

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Livelihood strategies are the range and combination of activities and choices that are undertaken to achieve their livelihood goals or the way of combining and using assets (DFID, 2001). It includes productive activities, investment strategies, reproductive choice and much more. Such choices mainly depend upon the human capital and natural capital. To some extent, the choice is also shaped by the social norms and values. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future (DFID, 2001). People have adjusted their way of earning livelihood to the changing environment since historical times and their livelihood strategies to adopt the changing environmental condition differs over space and by social groups (Subedi and Pandey, 2002).

After Second World War development has become one of the most widely used, abused and consequently confused term (Dahal, 2001). The term development gives different meaning to different people and societies. Generally, it means stage of growth in order to achieve goals of development. Recently, globalization emerged as a debated issue, which aims to the interlinking of political, economic, and institutional, social, cultural, technical and ecological issue at the global level (Hurni, 2004).

In Nepal, the customary livelihood strategies of different social groups have been influenced by the process of global changes. Those social groups whose livelihood assets are more they become able to diversify their customary way of earning livelihood to achieve the notion of global change. Its syndromes start to emerge from that marginal social group who are sustaining their livelihood through limited livelihood assets within a fragile environment (Pathak, 2002). Due to globalization a lots of traditional occupation and

technologies are pushed into darkside. So, those people who are sustaining their livelihood in such traditional occupation compelled to change their livelihood strategies. On the other hand, due to land degradation resulting from soil erosion and deforestation started to contribute low productivity of hill agriculture people of these areas compel to sustain livelihood migrating into the urban areas (Ellis, 1997). The rural people generally possess low skill and lack of education level required in organized sector for the better paid jobs. But, on the other hand, urban areas are the areas of opportunities mainly for skilled people. Urban poor usually lives with low level of literacy. Due to poverty and lack of employment in formal sector, the illiterate and low skilled people are occupying the open space or space of street for their informal business.

In Nepal, because of the better facilities, most of the people reside in the Tarai and Kathmandu valley. Due to the rapid growth of population in Tarai and Kathmandu valley, many urban centres have already been developed in these areas. However, majority of the people are still engaged in subsistence types of agricultural occupation. So, they are forced to migrate to the nearest urban centre to find alternative ways to sustain their livelihoods. Due to the regular movement of people as well as lack of employment opportunities in urban area, they have started to engage in different informal economic activities which use open urban resources such as street, road sides and open areas or bus parks of urban areas where pedestrians flow is high. All the people that are engaged in different activities in those areas are known as street vendors (Poudel, 2005).

Trade can be classified into different categories: national and international, seasonal and permanent, wholesale and retail etc. Among them, retail trade is one of the most popular business activities all over the world. Retail trade as an informal activity, is increasingly practiced in Nepal, particularly in Kathmandu valley. These retail trade activities can be further categorized into peddlers, hawkers, roadside shopkeepers or street vendors. Large numbers of urban poor, especially, lower caste and marginalized groups, middle class, urban residents

of slums and squatters are engaged in these activities particularly in Kathmandu.

Street vendors are found dealing with customers to sell their commodities by attracting people producing strange voice or asking to buy something with certain Rs. .. etc. It is like the routine in the street of street vendors. Likewise, while walking along the street, everybody feels, to some extent, difficult to pass away because people are watching after goods bargaining and buying. It is the regular phenomenon of some certain streets of Kathmandu. Vendors can be seen with much dedicating towards the business that, they are sustaining their livelihoods by occupying the streets.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The study on street vendors and their livelihood in the changing urban scenario as well as the occupational sustainability is a burning issue of the present day. Very few studies have been made on the street vendors' livelihood. Therefore, it is necessary to study the concept of the livelihoods of street vendors within the urban morphology. Nepal is the least urbanized country in the world where more than 86 percent of the populations are living in rural areas (CBS, 2001). Subsistence agriculture is the dominant occupation of Nepalese society. Most of the rural population comprises limited lands which are not sufficient even for self consumption. Therefore, rural people have been forced to move to nearby urban centers for alternative sources of income to sustain their livelihoods.

Among the 58 municipalities of Nepal, Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) is the only one metropolitan city with highly urbanized in nature. Population movement from various parts of rural areas to KMC is increasing day by day. Due to lack of employment opportunities, people try to find different income sources to sustain their livelihoods. In this process, large numbers of the people are sustaining their livelihoods by informally using urban open space without any secure contracts and social protection.

In recent years, because of the overwhelming increase in street vendors and their unsystematic activities, many urban people as well as urban authorities consider them as problem creators and troublemakers. Due to occupying footpaths and streets of the busy city areas, the street vendors cause troubles to pedestrians, local shopkeepers and local residents by displaying their selling goods and materials in the busy flow of traffic. They are also blamed for making noise and garbage during their business ultimately the whole urban environment.

Street vendors are sustaining their livelihoods by selling goods and materials to the pedestrians or local residences. City officials regularly exercise psychological and physical pressures to street vendors. At times, they lead to riotous situations and loss of property. A major problem is that master plan prepared for cities do not allocate spaces to vendors/hawkers as planners blindly imitate the western concept of marketing, ignoring Nepalese traditions.

The policy statements of the regional development authorities always talk about making provision for trading and commercial activities which unfortunately interpreted as making provision for rich traders and big business (Poudel, 2005). Among the street vendors, the fruit vendors' community of Kathmandu metropolitan city has gained popularity among the fruit buyers because of cheaper and reliable price. It has also caused a boost in street occupation. Although, these current issues should be of great concern in urban societies but such issues have not yet been properly analyzed. In this context, these issues seem to be appropriate for research. The following research questions are posed in this research. What is the socio-economic background of fruit vendors ? Why did they choose fruit selling as an occupation? Is it sufficient to maintain their livelihood ? Why are they sticking on same occupation? With these question the present research has attempted to explore the livelihoods of street fruit vendors within the KMC area.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objectives of this study are to analyze and compare livelihood strategies of street fruit vendors. However, the specific objectives of the research are:

- To analyze the livelihoods of static and mobile street fruit vendors;
- To identify the causes to adopt this occupation for livelihoods and
- To discuss the vulnerability context of street fruit vendors.

### **1.4 Rationale of the Study**

The haphazard development of vending shop has threatened the urban ecology and environmental quality of the city. The preservation of city's environmental quality is one of the priorities of balanced development of the city as a whole. The conservationist should have some insight in to the relative condition of existing vending activity for formulation plan and policies for solving the environmental problems in the city.

The present study "livelihoods of street fruit vendors" helps to analyze the livelihoods of street fruit vendors and also explores major causes to adopt the fruit vending as the occupation. This study discusses about the problem faced by street fruit vendors. The vending activity is one of the major economic trading activities of the low income people and an unavoidable phenomenon of the city, the knowledge of vending activities will be useful for the government authorities to know the urban occupational structure of urban poor and environment of the city as a whole. So, this study will provide knowledge base for government authorities to formulate their plans and policies for the management of street occupation and urban environment together.

Nowadays, poverty is widely debatable issue in socio-economic arena but only debates do not find the solution of poverty. So, this study helps to explore the livelihoods of the urban poor especially street fruit vendors and find out major causes of poverty. So, this study will be relational.

## **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

Within Kathmandu Metropolitan City, different types of street vendors are found in different locations. But, the present study concerns only to the fruit vendors located within Kalanki, Balaju, Koteswor and Ratnapark areas.

Similarly, the street vendors are found of selling snacks, cutleries, utensils, stationeries, tea, chicken, vegetables in KMC but this study concerns only on fruit vendors.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Review of literature relating to the research study provides broad idea to expand the researcher's analytical capacity and to address the search issue systematically. For the convenience of the research the following relevant studies were reviewed.

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

A theoretical review gives ideas for research studies to relate the studies to theories that have been developed by different researchers. This section contains a theoretical review of different aspects of livelihoods and its relevance to the present study.

##### **2.1.1 Sustainable Livelihood Approach**

The sustainable livelihood approach is a new concept in the context of Nepal. Most of the studies have been concentrated within certain caste/ethnic group, production and distribution, marketing, certain communities and their changing livelihood strategies but some studies have been conducted regarding livelihood strategies in the present development trend. So, the present studies deal about livelihood strategies of fixed and mobile street fruit vendors.

The beginning of livelihood thinking traces back to Robert Chamber who is often called the father of the Sustainable Approach. He devised this approach in the mid 1980s in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of international development cooperation. In the early 1990s, it was further developed by Chamber and Canway (DFID, 2001).

In 1997, the British government department responsible for promoting development and reduction of poverty called the Department for International Development (DFID), incorporated the sustainable livelihood approach as a central element in its policy and adopted to suits its work (Wyss, 2004). The

strength of the sustainable approach lies in the synergy created by the combination of individual key elements (UNDP, 2002).

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base (DFID, 2001).

The sustainable livelihoods approach comprises two elements: the sustainable livelihoods guiding principles and the sustainable livelihood framework. The six sustainable livelihoods guiding principles are:

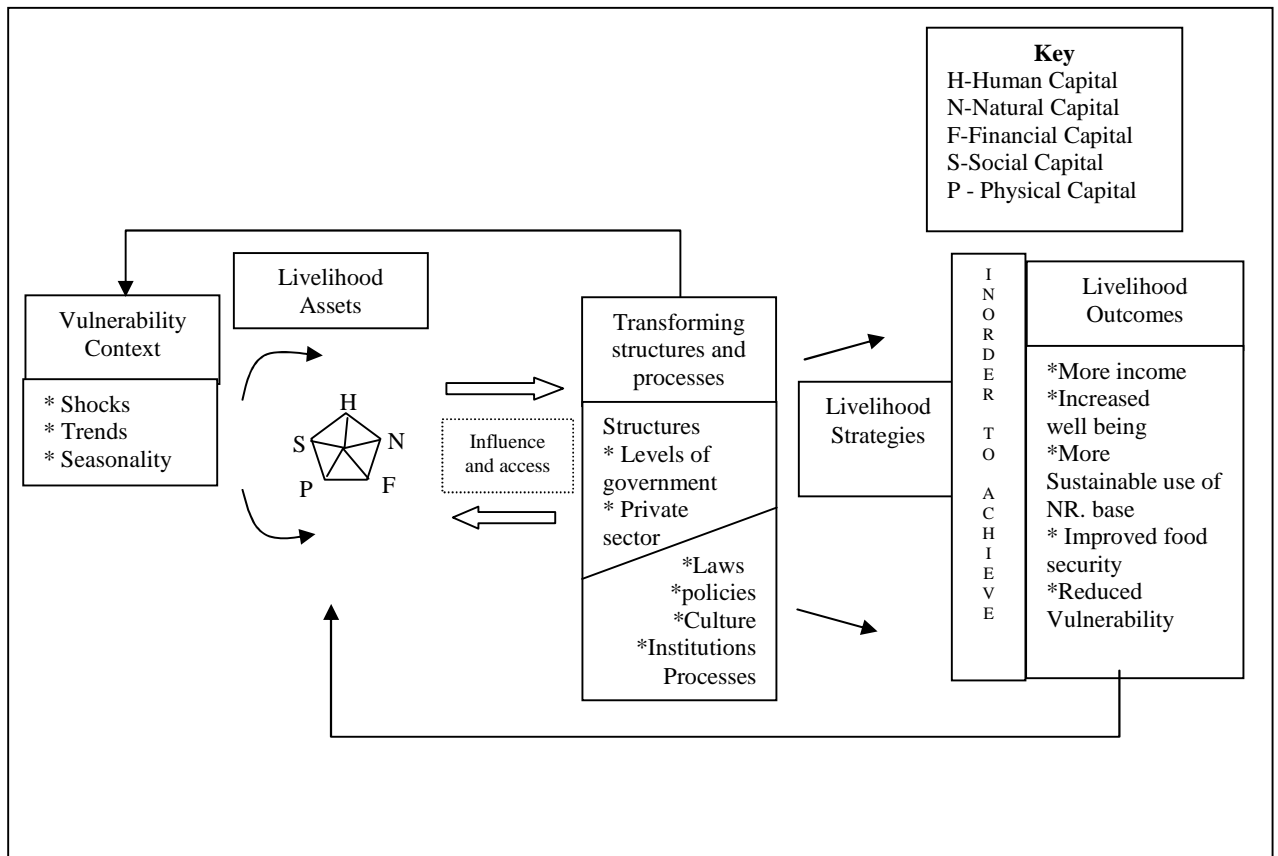
- ) Puts people at the centre of the development
- ) Adopts a holistic view, including multiple actors and working across sectors, geographical areas and social groups.
- ) Seeks to understand the dynamic nature of livelihoods and the influence upon them.
- ) Tries to build on the peoples' strengths and opportunities rather than focusing on their problems and needs.
- ) Emphasizes the important of macro-micro links and seeks to understand them and
- ) Points out the importance of sustainability to poverty reduction.

