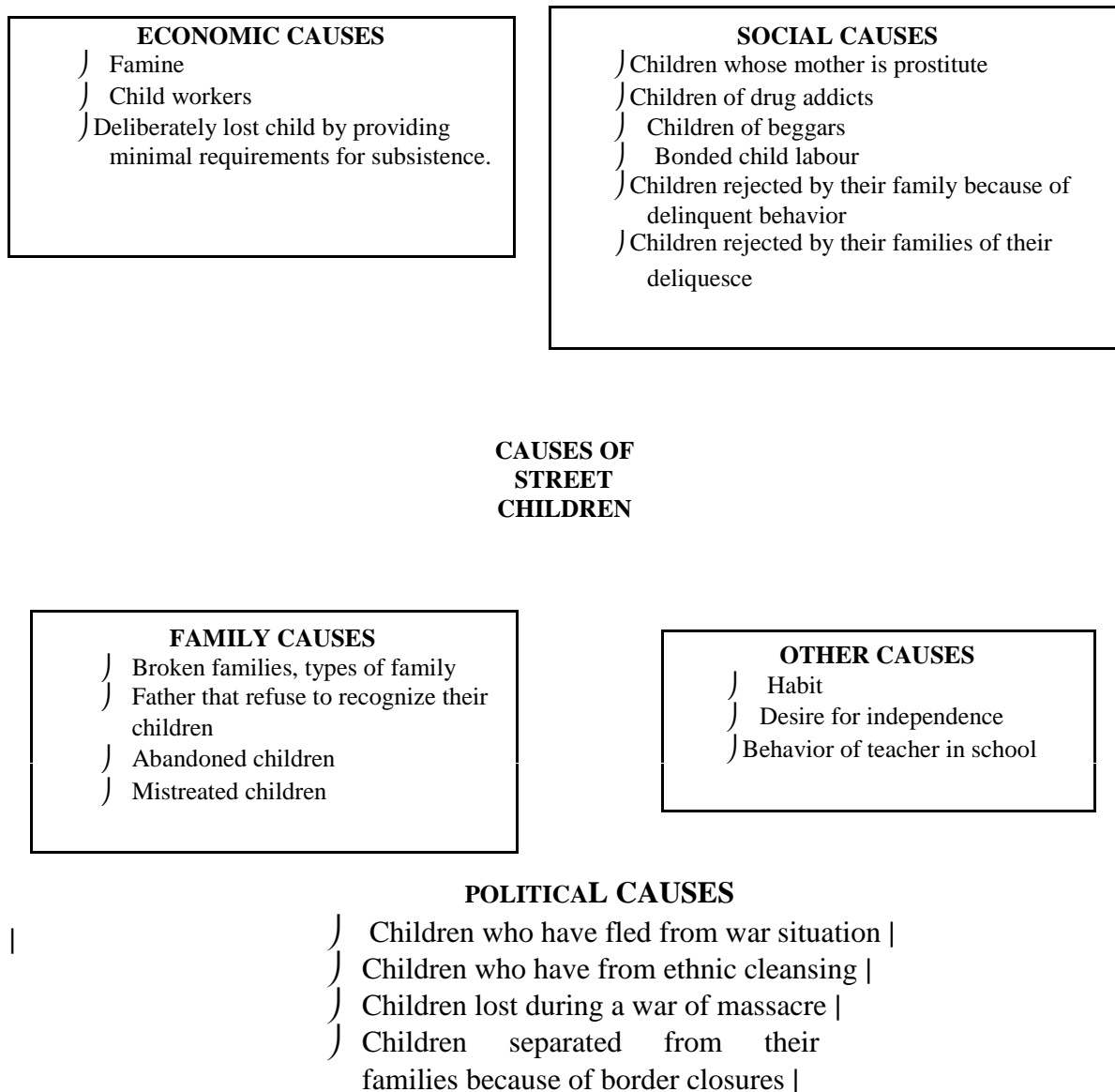


Figure 1.1: Root cause of child being onto street

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Because of the low GNP, high population growth rate and limited resources for entertainment, crude birth rate are becoming significantly high as compared with other countries in the world forcing people of Nepal to survive in difficult situation. Because of the religious and cultural trends, early marriage makes the situation even worse. In the other hand, poor trend of sending girls to school and limited job opportunities; it is extremely difficult in order for them to raise their children with the basic necessities, such as food and education. To cope with the ever-increasing financial pressures, more and more children from the low income generating family are being pushed onto the street. It is also quite common for children from middle class and rich families if they do not meet demand of their child. CWIN a NGO in

1992 had carried out a research study on street children and since then there has not been any research by any organization. It is therefore not known exactly how many street children are on the street and put in shelter homes in Nepal and particularly in the capital city.

Street child problem is universal and they are the reflection of a growing social tragedy in the world. The world child population static published by different reports in 2000 shows that there are 250 million-child labour, 150 million street children, 1 million children in prostitution 35 million refugee women and children who are victimized by wars and 10 million women and child victims of domestic violence in the world. These numbers are rising daily. These young people are more appropriately known as community children, as they are the offspring of our communal world. Ranging in age from three to eighteen, about 40% of those are homeless. The other 60% works on the streets to support their families. They are unable to attend school and are considered to live in “especially difficult circumstances”. Increasingly, these children are the defenseless victims of brutal violence, sexual exploitation, abject neglect, drug addiction, and human rights violations.

The statistics of children population of Nepal (Statistic of Bureau, 2000) showed that there is over 12 million children population below 18 years. However it is unknown that what fraction of such population are street child. It is therefore important to know about street child status, reason of being street children and their involvement depending on the age group and ethnicity background.

Those who have run away from home may experience unpleasant and traumatic home environment. They experience family problems they are unable to solve i.e. alcoholism, child abuse and ill treatment by stepparents, unemployment and poverty. Their tolerance level has been far exceeded, leading to the drastic decision to leave their family. Those who have run away from home, who wanted to study/work but were not allowed and came to experience the exciting experiences of city life, glamorized by magazines and movies.

Lack of street children study in the past as well as in the present makes it difficult to estimate the number of children in the Kathmandu valley. However, it is thought that the number is increasing because of high pull factor but it is not possible to quantify the increasing rate. Every year hundreds of children leave their home and migrate to

urban areas for a better future. However due to lack of contacts and relatives in the cities they ultimately find themselves homeless, helpless and forced to be on street. Having no other alternative, they then choose to spend free life onto street and do what they feel themselves appropriate.

The government and non-government organizations have taken some initiatives to combat the street child problem in Nepal. However, the problem of street child has not yet stopped. The problem is gaining momentum continuously in another acute form. Hence, keeping in mind the misery of the street child, the proposal study aims to open a line of sociological inquiry into the world of street child.

Following research questions:

- What are the influencing factors of children being onto street and what ethnic and cultural backgrounds do street children represent?
- What are the major problems faced by them? What are their activities for survival? How do they spend their life?
- What is the present situation and status of Street children?
- Which age groups mostly influence the street children?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The problem of street children is universal and the problems associated with these children are various in economical, social, and geographical ways. Street children are not good or bad by birth, but they are made so by the society. They are made bad by the circumstances of their lives and their exposure to negative influences. So, the major objectives of this study are:

- To explore the current condition of street children.
- To explore the root cause behind the arrival of children at this location.
- To understand the socio-economic condition of street children.
- To explore their existing situation on the street.
- To identify the interrelation and interaction of street children among them and with others.
- To identify the major Problems of street Children.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study gives information about street children and their rights. It provides the knowledge and necessary information concerning with the street children in Nepal. It helps to get an idea regarding current situation of the street children, which will ultimately help in the development of the children's welfare. This study also disseminates information to the people and other organizations about the working of CWIN that can be helpful to inspire others.

But above all this, the study aids in creating awareness among people in terms of eliminating all forms of abuse, exploitation and injustice against children.

Hence, the proposed research topic would be useful for further research or formulating policies for the welfare of street children in particular and poverty alleviation in general.

CHAPTER-II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Street child is a common problem and has been occurring throughout the world for a long time since even before written history. Developed countries have managed to protect, however it is not fully controlled. One of the serious problems, which influence becoming street child, is the poverty level. Moreover it is also connected with the unstable political situation, closure of border between the countries, gender and race etc. Sometimes children want to be free from their parents and their wish to stand independently drives them to be onto street. Children's right to participate in the social and creative works and in the decision, which affect their lives directly, are still an ideal thing in most of the society. We talk a lot about children right but these days street children are proactive and take part into various activities.

Children were used to be neglected and their issues were undermined in most of our societies. Whenever children's issues had been taken into consideration, they were guided by the principles of charity and welfare. This had never become a political agenda even for discussion till the Convention Right of the Child (UN-CRC) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989. Since then the right of the child have been emerged as a powerful political agenda in national, regional and international level. (<http://www.infonepal.com>)

Angelli (1986) has published reports and case studies from different countries showing how street children has become a growing urban tragedy. The studies on street children from different parts of the world shows that few silent characteristics of the children's lifestyles are common cross culturally such as making a living by selling a recyclable goods, living in social groups, experiencing violence, having unstable relationship with their families and having or high level competence and resiliency.

