

**AN ANALYSIS OF BUDGETING ALLOCATED AND
IMPLEMENTATION STATUS CHILD FRIENDLY
LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN KATHMANDU VALLEY**

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DECLARATION

I am SHIJAN BUDHA MAGAR declare that this thesis entitled AN ANALYSIS OF BUDGETING ALLOCATED AND IMPLEMENTATION STATUS CHILD FRIENDLY LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN KATHMANDU VALLEY submitted to the Programme of Public Policy, Governance and Anti-corruption Studies is my original work unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged in the thesis. The thesis does not contain materials that have been accepted or submitted for any other degree at the university or other institution. All sources of information have been specifically acknowledged by reference to the author(s) or institution(s).

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled AN ANALYSIS OF BUDGETING ALLOCATED AND IMPLEMENTATION STATUS CHILD FRIENDLY LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN KATHMANDU VALLEY has been prepared by Mr. SHIJAN BUDHA MAGAR under my guidance and supervision. I, hereby, recommend it in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in PUBLIC POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION STUDIES for the final examination.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

We certify that this thesis entitled AN ANALYSIS OF BUDGETING ALLOCATED AND IMPLEMENTATION STATUS CHILD FRIENDLY LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN KATHMANDU VALLEY submitted by SHIJAN BUDHA MAGAR to the Programme of Public Policy, Governance and Anti-corruption Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in PUBLIC POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION STUDIES has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said degree.

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ABSTRACT

Child friendly local governance ensure that the plans and policies designed at the local level are at the best interest of the children. The study aims to assess the policy relevant to child friendly local governance in the context Nepal, compare the Child friendly Local Governance Budgetary allocation per child population for the year 2076-2081 in Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality and to analyze the Child Friendly Local Governance plans and programs initiated by Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality for 2076-2081. Nepal has ratified different international convention that supports in the promotion of child friendly local governance. Nepal has progressively strengthened children's rights since 1990. Bhaktapur Municipality demonstrates higher percentages of budget allocation for CFLG compared to Kathmandu Metropolitan City, albeit with significant annual fluctuations. Bhaktapur demonstrated a more dynamic but inconsistent commitment, while Kathmandu showed gradual improvement but with lower overall allocations. There are differences in the prioritization of child-friendly governance between the two municipalities, with Bhaktapur over the years. Kathmandu showed significant changes in budget allocation per child in 2080/081, while Bhaktapur maintained a steady and consistent allocation per child throughout the years. It is recommended to align the plan and polices with the national strategy of Child Friendly Local Governance of Nepal. The Study recommended to allocate consistent budget and to develop the capacity of the employees as well as other stakeholders regarding CFLG.

Keywords: Child-Friendly, Local Governance, Budget, Plans, Policies, Programs

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

BM	Bhaktapur Municipality
CCWB	Central Child Welfare Board
CDOs	Chief District Officers
CFLG	Child-Friendly Local Governance
CFC	Child-Friendly City
CDCs	Childhood Development Centers
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DCWBs	District Child Welfare Boards
DDCs	District Development Committees
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GON	Government of Nepal
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organization
KMC	Kathmandu metropolitan city
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
SMCs	School Management Committees
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
VDCs	Village Development Committees

CHAPTER- I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Local governance focuses on delivering equitable service to the public at local level. It creates an environment for the democratic participation of stakeholders at local level supporting the local development to enhance the quality-of-life people at local level (Kharel, 2019). The local governance in Nepal has been effectively implemented after the enactment of Local Self-Governance Act 199 which mandates to provide local bodies with required powers, responsibilities and resource. The primary goal of local governance is to promote good governance, build partnership with civil society, private sector and governments units at the local level (LSGA, 1999).

Child-friendly refers to environments, policies, practices, and initiatives that prioritize the well-being, rights, and holistic development of children. A child-friendly approach ensures that children's voices are heard, their needs are met, and their rights are upheld in various settings, including communities, schools, healthcare facilities, and governance structures. The Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG), as articulated in the National Framework, is to provide “Overall guidance to the government in realizing and mainstreaming the rights of children (Survival, Development, Protection and Participation) into the local government system, structure, policies and process” (MOSCW, 2011).

CFLG integrates the principles of child rights into the policies, frameworks, and procedures of local governance. It also advocates for and supports the prioritization of children's rights in planning and budget allocation. Furthermore, it guarantees the active involvement of children in these processes, ensuring that their perspectives are acknowledged and considered (Subedi, 2016).

CFLG is the initiation taken by the local level to ensure that the plans and policies designed at the local level are at the best interest of the children. It ensures the survival, development, protection and participation of the children.

The concept of "child-friendly local governance" in Nepal emphasizes how crucial it is to create conditions that put children's rights, development, and well-being first within the

confines of local governance structures. This entails integrating child-centered policies, programs, and practices into local administrations' decision-making procedures and service delivery systems.

This study focuses to understand the provision of budget allocated for the CFLG at KMC and Bhaktapur Municipality. To study about the provision of child participation in decision making within the KMC. This study will try to understand child protection status including status of birth registration, child marriage and child labor within the Kathmandu valley.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Local governance focuses on delivering equitable service to the public at local level. CFLG is the initiation taken by the local level to ensure that the plans and policies designed at the local level are at the best interest of the children. It ensures the survival, development, protection and participation of the children. The reviewed literatures have limited study over the child protection aspect for the child friendly local governance. The literatures have studied the budget and child participation aspect as child friendly local governance. The child friendly local governance of compare between two has not been studied at depth. This study focuses to understand the provision of budget allocated for the CFLG and to study policy between Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality.

1.3 Research Questions

- i. What are the key policies related to Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) in Nepal?
- ii. What are the plans and programs initiated by Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality for Child Friendly Local Governance for the period of 2076 to 2081?
- iii. What are the trends in budgetary allocation for Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) in Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality between 2076 and 2081?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

- i. To assess the policy relevant to child friendly local governance in the context Nepal.
- ii. To analyze the Child Friendly Local Governance plans and programs initiated by Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality for 2076-2081.
- iii. To Compare the Child friendly Local Governance Budgetary allocation for 2076-2081 per child population in Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study focuses to analyze the provision of budget allocated for the CFLG at Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Bhaktapur Municipality, and to study about the per child population budget allocation in KMC and BM. The study assesses the policy, plans and programs relevant to child friendly local governance in the Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality. The findings will be helpful to know the status of child friendly local governance within Kathmandu Metropolitan City, and Bhaktapur Municipality. It will provide research-based evidence through the study for making the plans and programs of two KMC and Bhaktapur Municipality in the future that promotes child friendly local governance.

1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study focuses on assessing the child friendly local governance in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur Municipality. The limitations of the study are:

- i. The study area is Kathmandu Metropolitan City, and Bhaktapur Municipality.
- ii. The study focuses only on the child friendly local governance aspect of the Kathmandu Metropolitan city and Bhaktapur Municipality.
- iii. This study will try to understand the provision of budget for child friendly local governance at Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality.
- iv. The provision of budget of KMC and Bhaktapur Municipality for child friendly local governance of only five years will be studied.

1.7 Organizations of the study

The first chapter is the introduction. It includes background of the study, statement of the problems, research questions, research objectives, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter is the review of the literature. The third chapter is related with research methodology. The fourth chapter is data presentation and analysis. The fifth chapter consists of conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Governance

Riggio (2002) described governance as: “an inclusive, transparent, responsive system where all citizen and involved stakeholders are given the same amount of consideration, regardless of age, ethnic origin, income, gender or ability”

A governing arrangement where one or more public agencies directly engage non-state stakeholders in a collective decision-making process that is formal, consensus-oriented, and deliberative and that aims to make or implement public policy or manage public programs or assets. This definition stresses six important criteria: (1) the forum is initiated by public agencies or institutions, (2) participants in the forum include nonstate actors, (3) participants engage directly in decision making and are not merely “consulted” by public agencies, (4) the forum is formally organized and meets collectively, (5) the forum aims to make decisions by consensus (even if consensus is not achieved in practice), and (6) the focus of collaboration is on public policy or public management (Ansell & Gash, 2008).

The world bank described governance as the exercise of power in managing a country's economic and social resources for development. Good governance encompasses the political and institutional procedures and outcomes required to achieve development goals. Its genuine worth is determined by how it upholds the promise of human rights, which include civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights described by OECD.

The UNDP defines good governance as the exercise of political, economic, and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels, emphasizing principles like participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus orientation, equity, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, and strategic vision to serve public interest and protect human right. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) defines good governance as transparent, accountable, and equitable management of a country's resources and affairs, promoting rule of law, minimizing corruption, and efficient public institutions. It emphasizes good governance's importance for sustainable economic growth, stable economic environments, and improved public sector performance.

2.2 Local Governance

Local government refers to the process of making and implementing local decisions. This involves decisions about how to mobilize, prioritize, allocate, and use public resources to deliver local goods and services, as well as who will benefit from the services, whether explicitly or implicitly. Local governance is influenced by formal national, regional, and local government policies, as well as informal interactions and relationships between various levels of government and local players (for example, local government, private sector, civil society, communities, traditional or religious leaders). While decentralization aims to formalize local governance, it occurs in both centralized and decentralized settings.

Local government refers to specific institutions or entities created by national constitutions (Brazil, Denmark, France, India, Italy, Japan, Sweden), by state constitutions (Australia, the United States), by ordinary legislation of a higher level of central government (New Zealand, the United Kingdom, most countries), by provincial or state legislation (Canada, Pakistan), or by executive order (China) to deliver a range of specified services to a relatively small geographically delineated area. Local governance is a broader concept and is defined as the formulation and execution of collective action at the local level. Thus, it encompasses the direct and indirect roles of formal institutions of local government and government hierarchies, as well as the roles of informal norms, networks, community organizations, and neighborhood associations in pursuing collective action by defining the framework for citizen-citizen and citizen-state interactions, collective decision making, and delivery of local public services. (Shah, 2006)

2.3 Local Government

Local government can be defined as “a sub-national level of government which has jurisdiction over a limited range of state functions, within a defined geographical area which is part of a larger territory”. Some persons prefer however, to define it as “decentralized administration, democratically controlled by local communities”. The term Local Government refers to the institution, or structures, which exercises authority or carry out governmental functions at the local level. Local governance on the other hand, refers to the processes through which public choice is determined, policies formulated and decisions are made and executed at the local level, and to the roles and relationships between the various stakeholders which make up the society. It can be defined as “the

exercise of political, economic and administrative authority to manage local affairs” (Miller 2002).

Local government can be described as some government bodies elected by the people that have administrative, legislative and executive functions on the territories under their jurisdiction. It is defined as an authority that decides or determines certain measures within a given territory. If we will do a literally analysis of the word or terminology, it means governance or management of local affairs by the people part of that community. Here comes the important principle of subsidiarity, according to which local needs can be better met and fulfilled by people close to them, then the central government (Ndreu 2016).

Most significant, these institutional entities exercise the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities over the smallest geographical regions defined for administrative and political reasons to balance the national interest (Elliot 1988).

Local governments were formed in Nepal during the Panchayat era, which began in 1960, however the Panchayat system was more centralized, with the King in the center and the people on the edge. Democracy was restored in 1990, and a more open political framework was established, enabling for local governments to exercise decentralized powers and duties. However, the tenures of these local committees expired in 2002, and responsibility was handed to central government officials until 2017, who managed administrative and development efforts at the grassroots level. Despite this, administrators struggled to deliver basic local services such as potable water, power, infrastructure, agriculture, sanitation, health, education, disaster management, and environmental protection (Acharya, 2016).

2.4 Child friendly local governance

Child-friendly local government focuses on incorporating children in community planning and budgeting. It is a technique that assists the government in protecting children's rights such as survival, development, protection, and participation by incorporating them into local policies, structures, and decision-making processes. Most people believe that making child-centered government a reality is only the duty of adults, but this is incorrect. While adults play an important role in developing communities for children, they also have a responsibility to guarantee that children, depending on their age and maturity level, can express themselves and exercise their rights.

Child-Friendly Local Governance is a strategic framework offers direction to government for recognizing and integrating children's rights into system, structure, policies, and procedures of local government that enable children to freely engage in social activities, voice their opinions on governance, and influence choices made regarding them by the appropriate level of government (Raj, R., Antony, & Kalidasan, 2016).