### **2.1.2 Sustainable Livelihood Framework**

The livelihood framework is a tool to improve understanding of livelihoods, particularly the livelihoods of the poor. It presents the main factors that affect peoples' livelihood and typical relationships between these. It can be used in both planning new development activities and assessing the contribution to livelihoods sustainability made by existing activities (DFID, 2001). It is thought to serve as a checklist of important issues for the analysis of livelihoods and to provide a means of bringing order into the complexity of all these influences on livelihoods. It needs to be made context specific in order to

accommodate the diversity of livelihoods. This may mean changing or adding elements to reflect local social, cultural, political and economic realities (Wyss, 2004).

**Figure 2.1: Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF)**



Source: Sustainable Livelihood Guidance Sheets, DFID, 2001

The livelihood framework should not be understood as a linear process. On the contrary, it tries to emphasize the many feedbacks and interactions between different factors. The starting points for many livelihoods analysis are the asset that is the peoples' strengths or resources. Likewise, livelihoods outcomes that is their goals or objectives as well as livelihood strategies, the strategies they adopt to achieve these objective are investigated. Then, it analysis the how the vulnerability context and the policies, institution and processes influence the assets and strategies (Wyss, 2004).

The individual parts of the framework are described as follows:

## **Vulnerability Context**

The vulnerability context refers to proneness to a sudden catastrophic, and full in the level of a variabl. (Ellis, 2003). The vulnerability context also represents the external environment in which people live. Trends, shocks and seasonality are external factors over which people have no or limited control. Trend comprises, for instance, population trends, national and international economic or political trends and technological trends. Shocks comprise, among other things, human health shocks, economic shocks and conflicts. The seasonality may include prices production, health and employment opportunities (DFID, 2001).

## **Livelihoods Assets**

In the livelihood approach, resources are referred to as ‘assets’ or capital and often categorized assets type and owned and accessed by family members. These assets categorize are admittedly a little contrived and not all resources that people drawn upon in constructing livelihoods fix neatly within them. Nevertheless, they serve a useful purpose in distinguishing asset types that tend to have differing connection to the policy environment (Ellis, 2003). Livelihood assets have been described as fallows:

### **Human Capital**

Human capital comprises the skill, knowledge and ability to work and the good health of the individual. At the household level, human capital is factor of the disposal labour force and depends additionally on the listed attributes and the age and sex of household member as well as on the household size. Human capital appears as a building block or means of achieving livelihoods outcomes. Its accumulation can also be an end itself. It is crucial for gaining access to and making use of other assets. The increase of human capital is however, for many people also an aim in itself. They see health and education of livelihoods as their primary livelihood objectives.

## **Social Capital**

In the context of the livelihood framework, it is taken to mean the social resources upon which people draw in pursuit of their livelihood objectives (DFID, 2001). It comprises networks and connections the memberships of more formalized groups and relationships of trust, reciprocity and exchanges. These kind of social relationships in an association, people may extend their access to or influence over other institution. It is an important asset that affects the other types of assets. Mutual trust lowers the costs of working together. It helps to increase financial capital and substitute for financial capital.

## **Natural Capital**

Natural capital is the term used for the natural resources stocks that includes all natural resources such as land, forest, marine or wild resources water and air quality. It ranges from intangible public goods such as the atmosphere, to divisible assets such as trees or land. Natural resources stocks are the sources from which production flows and they provide services like protection against erosion or storms. It is very important to those who derive all or part of their livelihoods from natural resource based activities. No one can survive without the help of key environmental services and food production from natural capital.

## **Physical Capital**

Physical capital means “the basic infrastructure and producer goods needed to support livelihood (Wyss, 2004). Among these are transport facilities, shelter and communication facilities, tools and equipment. Again, not only the mere existence of physical capital but also its quality, its reliability (continuous energy supply) and access to it (price and other condition for use) are decisive factors.

## **Financial Capital**

Financial capital includes the resources that its flows as well as stock and it can contribute to consumption as well as production of achieve the livelihoods objectives. Two main sources of financial capital are available stocks and regular inflows of money. The biggest benefit of financial capital is its diversity. It can be changed into other capitals and used for directly achieving livelihood outcomes.

## **Transforming Structure and Process**

These means policy, institutions and processes that shape livelihoods. They determine access to assets and livelihood strategies, define the terms of exchange between different types of capital and affect the returns to chosen livelihoods strategies. Structures are the hardware, the organizations, both private and public that set and implement policy and legislation, deliver services, purchases, trade and perform all manner of other function that affect livelihoods (DFID, 2001). Structure exists in both public and private sectors at various levels. In the public sector, they are found on all level of government, from international to community level and include executive, legislative and judicial bodies as well as quasi-governmental agencies. In the private sector, they range from multi-national enterprises to NGOs and civil society.

Process, then are the “software” which determines how structures and individual operate and interact (DFID, 2001). These include policies, legislation, institution and culture power relation.

## **Livelihood Strategies**

Livelihood strategies are the range and combination of activities and choices that people make in order to achieve their livelihood goals. Strategies include how people combine their income generating activities, the way in which they use their assets which assets they chose to invest in, and how they manage to

preserve existing assets and income. Strategies may reflect underlying priorities such as to diversity risk (DFID, 2001). Livelihood strategies change over time and space (Subedi and Pandey 2002). There is enormous diversity of livelihood strategies geographically, across sectors and within households (Wyss, 2004).

### **Livelihood Outcomes**

Livelihoods outcomes are the achievement of livelihood strategies rather than describing the objectives of people. It records the actual ‘output’ of current assets and strategies. At the same time, it allows one to draw conclusions about motivation behind peoples’ action and choices. Livelihood outcomes are not only of a financial nature that is people are not solely maximizing income but there are different categories of livelihood outcomes which may be relevant, according to the given situation. These categories are more income, increased well being, and reduced vulnerability; improve food security and more sustainable use of the natural based resources.

### **2.2 Studies on Livelihood Strategies in Nepal**

Sunwar (2001) studied on change occurred in livelihoods of local people in Khokana VDC of Lalitpur district. The general objectives of the study were to know local people’s adoptive strategies in the past and in present context. The finding of the study was based on the survey of 173 households using random sampling methods. Sunwar concluded that the traditional occupations, oil production, hay carpets production, internal and external labors works in urban areas of Lalitpur and other agriculture productions, with the Khokana villagers were identified and were on the verge of a total collapse.

Bhattarai (2001) focused the livelihood strategies of rickshaw pullers of Birtamod, Jhapa. 202 rickshaw pullers were selected to fulfill his study. The objectives of this study were to analyzed working conditions, earning, consumption pattern and expenditure of rickshaw puller. The researcher gathered information by using random sampling method. The study explored that majority of population engaged in agriculture activities, faced great

problems to meet subsistence needs of the households and they move from their home place to other places in search of employment. The study showed that majority of rickshaw puller earned between Nrs 45,000 to 60,000 per year and classified them urban poor. The study focused that 56 percent of the rickshaw puller had taken their rickshaw on rent and more than 50 percent had a large dept. Although, they worked hard and long hours they remain poor. Rickshaw pullers were reported to have a deficiency in their daily dietary needs because more than 90 percent of households fall under the low income groups. Most of rickshaw puller failed to manage and utilize their income properly despite reasonable daily income. The author suggested that rickshaw pullers themselves had not paid attention to their poor health condition and to manage and utilize their income.

Subedi and Pandey (2002) made study on the livelihood strategies of Rai community in Arun valley. The researchers focused on continuity and change in the livelihood strategies of their community along with socio-economic and environmental changes based on two spatial locations of different geographical altitudinal zones. The study conducted field work to generate primary data. The researchers found that in both places households had gradually reduced land under khorias, used more public resources for self consumption and transformed bari (non-irrigated slopping terrace) into khet (irrigated slopping terrace). This followed additional inputs in agriculture, adoption of multiple cropping and crop diversification strategies. They also founded that these community had also adopted several activities to fulfill their needs because food sufficiency was limited and agriculture was heavily dependent on nature.

Timalsina (2003) carried out research on the impact of road linkage on the rural peoples' livelihoods. The livelihoods of the people of study area totally depend on agriculture. The study was examining the strategies that the people of study area adopted when rural people of that place get access to major urban centers through motor-able road. When road connected rural area to urban areas various initiatives take place at the households to VDC level. Impact of road especially on the cash crops farming such as: vegetable and other horticulture

production which generated the income necessary to sustain all farmers' livelihoods. 83 percent of the households had vegetable production for major source of income in the study area. The researcher analyzed that the local market develop as a collection centre for food grains, vegetables and milk and mild products. Timilsina further stated that because of the road linkage in the study area the level of income, peoples' exposure to the outside world, employment opportunities, communication facilities, trade and business, means of transportation, school enrolment had increased. Finally, researcher concluded that livelihood, the process of adopting strategies with environment in particular space and time. Development of road played key role to bring change human dimension and human activities.

Bhandari (2003) undertook a study of international labor migration as livelihood strategy. The authors accepted that international labor migration was now accepted as a livelihood strategy. And, it was highly institutionalized in his study area. Among the labor migrants most of them were employed in unskilled jobs, small numbers in semiskilled and very few were in skilled jobs. The authors stated that despite being the main source of earning a livelihood, a large proportion of the households in the study area were unable to maintain the food requirements of their family from their own production. The researcher found noticeable changes in the social setting of the VDC especially the structured of houses and land holding pattern among the emigrants. The standard of living and quality of food was also raised. The numbers of domesticated animals reduced significantly. Unemployment, lack of agriculture land and low agriculture production were the blamed factors for emigration associated with origin. Likewise, higher wage rates, demonstration effects and presence of friends/relatives and the need of no special skill were other important factors associated with destination.

Kharel (2003) has studied the changing livelihood strategies of Tharus of Tikuligadh VDC of Rupandehi District. Being a simple, honest and hardworking and uneducated people, the Tharus' livelihood was dependent on agriculture and agriculture activities. Although, their linking pattern and socio-

economic activities were still traditional, change had been enforced on them due to social and economic environments. The most noteworthy changes that author found in the village was the gradual emergence of modern technologies and chemical fertilizers in farming that increased the agriculture production and led them to sustain. The impact of global education also affected their society. Finally, author suggested that to uplift the Tharus peoples' livelihood of study area, the concern authorities both: governmental and non-governmental organizations should be done some planning and implement the plan effectively.

Pathak (2004) conducted research on livelihood strategies of street cobblers in Kathmandu. The study raised the problem that faced by street cobblers at urban street. The author stated that the issues such as overall socio-economic condition, working field, their livelihood assets, achieved outcomes and occupational vulnerability were specific objectives of his study. To fulfill these objectives author took random sampling. Cobblers did their works (occupation) by using open space along the street. So, there occurs an environmental problem like air pollution and dust. The cobbler's mending different item with bare hand which could bring skin disease and other diseases as well. The author found that cobbling was the way of earning of Dalit community in the past but nowadays, street cobbling in urban areas found adopt by non-occupational caste. So, it becomes vulnerable to occupational cobbling caste groups. In this study, researcher stated that there was lack of livelihood assets which led the whole occupation vulnerable.

Poudel (2005) conducted a research on livelihood and occupational vulnerability of street vegetable vendors in Kathmandu. The author stated that this was still not understood sufficiently that the poor people were as an indispensable part of city and society. Among the urban poor the vegetable vendors who migrate to city did not intend to return their place of origin and they would stay in urban areas even in the worst condition and all the non-migrant also did not give up their occupation. So, the author informed that the tension between authority and vendors remain same in the future. The

researcher further stated that their vegetable vending was sustaining their livelihood at the same time vendors also felt their vending place was vulnerable. Finally, the author concluded that whatever the disadvantage of street vending there were some facts that street vegetable vendors provides services to the middle, lower class people and local resident in with relatively cheaper and reliable price. Their role for boosting urban economy was remarkable. Street vegetable vendors sustaining their livelihoods in street vending, ignoring local authorities and coping with the shocks and seasonality by selling vegetables in convenient locations.