Forrest et al. (1986) conducted a study on street children and found that males predominate among street children, although females are also represented, especially in Asian countries. Females who have been sexually abused often turn to prostitution, while males are prone to violence, such as rape. There is an alarming acceptance of male violence by female street children.

Apteckar (1988) has explored the state's the middle class people's perceptions and reaction to street children, as well as children' ways of using those reactions for their own gain. He has also highlighted the ways in which smaller street children protected by bigger children, who in turn capitalize on the cuteness of the small ones by making buy or sell goods on the street because people are generally more sympathetic towards smaller children.

Richter (1988) studied that the street children fear being harmed, incapacitated, arrested (most report being subjected to police intimidation or brutality), and getting sick. They also are concerned about loneliness and being unloved. They desire respect and "yearn to become someone." Street children tend to see themselves as nice people who behave badly: the ones everybody loves to hate.

Aptekar (1989) conducted a study on street children and showed that the longer children spend on the streets, the more likely it is that they will become involved in criminal activities; but the popular beliefs that the streets are "schools of crime" and that all street children inevitably become criminals are not true. However, they are often guilty of antisocial or self-destructive behavior. This self-destructive behavior frequently results from a lack of knowledge, rather than from negative and fatalistic attitudes.

Drake (1989) studies showed that Children merely working on the street in order to supplement family income--who return home regularly--predominantly are loyal to, and have a positive relationship with, family members, in contrast with permanent children of the streets. Most street children have unfavorable family histories in common. They often come from nuclear families, especially single-parent households headed by the mother. Frequently, they have had no positive father figure and suffered parental rejection and physical hardship. Consequently, they are reluctant to trust adults and find any authority or control imposed upon them irksome. Yet most yearn to return home, provided that the familial factors that drove them away change.

Hickson & Gaydon (1989) studied that the more time street children spend on the streets, the greater the likelihood that they will show signs of cognitive or emotional dysfunction. In addition, AIDS is spreading at an alarming rate among street children.

Pradhan (1990) revealed that the characteristics of street children: little or no contact with families; left alone without adult care; peer group is most important support system; involved in various antisocial activities, including theft (e.g., pick-pocketing); basic needs left unfulfilled; beg for food and money; exploited by employers; work at odd jobs; and street smart, especially in outwitting the authorities. In Nepal, 60% of the population lives below the poverty line. Thus, the reasons for becoming a street child are predominantly economic and social: maltreatment by stepmother, 23%; father's death, 28%; family abandoned by father, 5%; mother's death, 16%; family abandoned by mother, 9%; lack of home/food, 12%; neglect or abuse, 83%; abandoned by family, 5%; attraction to city life, 62%.

Swart (1990a) studies shows that when street children band together, they represent an exceptional companionship system, which replaces the family as a source of emotional and economic support. The group offers protection, support, friendship, and solidarity. Its members generally show strong loyalty to each other. In addition, their use of street jargon gives them a special identity.

CWIN (1990) studied 100 street children reported that longer work hours among street children (14 to 18 hours per day) lower income from rag picking (NRs 23/ day), a lower prevalence of begging (18%). The type of street children interviewed in the study included 48 % runaways, 13% squatters and 39% abandoned and orphaned children. The most common reason given for being a street child was prior abuse and neglect.

Blanc (1991) has examined policies and programs designed to provide immediate services, long term support and protection of street children. Emphasis has been placed on utilizing the children's survival skill to design flexible programs that respect children's freedom and dignity by creating a healthier environment and providing opportunities which would better support them in the future.

Taqon (1991) has studied Street children often seem younger than their chronological age, due to acute and chronic malnutrition, which stunts their growth. However, their furtive, hunted expressions and devil-may-care attitude toward the world reveal a maturity beyond their years.

CAR- NWG (1992) conducted a study in Narayanghat of Chitwan district highlighted the existence of significant number of children working and living in Narayanghat and were living in situation of risk because of poor economic condition of the family, family disharmony and abuse, and the expectation of better life of urban life. The study pointed out that there is gender segregation in the type of work children did. While the majority of boys worked as hotel assistant and rag pickers, girls worked as domestic workers.

Munykho (1992) conducted studies on Kenya focus more on disadvantaged children in the community and their relationship to work, education and the street if discuss the problems of institutionalization, draws specially on problems faced by young girls, highlighting differences from those faced by boys. The aim of study is to develop a fuller understanding of the problems facing children from birth till age 18, by analyzing various level of causes for their abuse, abandonment, mistreatment and neglect. The report has also sought of identify and highlight common problems such as overcrowding, pollution, urban violence, internal and external migration and the lack of a sense of belonging.

Shah (1994) studies suggested that besides begin subjected to health hazards such as accidents, STDS and drug addiction, street children had virtually no access to basic health, nutrition or education. The most damaging effect observed in such street children was the development of a deep sense of insecurity, which often resulted in uncontrolled aggressiveness and over rebellion, directed at the existing social system.

Azad (1998) conducted studies on three street children in Kathmandu Valley, determined their health status and three daily exposure to environmental pollution found that new comers on the street had less incidence of fever, earache, Vitamin B deficiency and colds than their longer term street peers: the existence of contact to the family who found to positively influence street children personal cleanliness behavior, and while all subjects perform environmentally hazardous occupation, rag picking was the most harmful increasing the likelihood for frequent injury by 25 percent. The nature of the jobs street children did for their survival and the very fact that they spend most of their time on the street, expose them to all kinds of health hazards.

Thapa et al. (2009) studies health problems among the street children and found that The most common health problems were head lice infestation (81.2%), headache (66.7%), cut injury (60.4%), common cold (52.1%), dental caries (52%), burning micturation (47.9%), cough (47.9%), underweight (43.8%), abdominal pain (39.6%), tinnitus (37.55%), gum bleeding (33.3%), joint pain (31.2%), eye inflammation (25%), leg cramps (25%), palpable lymph nodes (25%), chest pain (18.8%), skin lesions (16.7%), abnormal vision (8.3%).

CHAPTER-III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The present study was done on the street children of Ratnapark Area of the Kathmandu Valley. The study tries to cover the driven forces of child being street child. Why are they come to urban area? To cover all this aspects in short period of time and limited resources, "descriptive cum exploratory study" was chosen.

3.2 Rationale of Site Selection

The Ratnapark of the Kathmandu Valley was chosen as a research area. Normally Ratnapark is considered as the Heart of the Kathmandu Valley where we can see people from all districts of different ethnic groups. It is one of the rapidly developing areas in the Kathmandu Valley where one can have easy access of long and short distance transportation facility. In the Ratnapark area, several types of peoples and their behavior can be observed while standing couple of minutes alongside the road. Which infact attracts to carry on research study giving special attention to cover street child. The major thing is that Ratnapark is the center of the street children and accessible for every street children.

3.3 Universe and Sampling Procedures

As the street child is mobile, the exact population of the street children of the study area is unknown. Due to the unknown universe or the unknown total number of street children in Ratnapark , the study area, the research has applied non-probability and accidental sampling technique based on to achieve purpose as set there in the objectives. The 50 samples were taken from the study area. Emphasis has given to cover different age group, ethnic composition, their involvement area, daily life style, etc.

3.4 Nature and Source of Data

Different types of quantitative and qualitative data has been collected and analyzed. Both primary and secondary data were used in the study. The primary data has been collected from the field by administering semi-structured close and open-ended questionnaires for interview. Direct observation was also conducted while acquiring

data. The secondary data has been collected from available materials such as books, journals, project reports, internet, reports and published articles.

3.5 Data Collection Method

3.5.1 Interview

Mixed type interview method was applied to collect primary information from the street child. The questionnaires have been prepared on the basis of the study objectives. The set of questions for interview was semi-structured, close and open-ended questionnaires (Appendix A).

3.5.2 Observation

Beside interview, partial observation was also carried out parallel for their behaviour analysis, age group classification with whom they are extending their friendship, eating habits and clothing that they are using. A great deal of data were collected through direct observation.

3.5.3 Internet and website

Relevant website and Internet was browsed to acquire secondary data and information. Case study from different countries has been abstracted from internet and website to make study more rational.

3.6 Data analysis

The data collected through various tools and techniques has been analyzed in the subsequent chapters using both descriptive and statistical method of analysis. The data processing has been done by appropriate coding interpreted to make the meanings and implication of the study clear. The main aim of the analysis was to establish relationship between root cause of street child, their behaviour, age group and ethnic composition.

3.7 Limitation

Children generally do not trust strangers and do not talk to them openly at their first visit. Even when they do, they hesitate to give detailed information about themselves. They give up things very easily, lightly and with jokes.