A child-friendly neighborhood has many other components. This includes improving schooling and establishing a local health system that prioritizes children's needs. Education and health are critical for nurturing and promoting our children's healthy development. Schools and neighborhood health clinics play a significant part in this. The school health and nutrition strategy combine fundamental health knowledge, awareness, life skills, and prevention, including WASH, to make a significant impact. Children's center governance serves as a framework for integrating methods from several sectors (Shahi, 2013).

2.5 Indicator and mechanism of child rights

2.5.1 Child protection

Birth registration has been made required for all children under the age of five, assuring their legal identification. Furthermore, there has been a notable decrease in the frequency of child marriages. Family and community members actively devised and implemented a strategy to avoid child violence, exploitation, trafficking, and abuse. In addition, a community-based child protection mechanism has been built and is already operational to ensure children's well-being.

2.5.2 Child development

Enrollment of 4-year-olds in early childhood development centers has been prioritized to create a solid educational foundation. All children in grade one is enrolled in school, and those aged 5 to 12 have completed basic education from grades 1 to 8. Non-formal education programs have been established to give learning opportunities for children who are not in school. Furthermore, each school has separate restrooms for boys and girls, and all schools provide a range of extracurricular activities to support holistic development.

2.5.3 Child participation

A system has been developed to enable young people aged 12 to 18 to actively engage in local body decision-making processes. Children's plans are increasingly being integrated

into local bodies' plans to ensure that their opinions are heard. A system has been put in place to represent child clubs on local school management committees, and child clubs are now represented on the local health management committee. Child clubs have been formed in each ward and are now functioning at the Village Development Committee (VDC) level, with networks of similar clubs also developed at the district and municipal levels.

2.5.4 Child survival

Breastfeeding is required for infants under six months to provide appropriate nutrition. Children under the age of one year are immunized completely, including Hepatitis B, Hib 3, Polio, and measles. All children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years receive vitamin A capsules twice a year, while those aged 1 to 5 years receive deworming pills. Deliveries are carried out by professional health workers, and expectant mothers receive at least four prenatal and three postnatal checks for both mother and infant, all of which are provided by trained health experts. Furthermore, pregnant women receive at least two anti-tetanus shots and 225 iron tablets. To preserve cleanliness, proper handwashing with soap is done after defecation, before eating, and after coming into touch with babies' excrement.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

2.6.1 The Notion of Child Friendly Cities

The concept of "child-friendly cities" has emerged as a prominent focus in urban planning, emphasizing the development of spaces that promote children's well-being, rights, and active involvement. Traditionally, children were considered as passive observers in urban surroundings, but this approach acknowledges them as crucial contributors whose needs and viewpoints are critical in developing cities. Child-friendly cities, which are based on the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), seek to involve children in decision-making, ensure access to appropriate resources, and protect them from harm while pushing for their active participation in community and urban development. Their active participation in community and urban development according to research child friendly environments have a good impact on children's learning growth, and overall development in the physical, social, and cognitive areas. Researchers such as Nordström (2010), Moore (1987), and Shackell (2008) emphasize the importance of developing public areas that encourage children's social and personal abilities. These

places, which are inspired by the larger child-friendly city program, are purposefully intended to fulfill the special requirements of children, fostering health, development, and outdoor activities. Despite the obvious benefits, the adoption of child-friendly urban designs is patchy. This underlines the critical need for more widespread adoption of child-focused planning practices, which ensure surroundings that not only nourish children's growth but also enable them to make important contributions to their communities.

2.6.2 Vulnerability and Marginalization of Children in Social and Environmental Contexts

Childhood is a fluid term that has evolved throughout cultures and historical periods, impacted by a variety of micro and macro-level social activities. Dominant perspectives typically portray children as passive and dependent, without agency or voice, which is founded in socio-cultural norms, global disparities, and colonial legacies (Bolotta, 2020). Laws, rules, and social structures often depict children as non-political and inert, making them more vulnerable to social and environmental difficulties (James, 2011). In contrast to a universal paradigm of childhood, the duality of children as being active participants in their societal responsibilities or becoming in the framework of future potential indicates varied degrees of agency attributed to them (Uprichard, 2008). The SDGs have been criticized for their inadequate involvement with children, with just a third explicitly incorporating youth objectives, underlining the need to recognize children's responsibilities as both current and future change agents (Montrosse, 2019). This trend toward recognizing children's active engagement in societal and environmental discourses (Currie & Deschênes, 2016) is critical for addressing their vulnerability and marginalization, especially in light of climate change. Climate-related hazards, including droughts, floods, and natural disasters, have a significant influence on children's health, security, and well-being, particularly in high-risk areas (Helldén, 2021). Their experiences in both urban and rural settings highlight the crucial need for their involvement in conversations about climate change and environmental policies. Given their marginal status and the serious challenges of their daily experiences, children are a highly marginalized population internationally. A UNICEF analysis of the SDGs emphasizes the importance of children's rights to participate and have their views heard. Access to knowledge is vital, functioning

as the first rung on Arnstein's ladder of involvement, essential for empowering children as agents of change within their communities and beyond (Arnstein, 1969)

2.6.3 Improving Child Participation Through Local Governance

Local governance is an important link between the central government and children, as local governments are closer to the youthful population. This closeness is critical for implementing and monitoring children's rights and SDGs, especially in municipalities and sub-national institutions. SDG, which seeks to make cities more inclusive, resilient, secure, and sustainable, emphasizes the importance of local government in converting national commitments into local action (Riggio, 2002). Along with the New Urban Agenda and SDG, there is evidence of the necessity of local governance structures for inclusive policies and practices that ensure no one is left behind (Mews, 2018). Despite the global commitment to the SDGs and the ideal of "no one is left behind," children are frequently excluded in development talks and local government procedures. The SDGs framework's insufficient attention on children necessitates a stronger emphasis on incorporating their viewpoints into local government in order to promote sustainable communities (Malone, 2015). Advocating for child-focused urban areas requires collaborative development and resource co-production that prioritizes children's rights, sustainability, and diverse perspectives. The right to participate in local governance is based on international human rights law, particularly Article 12 of the UNCRC (UN, 1989) and Article 7 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (African Union, 1990), which provide a legal foundation for children's inclusion in public governance. Child engagement is crucial for inclusive decision-making at the sub-national level, as emphasized in several normative recommendations (Lansdown, 2014). To achieve meaningful participation, children must overcome tokenism, which occurs when their engagement is superficial rather than profound. Local governments should prioritize child-adult interactions in urban design and governance to promote children's well-being, socialization, and awareness of rights (Lundy, 2018; Ornekoğlu, 2023). However, youngsters have obstacles while participating in adult-centric and adult-driven agendas. Childhood paradigms vary by location and culture, but they frequently place children as either being (actively affecting the development of childhoods) or becoming (not yet adult thus limited capacities Uprichard, 2008). Such temporal dimensions become entangled in romanticized ideals of children,

such as passivity, innocence, and reliance on benign adults, preventing true and active engagement. Children's perceptions of their own agency are influenced socially and geographically, undermining ideas that agency is innate, normative, and universal. Bordonaro and Payne (2012) emphasize "ambiguous" agency as "in stark contrast to established and normative conceptions about childhood, moral and social ideals about the kind of behavior young people should demonstrate, the activities they should engage in, and the spaces and places deemed appropriate for them to inhabit." This is especially important when we evaluate the hurdles and chances to engage in participatory activities with children and teenagers across contexts and diverse societal processes that may stigmatize and marginalize them. According to Edmonds (2019), increasing participation requires understanding local socio-cultural systems rather than externally derived assumptions about children's agency. The objective for child-focused cities is to reinterpret the SDGs via child-centric perspectives, emphasizing contextually sensitive understandings that may be implemented at local government levels. Investing in kid engagement in decision-making demonstrates a commitment to incorporating children's viewpoints into legislation and policy project interventions related to local SDGs implementation. To effectively address barriers to kid engagement, educated specialists, time-intensive preparation, and ethical concerns are necessary. Prioritizing genuine engagement among local authorities can leverage the demographic dividend of a young population for economic development, resilience, sustainability, and productivity (UN Population Fund, 2013). Child inclusion in governance is not only a rights-based imperative, but also a strategic investment for future prosperity. Under Article 12 of the UNCRC, children have the right to participate in collective decision-making procedures. Since the UN ratified the Convention in 1989, study on the meaning of authentic children's engagement in these procedures has grown. In response to this search, other participation models (Hart, 1997; Lundy, 2007; Shier, 2001) arose, with many of them reworking Arnstein's (1969) citizen involvement ladder. Hart (1997) identified eight degrees of juvenile engagement, including three non-participation forms: manipulation, ornamentation, and tokenism. According to Hart (1997), children's engagement progresses from "manipulation" to "child-initiated shared decisions with adults," with the latter being the last rung. He further defines tokenism to include "instances in which children are

apparently given a voice, but in fact have little or no choice about the subject or the style of communicating it, and little or no opportunity to formulate their own opinions" (Hart, 1994). Although these participation models have flaws, such as oversimplifying involvement as a box-ticking activity, they have helped start discussions on "pseudo" and "genuine" types of engagement.

2.7 Empirical review

Subedi (2016) studies with an objective to learn about the status kid clubs and the child population in Kaski, to determine the child's involvement in planning, budgeting, and decision-making, to evaluate how the study area's CFLG budget is being used and to evaluate the issue and difficulties VDC is having with the CFLG software. The study used a methodology that integrated both exploratory and descriptive research methodologies. The study found that there is a lack of involvement from children in planning and budgeting for their growth, insufficient cooperation among parents, political leaders, local government line agencies, inadequate funding for the development of children, absence of true bottom-up planning methods, Absence of specialized training for child development, such as leadership development, means that Child-Network Kaskikot cannot reach 16–18-year-old children. Similarly, the study found that the local government is weak since the central government retains ultimate decision-making authority over fund transfers.

The study with the purpose to explore and analyze the efforts made by local governments in promoting child protection through human security at the tourist attractions employs a qualitative approach that entails Sampang regency has initiated the responsibility for child protection across various region including the tourism sector. The study concluded that there is still work to be done in ensuring that children's rights and protection are upheld at Madura's tourism attractions (Windari & Effendi 2021).

Jacob (2020) investigates budget allocation in Karnataka, focusing on its response to COVID-19 concerning child welfare. It addresses urgent calls to protect vulnerable groups, especially women and children, and ensure their access to essential services. Using qualitative methods like interviews and document analysis, it aims to understand budget allocation processes' intricacies and their impact on children. The study seeks insights into resource adequacy, spending efficiency, results-based budgeting, and equitable

distribution, particularly for disadvantaged groups. It also aims to empower citizens, including children, by involving them in budgetary processes for increased transparency and accountability.

According to the study Haasdijk (2022) which focuses on creating surroundings that support children's wellbeing and making sure they are actively involved in governance processes. The study examines methods for making society more child-friendly, stressing the value of considering child' viewpoints while making decisions. It probably covers a range of strategies and laws meant to encourage child-friendly surroundings and increase children' involvement in political processes. It is founded that the children are not initiators to raise concern in the public and the main challenges for the child friendly governance is the participation of the children in planning process.

Kagoro and Ndlovu (2013) aims to examine the status of child friendly budget initiatives and the progress made in their implementation in the local authorities. The study found that the city Kadoma and Marondera Municipality do not have a specific child friendly budget for education. In municipality of Gwanda the budget lines for education exist but don't cover early childhood development. This happens because of unclear guidelines and directives for child friendly local governance.

Dimensions of Good Governance at Local Level A Case Study of Madi Rural Municipality of Kaski District, Nepal Dahal (2021). This study's main goals are to investigate several aspects of good governance by analyzing the Madi Rural Municipality in Nepal's Kaski District as a case study. Its goal is to assess local social and economic growth as well as service delivery in the framework of self-governance. The study also looks into how the Rural Municipality, which functions as a local version of a micro government, handles its executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Both qualitative and quantitative data were used in this investigation. By giving decision-making authority to the grassroots, local governance is a special kind of self-government. It effectively utilizes the available resources to administer the ward office and offer daily public services. For the time being, the local government has constructed laws, physical infrastructure, and social services that adhere to democratic values. In the last four years, the local government has passed 69 laws, which is a notable achievement for local governance.