### **2.3 Studies Related to Street Vendors**

Shakya (1982) made research on petty vending shop in Kathmandu. The research indicated that vendors had little access of formal credit because of their illegitimacy. As such they become victims of various interest rates. Credit was the necessary of any business, financial authorizes should apply a method for financing these business because the vendors role will become more important as city expands. Street vendors lack sanitation, cause traffic congestion and look unsightly. The author further explained that to overcome these problems only the occasional threat by the local administration to take way the business would not bring about a permanent solution. Instead the concerned authorities should take the initiative to develop regulations. So that both petty vendors and consumers could enjoy from business. The authors concluded their study to give emphasis on socio-economic status of vendors, composition of vending activities and problems faced and created by street vendors in Kathmandu city.

Poudel (1986) made an attempt on small petty vendors and their activities in Pokhara town. In the study, the author had clearly analyzed the spatial distribution pattern of foot paths shops, its seasonal variation, composition of goods sold and socio-economic status of footpaths vendors. The researcher had conducted field survey with selected 132 samples from five different locations of the both centre and surrounding areas of Pokhara. Author studied 15 items

related to the footpaths shops including fruits. Finally, the researcher found seasonal variation in the grocery shop was highly noticeable.

Dahal (1998) researched the activities of small entrepreneurs in the cities of Lalitpur, sub-metropolitan city. The author stated that street hawkers were serving the poor and middle class people of the city and its peripheries by selling varieties of goods at relatively cheaper price than that registered shops. Self employment of hawkers were being assisting the government in solving the problem of unemployment and alleviating poverty. On the one hand, they were making unnecessary noise and dirt. They were also annoying and disturbing the local residents and considerably blurring the image and beauty of city. On the other hand, some of the hawkers were also being suffered from pedestrians, customers and local authorizes affecting their business activities and by not getting chance to do their business freely. The author further analyzed that the street hawkers were one of the most important members of society and were doing small scale business in the city in order to earn money for their families or themselves. The author suggested that instead of banning them, they should be rehabilitated to some other parts of city or elsewhere outside the city.

Ranjit (2000) researched on the spatial distribution of vegetable and fruit vendors in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. The author realized that vendors were increasing because of the regular movement of people from the surrounding. The people in their low economy and unemployment were main reasons for vending business. The author found that most of respondents had Nrs 100 – 150 per day. The major problems of the vendors were the insecurity of their place, absence of planned vending areas and lack of or absence of financial supports. Other problems relating the environment and uncertain weather conditions: rains and hot sun. The author had concluded that due to growth of population and the expansion of city, the number of vendors and vending areas will be increased in Kathmandu city.

## 2.4 Studies Related to Street Fruit Vendors

Pradhan and Subedi (1984) studied on fresh vegetable market in Kathamandu. The study dealt about the location of fresh vegetable market, marketing system and pricing structure of different marketing system. In this research, the researchers found the vegetable market were well distributed over the entire city. The number and size of vegetable markets are positively correlated with the distribution and density of population in the city. Markets numbers and size found to go down towards outwards where population distribution was also relatively low. Vegetable market offering varieties of vegetable also found decreased from centre to periphery. The authors analyzed that the flow of vegetable operate three marketing system: farmers – consumers, farmers – retailers and farmers – whole sellers. The researcher found that the pricing structures differ with the different marketing system. Vegetable price was found cheap in the temporary than in the permanent one. In the study, the authors stated that a normal pattern of population growth and constant level of consumption per capita of fresh vegetable, it could be predicted that present production levels there would an increasing gap between consumptions and supplies.

Shrestha (1995) conducted thesis entitled fruit production in rural development. In the study, the researcher examined that major sources of income of the study area was agriculture and agriculture activities. All the people of study area were doing mix type of farming. Based on household involvement there appeared positive impact in the expansion of all kinds of fruit farming. The numbers of bearing trees and young trees of fruits were increasing. The authors drew six reasons for the expansion of fruit farming in the study area. These reasons were: market expansion and increased demand of fruit, greater profit than other alternative crops, easy to grow, construction of link road to districts headquarters, low cost production, domestic consumption of nutrient. Finally, the authors stated that among these reasons first three appeared the prominent ones.

Acharya (2002) had made research on citrus fruit cultivation. The author analyzed the factor that were affecting for citrus fruit farming. The author further explained that the citrus culture was the most dominant in horticulture which was very popular especially in the hilly region of the country. Physical and socio-cultural conditions of study area were suitable for citrus fruit cultivation. Citrus culture had started a long time ago but there was in permissive subsistence and non-market oriented. At present, the study concluded that area and production both had been increasing. But, the study area, still facing the lack of modernization and perfect commercialization in farming of citrus fruits.

These studies deal with different dimensions of livelihoods of caste groups, different types of vendors from different location of Nepal. These studies deal with different dimensions of livelihood of caste groups, particular geographical are certain communities and different types of vendors from different location of Nepal. And most of studies are of rural areas and a few studies are related to urban areas and urban poor. Nevertheless above case studies provide the situation of livelihood strategy of different areas and/or groups. There were a few studies regarding fruit cultivation, fruit marketing were conducted. Studies relating the cultivation and marketing of vegetable and fruit did not explore the livelihood strategy as such comparative study of static and mobile street fruit vendors in Kathmandu.

In this way, the above discussed livelihood approach provides angle of view to understand peoples' livelihood strategy and provide the framework for analysis. Moreover, the approach ha been developed regarding rural livelihood. This study does not follow all component of livelihood framework. The livelihood strategy of SFVS is analyzed on the basis of above livelihood framework but in own specific context.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

This section includes details of the procedures that were employed to acquire relevant information on the livelihoods of street fruit vendors in Kathmandu city. The efforts have been made to use geographical techniques to collect data of the SFVs' activities. Several techniques and methods were used for the fulfillment of the above mentioned research objectives. Considering the methodological aspects, this chapter discusses the study area, nature of data, sampling procedure, data collection tools and techniques and analysis of data.

#### **3.1 Study Area**

The study has been limited to selected areas of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. It is not possible to cover all location of street fruit vending in KMC. The selections of the areas are made to represent some of the specific area of KMC where the large numbers of street fruit vendors are available. The selected locations are: Kalanki, Balaju, Koteswor, Ratnapark.

#### **3.2 Source of Data**

This study is based on primary information. However, available and relevant secondary information were also included whenever necessary. Primary data is collected from field survey whereas secondary information was collected from various published as well as unpublished documents. To generate data on socio-economic characteristics of fruit sellers' survey method was adopted by administering structured questionnaire. Similarly, other methods such as observation, life history interview, key informant interview, focus group discussion were also used to collect essential data.

#### **3.3 Sampling Procedure**

The areas Kalanki, Balaju, Koteswor and Ratnapark were take for survey purpose. These areas were selected on the basis of high dominance of static and

mobile fruit vendors for the comparative study. Out of total population 12 respondents were taken as sample unit from each location. Out of 12 sample unit, 6 respondents were taken form static fruit vendors and 6 from mobile.

Purposive sampling was taken to collect primary information. The following table can be more representative for overall sampling procedure.

**Table 3.1 Overall Sampling Procedure for Field Survey**

S. N.	Location	Types	Total no.	Sample	Total Sample
1	Kalanki	Mobile	24	6	12
		Static	38	6	
2	Balaju	Mobile	14	6	12
		Static	27	6	
3	Koteswore	Mobile	17	6	12
		Static	13	6	
4	Ratnapark	Mobile	21	6	12
		Static	30	6	
Total			180	48	48

Note : The figure shown in above table is highly fluctuated according to season.

Source: Field Survey, Jan/Feb 2007.

### **3.4 Data Collection Tool and Technique**

This study is based on primary data. To measure all the aspects of the this study both qualitative and quantitative techniques were used for data collection. These techniques cover various methods such as observation, key informant interview, focus group discussion, life history interview, field notes, unstructured questionnaire survey which were selected for primary data collection because it was believed that other research techniques would not fulfill the objectives like livelihoods, vulnerability context and causes to adopt street fruit vending of a group, community and individual. These techniques are described in the following sub-sections.

#### **3.4.1 Observation**

Observation can include everything from field research where one lives in another context. In my geographical researches, direct observation has been

used to get relevant information for the study to minimize the possibility of false and inaccurate information collection. This technique is used to gather information about vendor's day to day life, problems, selling pattern.

### **3.4.2 Questionnaire Survey**

As questionnaire survey is the prominent tool to collect information about individuals as well as households. A standardized questionnaire was used for the field survey. Questionnaire provides quantitative information for research analysis. In this study, this tool was used to collect basic information about population structure, income expenditure and way of earning livelihood.

### **3.4.3 Key Informant Interview**

In this study, four types of key informant interview have been conducted. First, the interview was related to the goods and materials of the vendors, especially those who provide them fruits in reasonable price. Two wholesale fruit shopkeeper were interviewed. Second, those who provided shelter to fruit vendors. For this, one key informant was interviewed. The third one was from retail shop owners where they took their daily needed goods. The fourth one was from same fruit vending occupants. She has been running vegetable vending.

### **3.4.4 Focus Group Discussion**

The focus group discussion method has become popular as a fairly inexpensive but effective way to get the reaction of a small group of people to a focused issue. It is also useful when a researcher wants to draw the background information on an issue (Backer, 1999). Interaction between members of the group is key characteristic of this research method (Hay, 2003). The focus group discussion was made in three spots. Two focus group discussions were made among static street fruit vendors and one was conducted among mobile fruit vendors. All these focus group discussion were made in a natural setting. When the researcher opened questionnaire for interview, being curious, street fruit vendors gathered there. The researcher starts focus group discussion rather

interviewed the respondents. Where this situation occurred, the researcher conducted the focus group discussion.

### **3.4.5 Life Story Interview**

Life story interview is a qualitative research method for gathering information on the subjective essence of one person's entire life. In this technique the researcher attempts to elicit information about the experiences and development of an informant's entire life. The great advantage of life story is the ability to gain insights into how individuals interact with society as their life change. Life story interview was conducted on the basis age and their years of involvement in fruit vending occupation. In this research, four life story interviews were conducted. Two from static street fruit vendors and other two were from mobile street vendors.

### **3.5.6 Field Notes**

Observed data are recorded during field survey as field notes. Field notes are invaluable source of data. And field note records important incident and events during field survey. During field work, some information was noted down immediately and some of them were written in the room after returning from field.

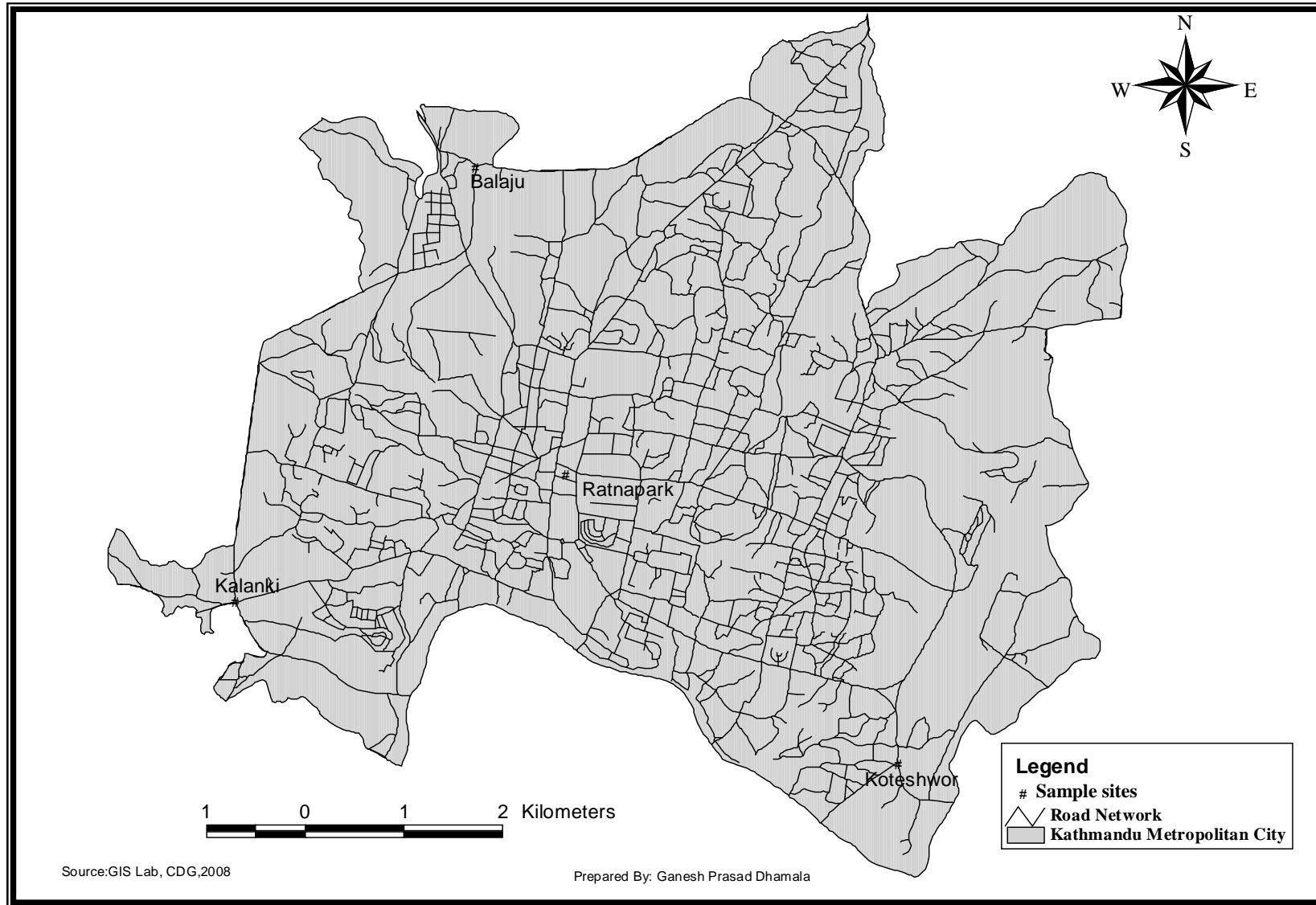
## **3.5 Analysis and Presentation**

Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to analyze the collected data. The following methods were undertaken for the proper analysis.