It was difficult to fill out the questionnaires and have conversations with the children because people in the area such as shopkeepers and passer by gather around and intervened in conversation. They wanted to know way the street children were questioned, and the conversation with the children had to be broken in order to answer their quarries. When the children were surrounded by so many people, they did not want to continue to talk with field worker and often changed their version of story.

The limitations of the research study are as follows:

- Since this study was confined only those children who are under 16 years of age within Ratnapark of the Kathmandu Valley, the result obtained from the study cannot be generalized for all the other urban areas.
- The study was done over a short period of time and therefore has limitations in terms of time that was spent with each respondent interviewed.

CHAPTER-IV ANALYSIS

The research was conducted within Ratnapark Area of Kathmandu Valley and 50 street child respondents were taken to meet the objective of the study. The collecting data was analyzed and presented.

4.1 Age Group

Among the 50 street children who were selected for this study were between 6 to 13+ years. Out of the 50 respondents majority were found with an age group of 6-7 years (6%) followed by 7-8 years (14%), 8-9 years (14%), 9-11 years (26%), 11-13 (32%) and 13+ years (8%). (Table 4.1)

Table 4.1 Age wise population composition of child

S. No	Age group	Number of respondents	
		Total numbers	Percentage
1	6-7	3	6%
2	7-8	7	14%
3	8-9	7	14%
4	9-11	13	26%
5	11-13	16	32%
6	13+	4	8%
Total		50	100%

Source: Field study (2011)

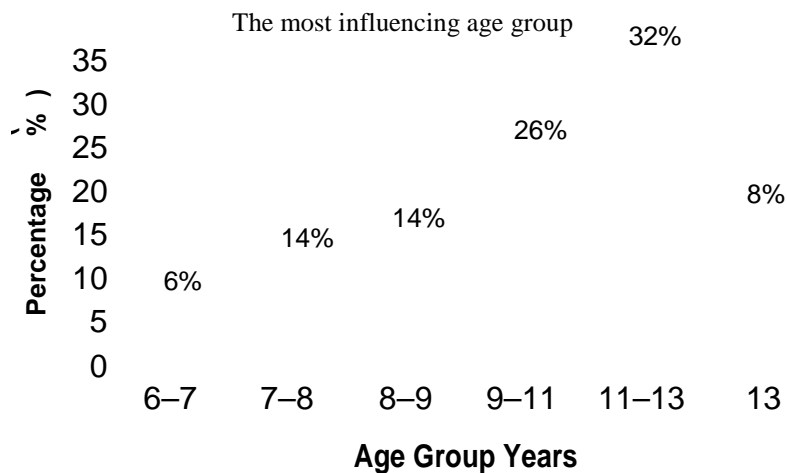


Figure 4.1 Pictorial diagram of age wise group distribution of child

4.2 Cause of Street Child

There are several reasons that influenced children being on to street. The most influencing parameter is due to the high level of poverty and affection with chairs. From the present study it was found that highest percentage (38%) of the children being in the street due to family causes whereas lowest (14%) due to economic causes (Fig. 4.2)

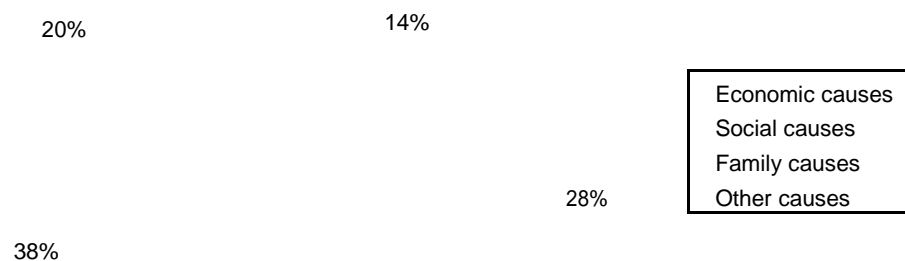


Figure 4.2 Pictorial representation of reason of being children onto street

4.2.1 Social Causes

This is one of the most influencing reasons of children being onto street. From the 50 respondents who were asked questionnaire it was found that 28% street children were influenced by the social causes. Out of those situation the bonded child labour (30%) is the most influencing causes followed by children of beggars and children whose mother is a prostitute (21%). Children's deliquesces behavior (14%) followed by children of drug addicts and rejected children by their family due to women trafficking (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2 Street child due to social problems

S.No.	Social causes	Interviewed numbers	
		Numbers	Percentage
1	Children whose mother is a prostitute	3	21.4%
2	Children of drug addicts	1	7.1%
3	Children of beggars	3	21.4%
4	Bonded child labour	4	28.6%
5	Children rejected by their family because of delinquent behavior	3	21.5%
Total		14	100%

Source: Field study (2011)

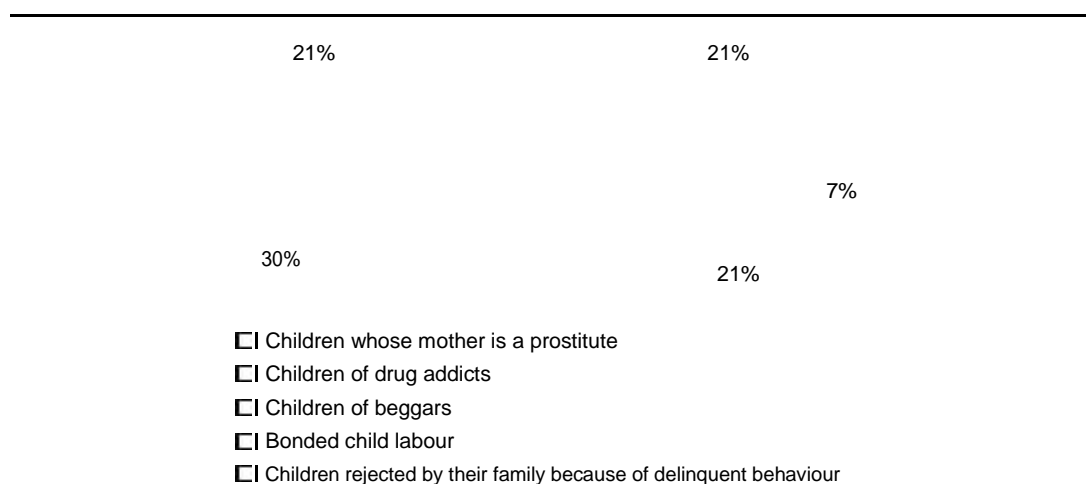


Figure 4.3 Pictorial representation of street child being on street due to social causes.

4.2.2 Family Causes

This is other prime factor, which influences children being onto street. Due to lack of economic support and high level of poverty, parents will not in a position to support their family and then start taking alcohol. Intolerable situation can be created within family and the children try to be free from such home. The main root causes as observed during survey are presented in the Table 4.3 showing number of respondents and their representation in percentage. The pictorial representation can be seen in Figure 4.5 below.

Table 4.3 Causes of being street children due to family problems

S. No.	Root family causes	Number noted	Number in %
1	Broken families	2	10.5%
2	Father that refuse to recognize their children	2	10.5%
3	Abandoned children	3	15.8%
4	Orphan	3	15.8%
5	Mistreated children	9	47.4%
	Total	19	100%

Source: Field study (2011)

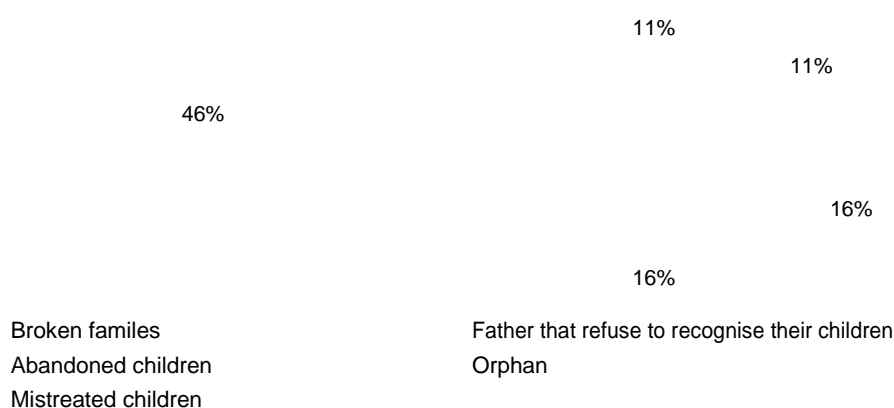


Figure 4.4 Pictorial representations of family problems

The root cause of the street children is due to mistreatment from their parents. About 47% street children are from those families where children are not treated with good environment (Discrepancy in Table 4.3 and Figure 4.6 is due to rounding error). Abandoned children and orphan children (15.5%) followed by father that refused to recognize their child (10.5%). No one observed due to gifted children in a poor and sick family and children who need reconciling with their family after family crisis.