Collaborative governance in providing facilities of Sungai Bambu child friendly integrated public space North Jakarta city by Rahmaningtyas and Rahayu (2019). This study aims to investigate public-private cooperative governance in Sungai Bambu Integrated Child Friendly Public Space (RPTRA) amenities in North Jakarta City. It seeks to provide insights and opinions regarding the collaborative governance model applied during the creation of RPTRA. This research used a qualitative methodology to collect data, focusing on key players in the dynamic collaboration between the public and private domains. The study emphasizes mutual reinforcement and reciprocal interactions within this cooperation. It highlights how crucial it is to foster an environment of open communication in order to facilitate the observation and assessment processes for everybody involved. The children showed a strong awareness of how their local environment impacts their lives and were excited to be advised about it. They gave the project a positive response. The issues and priorities that the children highlighted were remarkably consistent throughout the city. Youngsters are able to articulate the ways in which their physical surroundings impact their health and overall wellbeing. For instance, they are renowned for having very few green spaces in inner-city communities, where five of the participating schools are situated.

Culture and country towards child right in Nepal by Lamsal (2013) The objectives are to enforce existing laws, eliminate all forms of discrimination and child abuse, and adhere to international conventions concerning child rights. This essay provides a historical summary of child rights legislation, primarily based on literary sources. Drawing on firsthand knowledge as a native, the researcher also considers cultural customs pertaining to children's status. Therefore, 'experience' is included as a primary source in this research. The study is descriptive in nature and employs retrospective covert observation. Although there have been some improvements in the situation for children in Nepal, the overall scenario remains dire. Children still face prejudice and disadvantage in areas such as health, education, and other crucial services. To defend children's rights in Nepal, UNICEF actively collaborates with various domestic and international NGOs. Creating a culture of child rights is a vital first step toward real improvement.

Gender responsive budgeting and its implementation efforts in by (Bhul, 2022) This paper's main goal is to examine the gender responsive budgeting trend and the methods used to

implement it in Nepal in order to promote social justice and gender inclusivity. The analytical study design based on secondary data and information served as the foundation for this paper. Reviewing pertinent books, journal articles, policy documents, reports, and other publications that have been published in both Nepali and English has allowed for the collection of secondary data. Holding the administration responsible for its pledges regarding women's empowerment and gender equality Over time, GRB has implemented policies including reduced land registration fees for properties owned by women, quota systems in the legislature, police, and army, more access to and incentives for maternal health services, safe houses for victims of human trafficking and domestic abuse, required restrooms in schools for girls, scholarships to encourage female education and tax laws that are friendly to women. In addition, the government intends to establish "women's cells" in busy areas like bus parks and airports, as well as maintain safe houses for victims of gender-based and domestic abuse and toll-free hotlines for those who have experienced violence at home or at work.

Nam and Nam (2018) discuss the difficulties in creating kid-friendly cities in Korea and suggests sensible paths to satisfy societal expectations. It looks at the plans and initiatives of seven towns that, as of April 2017, UNICEF Korea approved as child-friendly cities (CFCs). The study makes use of information from a Belfast project that helped elementary school students learn about their neighborhood. The paper offers a reflection on this experience and recommends that 'Generation Jacobs' should be used as a rhetorical technique to better align the planning profession with the needs of children. The project mainly concentrated on places with higher levels of disadvantage since, although having the largest percentage of children, there has been a relatively low level of child participation in these communities. The kids were enthusiastic about being consulted about their local environment and shown a deep awareness of how it affects their lives. They responded well to the project. The great degree of commonality in challenges and priorities indicated by youngsters throughout different parts of the city was one of the project's main findings. Notably, 8 and 9-year-olds approached resolving these situations more strictly.

The present study delves into the primary determinants that impact the creation of Child-Friendly City (CFC) policies in China, taking into account the nation's distinct social and

political landscapes. It contends that in order to drive the formulation of CFC policy and present CFC as a breakthrough for enhancing child development, competition resulting from political and developmental requirements, the influence of elites (both administrative bureaucrats and social entrepreneurs), and the endogenous needs of urban development are all important factors. The research adopts a comparative multiple-case study method, an empirical research strategy that allows for comparisons to determine whether an emergent finding is unique to a single case or consistently replicated across multiple cases. This approach provides important insights into the key factors influencing policy innovation in the Chinese context by horizontally comparing the measures used and the social effects achieved in each sample city Nan (2020).

The CFCAF is a tool designed to assess children's roles in sustainable urban development, focusing on their rights and contributions. It combines ideas from urban planning, architecture, social design, law, sociology, and social work to better understand children's engagement with urban environments. The research involved collaboration between experts and practical field studies. Key themes discussed in the review are important for academic research and policy-making in urban planning and governance. Cairns, Lynne O (2024).

The study aims to improve service delivery, increase employment opportunities, and promote better governance through local participation. It focuses on Ghana's district assembly, which struggles with limited financial sources and inconsistent fund disbursement. Fiscal decentralization, which began in 1994, has stalled due to centralized legislation and a lack of transparency. Despite progress, challenges such as central government unwillingness to relinquish control, insufficient budget, and political insufficiency hinder the realization of these benefits. Local government structures offer additional opportunities for improvement. Amoako-Asiedu (2016).

This study aims to address the inequality in government financial support for the mid-day meal program in Pokhara's public and institutional schools. It uses a mixed-methods approach, using the explanatory sequential method (QUAN plus qualitative). The research reveals that institutional schools typically meet the CFS Manual's metrics, but more work is needed to improve the program's efficacy. This includes upgrading physical

infrastructure, providing water and sanitation, and fostering better cooperation among instructors, students, and workers. Key indicators for evaluating physical facilities in Pokhara schools' mid-day meal programs include having a separate kitchen with proper sanitary facilities, rags and cupboards, electric stoves, sharp knives, clean chopping boards, and proper utensils. Access to flowing tap water is also required for cooking and cleaning (Tripathi, 2023).

The purpose of this research is to investigate how public and private sector organizations collaborate across sectors to achieve common goals. Children's rights, including protection against abuse and discrimination, are complicated and far-reaching concerns. The study examines current literature and utilizes Tanjungpinang City, which won the Middle Child-Friendly City Award, as a case study. The data show that a tiered approach to coordinating benefits local child-friendly activities. Cooperation, dedication, common goals, and the lack of sectoral egos are all essential components of effective collaboration. This study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach, combining primary and secondary data. Primary data was gathered through in-depth interviews with numerous stakeholders, including the local government, NGOs, communities, enterprise, and the media to better comprehend Tanjungpinang City's child-friendly regulations. To create child-friendly cities, various variables must be addressed, including collaborations, regulations and finances, roles and social awareness, and commitment. The Indonesian government has created a public policy to promote the UNICEF Child-Friendly City project and match it with national development goals. This strategy prioritizes civil rights and freedom, environmental care and alternative support, basic health and welfare, and access to education and recreational activities (Utari, 2023).

This study investigates Nepal's school governance system, focusing on the shift of authority from parents and communities to local governments and the effects of constitutional and legislative changes. It also examines the roles of School Management Committees (SMCs) and local governments in school oversight, exploring their influence on stakeholder participation and management practices. Additionally, the study evaluates the impact of good governance practices on school performance, emphasizing key principles such as transparency, accountability, and stakeholder involvement. The research adopts a qualitative case study approach, which is typically used to gain a deeper

understanding of a specific case or a small number of cases. This approach relies on analytical induction rather than representative sampling or statistical generalization. The study concludes that implementing good governance practices plays a crucial role in delivering quality education in community schools. It underscores the significant advantages of community participation in enhancing transparency and accountability within the education system. The study also explores specific strategies to foster collaboration between community stakeholders and school administration to improve educational outcomes and address the current challenges in school governance (Gairhe, 2023).

In another study, Ansell and Gash (2008) described the cooperation between government and non-government groups as "collaborative governance." They explained that collaborative governance is an official process started by the government to involve non-government groups in making decisions together, aiming for agreement and discussion, to carry out public policy. Ansell and Gash (2008) also created a model of collaborative governance, which includes four main factors: starting conditions, institutional design, leadership, and the collaborative process. The collaborative process is the central part of the model, with the other three factors helping to support it.

CHAPTER III

Research Methodology

3.1 Introduction

In this section, the methods on my study, which were essential for conducting the study effectively. This chapter explain the details on how the study has been conducted to meet its objectives. This part covered the research design, the study areas, sources of data collection and techniques used for analysis of data. In order to compare the child friendly local governance of Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality, the research methodology used for the research have been described as below.

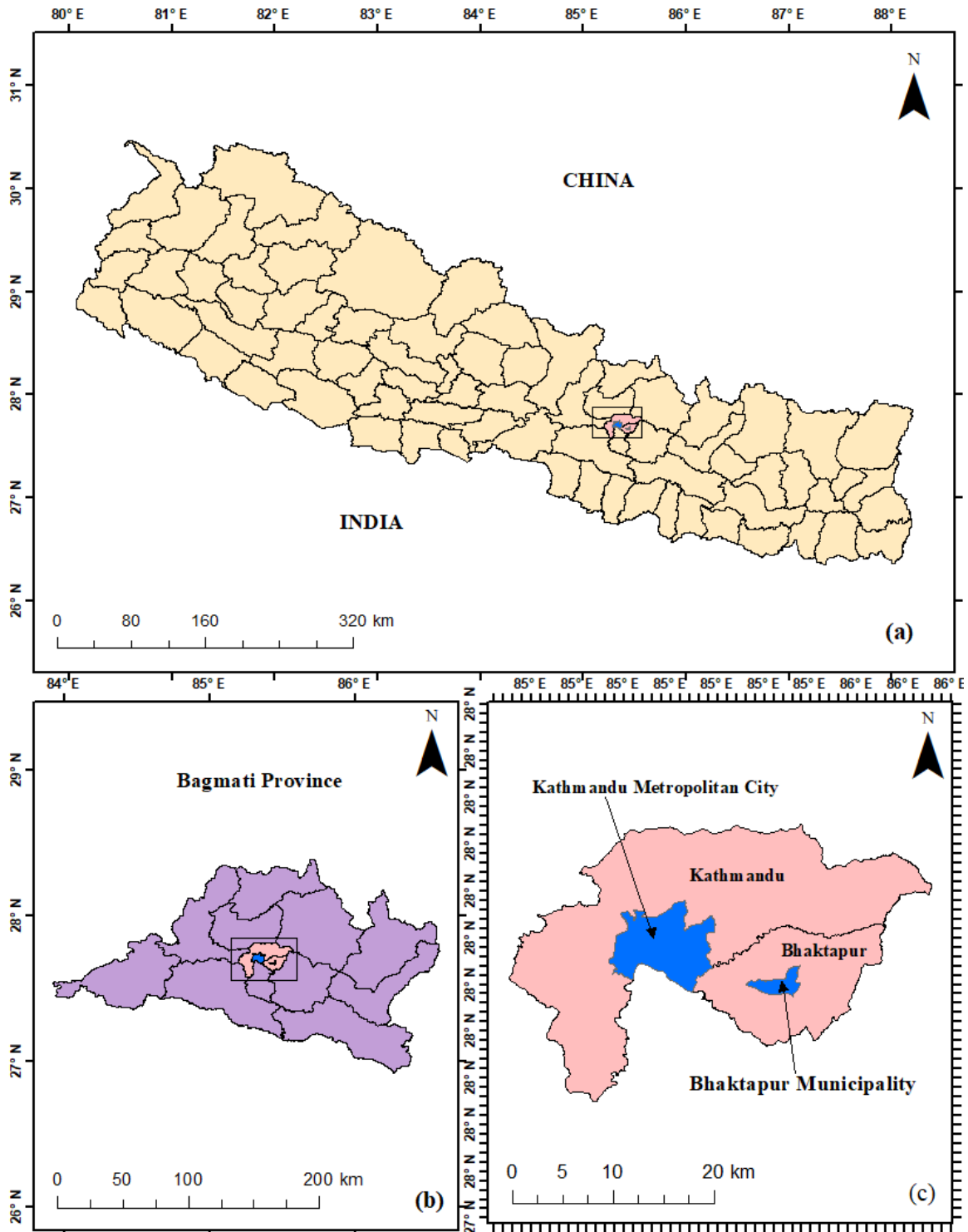
3.2 Study Area

Kathmandu is main political center of Nepal and is one of the oldest human settlements. The city has been now evolved to the urban society with the transformation from agriculture landscape. The major urban centers of Kathmandu (NHPC, 2021)include Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Bhaktapur Municipality, Madhyapur Thimi Municipality and Kirtipur Municipality (Thapa, 2017). Kathmandu Metropolitan City is the capital city of Nepal and is one of the largest city of the country which covers around 51.94 square kilometer and has 32 administrative units (KC, Shrestha, Ninsawat, & Chonwattana, 2021) . The city is the center of the Kathmandu Valley in the Himalayas, which is also home to two sister cities: Bhaktapur, which is 14 kilometers (8.7 miles) to the east, and Patan or Lalitpur, which is 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) to the southeast (KMC). The total population of the KMC is 862,400 (NPHC,2021).