Quantitative data: it was transferred, processed and tabulated to produce good information. Simple statistical calculation like average, percent are calculated

Qualitative data: it becomes more difficult to categorize and manage the qualitative information because, this information were in textual form. After tabulation and managing the information, content analysis and descriptive methods were adopted to present the information as a report

# Kathmandu Metropolitan City Location of Study Area



## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **THE SETTING AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF STREET FRUIT VENDORS**

#### **4.1 Physical Setting of the Study Area**

##### **4.1.1 Location**

Kathmandu valley is the political, cultural, economic and financial core of Nepal. It lies in the lesser Himalayas of Central Nepal (Koirala, 1998). Kathmandu is the capital of the kingdom of Nepal. Kathmandu Metropolitan City is only the Metropolitan city of Nepal. It is situated in Kathmandu valley which is located at the latitudes between 27<sup>0</sup> 32' 13" and 27<sup>0</sup> 49' 10" north and longitude between 85<sup>0</sup> 11' 31" and 85<sup>0</sup> 31' 38" east. KMC covers about 50.8 square kilometers area.

Much of the municipality falls within the area bounded by the Bagmati river and the northern segment of ring road except for protruding areas along the major arterial road at Balaju, Bansbari, Bouddha and Kalanki; the airport and the strip east of the airport extending up to the Manohara river lies outside the ring road (KMC and W.B, 2001).

##### **4.1.2 Climate**

Kathmandu lies at average elevation of 1250 meters from the mean sea level. It is situated in a temperate zone of the Hindu – Kush Himalaya with a relatively well balanced climate (Pradhan, 2004). The maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded as 36<sup>0</sup>c and -3<sup>0</sup>c. The mean annual range of temperature is 14.9<sup>0</sup>c (Basnet, 1989).

Precipitation generally occurs in the valley from mid June to early October and sometimes longer. June, July and August are the months in which the heaviest monsoon rains occurs. The annual rainfall is recorded as 1300 mm. The valley experiences three distinct weather conditions; the cold season extends from October to February and January is the coldest month of the year; the period

between March to mid June is the summer dry season; the warm and rainy season extends from mid July to September and July is the warmest months of the year.

## **4.2 Socio – economic Setting of the Study Area**

### **4.2.1 Population**

Kathmandu valley presents an increasing case of population dynamics in a country where the total population has increased significantly over the years and where past few decades have witnessed a trend of very rapid growth. Historical records show that the three principal localities of the valley, Kathmandu, Patan and Bhadgawn-acquired a relatively higher concentration of population by the twelfth and thirteenth centuries only. By 1941, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur had already developed as distinct urban localities with a population of more than 10000 population (Subedi, 1996).

Kathmandu city, the capital city of Nepal is among the oldest settlement in the central Himalayan region. It has been the center of attraction for people outside the Kathmandu valley since the historical times. However, its relatively large agriculture potential has supported a corresponding dense population concentration and contributed towards making it a centre of trade and commerce. Kathmandu accounts the highest urban population of the country. In 1971, the population of the city was 150,402. The population increased to 235,211, 425,727 and 671,846 in 1981, 1991 and 2001 respectively (CBS, 2006).

### **4.2.2 Road Network**

Being the capital city of the country, road networks are highly developed compared to other districts. Kathmandu city is connected with outside the valley by Tribhuvan Highway to Hetauda, a growing industrial town to the south located along the Mahendra Highway traverses the country in the east – west direction along the Tarai plain. The Prithivi Highway at Naubise and connects Kathmandu to Pokhara and Bharatpur. The Arniko Highway connects

Kathmandu to north east part of Nepal. Apart from these Highway Kathmandu is connected by road to Bidur Municipality which is situated to the northern west (KMC and WB, 2001) Kathmandu Metropolitan City road network consist of a Ring road, Major road, Minor road and foot trails. It has well developed radial road network to connect all parts of valley (Ranjit, 2000).

#### **4.2.3 Economic Activities**

Kathmandu is an economic power centre of Nepal. It is a Metropolitan city and has displayed all the characteristics associated with such areas trade, tourism and services are the major economic activities. It has also been an important manufacturing centre such as exportable items like carpets, readymade garments and other handicraft products. Information, technology, financial institutions and other service sector have shown an increasing trend (KMC and WB, 2001). The occupational composition of valley districts' population has been changing over the years. While 75.6 percent of population age 10 years and above in 1981 was involved in primary activities (Farm/fish), only 36.6 percent were engaged in primary activities in 1991. The direction on change in the secondary activities, in contrast, has been positive. The percentage of population involved in secondary activities has increased from 5.5 percent in 1981 to 19.8 in 1991 (Subedi, 1996).

In Kathmandu the number of population involved in non-agriculture is higher than that of the number of population involved in agriculture. Households engaged in trade/business are 49.49 percent followed by services 30.26 percent (Poudel, 2005).

#### **4.2.4 Land Use**

Agriculture land decreased correspondingly from 40950 ha in 1984 to 27570 ha in 2000 of the total KMC area of 5076 ha in 1995, 3273 ha of land were under mixed residential/commercial use. Although, vacant/open/VIP area etc covered 1314 ha apart from packets of inaccessible or marginal land, the actual easy

developable land available is probably much less. KMC in fact, suffers from an acute shortage of open public land (KMC and WB, 2001).

**Table 4.1 Kathmandu Metropolitan City Land Use in 1995**

S. N	Land Use	Area (in ha)	Percentage
1	Residential/Commercial	3273.6	64.5
2	Commercial/Industrial	82.6	1.6
3	Institutional	239.2	4.7
4	Transport (airport/bus terminal)	166.3	3.3
5	Others	1314.3	25.9
Total		5076.00	100

Source: Cities Data Book, KMC, 2000.

### **4.3 Socio-Economic Background of Fruit Vendors**

Socio-economic background of street fruit vendors can be explained in terms of place of origin, family size and occupation status at their place of origin.

#### **4.3.1 Place of Origin**

Traders move from one place to another in order to increase the volume of their sale and earning high profit. It is true in case of street vendors. These vendors from different areas of the country and outside the country have centralized in Kathmandu metropolitan city. Among them thousands of fruit vendors have been earning their livelihood in Kathmandu city. They have come from different geographical regions of the country as well as the outside of the country like India. Place of origin of street fruit vendors is discussed in terms of their districts and regions.

**Table 4.2: Origin Place of Street Fruit Vendors**

Place of origin	Regions	Districts	No. of respondents	Percent
Nepal (29)	Mountain (6)	Dolakha	6	13
	Hill (13)	Okhaldunga	2	26
		Nuwakot	2	
		Gorkha	2	
		Ramechhap	4	
		Kaski	1	
		Makawanpur	1	
		Parbat	1	
	Tarai (10)	Rautahat	3	21
		Sarlahi	1	
		Janakpur	1	
		Parsa	1	
		Jhapa	1	
Morang		2		
Rupendehi	1			
India (19)			19	40
Total			48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.

Out of 48 respondents 60 percent (29) vendors were from different district of the country. And 40 percent (19) respondents were from neighboring country, India. Table 4.2 shows that Indian fruit vendors are higher than that of different ecological regions of Nepal. In the case of Nepalese, majority of fruit vendors are from Hill regions and followed by Tarai. When, we deal on district basis, street fruit vendors from Dolakha district are found in the largest number. District like: Kaski, Parbat, Makawanpur from Hill and Sarlahi, Parsa, Jhapa, Janakpur, Rupendehi have equal proportion and have the lowest number from Tarai.

#### **4.3.2 Family Size of Street Fruit Vendors**

The family background is considered as the main basis of economic activities of the people. Therefore, the occupational characteristics of the fruit vendors

have been discussed on the basis of their family size. The family size in their place of origin is known in below table.

**Table 4.3 : Family Size of Street Fruit Vendors**

No. of Family Members	Number of Family	Percent
1 – 4	12	25
5 – 9	27	56
Above 10	9	19
Total	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007

According to this study, the majority of the respondents (56%) have 5 – 9 members in their family followed by 31 percent with 1 – 4 members. This indicates that majority of vendors have joint family structure. During field survey, the researcher had asked about the reason of their joint family, they had replied that they don't have enough poverty to share and to run nuclear family life.

#### **4.3.3 Occupation**

All the respondents considered street fruit vending as an occupation and sustain their livelihood but before street fruit vending as livelihood strategy many of respondents had performed different occupation which are tabulated in the following table.

**Table 4.4 Previous Occupations of Street Fruit Vendors**

Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percent
Farming	15	31
Labour	8	17
Service	12	25
Student	3	7
Business	5	10
Others	5	10
Total	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.

Table 4.4 shows before starting the vending business, the most of the respondents found to have been involved in agriculture which was comprising 31 percent followed by 25 percent in service. Similarly, 17 percent were labor and 6 percent students were involved in vending occupation. Equal proportion in business and others types of occupations have involved in vending which shares 10 percent. The vendors who had other types of livelihoods were included under helper, watchman, tailoring and carpenter etc.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### LIVELIHOODS OF STREET FRUIT VENDORS

Assets are those resources which either an individual or household can make use of. We can categorized livelihood assets: Human (skill, knowledge, good health, etc.) , Social (Social networks, with neighbour etc), Natural (land, forest, climate, wild resources), physical (transport facilities, shelters, water supply and sanitation and energy, information and communication facilities; tools and equipments), financial (saving, income, loans, credits, etc.) following livelihood assets of street fruit vendors have been described as follows.

#### 5.1 Human Capital

Human capital represents the skill, knowledge ability to labour and good health that together enable people to persuade different livelihood strategies and achieve their livelihood objectives. In this study, interms of human capital, age composition of economically active population, educational status, and their additional skills have been discussed.

##### 5.1.1 Literacy and Education

Educational attainment plays pivot role in the betterment of livelihood and occupation. It enriches human capital which provides knowledge about different sectors to make people's well being. It becomes necessary to focus about the educational attainment of the street fruit vendors. Educational attainment of street fruit vendors is concluded in table 5.1.

**Table 5.1: Literacy and Education of SFVs**

Educational Status	Types of Respondents				Total	
	Static		Mobile		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
Illiterate	11	48	13	55	24	50
Primary	7	28	8	33	15	32
Lower Secondary	1	4	2	8	3	6
Secondary	4	16	1	4	5	10
Higher Secondary	1	4	-	-	1	2
Total	24	100	24	100	48	100

Source: Field Survey, 2007.

Table 5.1 presents that the human capital of street fruit vendors from educational attainment perspective is very poor. The table shows the comparative literacy status of static and mobile fruit vendors. Higher proportion of illiterate was found in both types of vendors which covers 48 percent in static and 55 percent in mobile vendors. The analysis of the table number shows that the respondents found to be decreased with the level of education. There is negative relationship between number of respondents and level of education. In static vendors, 28 percent respondents were found to have primary education whereas 33 percent respondents were found in mobile vendors. Four percent were found having Lower secondary, 16 percent having secondary and 4 percent having higher secondary education in static vendors and 8 percent respondents having Lower secondary, 4 percent respondents having secondary education in mobile vendors. The mobile vendors who have higher secondary education were not found in the survey in total vendors.