4.2.3 Economic Causes

Economic cause is another important cause of street child. Population is increasing quite significantly but economic status of people is becoming poor day by day. It is

therefore difficult to feed their children. From the present study it was found that the reasons of leaving their parenthood are:

- Famine
- A rural child discovers that he is one too many mouths to feed.
- A child lives in extreme poverty in a slum
- Children that are deliberately “lost” by parents incapable of providing minimal requirements for subsistence

Table 4.4 and Figure 4.6 summarized the finding of the economic causes, which drive children being onto street.

Table 4.4 Street child due to economic causes

S. No	Root economic causes	Interviewed numbers	
		Numbers	%
1	Famine	3	42.9%
2	Child workers	2	28.6%
3	Deliberately lost children by parents in capable of providing minimal requirements for subsistence	2	28.6%
Total		7	100%

Source: Field study (2011)

Based on the survey data and information, famine (42.9%) is the most economic influencing cause of being child onto street followed by child workers and deliberately lost children by their parents(28.6% each). Deliberately loss of child is basically occurring during festival time because of their inability of providing minimal requirement for subsistence.

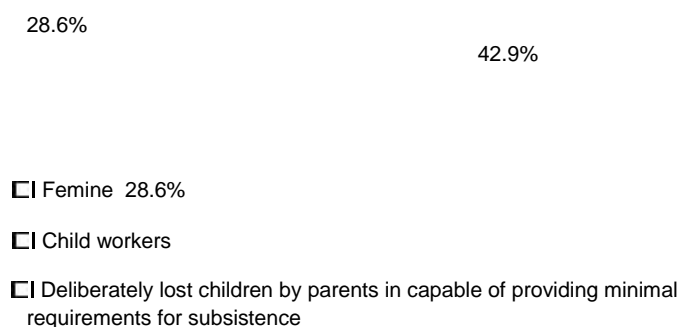


Figure 4.5 Pictorial representation of economic causes that influence child being on street.

4.2.4 Other causes

Besides above mentioned four causes these are some other reasons that forced children to be onto street. Here are the some causes found during survey. Behavior of their parents and social institutions and child's desire for independence that drive them onto streets are the major causes found in the survey. Table 4.5 and Figure 4.8 show the result from the survey.

Table 4.5 Other causes of child being onto street

S. No	Root other causes	Number of respondents	Number in %
1	Habit	4	40%
2	Desire for independence	3	30%
3	Behavior of teacher in school	3	30%
Total		10	100%

Source: Field study (2011)

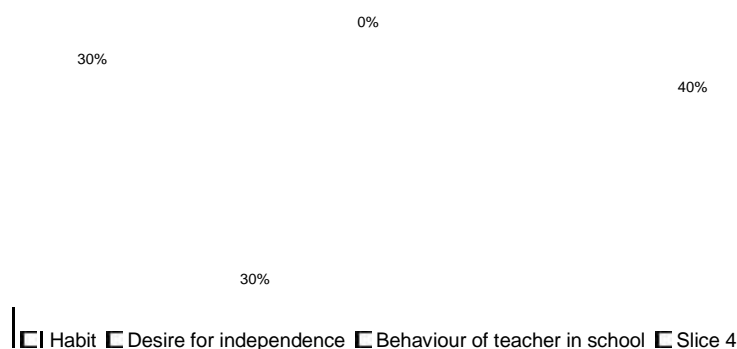


Figure 4.6 Pictorial representations of other causes that influence child being on the street

Habit of the child is the most influencing cause. About 40% of respondents are influenced by their habit. The reason could be they do have plenty of time where no one disturbs to carry out their plan as they wish to do so. Behavior of teacher in school and desire of independence (30% each) is the other cause that influenced children to be onto street. Bonded child is one who wants to be free from their house owner. Teacher in school routinely used corporal punishment to maintain discipline and to punish children for poor academic performance. One of the respondents was saying that he was punished in front of his classmates that made him feel guilty and thus consequently left the school. He was saying that he is reluctant to rejoin school. The reason could be age factor.

4.3 Ethnicity

Unity in diversity has been considered as the main characteristic feature of Nepal. Population wise, Brahmin and Chhetri are the most dominant population in the country. The researcher in this study wanted to know the most influencing street children population and therefore a research study focused in this sector. The finding of the study is presented in Table4.6.

Table 4.6 Ethnic Composition of Respondents

S. No	Ethnic composition	Number	Percentage, %
1	Brahmin	12	24
2	Chhetri	9	18
3	Tamang	8	16
4	Newar	2	4
5	Gurung	4	8
6	Tharu	4	8
7	Limbu	2	4
8	Sherpa	1	2
9	Other	8	16
Total		50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

The number of street children corresponds to the percentage of different ethnic groups in the total population of the country. The largest populations of street children was from Brahmin (24%) followed by Chhetri (18%) and Tamang (16%) whereas the lowest population from Sherpa (2%). The other group comprises from the so-called scheduled untouchable castes and minorities, which are more or less similar as estimated by CWIN 1992 (7.23%).

The Figure 4.8 shows the ethnic composition of street child since Nepali society is composed of diverse ethnic group with varying cultural traditions.

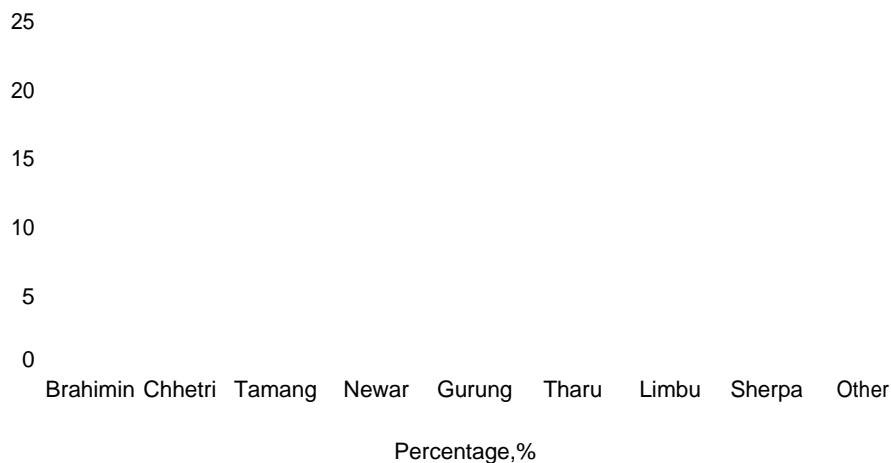


Figure 4.7 Ethnic compositions of street children

4.4 Occupation of Parents and Literacy status of street child

The literacy status of street child is significantly low. They only recognized Nepali alphabet. More importantly though they had not joined school but learned Nepali alphabet at home. Table 4.8 shows the information about literacy rate of street child.

Table 4.7 Occupation of Parents and Literacy status of street child

S. No	Parent's occupation	Respondents			
		Numbers	Percentage	Number of Literacy	Percentage
1	Agriculture	19	38	6	30
2	Driving	4	8	2	10
3	Labour at carpet industry	7	14	3	15
4	Tailoring	4	8	1	5
5	Labour	10	20	5	25
6	Prostitution	6	10	3	15
Total		50	100	20	100

Source: Field study (2011)

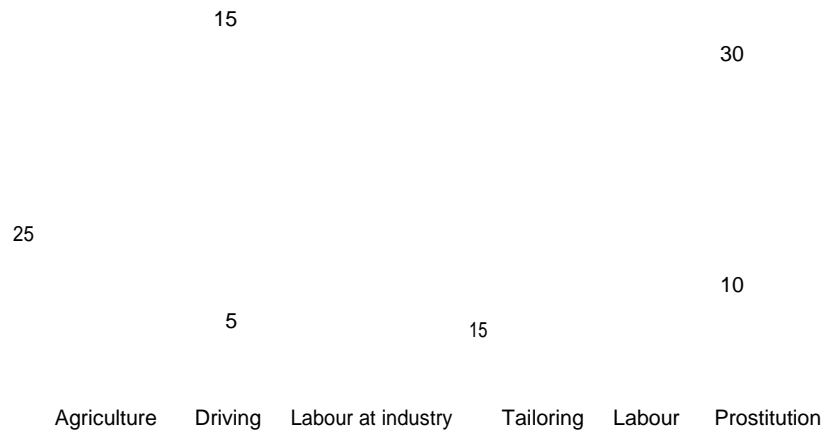


Figure 4.8 Pictorial diagram of Literacy Status of Street Children

Only 20 of the respondents out of 50 respondents were found to be literate, but most had dropped out before they learnt their alphabets and number. It was found that the highest percentage (i.e. 30%) of literate street children from that families whose occupation is agriculture whereas lowest percentage of literate children from those families whose occupation is Tailoring.

Though they are from schooling background they were shy to speak. The reason could be that they didn't want to disclose their conditions that they are onto street from early stage causing no memory about their past history. The illiteracy is about 48%. However, it was observed that they know little bit in many topics.

4.5 Area of origin

The street children of Ratnapark area of the Kathmandu Valley were found to be a homogeneous mixture of all places in Nepal but it is heterogeneous composition if we look at the ethnic background. Kathmandu is now gradually becoming a melting pot because the main attraction to all kinds of people such as job seeker, street child, migrants etc. Table 4.9 shows the place of origin of the street child.