Bhaktapur, often referred to as the cultural heart of Nepal, has a history that stretches back to the 8th century. It was the capital of the entire country from the 12th to the 15th century. Until the early 18th century, the city was protected by its inhabitants as a sovereign entity, surrounded by boundary walls and multiple city gates. The city, resembling the shape of a flying pigeon, spans 6.88 square kilometers and is located 1,401 meters above sea level (Bhaktapur Municipality).

Figure 3.1

Map of Study Area



Source: This Map is developed by the author

Bhaktapur is shaped like a flying pigeon, spans 6.88 square kilometers and sits at an elevation of 1,401 meters above sea level. Bhaktapur is inhabited by approximately 100,000 people, with the majority working as farmers. It is also home to businessmen, craftsmen, and public sector workers (Badal, 2020). According to the census report 2078, the total population of Bhaktapur Municipality is 79,136 (NPHC,2021).

3.3 Research design

This study based on descriptive research design which is according to the purpose the study. The secondary data has been collected through Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality. The descriptive research design has been used to assess the policy relevant to child friendly local governance in the context Nepal and to compare the Child friendly Local Governance Budgetary allocation for 2076-2081 in Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality.

3.4 Sources of data

The study is based on the secondary sources of data. The secondary sources of data have been collected through different reports, policies and laws of Nepal Government, Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality. Similarly, other relevant data and information has been collected from different articles, books, journal and websites.

3.5 Techniques of Data Analysis

The secondary data has been carefully checked to remove errors and inconsistencies if any. Data processing programs such as Microsoft excel has been used to record, process and analyses the collected data. The budget trends and percentages of budget allocations for CFLG across Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality over a five-year period has been analyzed.

CHAPTER IV

DATA PRESENTATIONS AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction of Child Rights

The concept of child rights is introduced in recognition of the value of childhood and the state's obligation to improve the lives of children. The first-ever Declaration of the Rights of the Child was created in 1924 under the auspices of the League of Nations. It had five guiding principles that acknowledged children's rights on a global scale. Ten essential concepts comprised the UN General Assembly's 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989 was approved by the majority of member states with zero votes against it, after being enacted by the UN General Assembly in 1989. There are binding forces in the CRC. It is a significant advancement in the area of children's rights. The ideals and rights of children to survival, development, protection, and participation, as well as their duty to their parents or families and the state, are clearly outlined in the CRC. Modern positive law has only recently been implemented in Nepal. According to the Code of Laws 1853 One of the most important pieces of legislation in Nepalese law is still the Code. Mahal, the Code is organized under various topics. Children do not have their own Mahal, but they do have certain privileges and protections that are unique to them. Even though Nepal had previously accepted the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as other agreements pertaining to labor rights and human rights, the corresponding domestic initiations were not carried out correctly. The first law devoted entirely to children's rights and concerns was the Children's Act of 1992. The Act acknowledges a child's rights to identification, nondiscrimination, nonexploitation, protection, education, and growth, as well as juvenile justice, upbringing, development, and protection Nepal passed the Children's Act 1992 after ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The 1990 Constitution contains important clauses pertaining to children's rights, such as the right to nationality, which states that any child discovered within the Kingdom of Nepal whose parents are unknown will be considered a citizen of Nepal by descent until the father is located, The Constitution guarantees the right to be free from discrimination and to receive special consideration for children. The right to culture and development refers to the community's ability to run schools in its mother

language up to the elementary level in order to educate its children. Right to actions taken in their best interests: The State shall pursue such policies in matters of education, health, and social security of orphans, vulnerable women, the elderly, the disabled, and incapacitated individuals, as well as ensure their protection and welfare. The State shall also make necessary arrangements to safeguard children's rights and interests, ensure that they are not exploited, and gradually arrange for free education. The Nepalese System of Child Protection Since the UNCRC was ratified in 1990, Nepal has strengthened its child protection system by introducing and establishing a number of national instruments and mechanisms. These tools, which come in the shape of national laws, rules, policies, and guidelines, have established fundamental standards and norms for children's protection. Nepal has also set up a number of national and local (district/village and municipality) mechanisms for the protection of children in order to carry out the policy, guidelines, and action plans. The focus ministry for coordination and collaboration with other sectoral ministries is the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare (MoWCSW). Various sectoral Ministries, Departments, Offices, Village Development Committees (VDCs), Chief District Officers (CDOs), Labor Offices, Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB), District Child Welfare Boards (DCWBs), District Development Committees (DDCs), Municipalities, and schools have also been tasked with safeguarding and advancing the rights of children. To fulfill the necessary tasks, CCWB, DCWB, and the district-based focal offices do not have the necessary manpower or other resources. The government has put in place a "Child-Friendly Local Governance Strategy and its Operational Guidelines, 2068," which prioritizes safeguarding children throughout the nation's governance structure. Some Focus Group Discussion (FGD) participants expressed concerns about the local execution of the initiative, stating that there is now more rivalry than coordination and a lack of complementarity between the DCPC/VCPC and CFLG Committees. In other areas as well, there is a lack of coordination and clarity among the several agencies tasked with protecting children. The effectiveness of the national monitoring and supervisory systems is heavily reliant on mutual understanding and cooperation regarding child safety issues. There isn't a distinct, impartial organization to keep an eye on the state of affairs and issues pertaining to children's rights.

Table 4. 1

Chronological Order of Child-friendly Governance

Timeline	Major Attainments
1215	The Magna Carta first documents
1924	The League of Nations adopted the Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child, which recognizes children's right to development, special help, relief, economic freedom, and social consciousness.
1946	The United Nations General Assembly established the International Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF, with an emphasis on children throughout the world.
1948	The United Nations General Assembly passes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which Article 25 entitles mothers and children to 'special care and assistance' and 'social protection'
1959	The United Nations General Assembly adopts the declaration of the Rights of the child, which recognizes, among other rights, children's rights to education, play, a supportive environment and health care.
1990	The new constitution of Nepal guaranteed fundamental rights for children.
1991	Nepal ratified UN Convention on the rights of the Child in 1991 The Nepali government and Development Partners are implementing programs on children's rights, including health, education, protection, and participation. They have also adopted the Millennium Development Goals, a National Plan of Action for Children, and programs for CF VDC and DACAW.
1992	Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), demonstrating its commitment to upholding children's rights.

1996	The National Children's Act was passed to safeguard children's rights and provide legal protection against child exploitation and abuse.
2000	Nepal introduced the "Master Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor," aiming to combat the prevalence of child labor, especially in hazardous sectors.
2002	Child delegates addressed the UN Special Session on Children, adopting the World Fit for Children agenda to improve children's prospects over the next decade.
2005	The National Plan of Action for Children (2005-2015) was launched to promote education, health, protection, and participation for all children in Nepal.
Before 2007	The Interim Constitution of Nepal recognized the right of children to education, health, protection from violence, exploitation, and harmful practices.
2010	The United Nations Secretary-General issues the Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2011	The Committee on the Rights of the Child has adopted a new Optional Protocol to facilitate communication and investigation of child rights violations.
2015	The Constitution of Nepal formally recognized child rights under its fundamental rights, emphasizing children's protection, development, participation, and survival.
2017	The Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act was enforced to strictly regulate child labor and its abolition in specific sectors.
2018	The Children's Act, 2018 (Bal Balika Ain) was passed to align with the principles of the UNCRC, addressing issues like child marriage, child labor, and child abuse.

2020	The government and UNICEF launched the "Child-friendly Local Governance" initiative to ensure children's voices are integrated into local planning and decision-making processes
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The Magna Carta, the earliest human rights document, was passed in 1215. In 1924, the League of Nations published the Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child, which recognizes children's rights to growth, special assistance, relief, economic independence, and social consciousness. UNICEF was founded in 1946, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948. The Declaration of the Rights of the Child was created in 1959, and it recognized children's rights to education, play, a supportive environment, and health care. Nepal's new constitution, adopted in 1990, guarantees children's fundamental rights. Nepal adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, and children's rights initiatives were put in place. The National Children's Act was enacted in 1996 to protect children's rights and offer legal safeguards against child exploitation and abuse. The Constitution of Nepal acknowledged child rights in 2015, and the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act went into effect in 2017. In 2018, the Children's Act addressed UNCRC principles such as child marriage, underage labor, and abuse.

4.2 Policy Review Child Rights and Child-friendly Local Governance

In this step, I explained child rights and the child-friendly local governance plan and policies as outlined in the Constitution of Nepal, the 15th and 16th plans, as well as those of KMC and Bhaktapur Municipality.

4.2.1 Constitution of Nepal

The Government of Nepal Act, 1948 (2004 B.S.) This Act is considered to be the first Constitution of Nepal. In the backdrop of the beginning of people's revolution in aftermath of India's independent from British Colony, Shree Teen Padma Shamsher initiated the drafting of the Constitution. We do not know for sure whether it was his wish or some historical compulsion to draft this Constitution, but he laid the first foundation of constitutional history in Nepal. On April 28th, 1947 (i.e., Baisakh 15, 2004), Padma Shamsher formed a reform committee, which prepared this Constitution. The drafting was initiated by Padma Shamsher but he could not immediately enact the Act. He announced the commencement day of the Constitution effective on April 16th, 1948 (Baisakh 1st

2050). However, he left for India for rest of his life on February 21st, 1948 before the day of the commencement. His successor, Shree Teen Mohan Shamsher, did not commence implementation of the Constitution but shelved it until September 22nd/ 1950. He was, for sure, compelled to announce the commencement of the Constitution in view of the growing agitation of people in different parts of Nepal. Shree Teen Mohan Shamsher formed the parliament invoking some provisions of this Constitution. The parliament consisted of the representatives of twenty-one wards of Kathmandu Municipality and several nominees of the Rana Government. It was not intended for a transformation of power; hence, it could not eventually function. However, this formulation of the parliament can be considered as the partial implementation of the Act. This Constitution had a small section of fundamental rights and duties. It had only one section which dealt with the rights of people. Subject to public policy, public morality, the prevailing laws and the laws that will be made in future, following rights to the citizens of Nepal were guaranteed.

4.2.2 Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2056 (2000)

The Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2056, is a law that prohibits the employment of children under 14 in hazardous or risky business or activities. The term "entrepreneur" refers to the person making final decisions regarding an enterprise's activity, including the chief of any part or unit of an enterprise. The Act also prohibits children from being engaged in works as laborers under the age of 14 without their consent or engaging in works against their will through persuasion, misrepresentation, or coercion. Employers operating risky business or actives at the commencement of the Act must provide written information to the labor office within thirty days. If an enterprise has to engage a child in works, approval must be obtained from the concerned labor office or any authority or official prescribed by that office, and the father, mother, or guardian of the child. No approval is required for engaging a child in cultural programs or activities for greater protection of children's interests organized by an approved academic institution or organization. The Act requires enterprises to obtain a qualification certificate before engaging a child as labor, which must be obtained by submitting an application at the labor office station detailing the nature of the work and the child's age. A medical test conducted by a medical practitioner determines if the child is fit for the work. Work hours are limited to six hours per day and thirty-six hours per week, with no additional remuneration

provided. A child is entitled to half-hour leisure time after working for three hours and one-day leave given every week. Remuneration and benefits are not discriminatory based on sex, race, religion, caste, or tribe, and equal remuneration and benefits are provided for the same works.

4.2.3 National child policy 2069

Children are the future leaders of a nation, and providing proper education, upbringing, and opportunities can lead to their proper development and leadership. Nepal has made significant strides in protecting children's rights and interests through various international agreements, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the voluntary protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2000. These agreements have also provided for the prevention of child trafficking, child prostitution, and child pornography. The interim constitution of Nepal 2063 provides special arrangements for the protection, empowerment, or development of children, including free education, basic health, social security, and the right against physical, mental, or other forms of exploitation. However, no minor can be employed in dangerous work or used in conflicts. To protect the rights and interests of children in Nepal, the children's Act 2048 and the children's regulation Act 2056 have been implemented. The field of children's development faces several challenges, including a lack of national priority, weak institutional capacity, coordination issues, and inadequate resource management. The geographical location also hinders raising awareness about children. To tackle these issues, effective implementation of existing laws and regulations is necessary. The need for policy has increased due to the political change in the country, with the monarchy ending and the republic being established. The long-term goal is to create an environment where children can develop their personalities as capable citizens while fully enjoying their rights. Key objectives include protecting children from violence, abandonment, neglect, abuse, sexual abuse, providing care, nutrition support, and education, enhancing child participation, ending discrimination, and strengthening the juvenile justice system.

