

# CHAPTER- I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General Background

Nepal is one of the landlocked countries which lie between two giant countries China and India. According to 2001 census, total population of Nepal is 23.1 million with the high growth rate of 2.25 percent per year. The children population in the age group 0-14 is 8,948,587 which is 39% of the country's total population. About 27.3 percent male and 30.4 percent female children aged 10-14 years were economically active in 2001(CBS, 2003).

The country had a population of 23.15 million in 2001, a significant proportion of which is very young. About 26 percent is below 10 years of age, while 13 percent is between 10 and 14 years. People between 5 and 27 years of age make up of 33.6 percent of the population and 6.5 percent are above 60 years. Nepal is at an early phase of demographic transition. A large proportion of the population is young, marries early, and has a high fertility rate, which in turn implies a continued high rate of population growth with increasing workers and labour force for some time in the future. The labour force grew at 3.5 percent per annum between 1981 and 1991 and at a rate of 3.7 percent for the period 1991 to 2001. As a result, the size of the total workforce 10 years above increased by 45 percentage points between 1991 and 2001. The annual rate of increase in the female labour force in the same period was 4.5 percent, while for the male labour force; it was 3.1 percent (ILO, 2006).

Nepal has been experiencing a gradual shift in structural distribution of the labour force over the years. The percentage of the total labourers employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing decreased from 91 to 81 percent between 1981 and 1991 and declined further to 66 percent between 1991 and 2001. Trade and commerce, personal and community services, manufacturing, industry and mining construction, transport and communication have absorbed workers moving out of the agricultural sector. In the absence of effective monitoring and implementation mechanisms in the existing system, all these sectors with

high potential to absorb the growing labour force will tend to employ high numbers of child labour. Many studies have also shown that small-scale industries unorganised sectors are employing a substantial number of children (ILO, 2006).

Child work in general and child labour in particular in Nepal is not uncommon. An estimated 42 percent of the total population from five to fourteen years are working, representing some 2.6 million children, out of 6.2 million in the same age group. Agriculture is the largest sector that absorbs working children, estimated at 97 percent. Children in this sector collect fodder and firewood, care for animals, weed, plant and harvest as unpaid family workers. Female children are more involved in these agricultural tasks and domestic work such as looking after siblings, fetching water, preparing meal and other related works. Children especially in urban areas, also work as domestic servants; in hotels / restaurants; in manufacturing industries such as carpet factories, spinning mills, brick kilns and stone quarries; and in trade. These children are directly paid and earn some money, unlike those who work in the agricultural sector (ILO, 2006).

Children are an integral part of the society and inspiration that grow with love, care and understanding. So, we must understand that a child, who is innocent, vulnerable, dependent and voiceless, needs the proper support of adult care. If they are not looked after with love and compassion overall childhood development will be hampered and their future will lead toward uncertainty.

Childhood may be defined in terms of age but different societies have different age thresholds for demarcating childhood and adulthood. The concept of child may differ in different societies and at different times.

Labour Act (1992) defines a child as a person who has not attained the age of 14 years, and a mirror as a person who has attained the age of 14 years but has not completed 18 years. Children Act (1992) defines a child below the age of 16 years.

“Childhood is more than just the time before a person is considered an adult. Meaning much than just the space between birth and attainment of adulthood, childhood refers to

the state and condition of a child's life: to the quality of those years. A child who has been kidnapped by a paramilitary group and compelled to bear arms or forced into sexual slavery cannot have a childhood, nor did a child put to hard labour in a garment workshop in the capital city, far from family and home village. Children living in abject poverty without adequate food, access to education, safe water, sanitation facilities and shelter are also denied their childhood" (UNICEF, 2005).

One clear line of thinking states that childhood should be reserved for study and play and perhaps light chores in the home. Children's participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as being something positive. This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays.

The term 'child labour' is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. (ILO)

The first foremost, widely accepted definition of child labour is the Article 32 of the CRC. The article states that "the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, normal or social development"

The ILO defines child labour as "All economic activities carried out by persons less than 15, regardless of their occupational status except household work in parents/cares home."

The problem of child labour as faced by the developing economies today, has indeed taken on serious dimensions. The exploitative socio-economic structures resulting in the marginalization of the poor have left them with no option but to adopt child labour as a survival strategy.