Table 4.8 Place of origin of Ratnapark street child

S. No	Area of origin	Number of respondents	Percentage, %
1	Dhading	9	18
2	Nuwakot	7	10
3	Makwanpur	6	12
4	Chitwan	4	8
5	Sindhupalchowk	4	8
6	Kathmandu	3	6
7	Dhanusha	2	4
8	Rasuwa	2	4
9	Lamjung	2	4
10	Tanahu	2	4
11	Kavreplanchowk	2	4
12	Sunsari	2	4
13	Nawalparasi	2	4
14	Lalitpur	1	2
15	Syangja	1	2
16	Gorkha	1	2
Total		50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

The Table shows that most of the street children are from adjoining district of the Kathmandu Valley. The highest percentage street child number from Dhading (18%) followed by Makwanpur (12%) and Nuwakot (10%). Street child from Lalitpur, Syangja and Gorkha was just 2% each. This indicates that the adjoining districts have more influence on the street child possibly because of more opportunity to explore, to withstand independently and to enjoy with development.

The result is more or less tailed with the street child trend as published by CWIN in 1992. According to the CWIN 1992; there were only 16.97% street children from the Kathmandu Valley with only 11.45% from the Kathmandu city itself. Rest came from other districts with 44.16% coming from the surrounding districts of Kathmandu.

4.6 Behaviour and Problems of Street Child

4.6.1 Problems Faced

As discussed in the previous section that street children are a homogeneous group formed by collection from through out the nation in the Kathmandu Valley and heterogeneous in nature if we look at the cultural and ethnic background. Figure 4.11 shows that the street children are fighting for survival. Generally, the street child's life is vulnerable especially because of street pollution. Most of their illness is due to pollution and lack of food. One should not forget the delinquency behaviour of the community and government agencies towards the street child. The heavy traffic at Ratnapark makes it much difficult for them to cross roads and therefore chance of accident is high. Some of the problems according to the respondents are Fooding areas, Clothes problems, Night stay problems, Community treatment, Government treatment and Medicinal problems

Figure 4.9 Firing in the cold night to Prevent from cold

(Source: Chandrodaya website, Ratnapark, Nepal)

FOODING AREAS

This is one of the most important aspects of human being for their living. Depending on the income of the street child they prefer to take food in different places. According to the survey conducted on 50 street children, their preferable food taking places is shown in Table 4.9 and pictorial representation of street child population going in different places is shown in Figure 4.11.

Table 4.9 Preferable food taking places by street children

S. No	Place	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Restaurant	9	18
2	Local Restaurant (Bhatti	13	26
3	Begging	18	36
4	Food stalls	10	20
	Total	50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

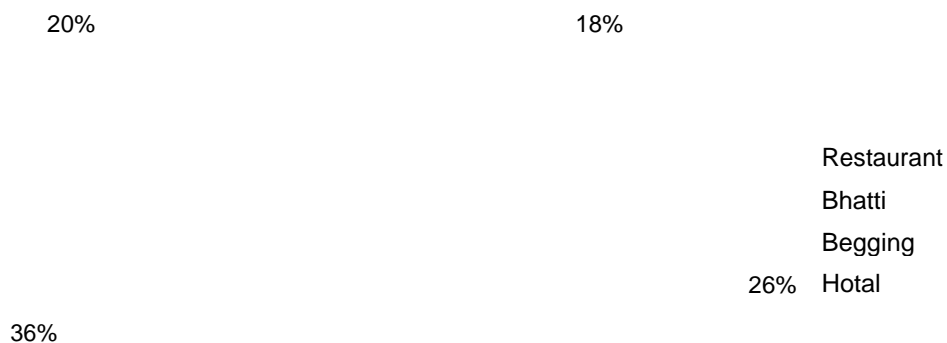


Figure 4.10 Pictorial representation of street child food taking places

36% of the street children were begging for food followed by Bhatti (26%), Food stalls (20%) and Restaurant (12%). During it was observed that adult street children prefer to go either hotel or restaurant since they do have comparatively higher earning than smaller children. Small children and new street children were found begging for their survival.

CLOTHES PROBLEMS

Clothes are equally important as food since they have to spend almost. 24 hours on to street. They need clothes for the protection from sunburn, insect bites and polluted environment. Street children are struggling to get clothes. The Table 4.10 shows the clothes that the street children at present do have and Figure 4.12 represents the population distribution of the street children who have cloth sets.

Table 4.10 Clothes that the street children do have or manage

S. No	Particulars	Number of respondents	Percentage,%
1	One set of clothes	29	58
2	Two sets of clothes	13	26
3	Managed by Begging	8	16
Total		50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

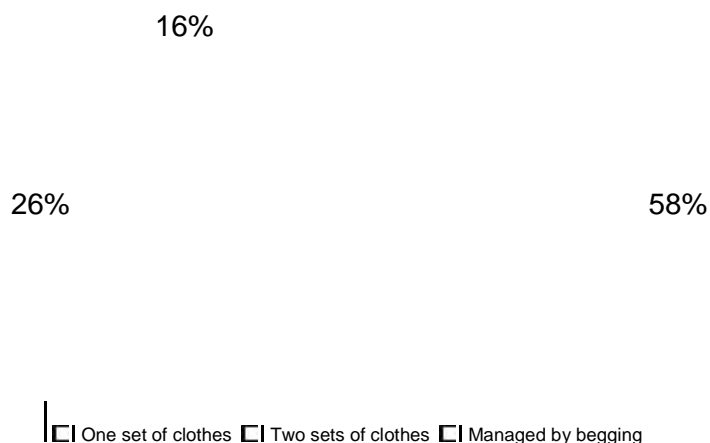


Figure 4.11 Pictorial representation of cloth distribution in street children population

According to the survey it was found that 58% of the street children only have one set of cloth i.e. what they are wearing at that time during the interview. 26% of street children had two sets and 16% had more than two sets.

SLEEP AREAS

This is another big problem being faced by the street children. The night stay problem especially in the winter season is horrible. The survey results of the 50 respondents are presented in Table 4.11 and pictorial representation in Figure 4.13.

Table 4.11 Sleep location of street child

S. No	Particulars	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Street	13	26
2	Temples	8	16
3	Ratnapark	22	44
4	Shelter at NGO's who works for street child	6	12
5	Shared room	3	6
Total		50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

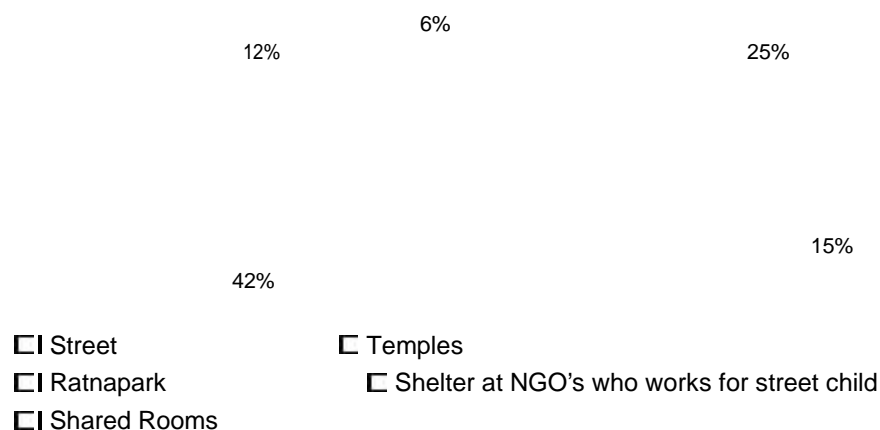


Figure 4.12 Pictorial representation of sleep location of street child

According to the respondents, 44% of the street children managed to sleep in Ratnapark followed by Street (26%), Temples (16%), Shelter at NGO that works for street child (12%) and shared rooms (6%).

There is one NGO which provides food and accommodation to the street child. The result in the above table and figure suggest that some of the respondents are from the shelter and therefore about 14% of the respondents were found to have 31

accommodation at shelter. There is no any hard and fast rule for being at Shelter and it serves on first com first come basis.

Figure 4.14 and 4.15 shows the sleeping area of street child and how they manage to sleep onto street.

Figure 4.13 Street children who used to sleep on to street

(Source: Street Child website, Nepal)

Figure 4.14 Street children and their nightmare

Source: CWIN website, Nepal

PEOPLE BEHAVE

According to the respondents, the people behave towards the street child is presented in Table 4.12 and pictorial diagram in figure 4.16.