4.2.4 Constitution of Nepal 2072

In the constitution of Nepal, the issues of child rights are regulated in Article 39 as a fundamental right this constitutional right ensures children's right to identity and personality development child development child protection and child participation. For the first time in the constitutional history of Nepal the right the right to participation of children has been mentioned in sub- section 3 of article 39. The importance of child rights is made clear by the fact that the theme of considering the best interests of children is mentioned in the state policies. According to the constitution of Nepal, there is a three-tiered government that is responsible for promoting child rights. The local government operation act 2074 and the work detailing report of the union state and local levels approved by the government of Nepal and made public have also continued all the activities of child friendly governance and the distribution of rights and duties has been extended to wards settlements and communities. The Constitution of Nepal (2015) prioritizes children's rights to identification, personality development, protection, and involvement. Every child has the right to a name, birth registration, education, healthcare, sports, amusement, and general personality development, which are supported by both families and the government. Furthermore, minors are entitled to protection against hazardous work and kidnapping, which strengthens their rights. Prior to the 2072 Constitution, the Central government regulated all activities, including power, rules and regulations, decision-making, health care, and so on. Following that all activities performed by the central government were delegated to the local governments.

Every child is entitled to a name, birth registration, and identification. They are entitled to education, healthcare, decent care, sports, amusement, and complete personality development, all of which must be given by both their family and the government. Children have the right to early development and to participate in activities that promote their growth. They should never be compelled to labor in risky conditions, such as factories or mines. Children must also be protected from child marriage, kidnapping, and being held as hostages. They should not be recruited into the army, police, or other armed groups, and they should not be mistreated or exploited in the name of cultural or religious beliefs. A child should never be physically or mentally harmed at home or in school. They have the right to justice in a system that is fair and accommodating to children. The government

must provide special protection and care to vulnerable children, such as orphans, disabled children, and those afflicted by conflict. If someone abuses these rights by forcing minors into dangerous job, marriage, or abuse, they will face legal consequences, and the harmed kid will be able to seek restitution from the wrongdoers. The Government of Nepal (GoN) prioritizes guaranteeing children's survival, protection, development, and participation by making services freely accessible in accordance with the Nepalese Constitution.

4.2.5 Vaccination Regulations, 2074

The Vaccination Regulations, 2074, are rules issued by the Government of Nepal under section 42 of the Vaccine Act, 2072. These regulations come into force immediately and define various terms such as licensed health institutions, the Act, District Health Offices, and Health Institutions. The regulations required individual to be vaccinated compulsorily for the prevention, control, prevention, control prevention or eradication of diseases mentioned in schedule1. The standards of vaccinations must be prequalified by the World Health Organization, used in the country of manufacture or other countries, within the expiration date, and have a vaccine vial with a monitor indicator. Obtaining a lot release certificate from the regulatory authority of the exporting country of the vaccine and fulfilling other criteria prescribed by the ministry are also required. Health institutions wishing to conduct vaccination services must apply for authorization, which costs one thousand rupees and should be made at the office. The Committee's work duties include taking necessary initiatives to solve problems and challenges in the annual report prepared in accordance with section 39 of the Act and ensuring compliance with instructions given by the ministry regarding the effective operation of vaccination services. Provisions related to the meeting of the advisory committee include meeting at a specified place, date and time and appointing members in consultation with the members.

4.2.6 The Act Relating to Children, 2075 (2018)

Every kid deserves to live with dignity. To preserve the child's right to life and development, the Nepalese government, provincial governments, and local governments must take all necessary preventative and security measures, including preventing possible accidents and minimizing hazards to children. The right to life is a basic human right that ensures every child lives in dignity. To preserve children's rights to life and development, the Nepalese government, state governments, and local authorities must put in place

preventative measures. Children have the right to a name, nationality, and identity, and births must be recorded in their names under applicable legislation. If the mother of a child born as a result of rape or an incestuous connection chooses to register the kid's birth under her name, she must provide the name of another family member or guardian. Children have the right to use their parents' surname consensually or their father's surname if consent is not obtained. Children can use any or both of their parents' surnames, and if their father's identity is unknown, they may use their mother's surname. If there is a disagreement over a child's surname, they are assumed to have used their father's surname unless proven differently. The text describes children's rights and safeguards in Nepal, such as the right to be free of discrimination, the right to live with and visit their parents, protection, participation, freedom of expression, and the ability to form groups and congregate peacefully. Children have the right to be treated fairly and without fear of discrimination because of their beliefs, race, caste, ethnicity, gender, origin, language, culture, ideology, physical or mental conditions, disability, marital status, occupation, health status, economic or social status, geographical region, or any other reason.

4.2.7 National Strategy for Early Childhood Development 2077–2088

The National Strategy for Early Childhood Development (NCD) in Nepal was developed through consultation programmers conducted at the federal, provincial, and local levels. These consultations involved representatives from various sectors, including municipalities, childhood development centers (CDCs), female community health volunteers, child protection organizations, CDC management committees, and school management committees. Participation from disadvantaged and backward communities, Dalits, people with disabilities, highly disadvantaged, and at-risk families was ensured. strategy paper for ECD was implemented between BS 2061 and 2072 under the Ministry of Education. It emphasized the holistic development of all children by making health, nutrition, safety, and child education services available to children in an integrated manner. The strategy also emphasized mutual coordination in mobilizing resources among service providers related to children, collaboration among NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), and local stakeholders for sustainability, mobilizing resources at local level, receiving support from all ministries and other organizations concerned at the central level, community involvement in the formulation and implementation of programs, and the role

of parents and families in children's development. The NPC conducted an evaluation of the Strategy for Early Childhood Development in BS 2074 and provided feedback for the proposed strategy through an analysis of which provisions covered in it have been implemented or not implemented and, if implemented, to what extent. The evaluation showed an increase in access to ECD services during the first strategy period but disparity in access to and quality of ECD services by geographical setting and family background. Furthermore, not all services necessary for the holistic development of all children of ECD ages were available. Despite the ECD-targeted policies, strategies, and programs contributing to this improvement, challenges exist in enhancing access to quality services to children of various categories that are lagging behind in terms of geographical remoteness and economic and social wellbeing. These challenges include lack of availability of all types of services necessary for the holistic development of all children in an integrated manner, failure to achieve uniformity and quality as expected in the services to be received by children, etc. The National Strategy for ECD is devised based on three aspects: multisectoral engagement, institutional and structural mechanism-building and management, and sufficient and effective management of resources. Multisectoral engagement involves the federal, provincial, and local levels, private sector, and social organizations, while institutional and structural mechanism-building and management involve the private sector, government agencies, and social organizations. The National Strategy for ECD in Nepal aims to address the challenges faced by children of various backgrounds, including geographical remoteness, economic and social wellbeing, and the need for better coordination, quality services, and adequate financial investment. By focusing on these aspects, the NCD aims to improve access to quality services for children of all ages, ensuring their holistic development and overall well-being.

4.2.8 Fifteenth Plan

A child-friendly society protects and promotes the rights of children and adolescents. This includes fostering a safe and nurturing atmosphere free of violence, discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The goal is to develop competent and capable individuals who can help construct a better nation. Improving child welfare, lowering child mortality, promoting natural growth, and eradicating all forms of violence and child labor are all

important strategies. Through these efforts, children's rights can be protected, allowing them to flourish.

4.2.9 Sixteenth Plan

Professional child labor: All forms of child labor in any industry, business, or sector must be authorized and renewed. To increase children's participation in self-reliance, local governments should establish policies regarding child care, strengthen child care practices, establish a care management system, and form youth groups, scouting organizations, children's clubs, and children's networks. The management and control of human violence through the use of social networks is strictly enforced through the creation of legal arrangements, the categorization of children's work into low-standard categories, and the efficient functioning of the services. By supporting the residential child care system, putting the development system into practice as a permanent concept, offering straightforward, kid-friendly daycare, considering the moral background of the children, and physical development preventive child development work all classes and communities have access to it record conducted targeted programs on child care and education. The Child Rights Protection and Promotion program aims to eradicate all forms of child labor in factories, industries, and business areas. It also requires mandatory pre-examinations, and special protection for orphans, abandoned children, parentless children, and children in need from the relevant local level. In order to increase children's sense of social responsibility and participation in learning self-reliant lifestyles, it is necessary to establish a system for arranging alternative care to promote and strengthen children's rights through child-friendly local government promotion programs. Additionally, strict adherence to legal provisions for the regulation and control of violence caused by the misuse of information technology and social media is required. Finally, the wall correctional system should be classified minimum requirements for homes, and efficiently run and maintain them with the fewest services possible Promote the use of residential protection for children's homes as a last resort, and discourage the institution of such protection. To conduct targeted programs to improve the quality of education and learning for dalit children; to increase access to and consumption of early childhood development programs for the mental and physical development of children; and to provide simple, easy, child- and parent-friendly juvenile justice.

4.2.10. CFLG Plan Strategy

The aim of this strategy is to establish and promote a child-friendly local governance system through the development of appropriate policy, institutional, and procedural frameworks that address the existing conditions and needs of children. It seeks to provide support for ensuring consistency in the strategy, tactics, coordination, and overall outcomes of child-friendly program operations.

The Importance of a Child-Friendly Local Governance Strategy

Several municipalities and village development committees in Nepal have initiated child-friendly local governance programs as models, recognizing the need to address children's concerns regarding government systems and service delivery. To ensure the proper development of children, it is essential to create uniformity and cohesion among such programs. In this context, this strategy has been developed and implemented to mainstream children's rights within the local governance process, based on inclusive principles.

The justification for this strategy is as follows:

1. To strengthen the child-friendly local governance system by maintaining consistency in its processes.
2. To develop coordination and partnerships among the government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector working in the field of children's rights, fostering an environment of financial and technical support for the promotion of child-friendly local governance.
3. To ensure alignment between national and local policies and activities related to child-friendly governance.

Additionally, this strategy aims to build institutional capacity and enhance human resources for child-friendly local governance, in accordance with the provisions of the Interim Constitution of Nepal (2063), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the Children and Adolescents Act (2048), and other relevant laws and regulations. The strategy emphasizes the timely and equitable provision of services to children.

Finally, it supports the intensive development of child-friendly local governance frameworks at the local level, ensuring effective implementation of these provisions.

4.2.11 Child Protection Rights Guidelines 2080, KMC

Children's clubs and ward or metropolitan networks play a crucial role in promoting child participation, creative activities, and training in child rights, protection, life skills, adolescent changes, and personality development. They can form sub-committees to manage special campaigns and activities related to child rights. They also raise awareness of violations of children's rights, such as abuse or exploitation, by reporting incidents to relevant agencies. They advocate for the protection of art, literature, social harmony, mother tongue, and culture. However, the metropolitan municipality may prohibit activities that interfere with children's studies, involve them in actions that negatively impact their development, participate in rallies or processions against children's interests, support or oppose political parties, or engage in activities that may disturb peace, order, or security. Child protection must be ensured by the metropolitan corporation through various programs within its area. To protect children, the corporation will work to prevent discrimination, violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, and inhumane treatment against children. It will also implement targeted programs for prevention, quick response, and managing incidents to protect children who need special care. The corporation will coordinate with relevant agencies and service providers for the immediate rescue, protection, and management of children at risk. It will take prompt action through the judicial committee to address child protection issues and complaints from agencies, schools, institutions, and private sectors involved with children. Additionally, the corporation will arrange housing, formal education, vocational training, and special education for children in need. It will create and enforce child protection standards across schools and organizations dealing with children. The corporation will also take steps to prevent and stop child marriages, exploitation, and violence against children, and ensure the protection of children without parents or guardians. To address complaints quickly, it will develop a child protection system. Furthermore, it will run preventive, curative, and rehabilitative programs to save children from drug addiction.