CWIN, ILO, MOH, UNICEF, Geneva 2006, have published the facts in 2007, those 191 million children aged 5-14 were involved in child labour in the world. Similarly 73 million children aged 10-14 were involved in child labour. About 74 million children aged 5-14 were involved in harmful hazardous form of child labour.

Poverty is the main cause of child labour around developing countries. In Nepal, more than 81 percent of the population depend on subsistence traditional agriculture. More than 90 percent of the population live in rural areas and over 45 percent below the poverty line. Children are found working as an integral part of the family farming workforce in the agriculture economy of Nepal. They also constitute a large part of family labour force in commercial forms. They are engaged as labour either in the formal or informal sectors.

Presently, there are five sectors identified by various studies as absorbing the major portion of child labour involvement within the last decade: agriculture, manufacturing/industry, service, trade and construction.

Domestic service remains one of the most common forms of child labour. In many countries, the use of children as a domestic servant is regarded as socially acceptable traditional practice child domestic servants typically perform household services and chores for their employers in exchange for pay and or room and board. They run errands, shop, provide child care, fetch water, clean do laundry, cook and perform other household chores. Child domestic servants are frequently expected to work at all hours of the day with few days off (U.S., 1998).

Child domestic labour refers to situations where children are engaged to perform domestic tasks in the home of a third party or employer that are exploitative where such exploitation is extreme and includes aspects of the defined worst forms of child labour (trafficking, slavery/slavery like practices, hazardous work), then it constitutes a worst form of child domestic labour.

Child domestic labour is internationally defined as children working in an employer's house with or without wages. The child domestic labour may be considered as a 'helping hand' in the household, or may be solely responsible for the various activities.

In Nepal, the common reason for the prevalence of child domestic labour is said to be widespread poverty, and the desire of parents to provide better exposure and a good education for their children. Most do not regard the employment of children as domestic workers as hazardous or exploitative work. In fact, several argue that the children are better off compared to the lifestyle they would be exposed to at home. However, a case-by-case examination shows that though some child domestic labour may have relatively good treatment and lifestyles, others are living and working in the most intolerable conditions.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Childhood is the formative stage of human life. The development of the country depends upon the development of children. Child labour is the mark of disgrace for a society. The world of tomorrow will be a happy and comfortable place for mom to live in only if the child population of today is endowed with good health both mentally and physically. Instead of improvement in the situation, the present condition of Nepalese children is far from satisfactory. Many children are forced to work in different and hazardous conditions simply to sustain their own lives and that of their family. Available studies suggest that the situation of children is getting much worse than even before. The majority of child population is living/leading a dreadful and fearful life under the roof of uncertainty and poverty.

The issue of domestic child labour is an issue of invisible work force. Each child is separately employed and works in the seclusion of private house, unlike children in a factory or on the street. They do not exist as a group and are difficult to reach and to count. As demands for such workers are growing in urban area, their supply is also becoming more organized. This is emerging as a major social problem. Domestic child labour is one of the most exploited forms of child labour because the practice in many cases is close to that of the practice of slavery.

The use of domestic child labour is common in Nepal. Especially in its affluent urban areas specific information on the incidence of domestic child labourers in urban and rural settings is lacking, though it is suspected that at least half of domestic child labourers may be working in urban centres in Nepal. Indeed there is a general lack of data and information to allow for a through analysis of the incidence and nature of domestic child labourers at both national and local levels.

Jhapa district is also a place, where the phenomenon of child labour is increasing day by day. Domestic child labour, a most common form of child labour, not only makes its phenomenon wider than even before in urban areas, but also in rural areas.

Budhabare is also one of the Village Development Committee (VDC) of Jhapa district which has no experience of study of domestic child labour yet. It is necessary to understand the real situation of them. Even, there are no official records, proofs and statistical data of the child workers and child domestic servants available so far in the VDC. Thus, it has become a bitter reality in this present modern age largely influenced by sophisticated and advanced technology.

The present study is designed to seek answers to the following research questions:

- What types of problem do domestic child labourers face in rural households?
- Why children are working in rural household?
- What about their socio-economic status?
- What is the root cause which compels them to work as a domestic labourer?

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

The general objective of this study is to find out the facts and realities of the conditions of the domestic child labours of Budhabare VDC.