Table 4.12 People behave on street child

S. No	Community treatment	Number of respondents	Percentage,%
1	Hate to the street child	17	34
2	Social and helpful	6	12
3	Social but miser for giving economic support	11	22
4	Delinquency behavior	12	24
5	Not fully paid for their labour	4	8
Total		50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

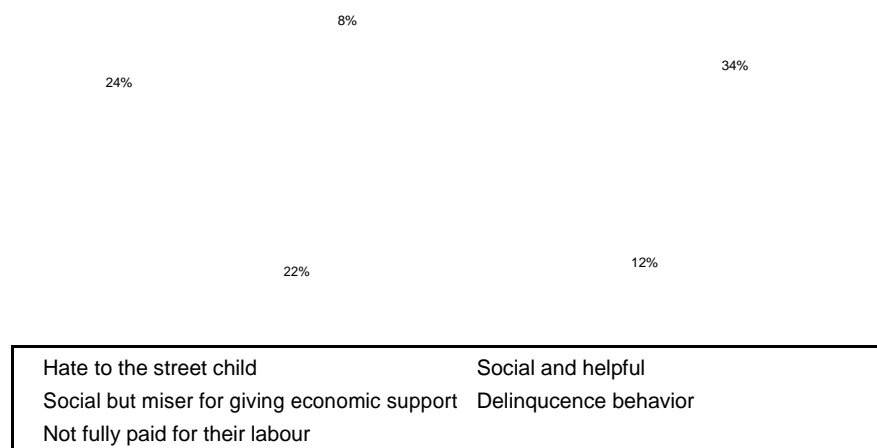


Figure 4.15 Pictorial diagram of people behave on street child

34% of the respondents were saying that community hate to street child followed by 24% showing delinquency behavior. 22% were saying they are social but miser of giving economic support followed by social and helpful (12%) and 8% of the respondents said that the community not fully paid for their labour.

GOVERNMENT TREATMENT

Though there is Juvenile Justice for Child, no street child laws and policy as such have been implemented so far. It is therefore, government agency especially police is treating them differently than the children. They pose unnecessary questionnaire to harass them. According to the respondents, their feeling toward government agencies is presented in Table 4.13 and pictorial diagram in Figure 4.17.

Table 4.13 Police treatment to the street child

S. NO	Police treatment	Number respondents	Percentage
1	Harassment	21	42
2	Beaten during interrogation those who does crime	3	6
3	Beaten and forced to labor those who does crime	4	8
4	Threatened and abused	3	6
5	Not faced any problems	19	38
Total		50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

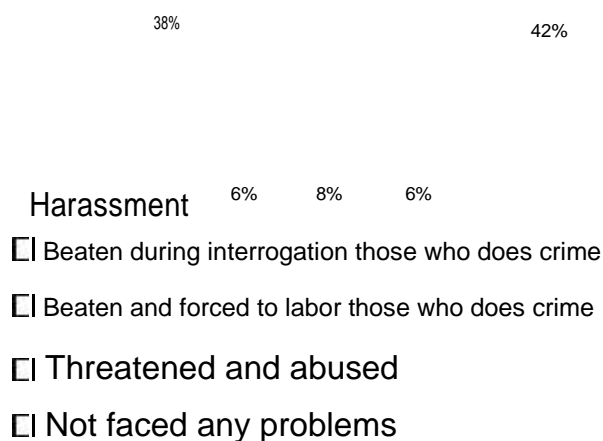


Figure 4.16 Pictorial diagram of police treatment to the street child

As can be seen form the Table 4.14 that 42% of street children felt harassment followed by 38% who never faced any problems by government agencies. It is seen form the above Table that 10 street child were caught for their crime and the treatment

by police was beating during interrogation (6%), beaten and forced to do labour (8%) and threatened and abused (6%). It was hard to get crime information of the street child since they are reluctant to disclose more information on it.

ILLNESS

50 street children were asked about their illness and impact on their health. Using the health complaints by respondents and made a table (Table 4.14), ranked each one on a scale of 1 to 5 according to frequency, degree of pain, and earning.

Table 4.14 Table completed by street children showing impact of illnesses

S. No	Illness	Frequency	Degree of pain	Effect of earning
1	Boils	4	5	5
2	Dog bite	5	4	3
3	Wound	5	3	1
4	Scabies	3	3	0
5	Diarrhea	5	3	5
6	Hit by vehicle	2	5	3
7	Cold	5	2	2
8	Fracture	3	4	5
9	Hunger	5	5	2
10	Fever	3	6	5
11	Not suffer from illness	10	N/A	N/A

Source: Field study (2011)

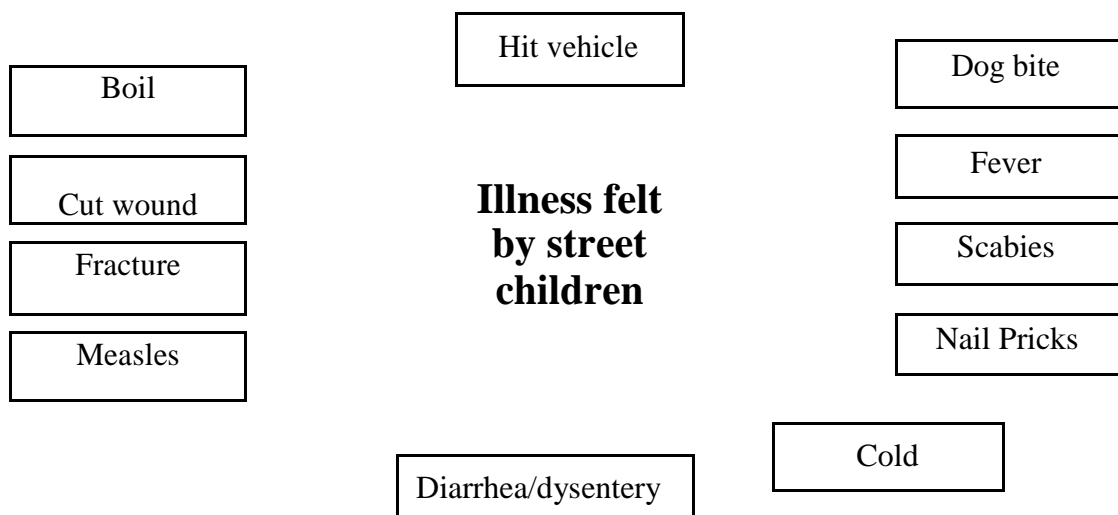


Figure 4.17 Spider diagram of ill-health of street child

Illness due to dog bite, diarrhea, cold and hunger is quite frequent where as hit by vehicle is not so severe. The respondent was saying that hunger is the most vulnerable part of illness which in fact invites unwanted behavior to be done to get food. According to the respondents, they were earning maximum of Nrs 100 per day, which is not sufficient for treatment especially for the case of fracture, boil, fever and diarrhea. Therefore, treatment is based on the income-generating activity and the social relations formed in the work context and varied person to person how much he/she is earning. The role of adults in guiding health-related behaviours is the most influential in comparison with the child. The adult street children demonstrated knowledge of both the conditions and the means of seeking treatment. Overall, many children knew the health risk that their work and living conditions exposed them to and could identify means to minimize them for example washing regularly, wearing shoes or slipper while rag-picking and drinking clean water. The regular rag-picker keeps soap while irregular doesn't keep soap with them. They normally go to regular eating spots but large numbers of children are very mobile.

TREATMENT

It is quite common for the street child to be caught by diseases. The survey result is presented in the Table 4.15 and the pictorial diagram in Figure 4.19 below.

Table 4.15 Preferred treatment places of street child

S. No	Particulars	Number of respondents	Percentage,%
1	Government hospital	8	16
2	Local Pharmacy	20	40
3	Treatment by friends	9	18
4	Health Camp	3	6
5	Don't care	10	20
Total		50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

This is becoming the most severe conditions since they do not have sufficient earning to support their treatment. Highest percentage of street children preferred to go to Local pharmacy (40%) followed by Government hospital (16%) whereas treatment by friend is very common (18%). Friends go to medicine shop and then ask medicine according to the sickness they understand. About 20% of the respondents didn't care about illness. This indicates that they don't bother much about their life.



Figure 4.18 Pictorial diagram of the respondent population from where they are getting treatment

BEHAVIOR

According to the observation during field survey, the psychosocial behaviors of street children have been found as follows:

- ❖ Very little span of concentration/ mobile population,
- ❖ Aggressive,
- ❖ Short tempered and reactive personality,
- ❖ Bear grudge and hatred towards their homes and police,
- ❖ Inclined to violence,
- ❖ Have care-a-dam attitude,
- ❖ Irresponsible about future and many more,
- ❖ Hard working and mature,
- ❖ Street smart, enterprising and loyal,
- ❖ Street addiction
- ❖ Conceal their true identity,
- ❖ Use of drugs and substances, culture and silence,
- ❖ Sexually exposed,
- ❖ Mobile and change their base.

It is common to show their angers if they are not getting what they want. In Figure 4.20 a 10-years-old child's face is showing after not getting food as he wanted.