Different things such as economy, lack of school, custom play role of being illiterate or poor education status. Box 5.1 concludes a cause of dropping of school.

#### **Box 5.1: Cause of Dropout of School**

*Kamal Thapa, 35, from Ramechhap has completed the study of class four. He was very interested in study. After completing four, he started grade five. He said that he was good in studying. So, he himself collected all the books of grade five from his friend except English book. For this, he asked money to buy English book to his parents but his parents wanted that he would help them in domestic activities. They did not pay him any money. He revolted against his family. He not only left school but also home and family at the age of eleven years. Therefore, the main reason for drop out school is financial.*

#### **5.1.2 Economically Active Population**

Generally, age group (15 – 59) has taken as economically active population. National economy depends upon the size of this population. If the dependency ratio is high, the economically active population is low. Economically active

population is taken as the sound income that they can generate. Here, age composition of economically active population will be discussed in terms of human capital. Involvement of young and energetic people in the fruit vending is a sustainable livelihood. Distribution of mobile and static population by their age composition is presented in table 5.2.

**Table 5.2: Age Composition of Economically Active Population**

S N	Age Group	Static		Mobile		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	15 – 30	8	33	16	67	24	50
2	31 – 45	11	46	6	25	17	35
3	46 – 60	5	21	2	8	7	15
Total		24	100	24	100	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar – 2007.

Table 5.2 clearly shows that SFVs involved in street fruit vending were working eco-active age group. There is an absence of children or old population in this activity because it needs more toil and labour. If we see the table, age composition of economically active population divided into three. Among that age group 15-30 holds the highest proportion in mobile vendors (67%) whereas the age group 31-45 holds highest proportion in static vendors (46%). Generally, when age group increases both types of respondents decrease. Age group 46 - 60 number of respondent represents only 21 percent and 8 percent in static and mobile vendors respectively.

Out of total fruit vendors 50 percent covers by age group 15 – 30 respondents which are the sign of great toil and physical power. Only 15 percent respondents who belong to the age group 46 – 60 are doing vending business.

### **5.1.3 Additional Skills**

There is no need of additional skill in street fruit vending. But, every occupation demands some skill which can lead the occupation live long and

fruitful. Fruit is perishable goods. So, it needs proper care and when fruit vendors go to wholesale market they have given single sight to look items which they are buying. Sometimes, damage goods they have to sell. At that time, most of fruit vendors sell that rotten or damage goods roaming street to street. But, some apply some tricks to sell such goods. Under tricks, they have already chosen some damage items and some fresh items and fresh items are kept in upper part of polithin bag. And when customers chose good items, they weight that items and give them that items which they have already chosen. Most of vendors apply this trick to sell whole items. Mobile vendors apply this method more because they don't have fixed location and customers were easily cheated. Except this, they need the skill of weighting goods: low amount with high price and much amount with reasonable price. But, these all skill vendor gain there types of work/skill by the principle of 'Learning by doing'.

## **5.2 Social Capital**

There is much debate about the term 'Social Capital'. But, it is taken as social resource upon which people draw in pursuit of their livelihood objectives. It can make a particularly important contribution to people's sense of well-being (through identity, honour and belonging, DFID, 2001). In the case of SFVs, livelihood strategies adopted by them are also needed social capital. So, it is necessary to discuss.

In the study area, there were not found any formal organizations or institutions of street fruit vendors. Some of SFVs had become member of “*Sadak Byapar Sangh*”. But in most of areas like Kalanki, Ratnapark, Balaju, there were no any formal institutions of those vendors. Mobile fruit vendors don't have any membership of institutions and they don't think that it is necessary for them. Because most of mobile vendors were from Indian community and they do this occupation seasonally. Once upon the time, they stay in the business hardly 3 months. They don't continue for longtime regularly because of excessive

physical labor. After one month they take rest at home and again join business for 2 or 3 months.

Although, there is no formal institutions of SFVs there is close tie among them both in native and Indian origin. It seems to be justifiable to analyze their origin place for social networking. Most of mobile street fruit vendors are from Bihar (India) especially from Betia, Motihari and Sitamodi. Likewise, Tarai vendors were from Rautahat and Birgunj at Kalanki, Hill vendors were from Ramechhap and Dolakha at Koteswor and vendors from Nuwakot were at Balaju. These information shows that special location is occupied by those people because of the influence of the people of their owns' special location or districts. This shows strong social tie between them.

Respondents were asked the question “how have you been arrived at this street fruit vending?” to gather the information about social tie of street fruit vendors. Most of them said that their relatives were doing this business and they were followed it. In this case, people (vendors) can easily get information and get support from their relatives.

Table 5.3 concluded that out of 38 percent static street fruit vendors respondents involved through relative and 37 percent respondents were involved through friends. And, 25 percent respondents involved through relative. Among mobile fruit vendors 54 percent respondents involved through their relative, 33 percent through their friends and only 13 percent respondents involved by themselves.

Among all vendors involvement in fruit vending, the highest proportion holds through relatives which covers 40 percent respondents. This is followed by the respondents who involved through their relative who covers 35 percent and remain 25 percent respondents involved themselves.

**Table 5.3: Involvement of Fruit Vendors Through Network**

Networking	Street Fruit Vendors, Respondents Types					
	Static		Mobile		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Self	9	38	3	13	12	25
Relatives	6	25	13	54	19	40
Friends	9	37	8	33	17	35
Total	24	100	24	100	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar, 2007.

It is necessary of proper guide in every occupation because to start new work (occupation /business) in a new environment is very challenging job. So, it is necessary to everyone a good support or idea about that occupation which we are going to start. To start new business we need strong social network through which we can share our common interests. In this occupation, social network plays the vital role. A person who doesn't have any money but he wants to start fruit vending; he can do it if he has strong social network. Box 5.2 shows the importance of social networking in street fruit vending occupation.

#### **Box 5.2: Role of Social Networking**

*Pradip Sahani, 24, from Mahottari arrived in Kathmandu valley in 1997. He was brought by his uncle. When he reached in Kathmandu, he didn't have any money. His uncle was known wholesalers at Kalimati and his uncle provided some fruit items on credit then he ran his business easily without investing any money. Nowadays, Mr Shani has strong relationship with wholesaler and he can provide goods on credit if anyone comes from his community or village.*

*Mr Yadav, 30, from Rautahat has been living here since 10 years. In his home place there is no chance of job. He has completed his SLC. If they got work, they could work as wage labor and payment only Rs. 50 per day. So, he started fruit vending which is far better than wage labouring. Now, he has been saving Rs 400 – 500 per day. He not only engaged himself in fruit vending, but also he has managed ten other members in this activities. By providing work, he has good relation with family members of these persons. Now, he has got respect from his society as well. Person who engaged in vending has good earning fruit vendor can involve his whole village in this occupation if he has good relation with wholesaler. Yadav has done these entire things free of cost.*

### **5.3 Natural Capital**

By the nature of work, they are using the urban natural resources, i.e., footpath of the busiest nodal or square points of city area. By standing or sitting in such places they were providing services for pedestrians. In return, they earned money. On the one hand, all the places don't have equal potential for earning. Magnitude and level of social interaction in any place are the attracting factors for them to use it. Normally, the flow of pedestrians in any place determines the income generating capacity. The place where flow of people is very high there is high potentiality of income. All the street fruit vendors compete with each other in order to use more potential location. Especially in the case of static SFVs, these types of situation, occur. So, such spaces are managed by local institutions and municipality taking some tax and these organizations maintain the rule and regulations. Static SFVs have to follow rule and regulation set by organization. Mobile vendors do not have any fixed location for vending but they have to pay some cost which is low in-comparison to static. Most of mobile vendors who mobile their goods street to street don't pay any tax. So, mobile vendors spread all parts of the city.

In this section natural capital is discussed on the following basis in terms of natural capital, comparatively healthy climate, importance of location and place, rent and obligation. Only the accessible urban resources for them within working place are discussed in this study.

#### **5.3.1 Healthy Climate**

As the researcher has already mentioned in chapter four that the climate of KMC is very balance. During the field survey period, the researcher knew that people of street fruit vendors spend whole day at street. How it is possible, if climate is unfavorable to them. So, the researcher has analyzed their daily hours to justify the healthy climatic condition of working place.

**Table 5.4: Working Hours of Street Food Vendors**

Working Hours	Static Vendors		Mobile Vendor		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Below 10	4	17	5	21	9	19
10 – 12	3	12	3	13	6	12
12 – 14	10	42	14	58	24	50
Above 14	7	29	2	8	9	19
Total	24	100	24	100	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.

Table 5.4 shows that 42 percent static vendors work 12 – 14 hours in a day. Twenty nine percent works above 14 hours, 17 percent works below 10 hours and 12 percent work 10-12 hours per day. Similarly, 58 percent SFV mobile vendors work 12 – 14 hours. This is followed by below 10 hours per day which covers 21 percent respondents. Among all respondents 50 percent 48 work 12 – 14 hours.

Although, the city is full of noise, dust and air pollution, the working hours of SFVs show very high. Here, working hours of vendors is taken to show climatic condition. Workable condition justifies the climatic condition. Natural resource like healthy climatic condition is taken as environmental phenomena which enhance the income of people. The more suitable time they can invest the more suitable livelihood goals they can achieve. More working environment is endowed by nature generates more income. The researcher has chosen working hours to analyze natural capital because vendors of street are in miserable condition. They are doing their activity under open sky in the year round. The researcher has chosen those vendors only who don't get shade even in the summer and winter. To sustain their livelihood, what ever condition occurred they have to face rather than escape from their livelihood.

### **5.3.2 Importance of Location**

Four major locations of study areas: Kalanki, Balaju, Koteswor and Ratnapark were selected on the basis of dominance of static and mobile fruit vendors.

These locations are different from each other in terms of magnitude and levels of social interaction which is shown in the following table.

**Table 5.5: Rank of Place in Terms of Monthly Income**

Place	Income monthly (Rs)	Rank
Ratnapark	7200	I
Balaju	6375	II
Koteswor	6000	III
Kalanki	5500	IV

\* Ranking is based on the average monthly income of respondents in these places.

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.

Table 5.5 shows the income variation according to places. Among them Ratnapark holds first rank in terms of income. This is followed by Balaju, Koteswor and Kalanki in second, third and fourth rank respectively. Ratnapark holds first rank due to heart of city where most of valley people visit.

Old Bus Park also situated in Ratnapark area. So, people come here to get bus. Different parts of city are connected with that bus park. Thus, Bus Park generate high flow of people to SFVs. Balaju is another location where vendors earned second highest amount. It is also situated near new bus park where people from different parts of country visit. Here is also a park named Balaju Park which attracts many people. Koteswor holds third rank in terms of income potentiality. It links valley with eastern hill and Kalanki holds fourth rank which links valley with western part of country.

### **5.3.3 Place, Rent and Obligation**

As researcher mentioned in previous section that all places don't have equal position in terms of income. So, it is necessary to discuss about street fruit vendors if they were investing some rent to use such natural resources. All the street fruit vendors are not using these resources freely. Some of them have to pay charge.

**Table 5.6: Types of Payment by the SFVs for Foot Path**

Types of Payment	No. of Respondents	Percent
Free	24	46
Paid	26	54
Total	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.0

Table 5.6 concluded that fifty four percent respondents are paying for using the footpath whereas about 46 percent are freely using the footpath. Among them, some have to pay only for municipality whereas some of them have to pay both municipality and local institutions like “*Sana Byapar Shang, Local Club, Tol Sudhar Samit*” etc. Box 5.3 included the types of paying for vending place.

**Box 5.3 : Types of Paying for Footpath**

*Dhan Raj Khadka, 45, Ratnapark form Ramechhap started street fruit vending seven years ago. He has to pay Rs 10 per day to Nagarpalika and Rs 10 of each Saturday to “Nepal Sadak Byapar Sangh”.*

*Janga Prasad Chaulagain, 60, Koteshwor form Ramechhap has carried out this occupation since 10 years. He has to pay Rs 10 per day to Nagarpalika. But recently, he has been paying Rs 20 per month to Maoist organization.*

*Ranjesh Yadav, 20, Kalanki, from Rautahat district has been carried out his business since four years. He has been paying Rs 400 each month to “Tol Sudhar Samiti” of Kalanki and this institution has provided them certain location near road side and maintains order of that location.*

As above explanation concluded that most of vendors paying some tax for using footpath. Instead of that the street fruit vendors are paying different types of taxes and such types of payment are not same for all places and all types of vendors. Native and static vendors are not paying any money to street children. But, mobile and Indian vendors are suffered from street children. Sometimes, they have to pay money and fruit to them.