4.2.12 Child Protection Rights Guidelines 2080, BM

The Child Protection Committee collects information about children who need special care in different areas and sends this information to the city's main office. They look at what the community needs in terms of child protection and work with local offices and organizations to create plans based on children's rights, then they make and carry out policies to help protect children. The committee keeps an updated list of different agencies and organizations that work with children, and they help promote child safety by working closely with these groups. They also encourage all organizations involved in child protection to cooperate by organizing programs that raise awareness about child safety and children's rights. They give advice to make sure child protection programs are working well by supervising and checking on the activities happening in the area. If there are complaints about violations of children's rights, the committee keeps a record, suggests what to do, and works with the right agencies to solve the problem and follow up on the actions taken. The committee regularly monitors child protection efforts in the area and sends reports to local offices. They also speak up for children's rights and raise awareness about these issues. Lastly, they prepare progress reports about child protection programs and submit them to the local office and the city authorities.

4.3 Comparative Analysis of CFLG Policies and Programs

The Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality have implemented different policies and programs that focuses the child friendly local governance in different fiscal years. In this section, the child friendly local governance policies and programs for the five fiscal years which includes 2076/077 to 2080/081 of both municipalities have been analyzed.

4.3.1 CFLG Policies and Programs in FY 2076/077

The table 4.2 below shows the policies and programs of Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality in the fiscal year 2076/077. The Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality have formulated different policies and programs.

Table 4. 2

Child-Friendly Local Governance Policies and Programs in FY 2076/077

Kathmandu Metropolitan City	Bhaktapur Municipality
1) Awareness program against physical & mental abuse & sexual harassment.	1) Child home care Employees salary & allowances.
2) Children home & Organization Monitoring.	2) Children meal
	3) Children & women committee

Source: Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality, 2024

Kathmandu's programs for this fiscal year concentrated on raising awareness and enhancing oversight for child safety. The awareness program against physical and mental abuse and sexual harassment aimed to educate and protect children from various forms of exploitation and harm. Additionally, the monitoring of children's homes and organizations underscored the city's commitment to ensuring that institutions catering to children adhered to quality standards and operated within regulatory frameworks. These initiatives highlight Kathmandu's focus on safeguarding children and creating secure environments. Similarly, Bhaktapur Municipality, on the other hand, prioritized institutional and welfare-oriented measures. The provision of salaries and allowances for child home care employees ensured that the caregivers were adequately compensated, thus maintaining the operational sustainability of such facilities. The children's meal program addressed basic nutritional needs, reflecting a direct approach to improving children's well-being. Furthermore, the establishment of the children and women committee emphasized collaborative efforts to address issues impacting children and women within the community. While Kathmandu emphasized systemic and preventative measures through awareness and monitoring programs, Bhaktapur adopted a hands-on approach by providing direct care and support

services. These complementary strategies reflect the differing priorities of the two municipalities in addressing the diverse needs of children within their jurisdictions.

4.3.2 CFLG Policies and Programs in FY 2077/078

The table 4.3 shows the policies and programs of KMC and BM in the year 2077/078. The table presents a comparison of child-friendly initiatives implemented by Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality during the fiscal year 2077/078, highlighting their distinctive approaches to enhancing child friendly local governance.

Table 4. 3

Child-Friendly Local Governance Policies and Programs in FY 2077/078

Kathmandu Metropolitan City	Bhaktapur Municipality
1) Child friendly painting and quotes writing	1) Employees Salary & allowances
2) International Children Day Celebration	2) Children meal
3) Child targeted Program	3) Children & women committee
4) Child friendly park construction	4) Child care school operation

Source: Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality, 2024

The table shows Kathmandu Metropolitan City focused on creative and infrastructural initiatives aimed at promoting child-friendly environments and fostering awareness. The child-friendly painting and quotes writing program introduced aesthetic and educational enhancements to public spaces, likely aimed at inspiring positivity and child-focused messaging. The city also celebrated International Children's Day, which demonstrates its commitment to recognizing and promoting children's rights on a global platform. Furthermore, the child-targeted programs signify a broader effort to design activities directly catering to the needs of children. The construction of child-friendly parks represents an investment in recreational infrastructure, reflecting the city's dedication to creating safe and accessible spaces for children's play and development. Bhaktapur Municipality adopted a service-oriented approach, emphasizing operational and welfare measures. The employees' salaries and allowances for child-related institutions ensured the

smooth functioning of child care services, while the children's meal program addressed immediate nutritional needs, reflecting a direct intervention in children's day-to-day well-being. The establishment and support of the children and women committee highlights the municipality's commitment to fostering collaboration to address the interconnected challenges faced by children and women. Additionally, the child care school operation program underlines Bhaktapur's efforts to provide structured educational and developmental opportunities for children. Kathmandu Metropolitan City concentrated on creating long-term, impactful changes through infrastructural development and awareness campaigns, reflecting a more outward-facing, community-oriented approach. In contrast, Bhaktapur Municipality placed greater emphasis on sustaining institutional support and providing essential services, adopting a welfare-focused strategy. Together, these approaches offer complementary perspectives on advancing child welfare in urban contexts, addressing both systemic and immediate needs.

4.3.3 CFLG Policies and Programs in FY 2078/079

The table 4.4 shows the policies and programs of KMC and BM in the year 2078/079. The table illustrates the initiatives taken by Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality during the fiscal year 2078/079 for implementing plans and programs related to child friendly local governance.

Table 4. 4

Child-Friendly Local Governance Plans and Programs in FY 2078/079

Kathmandu Metropolitan City	Bhaktapur Municipality
1) Child friendly local governance promotion program	1) Orphan child protection
2) Child group network formation and operation	2) Child friendly local governance announcement program
3) Child targeted Program	3) Child care employee's allowances
4) Child friendly park construction	4) Children meal
	5) Women & children committee

Source: Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality, 2024

Kathmandu Metropolitan City concentrated on enhancing governance frameworks and building community networks to support children's development. The Child-Friendly Local Governance Promotion Program aimed at integrating child-focused priorities into local governance structures, likely promoting policies and practices that benefit children directly. Through the Child Group Network Formation and Operation, the city facilitated platforms for children to participate, interact, and engage in group activities, fostering a sense of community and mutual support among young individuals. Additionally, the inclusion of Child-Targeted Programs reflects an ongoing commitment to directly addressing the needs and interests of children. The continuation of Child-Friendly Park Construction showcases Kathmandu's dedication to providing recreational spaces that prioritize safety, accessibility, and inclusivity.

Bhaktapur Municipality's initiatives in 2078/079 reveal a focus on safeguarding vulnerable children and supporting existing structures. The Orphan Child Protection Program underscores a significant emphasis on providing care and protection to orphaned children, demonstrating a commitment to addressing their specific vulnerabilities. The Child-Friendly Local Governance Announcement Program likely involved a formal declaration or step toward creating governance systems aligned with child-friendly principles. Moreover, the municipality ensured institutional sustainability through the provision of Child Care Employees' Allowances, which supports staff responsible for children's care. Programs like Children's Meals tackled nutritional needs, reflecting direct interventions in children's daily lives. Lastly, the Women & Children Committee continued to play a pivotal role in promoting collaborative initiatives for the well-being of both women and children.

While Kathmandu Metropolitan City focused more on governance reforms, community engagement, and infrastructural development, Bhaktapur Municipality placed greater emphasis on protection, welfare services, and institutional support. Both municipalities demonstrated complementary approaches, addressing systemic reforms and immediate welfare concerns to advance child-friendly initiatives effectively.

4.3.4 CFLG Policies and Programs in FY 2079/080

The table 4.5 highlights the activities undertaken by Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality in the fiscal year 2079/080, focusing on initiatives aligned with child-friendly governance and child welfare programs.

Table 4.5

Child-Friendly Local Governance Plans and Programs in FY 2079/080

Kathmandu Metropolitan City	Bhaktapur Municipality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) CFLG announcement program 2) Child & adolescents club formation and operation 3) Training to the care taker of child care home. 4) Child friendly park construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Child care homes employee's salary and allowances 2) Child care home operation 3) Children meal 4) Orphan child protection 5) CFLG announcement

Source: Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality, 2024

Kathmandu Metropolitan City prioritized fostering child-friendly environments and enhancing community involvement during 2079/080. The CFLG (Child-Friendly Local Governance) Announcement Program indicate a formal step toward integrating child-centric policies within governance frameworks, reflecting a strategic alignment with national or global child welfare goals. The formation and operation of Child & Adolescents Clubs aimed to create platforms where children and teenagers could actively participate, share their voices, and engage in collaborative developmental activities. Additionally, Training for Caretakers of Child Care Homes underscores the city's effort to build the capacity of individuals responsible for the welfare of children in institutional care, ensuring higher standards of service and professionalism. Finally, the continuation of Child-Friendly Park Construction highlights a consistent commitment to establishing safe and engaging recreational spaces for children. Bhaktapur Municipality, on the other hand, focused on addressing operational and protective needs for child welfare. By allocating resources to Child Care Homes Employees' Salary and Allowances, the municipality ensured the

sustainability of human resources dedicated to child care. The Child Care Home Operation initiative reflects efforts to maintain and improve facilities where vulnerable children, including orphans, are housed and supported. The provision of Children's Meals demonstrates attention to fulfilling the basic nutritional needs of children in care. Furthermore, the Orphan Child Protection Program highlights targeted interventions to safeguard orphans from risks and vulnerabilities. The inclusion of the CFLG Announcement program aligns Bhaktapur with broader goals of adopting child-friendly governance practices.

In 2079/080, the initiatives of Kathmandu Metropolitan City leaned towards creating participatory and infrastructural systems that promote child engagement and development, emphasizing capacity-building and inclusivity. Conversely, Bhaktapur Municipality concentrated on sustaining operational needs and delivering direct services that cater to immediate welfare concerns, particularly for vulnerable groups like orphans. Both cities complemented each other by addressing different aspects of child-friendly governance, thereby collectively advancing child welfare objectives.

4.3.5 CFLG Policies and Programs in FY 2080/081

The table 4.6 shows the policies and programs comparison between Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality for the fiscal year 2080/081. The table demonstrates their shared commitment to child-friendly governance while highlighting distinct approaches to achieving this goal.

Table 4. 6

Child-Friendly Local Governance Policies and Programs in FY 2080/081

Kathmandu Metropolitan City	Bhaktapur Municipality
1) CFLG announcement protection program	1) Children meal
2) Child & adolescents club formation & operation	2) Child care home employee's salary & allowances
3) Establishment of child rescue fund	3) Orphan children protection
4) Child labor prevention program	4) CFLG announcement
5) CFLG announcement procedures develop & orientation	
6) Family reunion	

Source: Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality, 2024

Kathmandu Metropolitan City expanded its focus on strategic and long-term interventions for child welfare during 2080/081. The CFLG Announcement Protection Program reinforced the commitment to safeguarding child-friendly local governance by ensuring proper implementation and continuity. The formation and operation of Child & Adolescents Clubs provided a structured platform for young voices, fostering participation and leadership among children and teenagers. Establishing the Child Rescue Fund introduced a financial safety net to support emergency child protection and rescue efforts, ensuring timely interventions for vulnerable children. Additionally, the Child Labor Prevention Program aimed to eliminate exploitative practices, aligning with broader societal goals of promoting children's rights. Through the development of CFLG Procedures and Orientation Programs, the city demonstrated its intent to institutionalize these practices within governance frameworks. Finally, the Family Reunion Initiative

highlighted efforts to reunite children with their families, emphasizing the importance of family-based care and reintegration.

Bhaktapur Municipality maintained its focus on sustaining essential services and providing direct support to children in need. The provision of Children's Meals ensured that basic nutritional needs were consistently met, reflecting an emphasis on day-to-day welfare. By covering Child Care Home Employees' Salaries and Allowances, the municipality ensured that human resources remained dedicated and well-supported. The Orphan Children Protection Program addressed the needs of one of the most vulnerable groups, ensuring their safety and well-being. Additionally, the CFLG Announcement continued to align the municipality with broader child-friendly governance goals.

While Kathmandu Metropolitan City focused on strategic, preventive, and community-oriented programs, such as establishing funds, combating child labor, and emphasizing reintegration, Bhaktapur Municipality prioritized operational and immediate welfare measures, ensuring the sustainability of its child care services. Together, their combined efforts represented a balance between addressing immediate needs and implementing long-term, systemic changes for child-friendly governance.

4.4. Child Friendly Local Governance Budgetary Status per child population

The child friendly local governance budget allocated to Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality is analyzed. The budget allocated for child friendly local governance for the fiscal year 2076/077 to 2080/081 has been analyzed. The budget allocated per child population under 15 years old age within KMC and BM has also been examined. The percentage of budget allocation over the total budget for CFLG on KMC and BM has been analyzed.