The specific objectives of this study are presented as:

- To assess the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the domestic child labourers.

- To find out the root causes which compel them to be domestic child labourers?
- To find out the type of works, the most domestic child labourers perform.
- To find out the working condition of domestic child labourers.
- To find out the problems, facing by domestic child labourers.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The use of domestic child labourers is common in Nepal. In this modern era, every person should realise that children are an integral part of every society and no society can even imagine its existence in the absence of the children. But how the child workers can make their future bright, since they have no time to study and the working environment is not good for their health. How they become a bed-rock of the national building movement in such conditions? Therefore, there is a need to understand the problems of child workers.

This study helps to find out the situation and status of domestic child labourer in Budhabare VDC of Jhapa district. The study is significant in different ways being first study of domestic child labourers in the VDC, to search the remedies of problem facing by domestic child labour for planners and policy makers of non-government organizations, international non-government organizations and government organizations as well as civil societies. It can also help the national and international personalities who are interested to know about the condition of children in Nepal. Moreover, it can also be the basis for the further researchers.

#### **1.5 Limitations of the Study**

Since this study is confined to domestic child labourers of Budhabare VDC, the result may not be generalized for all types of child labourers and for domestic child labourers of other areas, and cannot be generalized at national level.

The sample size is only domestic child labour, selected from a particular VDC of Jhapa district. (I.e. Budhabare VDC), using purposive sampling. Thus, result may not cover all domestic child labourers of study areas.

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

This study is organized into eight chapters. Chapter one presents the introduction part of the study. Chapter two presents the review of literature on domestic child labour and its causes and consequences. Chapter three demonstrates the methods and materials which have been applied for this study. Chapter four examines the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the domestic child labourers and their parents. Likewise, chapter five describes about the types of work and working environment of the domestic child labourers. Similarly chapter six describes about education, health and other personal matters of the children. Chapter seven explains about the working relationship between employers and children and about the aspirations of children. Chapter eight consists of summary and conclusion of the research.

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The issue of child labour had been neglected issue for a long time. Internal approach to children has now changed dramatically. Issues pertaining to the rights of the child have received more attention than ever before from both the government as non-governmental sectors following the restoration of multi party democracy. In this chapter, the relevant literatures pertaining to child labour and domestic child labourers are reviewed (CWA, 2004).

The world has long history of child labour. Some developed countries have reduced the child labour problem to a considerable extent but the problem of child labour as faced by the developing countries today has serious dimension. Since the beginning of the 1990's, the problem of child labour has received increased attention. Every child has an inherent right to basic human needs, such as education, health care protection, love and respect. The societal commitment is thus a must for the child's overall social, physical and emotional development as well as promotion and protection of the coming new generation (CWA, 2004).

Child domestic workers are a familiar sight throughout South Asia. Many of these children being to work as early as at five years of age. Most child domestic workers are girls, as they are seen to be better suited to carry out household chores. Some of these children can earn a decent income if they find a kind and caring family who may even educate them or help them get married. The less fortunate, get no pay and live a life of hardship and misery. They are often locked inside the house, scolded, beaten and abused (CWA, 2006).

Almost half of South Asia's 1.4 billion population fall under the poverty line, earning less than \$ 1 a day. 70 percent of this population is rural poor. In situation of extreme poverty it is common for children to be sent to work at a very early age to help supplement the family's meager income. Work done by children becomes child labour when it is their

primary occupation, denying them education and affecting their overall development. Such work can be exploitative and abusive and can ruin the child's prospects for a better future (UNICEF, 2005).

The discussion over the definition of child labour and child work is long running and is the cause of much confusion amongst those working in this field. The definition in the Encyclopedia of social science is as follows:

“When the business of wage earning or of participation in self or family support conflicts directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education the result is child labour. The function of work in childhood is primarily developmental and not economic. Children’s work then as a social good is the direct antithesis of child labour as social evil.”

These definitions are based on western concepts of childhood. Another problem with this quote is how and by whom is the boundary between work and labour defined? For child work can easily become child labour, and child labour can become child work (UNICEF, 2003).