## 5.4 Physical Capital

Physical capital comprises the basic infrastructure and produced goods needed to support livelihoods. Infrastructure consists of change to the physical environment that helps people to meet their basic needs and to be more productive (DFID, 2001). In this study, livelihood of SFVs is viewed in urban context. So, some assets such infrastructure, shelter and land ownership at origin place are discussed.

### 5.4.1 Infrastructure for Fruit Vendors

In the case of street fruit vendors they have been using open space. Street vendors are not limited to *Tokari*, *Dhoko*, cycle, *Thela* and cut but spread into bazaar that have occupied yards, street and sidewalks. Among these means cycle is widely used by both static and mobile vendors. Open space like street, yards and sidewalks, cycle, *Thela* and cut are used by static vendors where as cycle and *Thela* are commonly means of vending for mobile vendors. Cut occupies large space and large amount of fruit items can be kept and varieties of items which can generate more income.

**Table 5.7: Means of Vending**

Means of Vending Types	Vendors Types				Total	
	Static		Mobile			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cut	3	13	-	-	3	6
<i>Thela</i>	8	33	5	21	13	27
<i>Doko</i>	7	29	-	-	7	15
Cycle	6	25	19	79	25	52
Total	24	100	24	100	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.

Means of vending plays vital role in fruit vending who afford *Thela* or cycle their income is higher than *Doko*. Static vendors were using all types of means whereas *Thela* and cycles were used by mobile vendors. Out of 24 static

vendors 33 percent respondents were using *Thela* as means of vending. This was followed using *Doko* as means of vending which covers 29 percent respondents. Twenty five percent and 13 percent respondents were using cycle and cut as their means of vending respectively. Out of 24 mobile vendors 79 percent were using *Thela* as a means of vending. And 21 percent mobile respondents were carried out their business upon *Thela*. Only mobile means were used by mobile vendors.

Among all types of fruit vendors most commonly used means of vending was cycle which covers 52 percent out of 48 respondents. This is followed by *Thela* which covers 27 percent, 14 percent and 6 percent respondents were using *Doko* and cut respectively.

*Thela* and cycle are commonly used with high proportion because these are mobile means and easily taken in their residents. Furthermore, cycle serves vendors as means of transport as well. Cut is difficult to manage after finishing their daily vending activities. So, it is used by least but it is beneficial in terms of income.

#### **5.4.2 Shelter**

Living arrangement and quality of shelter in which they were living is also a major component of physical assets. The entire respondents who had been commuting for temporary residents were living in rental home which covers total percent. During the field work, it was found that they were living on a single rental room and shared the residence with other.

**Table 5.8: Number of Roommate of Street Fruit Vendors**

No. of Person	Types of respondents				Total	
	Static		Mobile		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
Single	2	8	-	-	2	4
2 – 4	14	58	12	50	26	54
5 – 7	6	25	10	42	16	33
Above 7	2	9	2	8	4	9
Total	24	100	24	100	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007

The data of table 5.8 reveals that the respondents of static vendors who had been living among the group between 2 – 4 roommates were found higher than others which cover 58 percent of respondents. This is followed by the group of 5-7respondents which covers 25 percent respondents, the equal proportion of respondents living the single and above 7 which covers 8 percent of each. Among the mobile vendors, highest proportion of respondents was living with group of 2 – 4 roommates which covers 54 percent. This followed by living group of 5 – 7 which covers 42 percent and 8 percent respondents living with group above 7 persons. Respondent living in a single room was not found in mobile vending.

Among static and mobile vendors, 58 percent static respondents lived with group below 4 roommates whereas in mobile 50 percent respondents living of that group. 50 percent mobile respondents lived with group of above 5 persons sharing the room whereas in static this group of respondents covers only 34 percent.

It is the strategy adopted by them to minimize expenditure and to reduce social vulnerability. To share room is not their desire. Sharing room is more common of Tarai and Indian native than Hill native. Most of Hill native were living with

family and children. So, there is less chance of them to share their residence with other.

Generally, they shared room with parents, relatives, friends and neighbors. Most of the roommates were involving in the same occupation but their working place may not be the same location.

### 5.4.3 Assets at Origin Place

Assets at the origin place play the vital role to run livelihood. So, it is necessary to discuss about physical property at their home place. Only land ownership at their permanent residents is going to discuss.

**Table 5.9: Land Ownership**

Land holding size ( in ropani)	Types of vendors				Total	
	Static		Mobile		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
Landless	3	13	-	-	3	6
Only Ghaderi	2	8	5	21	7	15
Less than 5 ropani	2	8	5	21	7	15
5 – 10 ropani	5	21	3	12	8	17
10 – 15 ropani	4	17	7	29	11	22
Above 15 ropani	8	33	4	17	12	25
Total	24	100	24	100	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.

The table 5.9 reveals that out of total static vendors, 33 percent were found having land size more than 15 ropani. Twenty one percent respondents having land size 5 – 10 ropani, 17 percent having 10 – 15 ropani and 13 percent respondents have no land at all. Respondents having land size below 5 ropani and Ghaderi only were found in equal number.

Among mobile vendors, land size is highly affected by their joint family system. Twenty nine percent mobile vendors were found having land size between 10 – 15 ropani which was followed by land size below 5 ropani and

only Ghaderi. 17 percent respondents were found having land size above 15 ropani and 12 percent respondents having land size between 5 – 10 ropani. According to data presented in table 5.9, land holding size among mobile is high because of their joint family system.

Between static and mobile vendors, 50 percent static vendors were found of having land size below 10 ropani whereas 48 percent in mobile vendors. In static vendors land holding size above 10 ropani shares 50 percents and similar situation occurs in mobile vendors.

## **5.5 Financial Capital**

Financial capital is financial resources which include available stock like saving, cash, deposit or liquid assets such as livestock or gold and regular in follow of money like pensions (DFID, 2001). It has been adopted to try to hold an important livelihood building block, namely the availability of cash or equivalent that enables people to adopt different livelihood options. Financial, as we know the most versatile among other capital.

All the respondents have been living on rental house at urban area. So, their saving is determined by monthly earning and expenditure. Financial capital of SFVs is discussed interms of monthly income, monthly expenditure and monthly saving.

### **5.5.1 Income**

Naturally, street business which needs less investment, vendors earn less than other business. It is also true that livelihood of urban is different from the rural livelihoods. In urban areas, people need to buy everything to sustain their livelihood. Labouring (any kinds of work to generate income) is the main way of people to earn money who is unskilled and uneducated. Street fruit vendors have same condition. They don't have any skill and education to get job in formal sectors. So, they must earn from fruit vending to sustain them and their family. Their income per month ranges form Rs 5000 – 8000 and variation between static and mobile was also observed in this study which is reported in the table 5.10.

**Table 5.10: Monthly Income of Vendors**

Monthly Income (Rs)	Types of Vendors				Total	
	Static		Mobile		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
Less than 5000	4	17	6	25	10	21
5000 – 6000	2	8	3	12	5	10
6000 – 7000	7	29	10	43	17	35
7000 – 8000	5	21	2	8	7	15
Above 8000	6	25	3	12	9	19
Total	24	100	24	100	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.

Table 5.10 concludes that all the street fruit vendors do not have equal monthly earning. Most of respondents have monthly income within Rs 6000 – 7000 which shares 35 percent of total respondents. This is followed by the respondents having monthly income less than Rs 5000 which covers 21 percent respondents. Similarly, 19 percent respondents have monthly income more than Rs 8000. A few respondents have monthly income Rs 5000 – 6000 which covers 10 percent of total respondents.

Similarly, the analysis of the saving pattern between static and mobile fruit vendors shows that out of total static vendors 29 percent respondents have monthly income between Rs 6000 – 7000, 25 percent respondents have above Rs 8000, 21 percent have between Rs 7000 – 8000, 17 percent respondents monthly income less than 5000 and 8 percent respondents earn monthly between Rs 5000 – 6000. Likewise, in mobile vendors 42 percent respondents monthly income is between Rs 6000 – 7000, 13 percent have monthly income Rs 5000 – 6000 and above Rs. 8000, 25 percent respondents having monthly income less than Rs. 5000 and 8 percent respondents monthly income between Rs 7000 – 8000.

Twenty five percent static vendors were found of having monthly income less than Rs. 6000 whereas 37 percent mobile vendors have that income groups/category. Forty six percent static vendors were found having monthly income above Rs. 7000 whereas only 21 percent mobile vendors have that income. The level of income was found higher in static vendors than the vendors in mobile vending.

### 5.5.2 Expenditure

Most of the vendors spend their income for shelter, food, cloths and schooling for their children. Monthly expenditure is another important factor for financial capital. To increase monthly income is more difficult than to minimize monthly expenditure. So, upon monthly expenditure they are able to control within a certain limitation. To share room and kitchen with more friends is the main strategy adopted to minimize the expenditure on food and residence. All the fruit vendors do not have same expenditure. Monthly expenditure of street vendors with in study area is shown in the table. Therefore, the monthly average expenditure of respondents has been tabulated in 5.11.

**Table 5.11: Monthly Expenditure of Street Fruit Vendors**

Expenditure (Rs)	Types of Vendors				Total	
	Static		Mobile		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
Below 2500	2	9	5	21	7	15
2500 – 4000	3	12	13	54	16	33
4000 – 5500	3	12	2	8	5	10
5500 – 7000	10	42	1	4	11	23
Above 7000	6	25	3	13	9	19
Total	24	100	24	100	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.

Most of static vendors spend between Rs 5500 – 7000 per month which covers 42 percent respondents whereas the highest proportion spend in mobile vendors

is between Rs 2500 – 4000 which covers 33 percent respondents. Lowest amount of expenditure spent by static vendors which covers 9 percent whereas this amount spend by mobile vendors covers 21 percent respondents.

Highest amount of expenditure is above Rs 7000 which covers 25 percent in static vendors whereas this amount expenditure is done by only 19 percent in mobile vendors. Seventy five percent mobile vendors spend below Rs 4000 whereas 21 percent respondents spend this amount in static vendors. Highest the proportion lower the expenditure in mobile vendors whereas the lesser the expenditure amount and lesser the vendors in static vendors.

### 5.5.3 Saving

Saving is the most important component for the livelihood analysis because such saving helps them to make a living in the time of economic shocks. Sometimes, such saving also supports them for daily food in time of difficulties (Strike, rainy day, illness). This saving is achieved only after fulfilling all the monthly expenditure because of the variation of individual in income and expenditure their monthly saving also varied which is reported in the table 5.12.

**Table 5.12: Monthly Saving of Street Fruit Vendors**

Saving (Rs)	Types of Vendors				Total	
	Static		Mobile			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Below 1000	10	42	4	17	14	29
1000 – 2000	4	17	2	8	6	12
2000 – 3000	4	17	4	17	8	17
3000 – 4000	1	4	7	29	8	17
4000 – 5000	3	12	4	17	7	15
Above 5000	2	8	3	12	5	10
Total	24	100	24	100	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.

Table 5.12 data reports that there is the variation between mobile and static vendors. Most of static vendors saved below Rs 1000 which covers about 42 percent respondents whereas 29 percent mobile vendors saved this amount per month. The percent of mobile vendors is higher with higher amount of saving. Fifty seven percent mobile respondents saving above Rs 3000 whereas static vendors save that amount only 24 percent. The percent of static vendors increase with decreasing the saving amount. Seventy five percent static vendors respondents saving below 3000 per month.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **CAUSES FOR ADOPTING VENDING LIVELIHOODS**

There are limited environmental resources that people can utilize. Increasing presence of people on its territory is presenting economic, social and ecological problems (Subedi, 2003). Poverty is one of the main causes of being a street vendor. The desire of better social status, earning more money and living in congenial environment has allured people to engage themselves in a wide range of economic activities once they are in urban areas. The poor people from rural areas migrate to urban places such as Kathmandu in search of better livelihood option and to solve hand to mouth problem have to migrate from their place of origin. Poor people's migration to cities is of seasonal nature. Migration is also a form of livelihood diversification. Along with crop and livestock production members of rural houses engage into other activities to utilize their leisure time to off-farm and non farm income. The seasonal migration takes place in the slack season and the return of migrants during the peak period of labour demand in the village in accordance with agriculture calendar (land preparation, plantation and harvesting). As discussed earlier agriculture is indispensable part of rural livelihood. It is true in the context of vendors. Most of mobile street fruit vendors work in city seasonally. In the case of static, some of them were doing vending round the year. If poverty is the cause of migration, this manifestation has direct link with population growth land fragmentation from generation, low productivity, lack of market access, natural hazard, family problems. All these factors have collectively pushed street fruit vendors from the village.