4.4.1 Child Population of Bhaktapur Municipality under 15 years

The table 4.7 illustrates the population distribution in Bhaktapur Municipality, categorized by three distinct age groups 0-4 years, 5-9 years, and 10-14 years and further subdivided by gender, specifically males and females.

Table 4. 7

Population of children of Bhaktapur Municipality under 15 years.

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-4	15067	12940	28,007
5-9	16527	13653	30,180
10-14	16744	14378	31,122
Total			89,309

Source: NPHC, 2021

For the youngest age group, which includes children aged 0 to 4 years, the male population is recorded at 15,067, while the female population is slightly lower at 12,940, resulting in a total population of 28,007 individuals within this group. In the next age group, which includes children aged 5 to 9 years, the male population increases to 16,527 while the female population rises to 13,653. The total population for this age group is 30,180 which is higher than that of the previous group, reflecting a growth in the overall number of individuals as the age group advances.

The oldest age group represented in the table consists of children aged 10 to 14 years. In this group, the male population reaches 16,744 while the female population is recorded at 14,378. The total population for this age group is 31,122 making it the largest among the three age categories.

When the figures for all three age groups are combined, the total male population across the municipality amounts to 48,338 while the total female population stands at 40,971. This brings the overall population for the specified age range of 0-14 years to 89,309 individuals. The data clearly demonstrates that males constitute a larger share of the population in each of the age groups.

4.4.2 GFLG Budgetary Allocation Status of Bhaktapur Municipality

Table 4.8 demonstrates details about the total budget and the amount allocated for the Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) program over five fiscal years, from 2076/077 to 2080/081. It demonstrates how the funds for CFLG fluctuated in relation to the overall budget during this period.

Table 4. 8

Budgetary allocation status of Bhaktapur Municipality

Year	Total Budget	Budget Allocated for CFLG
2076/077	2131000000	11500000
2077/078	1824000000	14930000
2078/079	1932000000	11546000
2079/080	2184242000	14116000
2080/081	2268594000	3046000

Source: Bhaktapur Municipality, 2024

In 2076/077, the total budget was NPR 2.13 billion, with NPR 11.5 million allocated to CFLG. This allocation represented a modest portion of the total budget, indicating a reasonable level of emphasis on child-friendly governance. However, in 2077/078, the total budget decreased to NPR 1.82 billion. Despite the decline in the total budget, the CFLG allocation increased to NPR 14.93 million, suggesting that CFLG became a higher priority even during a period of financial constraints.

The trend shifted again in 2078/079 when the total budget rose to NPR 1.93 billion. Despite this increase, the CFLG allocation dropped slightly to NPR 11.55 million. This suggests that while the city's overall financial capacity improved, less focus was placed on the CFLG program compared to the previous year.

In 2079/080, the total budget grew significantly to NPR 2.18 billion. Correspondingly, the CFLG allocation rose to NPR 14.12 million, reflecting renewed attention to this program. However, in the fiscal year 2080/081, although the total budget further increased to NPR 2.27 billion, the CFLG allocation experienced a sharp decline to NPR 3.05 million. This

drastic reduction indicates that CFLG received minimal focus during this period, marking it as the lowest point in terms of funding allocation over the five years.

4.4.3 CFLG Budget allocation per child population in Bhaktapur Municipality

The table illustrates the budget allocation for the Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) program in Bhaktapur Municipality (BM) over five consecutive fiscal years, along with the distribution on a per child population under 15 years age, using the child population aged under 15 years as per National Population and Housing Census 2021 which is 89,309.

Table 4. 9

CFL Budget allocation per child population in Bhaktapur Municipality

Fiscal Year	CFLG Budget	Child Population under 15 years	Budget per child population under 15 years (NRS)
2076/077	11500000	89,309	128.77
2077/078	14930000		167.17
2078/079	11546000		129.28
2079/080	14116000		158.06
2080/081	3046000		34.11

Source: Author's calculation

The table shows how much money was allocated for Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) in different fiscal years and how it was distributed among children under 15 years old in Kathmandu Valley. It includes three main pieces of information: the total budget, the number of children under 15 years old, and the budget per child in Nepali Rupees (NRS).

In the fiscal year 2076/077, the total budget was NPR 11,500,000 for a child population of 89,309. This means that the budget per child was 128.77 NRS. This shows that a fair amount of money was available for each child during this year.

In the next year, 2077/078, the budget increased to NPR 14,930,000. However, the exact child population data is not provided in the table. The budget per child during this year was calculated as 167.17 NRS, which is the highest among all the years. This suggests that more money was allocated per child compared to the previous year. In 2078/079, the total budget decreased to NPR 11,546,000, which resulted in a lower budget per child of 129.28

NRS. This means that there was a reduction in spending on child-friendly initiatives compared to the previous year. The budget increased again in 2079/080 to NPR 14,116,000, and the budget per child rose to 158.06 NRS. This suggests that there was a renewed focus on children's programs, leading to more resources being allocated per child.

However, in the final year, 2080/081, the budget dropped sharply to NPR 3,046,000, which significantly reduced the budget per child to only 34.11 NRS. This is the lowest amount in all five years, indicating a major decline in funding for child-related programs.

Overall, the table shows that the budget per child was highest in 2077/078, and it fluctuated over the years. The sudden drop in 2080/081 suggests financial challenges or a shift in priorities by the government. These changes could affect the quality and availability of services for children in the Kathmandu Valley.

4.4.4 Child Population of Kathmandu Metropolitan City under 15 years

The table provides detailed demographic data for Kathmandu Metropolitan City, focusing specifically on the population of children aged 0 to 14. It categorizes the population into two distinct subgroups children aged 0-9 and those aged 10-14 and further breaks down the data by gender male and female. This information is essential for understanding the demographic composition of the city and for aligning child-friendly governance initiatives with the needs of different subgroups.

Table 4. 10

Child Population of Kathmandu Metropolitan City under 15 years

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-4	22860	19681	42,541
5-9	28516	23853	52,369
10-14	30804	26278	57,082
Total	82,180	69,812	151,992

Source: NHPC, 2021

In the 0-9 age group the total population is 94,910 with 51,376 males and 43,534 females. The male population in this group exceeds the female population by 7,842 indicating a gender imbalance that may need to be addressed in policy planning, particularly in areas like health and early childhood development services.

The 10-14 age group is the largest, with 57,082 children, divided into 30,804 males and 26,278 females. This group represents the largest segment of the child population and reflects a critical need for adolescent specific programs, including education, vocational training, and health services tailored to the needs of older children.

Overall, the total population of children aged 0-14 in Kathmandu Metropolitan City is 151,992 with 82,180 males and 69,812 females. The male to female percentage remains consistent across both subgroups, with males making up about 54% of the total child population and females accounting for 46%. This consistent gender gap suggests that gender sensitive policies will be necessary to ensure equal access to services and opportunities for both boys and girls.

The data highlights the importance of targeted resource allocation based on population size and the specific needs of different subgroups. The larger population in the 10-14 age group emphasizes the need for greater investment in secondary education infrastructure. Additionally, the persistent gender imbalance across both subgroups underscores the importance of addressing potential disparities in access to education, healthcare, and other essential services. Finally, the significant number of children in the 10-14 age group suggests that adolescent-focused programs, including career counseling, life skills training, and reproductive health education, should be prioritized to meet the evolving needs of this age group.

4.4.5 CFLG Budgetary Allocation Status of Kathmandu Metropolitan City

The table shows the total budget and the budget allocated for child friendly local governance in KMC for the period of 2076 to 2081.

Table 4. 11

Budgetary Allocation Status of Kathmandu Metropolitan City

Year	Total Budget	Budget Allocated for CFLG of KMC
2076/077	15507012000	820000
2077/078	16427326000	20275000
2078/079	18957712000	16725000
2079/080	25419696000	3500000
2080/081	25547820000	18000000
Average		

Source: Kathmandu Metropolitan City, 2024

In the fiscal year 2076/077, KMC had a total budget of NPR 15.51 billion. Out of this, only NPR 820,000 was allocated to CFLG, a minimal amount considering the total budget. This indicates that during this period, CFLG received a very small fraction of the total funds, suggesting that it was not a significant priority for the city. However, in the following fiscal year, 2077/078, the total budget increased to NPR 16.43 billion, and the allocation for CFLG saw a substantial rise to NPR 20.28 million. This marks a significant improvement and reflects a growing focus on the CFLG program during this time.

In the fiscal year 2078/079, the city's total budget rose further to NPR 18.96 billion. Despite this increase, the CFLG allocation dropped to NPR 16.72 million, which was considerably lower than the previous year's allocation. This decline suggests a shift in budgetary priorities, as less emphasis was placed on CFLG despite the availability of a larger total budget. Similarly, in 2079/080, the total budget reached NPR 25.42 billion, the highest so far, but the CFLG allocation sharply decreased to just NPR 3.5 million. This significant drop shows that CFLG received one of its lowest allocations during a time of substantial overall budget growth.

By 2080/081, the total budget rose slightly to NPR 25.55 billion, maintaining the high levels of the previous year. The CFLG allocation, however, improved to NPR 18 million, which was a positive increase compared to the prior year but still fell short of the allocation made in 2077/078. This fluctuation in CFLG funding over the years reflects changing priorities in KMC's budget planning, with varying levels of emphasis on programs aimed at child-friendly governance.

4.4.6 CFLG Budget allocation per child population in KMC

The table 4.12 outlines the budget allocated by Kathmandu Metropolitan City towards the Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) initiative over five consecutive fiscal years, from 2076/077 to 2080/081 per child population. The analysis highlights the total budget allocated annually for this program and evaluates the per head expenditure, using a child population aged under 15 years as per National Population and Housing Census 2021 which is 151,992.

In the fiscal year 2076/077 the budget allocated for CFLG was Rs 820,000 which resulted in a per population allocation of Rs 5.4. This minimal financial commitment suggests that during its early phase, the initiative received limited resources or prioritization.

Table 4. 12

CFLG Budget allocation per child population in KMC

Fiscal Year	CFLG Budget	Child Population under 15 years	Budget per child population under 15 years (NRS)
2076/077	820000	151,992	5.4
2077/078	20275000		133.4
2078/079	16725000		110.03
2079/080	3500000		23.03
2080/081	18000000		118.43

Source: Author's calculation

The fiscal year 2077/078 saw a significant increase in the budget, which rose to Rs 20,275,000 resulting in a per head expenditure of Rs 133.4. This surge indicates a growing

recognition of the importance of child-friendly governance and a shift towards more substantial investment in the program.

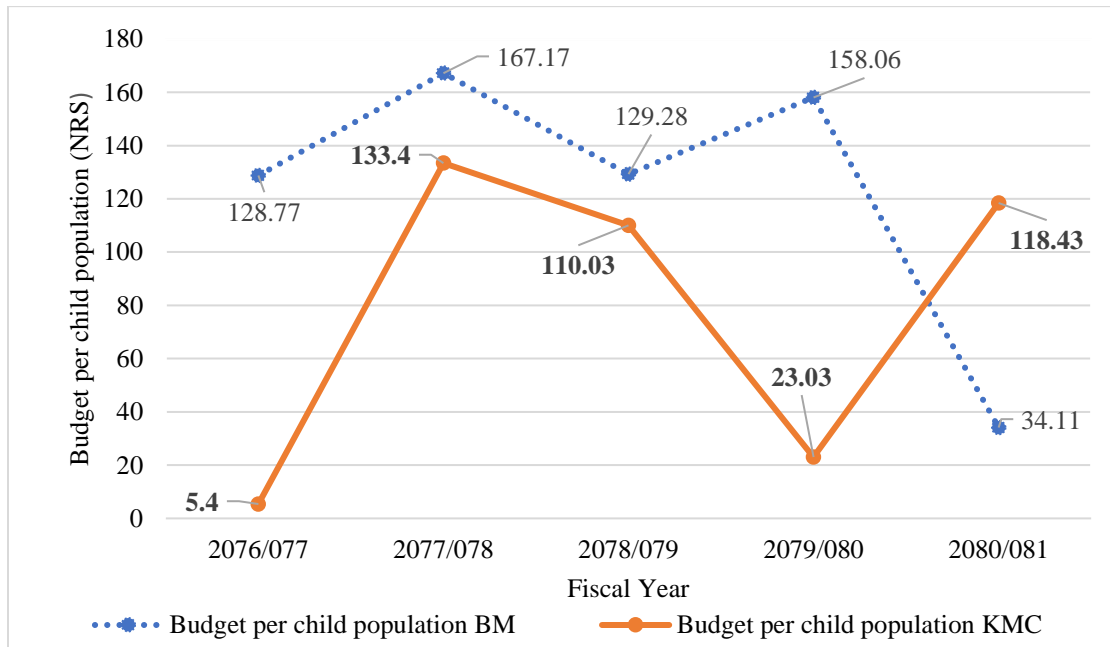
However, in fiscal year 2078/079 the allocated budget declined sharply to Rs 16,72,5000 leading to a reduced per person allocation of Rs 110.03. This reduction may be attributed to budgetary constraints, shifts in government priorities, or changes in the program's scope.