Child work has existed throughout history and in all parts of the world. Children working for household chores are common phenomenon not just in the less developed countries. It is considered a process of socialization and learning experience for the child and therefore not bad. Child labour; however can be defend by differentiating it from child work as being exploitative and detrimental to the child's growing process, depriving the child of the rights to mental, moral and physical developments, and hid protection, participation and survival in the society. Various socio-economic causes like poverty, traditional agrarian based economic and feudal history of societies are some of the roots of the problem. Child labour gets a new form due to urbanization and industrialization resulting in migration of adults and children alike in search of" better life". And most of the time children end up working in exploitative and in-human conditions (UNICEF, 2005).

The ILO's recently published report says that more than half of the world's 250 million children working in difficult circumstances live in south Asia. Europe banned and removed child labour after the end of industries Revolution in 1930 and other developed countries followed the suit. However, it is still a social menace in the third world countries, and Nepal is no exception. Moreover, Nepal is still at the initial phase of industrially been accepted by Nepalese society as a normal practices. An estimate by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) puts the population of children under the age of 14 years to be 43.07% or about 9.10 million as of June 1996. CWIN, an NGO working for child labour claims that there are 5.7 million children who are either directly or indirectly employed as child laborers in Nepal (UNICEF, 2005).

About 80% of Nepal's population depend on agricultural but its contribution to the GDP is only about 40% leaving over 50% of the population under poverty line. This fact naturally makes agriculture the largest sector employing child labour. Rural village of the country with agrarian economy treats children as "assets" and they are devoid of their basic rights including proper education. Besides agriculture, it is believed that carpet industry is probably the largest employer of child labour in Nepal (UNICEF, 2005).

Yet million of children all over south Asia are being harmed every day. An estimated 43 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are working in the region. Many of them are exploited by harsh forms of child labour. South Asia has described as "the most gender insensitive region in the world" (Mahbub-ul-haq), where girls are generally valued less than boys and more vulnerable to discrimination treatment. Girls are considered by too many to be highly disposable, temporary members of the family. Most of their work is invisible. Domestic labour is one such invisible but widespread occupation for children in the region. Children from poorer rural areas act as a reservoir for the informal urban labour market, which is growing rapidly as a result of urbanization, stagnation in agricultural growth and decreasing employment opportunities in the formal sector. This has resulted in increasing number of children, especially girls, becoming engaged in domestic work. An estimated five million children, work as child

domestic in the region, over 80 percent of them are girls. These children are often at great risk of abusive working and living conditions (UNICEF, 2005).

As the domestic traditional joint family system among middle class families is breaking down, more women are joining the formal labour force and nuclear families are losing their support networks. Without extended families to assist in children and housekeeping, families face the need to employ household help. Child domestic workers are paid less than adults are unaware of and unable to demand their human and legal rights. They are seen to be easier to "mould" to suit the need and preferences of the employer. All these factors combine to fuel the demand workers (UNICEF, 2005).

South Asia is predominantly patriarchal and has been called the most gender insensitive region in the world. Female infanticide, neglect, high maternal mortality and lower access to health care and food make it the only region where there are fewer women than men. Girls are seen as temporary members of the family and are not valued enough to warrant serious investment. Fewer girls are sent to school in South Asia and even fewer stay on to complete school (UNICEF, 2005).

## **2.1 Theoretical Analysis**

### **2.1.1 Child Labour and Child Work**

Children are engaged in wide variety of works. The conditions and nature of their work vary from occupations where children are able to develop responsibility and skills, and combine work with schooling, to conditions of extreme hazards and exploitation. The extent to which work is harmful or beneficial to children depends on number of factors. A distinction is therefore, necessary to be made between 'child labour' and 'child work'. The former is defined as 'work for wages' and carries the implication of being detrimental to the growth and development of children, whereas the latter is thought to be as 'work in the context of the household' and is positively evaluated (Poudyal, 1995).