#### **6.1 Factors of Migration Associated with the Place of Origin**

As mentioned already, many factors led rural people to choose the street as a working place. Street provides them some option for livelihood. So, it is necessary to discuss major causes which plays catalyst role at the place of origin of the street vendors.

Table 6.1 summarizes the major factors which lead the vendors to come to the city and engage in street vending. These major factors are discussed below:

**Table 6.1: Factors Associated with Place of Origin**

S N	Factors	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Demographic	9	19
2	Joint family system	8	17
3	Indebtedness	7	15
4	Networking	5	11
5	Family trouble	4	9
6	Natural hazard	3	6
7	Others	11	23
Total		48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007

### **6.1.1 Demographic Factors**

These factors included a very high man land ratio which results abnormal population pressure on land that compelled people to search for alternative livelihood. Demographic factors brought unemployment, underemployment and lack of alternative job and food scarcity. Nearly one out of five reported they had come to the city and entered into fruit vending due to large family size and no adequate work in the village. 9 SFVS persons (19%) show their demographic cause to leave their place of origin.

### **6.1.2 Joint Family System**

The joint family system is an advantage for some other areas in search of better livelihood alternative. This system provides opportunity to members of the family to look for alternative without worrying about family back home. Families behind look after property in the origin. Respondents have different causes to adopt fruit vending as their livelihood. Seventeen percent system

helping them to run street vending easily and utilize their surplus labour income generative activities.

### **6.1.3 Indebtedness**

Indebtedness and poor economic condition induce people to leave the village in search of better paid occupation because they can earn money to pay debt and to make their economy better. Out of 48 respondents 7 (15%) respondents reported indebtedness being responsible cause to lead vending life.

### **6.1.4 Networking**

Networks are sets of interpersonal ties that connect possible vendors, former vendors and non-vendors in origin and destination areas through ties of kinship, friendship and shared community links. Networking helps them lower the costs and risks of movement and increase the expected net returns. Table 6.1 shows that 11 percent street fruit vendors had entered into fruit vending due to social networking.

### **6.1.5 Natural Hazards**

Natural hazard includes natural disasters (floods, volcanoes, landslides, earthquakes), environmental change (deforestation, desertification, land degradation, global warming) and human made disasters (industrials accidents, radioactivity). The impact of floods and landslides, for example, can greatly exacerbated by deforestation and agriculture activities. Natural hazards such as landslide, flood drought and fire was reported as cause of hazard. Natural hazard refers to the danger or harm or risk. Major types of hazards in Nepal: flood, earthquake drought, landslide, hailstorm, glacial lake out burst flood and fires. Among them floods and landslides are most the most recurrent in Nepal.

In entering into street fruit vending, were found affected by this natural phenomena. An example of natural hazard is included in Box 6.1.

### **Box 6.1: Example of Natural Hazard**

*L.P. Dungana aged 54 years, from Morang is a fruit vendor at Kalanki. He is a landless person and had to become a street vendor due to natural hazard. Twenty - three years ago flood damaged his land in Morang district. He continued his livelihood by working on other people's land because of drought he could not any production. Soon, he become distressed and entered Kathmandu City with family in 1988 A.D.*

#### **6.1.6 Family Problem**

There is conflict among the members in the family. Some members of the family left the village for city due to conflict among the family members. Basically, the nature of conflict is domestic such alcohol, economic, work, financial, problem of basic need. Out of 48 respondents 4 (9%) respondents had become SFVs due to conflict with their family.

#### **6.1.7 Others**

The other factors include like time pass, earn money, insurgency, weak physical condition and others. Out of 48 respondents 11 persons responded 'other' their causes in their involvement in vending.

### **6.2 Causes Adopting for the Street Fruit Vending**

Leisure from agriculture activities promoted people to engage in non-agriculture activities like trade and industry. The development of such trade and industry resulted into the development of urban centers. Along with the development of an urban area, variety of characteristics emerged in the business. The desire of earning more money for better social status, people is engaged themselves in wide ranges of economic pursuits. In a developing country like Nepal, vending is one of the notable characteristics of an urban area. Like other jobs, street fruit vending also have certain causes promoting vending have been presented in the table.

Although street fruit vendors have been facing many problems but they had been continuing street fruit vending as their occupation. The respondents were questioned to specific factor in fruit vending which attracted them to adopt the occupation. Various responding to this question varied causes are found in varied proportion. Table 6.2 summarizes the cause of adopting street fruit vending as an occupation.

**Table 6.2: Causes of Adopting Fruit Vending as Occupation at Urban Area**

S N	Causes	No. of respondents	Percent
1	Profitable business	13	27
2	Low investment	11	23
3	Inherited business	8	17
4	Knowledge in fruit vending	7	15
5	Easy to handle	3	6
6	Sense of freedom	2	4
7	Others	4	8
Total		48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007.

Twenty seven percent respondents reported that they adopted street vending because this activity was profitable than other others they could engage in. This was followed by low investment to start with (23%). Fifteen percent respondents adopted it due to more knowledge about it and 17 percent as their inherited business. Easy to handle sense of freedom shares 6 percent and 4 percent respectively. Others causes such as to pass time, no alternative work, unemployment, to reduced homily expenditure shares 8 percent respondents.

### **Box 6.2: Vendors Feeling Freedom in Vending**

*B. Sigdel, 32, Balaju form Nuwakot was working in plastic industry as a technician in Hetauda. He earned 8000 per month. One day, he was suffered form extreme fever and become absent in his work. His boss called him and said that he does not know anything but he has paid him. So, he needs return. Then, he quiets his job sayings keep your man and do not work. He said to me that employee not only exploit out skill but also our health. He has completed up to intermediate and now he has been doing his occupation independently. He is the master as well as labor of his own. He is fully satisfied with his running occupation.*

The analysis of reasons for vending activities shows that an overwhelming proportion of fruit vendors were in this occupation because this activity was profitable. Some of them have been involved because of their tradition occupation base whereas others have been there due to low investment. Some fruit vendors respond that this vending occupation is easy to handle and others did it due to good knowledge in fruit vending.

Most of all, causes related to profitable business and low investment were main key causes for the poor people to adopt fruit vending. It is a attracting scheme to everyone who wants to involve in the street fruit vending. Since it demands comparatively low investment poor people can afford this. They can start this business with little money and limited amount of goods with low or no risk. Also, it is easy to start and close the vending business. Therefore, some reported that they could get things on credit. Even at the time of crisis they get things on credit from wholesaler.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **VULNERABILITY CONTEXT OF STREET FRUIT VENDORS**

Vulnerability context is that circumstances which have a direct effect upon peoples' assets and options that are open to them in pursuit of beneficial livelihood outcomes. In this chapter, vulnerability context is used to represent the situation and factor which disorder the livelihood options of the street fruit vendors in Kathmandu city. The vulnerability contexts frame the external environments in which people exist. These vendors do not have their own place to run their occupation. They are using public place for the vending, especially open space and street. All the street fruit vendors concentrate in places where the flow of pedestrians and vehicles is very high. As a result, their working place is not environmentally suitable for health as well as other reasons. .

There are some external factors which causes fluctuations in their regular income. Due to the different causes, the occupation through which they are earning their living is not secure and sustainable. This vulnerability has more to do with vending place rather than income. The occupational vulnerability of the street vendors is high. Therefore, living in urban setting becomes very difficult for them. Vulnerability varies from individual to individual because of the lack of equal accesses to livelihood assets and skill or knowledge they possess. Vulnerability is not a unique phenomenon but it is a combination of different factors that creates obstacles in the pursuit of livelihood activities.

On the one hand, they are welcomed as street fruit vendors since they offer us nutrient items at reasonable prices. On the other hand, people also feel that they have no right to be part of city and no right the use of public space privately. Likewise, together with the pot holed roads, the garbage and pollution; city dweller also feel that that they contribute to the bad look of the city. They also destroyed beauty of urban areas.

In fast growing cities like Kathmandu, vending no more remains an unnoticed activity. It is a major source of conflicts between city managers and planners on one hand and large number of vendors on the other hand. In this context, it

would be rational to explore the real problems of vending in city like Kathmandu it helps to understand the context within which the activity occurs and the problem arises.

### **7.1 Problem of the Street Fruit Vendor**

Different types of problems have been faced by the vendors. Most of their problems are related to the threat of authority, lack of adequate investment, problem of toilets, objections for vending space by house owners, pedestrians and vehicles and perishable nature of goods. Being, an unregistered and mobile the urban street fruit vendors are considered as problem creators. On the one hand, they are not educated and skilled which creates problems for them in finding job at formal sectors. And, on the other hand, their presence have no legal provisions, allocated space for vending and positive thinking for public agencies. Thus, street fruit vendors are facing many problems while performing their business in the street. Box 7.1 summarizes the problems of SFVs.

#### **Box 7.1: Situation Observed During Field Survey**

*During the course of field survey, the researcher fortunately got chance to observed three distinct situation faced by street fruit vendors.*

*Situation: 1*

*At Kalanki, when researcher reached to take survey, a female throwing stone at one of the mobile street fruit vendor. When the researcher asked him and found the cause of that he was standing in front of her shop with full basket of fruit and cycle and her shop being shadowed*

*Situation: 2*

*At Ratnapark, a dual has been observed between vendor and pedestrian. A pedestrian who had drunk pick up fruit to test and vendors stop him doing so. Then the drunkard scolds him. There was situation of dual between. But other vendors and pedestrians made understanding between them and possible dual was over*

*Situation: 3*

*A young rowdy boys group with four members roaming across the street who pick up fruit items from basket of vendors with teasing manner when vendors oppose them, they were ready for fight..*

Table 7.1 result reveals the responsible agents who create problem to street fruit vendors in their occupation. Twenty -five percent of respondents considered that authorities were the major sources to their problems. Problems created by pedestrians and rowdy people had equal proportion which covered 23 percent of respondents each. During the field survey, it was found that 15 percent respondents had suffered from wholesaler. They blamed that the wholesaler do not behave equally among vendors from Tarai, Indian and Hill native. There seems racial discrimination. Most of wholesale owner were from India or Tarai origin. Most of Hill vendors blamed them that they gave them low quality goods in comparison to those whose origin was Tarai or India. In addition 4 percent respondents had suffered from local shop owners.

**Table 7.1: Source of Problems**

S N	Problems by	Selling Location				Total Percent
		Ratnapark	Koteswore	Balaju	Kalanki	
1	Authorities	4	2	3	3	25
2	Rowdy people	2	5	2	2	23
3	Pedestrians	5	1	2	3	23
4	Wholesale market	1	3	1	2	15
5	No problem	0	1	4	0	10
6	Local shopkeepers	0	0	0	2	4
Total		12	12	12	12	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007

After the restoration of democracy (loktantra), street fruit vendors were feeling some relief from Municipal authorities. The conflicts between street vendors and Municipal police how reduced due to changed political scenario. But, recently the municipality again announce the illegal establishment vending on footpath situation. Thus, it became the same as it was in the past. Problems of pedestrians and street people faced by Madeshi and Indian people are high. Hill native people are not so much affected by them. In wholesale market Hill native people suffer because the most of wholesale owner are either Madesi or Indian. The wholesalers don't give much time to select goods. Vendors have to

choose goods seeing through cursory observation only. Sometime rotten goods have to be sold because there is no provision of exchange.

## 7.2 Seasonality

Seasonality is the core of vulnerability context through which hindrances are aroused in pursuit of livelihood. In this study, seasonality is also used to indicate the situation which fluctuate daily activities and income of street fruit vendors. Sometime, they are able to earn more their expectation but situation does not always favor them. Different kinds of seasonality through which, their daily earning keeps on fluctuating through out the years which includes in table 7.2.