The trend of budget reductions continued in fiscal year 2079/080 with the allocation falling further to Rs 3,500,000 which resulted in a per average amount per person allocation of only Rs 23.03. This sharp decrease may indicate a period of resource reallocation to other initiatives, possibly reflecting a diminished focus or challenges in sustaining the program's funding. In fiscal year 2080/081 the budget allocation saw a remarkable increase, reaching Rs 180,000,00 which resulted in a substantial rise in per population expenditure to Rs 118.43. This recovery suggests renewed investment in child-friendly programs after the previous year's decline. Overall, the table highlights fluctuations in budget allocation for child-focused initiatives, showing an initial low investment, followed by a substantial increase, a decline, and a partial recovery. These variations suggest inconsistencies in funding, which may affect the effectiveness and sustainability of child welfare programs over time.

4.4.7 Comparative Analysis of CFLG budget allocated per child population of KMC and BM under 15 years.

The figure 4.1 illustrates a comparison between the child friendly local governance budget allocated per child population under 15 years old over a period of five fiscal years, starting from 2076/077 and ending at 2080/081. The X-axis denotes the respective fiscal year whereas, Y-axis denotes the budget allocated per child population. The figure compares the budget allocated between Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality. The data shows how the budget allocation per child has changed over time, indicating differences in financial planning and priorities for children’s welfare in the two areas

Figure 4. 1 Comparative Analysis of CFLG budget allocated per child population of KMC and BM



Source: NPHC, 2021

In the fiscal year 2076/077, the budget allocated per child was quite low in one municipality, standing at only 5.4 NRS, whereas the other municipality had a much higher allocation of 128.77 NRS per child. This suggests that one municipality placed significantly more emphasis on child-friendly programs and services compared to the other, which allocated a very small amount.

In the following year, 2077/078, there was a significant increase in the budget allocation for both municipalities. One municipality's budget allocation rose to 133.4 NRS per child, while the other municipality reached the highest allocation over the five-year period, with 167.17 NRS per child. This indicates a strong focus on child-related initiatives, likely including improvements in education, health, and other essential services.

During the fiscal year 2078/079, the budget per child decreased in both municipalities. One municipality reduced its allocation to 110.03 NRS per child, and the other decreased to 129.28 NRS per child. This decline could suggest a shift in financial priorities or budget constraints that affected spending on child-friendly initiatives.

A major decline in budget allocation is observed in the fiscal year 2079/080. One municipality significantly lowered its budget per child to 23.03 NRS, while the other municipality allocated 158.06 NRS. This sharp drop could indicate financial difficulties, changing priorities, or a focus on other sectors rather than child welfare. The decrease in budget allocation could negatively impact services such as education, health, and protection programs for children.

In the final fiscal year, 2080/081, there was a notable change. One municipality increased its budget per child to 118.43 NRS, showing an effort to improve funding for children's programs after the previous year's decline. On the other hand, the other municipality reduced its budget drastically to 34.11 NRS, the lowest amount recorded in the five-year period. This decline suggests a major reduction in focus on child-friendly initiatives, which may have consequences for children's well-being and access to necessary services.

Overall, the graph shows fluctuations in budget allocation per child over the five-year period. Some years saw significant increases, while others experienced sharp declines. These changes highlight the varying priorities and financial capabilities of the municipalities in addressing children's needs. The data suggests that while efforts were made to invest in child-friendly programs, inconsistent funding may have affected the effectiveness and continuity of these initiatives over time.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

A child-friendly approach ensures that children's voices are heard, their needs are met, and their rights are upheld in various settings, including communities, schools, healthcare facilities, and governance structures. The purpose of this study is to assess the policy relevant to Child Friendly Local Governance in Nepal. The study compares the Child Friendly Local Governance budgetary allocation of Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality for the year 2076 to 2081.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989 was approved by the majority of member states with zero votes against it, after being enacted by the UN General Assembly in 1989. In 1990, the new constitution of Nepal guaranteed fundamental rights for children and in 1991 the country ratified the UN convention on the rights of child. The Nepali government and Development Partners are implementing programs on children's rights, including health, education, protection, and participation. They have also adopted the Millennium Development Goals, National Plan of Action for Children, and programs for CF VDC and DACAW. In 1992, Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), demonstrating its commitment to upholding children's rights. In 1996 The National Children's Act was passed to safeguard children's rights and provide legal protection against child exploitation and abuse. During the year 2000, Nepal introduced the "Master Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor," aiming to combat the prevalence of child labor, especially in hazardous sectors. Similarly, in 2002, Child delegates addressed the UN Special Session on Children, adopting the World Fit for Children agenda to improve children's prospects over the next decade. During the year 2005 The National Plan of Action for Children (2005-2015) was launched to promote education, health, protection, and participation for all children in Nepal. Before 2007 The Interim Constitution of Nepal recognized the right of children to education, health, protection from violence, exploitation, and harmful practices. The United Nations Secretary-General issues the Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2010 and in the year 2011, The Committee on the Rights of the Child has adopted a new Optional

Protocol to facilitate communication and investigation of child rights violations. The Constitution of Nepal 2015 formally recognized child rights under its fundamental rights, emphasizing children's protection, development, participation, and survival. The Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2017 was enforced to strictly regulate child labor and its abolition in specific sectors. The Children's Act, 2018 (Bal Balika Ain) was passed to align with the principles of the UNCRC, addressing issues like child marriage, child labor, and child abuse. The government and UNICEF launched the "Child-friendly Local Governance" initiative to ensure children's voices are integrated into local planning and decision-making processes in 2020. The Sixteenth Plan focuses on eliminating child labor, improving child care systems, and strengthening legal protections, while encouraging children's social responsibility and self-reliance through local government initiatives.

The Child-Friendly Local Governance National Strategy aims to provide uniformity in the approach, implementation, coordination, successes, and outcomes of child-friendly initiatives, building essential policies, institutions, and processes to support and promote a child-friendly local governing system. This plan aims to establish uniformity in the strategy, tactics, coordination, accomplishment, and end results of child-friendly program operation. It also seeks to ensure policy, institutional, and procedural arrangements for the establishment and promotion of a child-friendly local government system in light of the current conditions and needs of children. The vaccination Regulation 2074 and National strategy for Early Childhood Development 2077-2088 also promotes child friendly local governance.

The child protection and child guidelines of Kathmandu Metropolitan City promotes child participation, creative activities, and training in child rights, protection, life skills, adolescent changes, and personality development. Similarly, the Child Protection and guidelines of Bhaktapur Municipality provisioned to establish Child Protection Committee to collect information about children who need special care in different areas and sends this information to the city's main office. They look at what the community needs in terms of child protection and work with local offices and organizations to create plans based on children's rights, then they make and carry out policies to help protect children.

Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality implemented different but approaches for child friendly local governance. Kathmandu focused on long-term changes, such as awareness campaigns, infrastructure development, and community engagement to prevent issues and create lasting impact. It emphasized governance reforms and systemic solutions. On the other hand, Bhaktapur concentrated on providing direct care and services to children, especially vulnerable groups like orphans, with a focus on operational support and welfare services. While Kathmandu worked on prevention and capacity-building, Bhaktapur prioritized immediate, hands-on care. Together, their efforts balanced long-term solutions with immediate support to improve child welfare.

Over the five years period the budget allocation to CFLG in Bhaktapur municipality is fluctuates. In the fiscal year 2077/078, the highest budget allocation i.e. Rs.14930000 is observed, meaning a very large portion of the budget was dedicated to CFLG programs that year, signaling a strong emphasis on child-friendly governance. On the other hand, the lowest allocation i.e. Rs. 3046000 is found in 2080/081. This suggests that, despite the higher CFLG funding, the overall municipal budget grew so much that CFLG's share of the total budget became smaller.

Similarly, in KMC during the fiscal year 2076/077, the CFLG allocation as a proportion of the total budget is quite low at Rs.820000 while allocation jumps significantly to Rs.20275000 in 2077/078, showing a notable increase in the priority given to CFLG initiatives within the municipal budget. The allocation in 2078/079 further declines to 16725000 in 2079/080, before slightly rising again in 2080/081. This indicates that, overall, child-friendly governance received limited proportional focus within the city's budget during the observed period.

Bhaktapur Municipality demonstrates higher percentages of budget allocation for CFLG compared to Kathmandu Metropolitan City, albeit with significant annual fluctuations. The trends reveal that Bhaktapur has placed greater proportional emphasis on CFLG in some years, while Kathmandu shows a consistently lower and more stable approach. This comparative analysis highlights differences in the prioritization of child-friendly governance between the two municipalities, with Bhaktapur exhibiting a more dynamic

but inconsistent commitment and Kathmandu maintaining a more subdued and steady allocation over the years.

The highest budget allocation of KMC per child population is in the year 2077/078 which is NRS 133.40 per child population. In KMC, the budget started low, increased steadily in 2077/078, and then slightly decreased in the next two years. However, in 2080/081, there was a rise in the budget, indicating a significant priority to the child friendly local governance. Similarly, the highest budget allocation of BM per child population under 15 years old is NRS167.20 in the year 2077/078. Bhaktapur municipality demonstrated a more dynamic but inconsistent commitment, while Kathmandu metropolitan city showed gradual improvement but with lower overall allocations.

5.2 Conclusion

The purpose of this study is to assess the policy relevant to Child Friendly Local Governance in Nepal. The study compares the Child Friendly Local Governance budgetary allocation of Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality for the year 2076 to 2081.

Nepal has ratified different international convention that supports in the promotion of child friendly local governance. Nepal has progressively strengthened children's rights since 1990, ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992. Key milestones include the 1996 National Children's Act, the 2000 Child Labor Master Plan, and the 2018 Children's Act. The 2015 Constitution formally recognized child rights, and laws like the 2017 Child Labor Act aimed at protecting children. Recent initiatives focus on eliminating child labor and improving child welfare through local governance and the Sixteenth Plan.

The child protection and child guidelines of Kathmandu Metropolitan City promotes child participation, creative activities, and training in child rights, protection, life skills, adolescent changes, and personality development. Similarly, the Child Protection and guidelines of Bhaktapur Municipality provisioned to establish Child Protection Committee to collect information about children who need special care in different areas and sends this information to the city's main office. They look at what the community needs in terms of child protection and work with local offices and organizations to create plans based on children's rights, then they make and carry out policies to help protect children.

Bhaktapur Municipality demonstrates higher percentages of budget allocation for CFLG compared to Kathmandu Metropolitan City, albeit with significant annual fluctuations. Bhaktapur consistently allocated a higher budget per child compared to Kathmandu, with the highest allocation in 2077/078. However, Bhaktapur's budget showed notable ups and downs, with a sharp decline in 2080/081. In contrast, Kathmandu's budget started very low but increased significantly in 2077/078 before experiencing fluctuations. The year 2079/080 saw the lowest allocation in KMC, highlighting financial challenges or shifting priorities. Overall, Bhaktapur demonstrated a more dynamic but inconsistent commitment, while Kathmandu showed gradual improvement but with lower overall allocations.

5.3 Recommendation

The study focuses on studying the policy relevant to CFLG in Nepal and compared the budgetary allocation for CFLG in Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Bhaktapur Municipality. Based on the summary and conclusion of the study, the recommendations are as follows:

- I. It is recommended to align the plan and policies with the national strategy of Child Friendly Local Governance of Nepal.
- II. It is recommended to allocate consistent budget and to develop the capacity of the employees as well as other stakeholders regarding CFLG in KMC and BM.
- III. The plans and programs should be designed with the consultation of experts to prioritize the needs.
- IV. Future research should focus on comparing other municipalities practices regarding CFLG.

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