Figure 4.19 A 10 year old street child cries after losing a fight over food Source: Child website Nepal

INVOLVEMENT

Street children are struggling for survival though it is common to all. They are busy early from in the morning to late evening to make some earning. The present study 38

found that the street children of age 13 and above (i.e. 42%) has the highest percentage involved in different delinquencies and the population distribution according to the survey is presented in Table 4.17 and pictorial diagram in Figure 4.21 below.

Table 4.16: Income generation activity of the street children

S. No	Activity of street child	Number of respondents	Percentage, %
1	Rag picking	14	28
2	Khalasi	6	12
3	Road side repairs shop	5	10
4	Hotel and kitchen	6	12
5	Labor	7	14
6	News paper seller	2	4
7	Begging	10	20
Total		50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

The highest percentage of street children was found to be engaged in Rag picking (28%) followed by Begging (20%), Labor (/14%), Hotel and Kitchen and Hotel (12%) and so on.

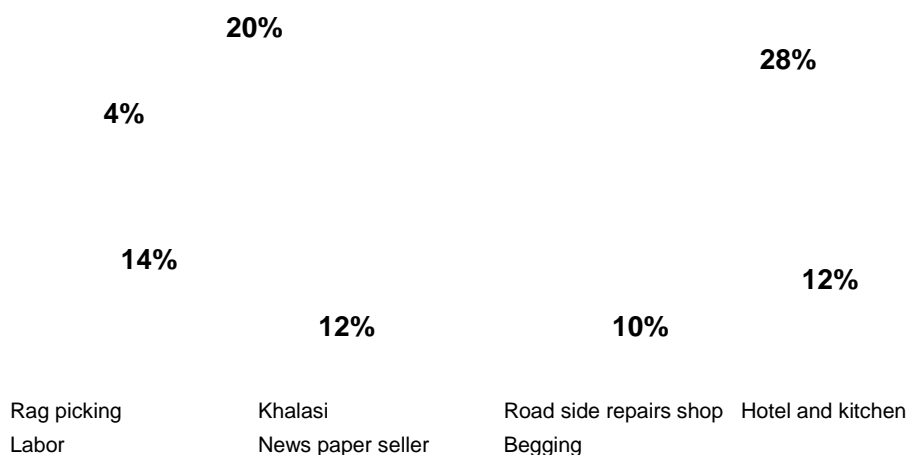


Figure 4.20 Pictorial diagram of income generation activities of street children

FUTURE ASPIRATION

An attempt has been made to find out the aims of life of the street children. Table 4.18 summarized respondent's aims and future plan.

Table 4.17 Aims of respondents

S. No	Aim of the respondents	Number of respondents	Percentage, %
1	Teacher	2	4
2	Social workers	5	10
3	Driver	12	24
4	Soldier	2	4
5	Mechanics	8	16
6	Police	5	10
7	Actor	7	14
8	Don't know	9	18
Total		50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

The survey reveals that majority (18%) of the respondents has not expressed their future aim or wish. 24% were found interested to become driver and the reason for choosing driving profession is that they would have very happy life because they can travel as they wish to visit. 16% of street children have shown their desire to become mechanics where as 14% were interested in acting. Very small percentage of children has shown their wish of becoming teacher and soldier.

4.6.2 Changed scenario of the study area

God has created human beings as social animals and therefore the situation makes the people to behave differently. During the field survey the following interesting parameters was observed:

- ❖ Increase in number of street children at Ratnapark in comparison with the previous years because of rapid urbanization,(obtained by questing street children)
- ❖ More facilities for street children,
- ❖ Influence by sex tourism,
- ❖ Debt bondage,
- ❖ Child delinquency,
- ❖ Reduction of police harassment,
- ❖ Increasing social harassment,
- ❖ Progressive change in social attitude,

- ❖ Growing change participation,
- ❖ Some inspiring outcome,
- ❖ Dying due to drug addicts,
- ❖ Glue sniffing,
- ❖ Alcohol, tobacco and drug experience,
- ❖ Not interested to rejoin school,
- ❖ Beggars from slum family is quite dominating,

The above-mentioned observation was made at Ratnapark in different dates during study period. Because of the limited information and samples it was difficult to compare what % of street child involved in what activities. Some of the above listed activities are fairly new such as glue sniffing. Therefore only few respondents mentioned this activity. Street children were shy to tell the truth and thus it was extremely difficult to get real feeling of the study.

GLUE SNIFFING

This is quite new phenomenon and hardly can found such child onto street during daytime. No one was observed taking glue during survey.

These glue-sniffing children either pour glue onto a piece of cloth which they then rollup and sniff or they pour the sticky substance into a shopping bag and hold it near their face. After sniffing glue, one start feeling dizzy, light-headed and drowsy and sometimes it gives a feeling of pleasure by distorting the senses and heightens carnal cravings. The way they are taking glue sniffing can be seen in Figure 4.22 below.

Figure 4.21 Glue sniffer using plastic to put in substances and sniffing

Source: Chandrodaya web site, Ratnapark

It can be termed as group activity among street children. It was observed that the older street children are influencing the younger ones to sniff glue. It was also found that the younger ones are attracted to inhale glue after seeing the entertainment as being taken by the older age children.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG EXPERIENCE

Tobacco and drugs experience among street children in Nepal is a common phenomenon. The use of alcohol has become common among different caste/ethnic groups, gender and among all age groups in Nepal. During observation and interview no one admitted that they were taking alcohol, tobacco or drug but it was noticed that they were at least taking one item almost regularly. This is based on the fact that their body was giving some kind of smell. The researcher recorded that the respondents after finishing interview were taking tobacco and drugs in several occasions. They usually go to the closed area to feel secure while taking drugs. Figure 4.23 shows a typical secured area of street child.

4.7 Characteristics of street child

Street children are very active and carry out things what they find right for themselves. They can differentiate what is to be done or what are the things not to touch. If some one praise them for their good or scold them for bad habits they take action quite quickly without making any judgment.

Street children learn to cope with life on the streets very quickly. They learn to live off the street. They take up a number of jobs available in the streets. A street child may have varied working experiences. It is therefore extremely difficult to analyze their character individually because of heterogeneous composition of respondents. However, here are some of the findings about respondent's characters:

- ❖ They are shy to tell their behaviour,
- ❖ They don't want to disclose the truth of being street child,
- ❖ Some of them are talkative but had no connection with what they said earlier,
- ❖ Older age street children force younger to follow them,
- ❖ Small age group street children are looking for possible opportunities,
- ❖ Working as helpers for bus or tempo
- ❖ Begging, pimping, pick pocketing, stealing,
- ❖ Selling news papers and flowers in streets and temples,

- ❖ Working in roadside stalls or repair shops,
- ❖ Concentrating in the areas like junkyards, temples, market centers, cinema hall, bus terminals, hardware shops, tourist centers etc.

4.8 Knowledge on street child law

Street children were asked about relevant laws in relation with street child. The result obtained during survey is tabulated in Table 4.20 below

Table 4.19 Knowledge on street child related laws

S. No	Knowledge about laws	Number of respondents	Percentage,%
1	Yes	7	14
2	No	34	68
3	Heard about it	9	18
Total		50	100

Source: Field study (2011)

The study reveals that only 14% knows about it while 68% does not know. 18% of the respondents only heard about it and they are basically the followers. During survey it was observed that young children were aware of the street child laws whereas small children never cared about it.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The problem of street children is universal. Because of high push and pull factor of urban areas, it is believed that the number of street could have been in increasing order. Street children are the reflection of a growing social tragedy in the world. The reason of increase in street child number is due to widespread recessions, political turmoil, and civil unrest, increasing family disintegration, natural disaster and growing urbanization. The objective of this study is to determine possible causes of being street child and their age wise population composition, ethnic background and their life style.

For the study both descriptive and exploratory research design was adopted. 50 samples were selected on the basis of non-probability, and accidental sampling technique. Semi observation to analysis respondent's behavior and to acquire relevant information was also used. Semi structured closed and open-ended questionnaires were prepared and asked to make study more flexible and rational. The findings of the study based on 50 respondents are summarized below.

Summary of Findings

All respondents were boys and no single girl during field survey was recorded. Based on the field observation and interview the following findings have been drawn but it could not be generalized to other urban areas. The summary of findings of the study is briefly described herein:

Age Group

The most influencing age wise population composition of street children is 9-13 years. The average age of street child is 13 years. However the study infers that children as young as 6-7 years are on street.

Cause of street child

The study depicts that there are four categories of causes that influence child being on the street. They are social causes, family causes, economic causes and other causes. The study revealed that the most influencing causes is the “family causes (38%)” followed by social causes (28%), economic causes (14%) and (20%) other causes. In the family causes group mistreated children (47.4%) is the root cause noted during field study. Children of beggars and child born from prostitute (21.4% each) is the root cause of the social problems. Famine and poverty (42.9%) is the most influencing root causes as found in the economic causes. Despite of these causes habit (40%), desire for independence and behavior of teacher in school (30% each) is the other causes of child being onto street. It can be concluded that social problem is one of the root causes that drives child being onto street. This is quite common when offspring does activities that parents can feel shameful for it.