**Table 7.2: Seasonality and Economic Impact**

Season	Human response	Efficiency	Economic impact
Winter season	People don't use more fruit items	Increase working load of goods, decreasing earning	Decrease daily earnings
Summer season	People prefer fruit due to hot	Increase earning, decrease working load, most goods would be sold	Increase the earning
Before <i>Dashian</i> and <i>Tihar</i> , customary festival of Kathmandu valley	Movement of people increase in the city	Increasing amount of selling	Increase daily earnings
Holiday	Decrease the follow of pedestrians in nodal points	Increase in the business	Increase daily earnings
		Decrease the income	Decrease daily incomes
<i>Banda</i> and Strike	Irritating to all people and decreasing flow of pedestrians	Decrease the selling	Less earning
Official days	Increase the pedestrians flow	Increases business activities	Increasing earnings

Source: Field survey, Feb/Mar 2007

Table 7.2 shows that the vulnerability context of seasonality is not always negative for the street fruit vendors. Sometimes, due to the seasonal change they are able to increase their earning and their income rapidly decreases. So, their daily earning is not constant through out the year. In terms of earning, there is positive relation between the income and flow of pedestrians. The components which are major causes of seasonality for their earning are natural season and cultural (festival) season. In natural season, winter and summer are sub categories of natural seasonality. Winter has negative role and summer has positive context in the case of street fruit vendors. Summer season has high ratio of income except the day of raining. For the street fruit vendors, economic vulnerability becomes high in winter due to low preference to fruit in cold season. Cultural season like feast and festivals also causes fluctuation in their daily earning. Before *Dashian* and *Tihar*, and customary feast and festivals of Kathmandu city has highly positive relation in terms of income. These *Dashian* and *Tihar* are most favored cultural season of street fruit vendors. They have earned highest amount during their seasons. Most of the important festivals of Tarai and Indian native like '*Chhath*' and '*Holi*', vendors who belongs to that region or community go to celebrate festivals. At that time, due to decreased numbers of vendors also decrease competition and increase income of remaining vendors. *Dashian* and *Tihar* are great festivals to people of Hindu community and vendors who do not belong to that community earn much more at that time due to the lack of competition and festivals.

### **7.3 Occupational Sustainability**

For any person on earth, to sustain life occupation should sustainable. Although, street fruit vendors have been facing problems while doing their occupation most of them think their occupation is sustainable and while some of the vendors are not sure about their vending. Table 7.3 shows the response of SFVs on the question of how sustainable is their occupation or work.

Even in the worst situation they do not want to quit their occupation instead they are ready to face the problem. That 60 percent respondents replied that their occupation is sustainable. This is followed by not sure which shares 23 percent. Only 17 percent said that this street fruit vending is not sustainable to their livelihood in the urban setting because there is a lots of uncertainty (not permanent place, *Banda*, rain) in the open street.

**Table 7.3: Occupational Sustainability**

Location	No	Not Sure	Yes	Total
Ratnapark	2	3	7	12
Koteswor	4	2	6	12
Kalanki	0	2	10	12
Balaju	2	5	5	12
No.	8	12	28	48
Percent (%)	17	23	60	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007

#### **7.4 Sustainability of Vending Place**

Livelihood of street fruit vendors depends upon an urban open space i.e, footpath. In this section, footpath is discussed under vulnerability context which is taken as natural asset of street fruit vendors. On the one hand, the main purpose of footpath is easy walking for the pedestrians. On the other hand, it was occupied by street vendors because it was most appropriate place for those people who do not have access to private stall or shutters for selling fruit. So, large numbers of people are earning their livelihood due to lack of alternative job.

As has been mentioned already most of street fruit vendors indicated that their occupation was sustainable but when talked about their vending place they were doubtful and skeptical about sustainability of their vending places sustainability. They were worried due to illegally occupying vending place

which is always their sources of being exploitation. The bitter reaction of pedestrians vehicle owner or drivers and municipal authorities are their matters of tension. The city was unsystematically developed and the open space were not enough for vending and vendors were growing day to day.

**Table 7.4: Sustainability of Vending Place**

Vendors Response	Ratnapark	Koteswore	Balaju	Kalanki	Total	Percent
Not	8	6	9	3	26	54
Not sure	1	2	0	2	5	10
Sure	3	4	3	7	17	36
Total	12	12	12	12	48	100

Source: Field Survey, Feb/Mar 2007

Of the total 26 respondents (54%) believed that their vending place was not sustainable. Thirty six percent 17 respondents felt that their vending place was sustainable. And only 10 percent were in confusion on whether their vending place was long lasting or not.

Whatever rule and regulation of Metropolitan city and whatever comment from other side all of them were some how aware that the Municipal authorities would not allow to carry out their work in these places for longtime. But they give may allow for some specific time. This time will be after 5 p. m or 5 – 8 a.m.

### **7.5 Political Situation and its Vulnerability**

Occupational vulnerability of street fruit vendors is also related to political situation Seasonality and political instability are key factors which affects daily earning of these groups. Due to political instability “strike” and “*banda*” becomes the common elements of Nepali politics. Such activities of street fruit vendors are badly disturbed especially at locations like nodal points: Kalanki, Balaju, Koteswor and Ratnapark. These areas are badly affected by regular strike and *Banda*. This ultimately results into loss of income of these street fruit vendors. Thus, vulnerability is further reinforced.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 8.1 Summary

The present study on "Livelihood strategy of street fruit vendors in Kathmandu City" is a comparative study of static and mobile vendors at Ratnapark, Balaju, Kalanki and Koteswor. It examines their socio-economic characteristics and livelihood based on fruit vending. A total of 48 vendors were selected from Kalanki, Ratnapark, and Koteswor from each locations (6 static and 6 mobile) were selected for survey.

Street fruit vendors have come from different parts of the country and also from outside the country. Sixty percent were from within country and 40 percent from India, especially from Bihar. Among internal migrant largest proportion was from the Hill region. Fifty percent respondents were illiterate. Majority of these vendors were aged between (15-30) age group. Among static vendors Nepalese dominate and among mobile vendors Indians are in sizeable proportion. SFVs work long hours in general and it is more so in the case of mobile ones. Seventy percent mobile fruit vendors work 10-14 hours a day. The corresponding proportion is 53 percent for static vendors.

Healthy climatic environment makes easy to run street vending under open sky and long hours. Social networking was very high in Indian or mobile vendors. Fifty four percent mobile vendors were involved in fruit vending through their relatives whereas 25 percent static or Nepalese vendors were involved through their social networking.

Although they were using public space most of them had to pay tax for it. Fifty four percent respondents had paid some amount directly or indirectly for using space. They have to pay taxes to formal institutions like *Nagarpalika*, *Tol Sudhar Samiti*, sister organization political parties in the name of giving them support and facilities.

Among mobile ones majority used bicycle and it also minimized their transport cost. As other means like *Doko*, *Thela*, cut were used as their mode of selling while their business. All SFVs live in rented accommodation. While some live in a single room shared their room with others. About 42 percent mobile vendors shared their room with more than 5 members. But two - third of static fruit vendor had been staying in rented accommodation with less than four members. Sharing room with other minimizes their rental and food cost.

Their monthly income ranged between NRs. 5000-8000. All of them were able to save some amount after fulfilling their basic necessities in the city. After adopting this occupation, they were not able to achieve dramatic change in their life but they were not unhappy. There is heavy fluctuation in their daily income. In summer, income in summer days are far higher than in the winter days. Some feast and festivals also increase their daily income.

Various reasons were given for their leaving of home place. Among them, family problems, natural hazard, large family size, joint family, and social networking are some of the factors leading to come to city and engage in fruits vending. The low investment, easy to handle, sense of freedom and profitable income were other factors noted by the vendors. Despite its positive aspects there are some external factors such as metropolitan law, political situation, and perishable nature goods and internal factors like poor social life, discrimination by place of origin place which make their occupation vulnerable.

Although, street fruit vendors are considered as problem creators and agents in degrading the urban environment, their livelihood security should not be overlooked before only decisions to dismiss their employment.

## **8.2 Conclusion**

Vending business in the city have become a part of the socio-economic fabric due to the heavy increase of population and of migration from within and outside the country. Street fruit vending is newly emerged activity among

Nepalese fruit vendors. They may have learnt from Indian vendors. Nepalese, especially hill people are learning phases of street fruit vending. Fruit vending has more potential among all street vending. It has a prospect in the cities such as Kathmandu. Nepal can reduce poverty and rate of unemployment to grow fruit in large scale at rural areas and promote its market throughout the nation.

Most of the fruit vendors maintaining their life better than their previous occupation. There is not much more difference between mobile and static vendors in their livelihood status but there is slight difference in handling their business activities. Mobile vendors remain running taking less amount and varieties. They labour hard. The static vendors perform their business remaining the specific location.

They can have varieties and large amount winning the trust of customers is a challenge for mobile vendors than the static ones. Most mobile vendors do not pay tax since they are mobile but static ones have to abide by all tax selected requests.

SFVs spend whole day under open sky. It is risky for their health condition. They do not care how long they have to work. They only running after money and customers. They spend 10-14 hours in a day on street. It is not easy and that it was their compulsion. No one can choose street if there is alternative. Life on the street is more miserable though it seems worthy interms of income.

### **8.3 Recommendation**

Street fruit vending highly wide spreading in the urban area. So, it open a new sector for employment and reducing poverty. Nepal has kept great potentiality in fruit farming. So, the government should pay attention to grow fruit farming in rural areas. It can helps to reduce poverty of rural areas as well as urban areas.

On the basis of the study, the following specific recommendations can be made to improve the vending occupation.

- Occupation like street vending can not be stopped. It should be managed by providing appropriate space and through specific rules and regulations.
- Street fruit vendors are performing their vending activities in the street without fixed place or shed. They should be given a fixed place and shed for vending by related institutions.
- Street fruit vendors are being tortured by street children. So, the concerned authorities should pay attention to provide them social security.
- Concerned organization should provide them awareness programme about their health vulnerability.
- The study on street fruit vendors should be conducted on a large scale which could include all fruit vendors from all location of Kathmandu valley and can find out the total number, category, role of reducing unemployment and alleviating poverty.

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**APPENDIX I**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY**

S.N.

Date :

Name :

Age

Education :

Marital Status :

**Section A : Family Background**

1. Permanent address : District : \_\_\_\_\_ VDC : \_\_\_\_\_
2. Household Members in origin place.

S.N.	Members	Relationship with respondent	Sex	Education	Occupation
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
Total					

3. Have your family got own land ? Please, mention the amount of land.

Types of Land	Amount (Ropani)
Khet	
Bari	
Other	
Total	

4. What is your previous occupation before street vending ?
5. How many months do you sustain your family through own production ?
6. Do your family members run other business too ? Please, specify:
7. With whom do you live in city ?
  - a. Alone
  - b. Friend
  - c. Family
  - d. Relatives
  - e. Others

## Section B: Nature of Work

8. When did you involve in this occupation ?
9. What was the reason to migrate ?
10. Are you freely using this space ?
11. If not, what types of payment ?
12. What is your residential arrangement in this city ?
13. Do you spend whole day in this area ?
14. Why did you choose street fruit vending ?

## Section C: Income and Expenditure

15. How many hours do you work in a day ?
16. How much do you earn in a day ?
17. How much do you save in a month ?
  - a. Maximum \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Minimum \_\_\_\_\_
18. How many members have you been sharing residence ?
  - a. Single \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Family \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Friends \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Relatives \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Others \_\_\_\_\_
19. How much you expense in a expenditure:

Topics	Expenditure
Food	
Clothes	
Rent (Room0	
Education	
Others	

20. Is there fluctuation on earning ?

## Section D: Vulnerability

21. Have you faced any problem while running this occupation ?
22. If yes, from whom you have been facing ?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

- 23. Why do you think your occupation is vulnerable ?
- 24. What do you do at low earning seasons ?
- 25. Do you want to continue this occupation >

**Section E : Organization and Social Affiliation**

- 26. Are you member of any street organization ?
  - a. Yes \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. No \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. I don't know \_\_\_\_\_If yes, give the name of your organization ?
- 27. Is your vending is sustainable ?
  - a. Yes \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. I don't know \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX II

### **A. Check list of Life History Interview**

- Cause to choose this occupation
- Support from home
- Investment of income
- Information about risk
- Strategy to overcome the risk
- Continuity of this occupation
- Sustainability of occupation
- Major attraction of this occupation
- Life in the street;
  - a. Enjoyable
  - b. Boring

### **B. Check list for Focus Group Discussions**

- Working hours
- Climatic condition
- Cause to choose street fruit vending
- Importance of location
- Monthly saving
- Seasonality
- Level of assets
- Vulnerability of working place
- Monthly expenditure
- Information about risk
- Information about concerned organization
- Income fluctuation and its reasons
- Information about seasonality