Ethnicity

The largest population is from Brahmin (24%) followed by Chhetri (18%), Tamang (16%), Gurung /Tharu (8% each), Newar/ Limbu (4%), Sherpa (2%) and others (16%).

Occupation of parents and literacy of street children

This is one of the most influencing causes that might drive children being onto street. According to the respondents, the highest percentage of street children was from agricultural profession (30%) followed by labor (25%), labor at carpet industry/ prostitution (15%), driving (10%) and tailoring (5%). Out of 50 respondents only 20 street children were found to be literate and the highest percentage of literate street children from those families whose occupation is agriculture and lowest percentage of literate street children from tailoring family

Area of origin

Most of the street children at Ratnapark are from adjoining districts of the Kathmandu valley. Present study showed that the street children of Ratnapark Area were from different 16 districts. The highest percentage of street children was found to be from Dhading district (18%) followed by Makwanpur (12%), Nuwakot (10%) and so on.

Behaviour and problem of street child

The life of street children is vulnerable because of street population. Most of their illness is due to pollution and lack of food. Some of the problem depicted during observation is presented in bullet form:

) **Fooding areas:** Due to significantly low income, they desperately need to choose fooding areas. The present study showed highest percentage of the street children used begging (36%) for fooding habits while used to go Local restaurants (26%), Food stalls (20%) and Resturants (18%). |

|
J) **Clothes problems:** Most of them have (58%) one set of cloth followed by 26% of respondents had 2 sets and 16% managed their clothes by begging. |

|
J) **Sleeping area:** 44% street children used Ratnapark for sleeping area Followed by Street (26%), Temples (16%), and shelter at NGO (14%) and shared rooms (6%). |

|
J) **People behave:** 34% of respondents were found that they were facing hate from the people by 24% of street children facing delinquency behavior. 22% respondent said that people were social but miser for giving economic support. But the 12% of street children said the people were social and helpful while rest 8% of the respondents said that people were not fully paid for their labour. |

|
J) **Police treatment:** Harassment by the government organization according to the respondent is 42% followed by 8% to those who do crime and were beaten by police. However 38% were saying no interrogation was made by such organizations/authorities. |

|
J) **Illness:** The occurrence frequency of illness due to dog bite, diarrhea, cold and hunger is 5 in a 1-5 scale followed by boil (4%), fracture, fever, and scabies (3%), Degree of pain is 5% for boil/hit by vehicle/hunger but could be minimized if they do have good earning. |

|
J) **Medicinal area:** From the present study it was found that the highest percentage of Street children (i.e. 40%) preferred local Pharmacy for medical treatment followed by Treatments by friends (18%), Government hospitals |

(16%) and Health camp (6%). 20% of the respondents were didn't care about their health.

Behaviour

They are mobile population and therefore do have little span of concentration. They are short tempered and reactive in nature inclined to violence and irresponsible about their future. They prefer to stay in a group of 4-8 numbers. Normally they conceal their true identity and don't want to disclose.

Involvement

They are mobile and always struggle to survive. Present study showed that 28% of street children were engaged in rag picking followed by begging (20%), Labour (14%), Jobs in hotel and kitchen/ Khalasi (12%), Road side repairs shop (10%) and Newspaper seller (4%) for their survival.

Future aspiration

Present study showed that 24% of the street children wanted to become a driver followed by Mechanics (16%), Actor (14%), Social Workers/ Police (10%), and Soldiers (4%). Rest 18% of the respondents didn't know about their future plan.

Knowledge about street child law

68% of the street children didn't know about the children law and they are blind about it . However only 14% knew about such law whereas 20% have only heard about it. This is the group who is easily influenced and motivated by any organization of Nepal such as political party, student group, and any other organization. One can say they are the front lines of the activities organized by the above-mentioned parties.

This indicates that they are becoming quite serious about their right. Even the activities they are performing these days reveals that they know little bit about street child laws and government commitment

Glue sniffing

It is new drug addiction technique, which is by inhaling smell of glue and similar materials. They prefer to stay in a group but they are hardly seen in open areas and in daytime. It is quite common to take it in the evening so as to have easy sleep.

5.2 Conclusions

It needs to be emphasized that street children represent a worldwide phenomenon despite cultural differences. Examination of the literature also indicates that the backgrounds of street children, despite some difference are remarkably similar. Although findings presented in the present study reflect aspects of street children in the Ratnapark of the Kathmandu Valley. It is envisioned that the findings can be regarded common among street children internationally.

Based on the field survey, available material and extensive literature review the following conclusions are drawn. Because of short period of time and limited resources it is extremely difficult to draw firm conclusions. However, materials, data and information available from the various NGOs working in this field and field survey point toward serious problems in the days ahead if the concerned government organizations, and other social organization who are working in this field do not take it positively.

- ❖ The most influencing population wise group is 9-13 years and average age is 13 years.
- ❖ Children interviewed cited the following reasons for leaving home: family violence, parental alcoholism, abuse, poverty, personal reason, social causes, economic causes etc.
- ❖ Most of the street children are from adjoining districts of the Kathmandu Valley.
- ❖ Brahmin and Chhetris ethnic background street children are higher than the other background.
- ❖ Street children are normally mobile population. However, generally they have made certain areas their base when they do their business and sleep at night.
- ❖ Street children take up a number of jobs available in the street such as rag picking, begging, labour, Khalasi, Hotel and kitchen worker, Newspaper selling , road side repairs shop etc

- ❖ Almost half of the street children are literate. They only know Nepali alphabet to read and write.
- ❖ The preferable area of food places is street as by begging but it depends on income they are able to generate.
- ❖ Most of them have one set of clothes i.e. the cloth they are wearing.
- ❖ Rarnaparks, Street, Temples were most preferred places for night stay.
- ❖ Community people were mostly hated to street children.
- ❖ Street children are harassed by government organization.
- ❖ Local Pharmacy and treatment by friends are the preferred area for treatment.
- ❖ Begging and rag picking is the common area to be involved for survival.
- ❖ Older age group street children force new comers and younger age group street children to follow them.
- ❖ Glue sniffing is a relatively new drug addiction technique adopted by Nepali street children.
- ❖ Street children are found to be not interested for schooling.
- ❖ Behaviors of street children are totally different from the other children. They start with smoking cigarettes, tobacco-chewing, alcohol and then it leads to hashish, tablets. Then they begin syringe. Eventually they develop diseases and die from Hepatitis 'B', HIV/AIDS, drug-overdose, etc.
- ❖ Street children know about children right and Juvenile Justice little bit.

5.3 Recommendations

All we know that street child is becoming one of the social problems. It is therefore that the government has to come up with a concrete plan and program that should address to resolve street child problem. However, we all know that street child problem could not be fully resolved. In this study the researcher has proposed that the government should start short-term and long-term plan to resolve this issue. Otherwise this would be a disaster since population is increasing drastically but no resources are available to feed them all round the year and no mechanism has been developed to cope with the situation. The short term and long term plan based on the study findings are presented herein.

SHORT-TERM PLAN

- ❖ By establishing peace in the country

- ❖ To conduct research study and identify those communities from where massive street children are coming. Different NGOs' and INGO's experiences could be a basis of research study.
- ❖ By launching awareness program,
- ❖ Strictly following the CRC recommendations with needful action from government side,
- ❖ Providing job opportunity to all,

LONG-TERM PLAN

- ❖ Compulsory provision of enforcement body in VDC and municipality level concerning elimination and regulation of street children.
- ❖ Capacity building, income generation activities programmes for self sustainability should be launched by the NGOs and INGOs.
- ❖ Free education program to all children without any discrimination between girls and boys,
- ❖ Infrastructural development should be carried out in the nations with people's participation approach so that ownership can be felt,
- ❖ Clear cut street child policy should be promulgated to meet the CRC recommendations and child helpline desk should be established.

Street children and child labor are two sides of the same coin. To completely lift the children away from the street into a safe haven, we should first wage a fight against the child labor.

Eliminating child labor is indisputably a sound financial investment. A recent reconsideration by the ILO (International Labor Organization) estimates that eliminating child labor over two decades would yield an estimated US\$5.1 trillion in benefits for both developing and transitional economies where most child laborers are found.

Last, but not least, policymakers seeking to end the street children syndrome in Nepal must address the poverty that is most often the cause of the problem. Overcoming it requires an in-depth understanding of the factors that force children into streets, as

well as effective interventions suited to each unique socio-cultural and economic environment.

The problem of street children in Nepal is complex; so the policymakers must employ multiple interventions that are integrated with one another. They should implement sustainable alternatives to keep children from returning to the hazardous and exploitive situations on the cold streets.

An additional vital component of eradicating the problem is the insertion of community awareness activities in project designs. For example, a public awareness campaign to educate parents, community leaders, local organizations, teachers, and civil society about the multifarious hazards associated with street children and its negative long-term effects on future society would be beneficial.

Let us not forget that the fight against street children is to expand the frontiers of human dignity and independence in the long run.

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