Distinction between the child work and child labour

<b>Child Work</b>	<b>Child Labour</b>
➤ Supervised by responsible and caring adults	➤ Child works unsupervised or supervised by abusive adults
➤ work is appropriate to child's age, physical and mental capabilities	➤ Work burdens the child; too heavy for child's age and capabilities
➤ Limited hours of work, does not hinder the child from going to school, playing or resting	➤ Very long hours of work, child has limited or no time for school, play or rest
➤ Workplace is kept safe and child friendly, does not pose hazards to health and life of the child	➤ Workplace poses hazards to child's health and life
➤ Child's physical, emotional and mental wellbeing nourished even in work environment	➤ Child is subjected to psychological, verbal or physical /sexual abuse
➤ Child works voluntarily to participate in the family responsibility of maintaining the household, developing the family enterprise, augment family income	➤ Child is forced by circumstances or by coercive individual to work.
➤ Child is justly compensated materially and psychologically	➤ Limited or no positive rewards for the child.
➤ Child's work is regulated by law or governed by family/community norms and values	➤ Child's work is excluded from legislation, social security and benefits.
➤ Child's work as vehicle for social advancement and improvement in child's quality of life.	➤ Binds the child to poverty and misery.
➤ Child's work is utilized for purposes that are human and legal.	➤ Child's work is utilized for exploitative, subversive or clandestine operations, or disguised illegal activities

*Source: Child Workers in Asia and Save the Children (UK), 1997*

The distinction between 'child labour' and 'child work' largely depends on the conditions under which children work rather than the type of work they do. The key to distinguish

between child work and child labour and what is acceptable and intolerable work is primarily based on the issue of exploitation (CWA 1997).

## **2.2 Approaches in defining Child Labour**

There is no universally accepted definition of child labour. Researchers, program planners and implementers define it subjectively as follows:

### **2.2.1 Economic Activity Approach**

This approach views if children's work produces economic goods and services at own home or outside either as paid workers or unpaid family help. CBS 2004 reported 32% child labour based on only economic activity of both schooling and working and working only children without considering the extent of hazard involved in harmful work. (SCJ, 2006).

### **2.2.2 Hazardous / Worst forms Approach**

ILO has adopted convention-182 in 1999, in order to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

Hazardous works as per recommendation 190 of ILO's convention No. 182 :

- a) Work which exposes children to physical, psychological, or sexual abuse.
- b) Work underground, underwater, at dangerous heights and in confined spaces,
- c) Work with dangerous machinery, equipment, and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
- d) Work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health : and
- e) Work under particular difficult conditions including long hours, night work, or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer. (ILO / IPEC, 2004)

### **2.2.3 Minimum Age Approach**

In 1973, ILO adopted convention 138 to sanction minimum age of workers to be applicable to governments, employer enterprises, trade unions and organized establishments contentions of this approach in defining child labour are: .(SCJ 2006).

#### **Minimum Age for General Works:**

If a child under 15 years of age in general and less than 14 years of age in developing countries where education facilities are not developed and available, undertakes any type of general work, it is termed as child labour. It does not specify the nature of works such as economic or non-economic and the type of work such as beneficial or harmful to children's development (SCJ, 2006).

#### **Minimum Age for Light Works:**

Children less than 13 years of age in general and less than 12 years of age in developing countries are considered to be child labourers if they even the light work without distinction between economic or non-economic and whether the light work was associated with beneficial or harmful work (SCJ, 2006).

#### **Minimum Age for Hazardous Work:**

If the children less than 18 years of age in all countries work in hazardous condition independently or the children less than 16 years under certain strict conditions, they are labeled as child labourers (SCJ, 2006).

### **Worst Forms of Child Labour as per the convention 182**

According to article 3 of the convention 182 (WFCL) is defined as:

- a) All forms of slavery or practice similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt, bondage, and serfdom, as well as forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- b) The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production pornography, or for pornographic performances;

- c) The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in relevant international treaties; and
- d) Work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children, such harmful work to be determined by national authorities (ILO/IPEC, 2004).

#### **2.2.4 Harmful Work Approach**

Harmful work is defined on the basis of Article 32 of UNCRC, which states that children are to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with children's education and is harmful to the children physically, mentally, spiritually, morally and socially (UNICEF, 1991). The harmful work is taken to deprive children of their childhood, potential and dignity. This approach prescribes children to work / participate in non-harmful works (ILO/IPEC, 2004). If children participate in non-harmful nature of works that would rather facilitate in fulfilling their basic rights (SCA, 2003). This approach calls for protecting boys and girls against harmful work. This is in line with Article 32 of CRC. This approach classifies children works into three on which to decide to abolish or promote. (SCJ 2006).

#### **Work requiring urgent removal of Working Children:**

As per ILO's convention 182, all worst forms of child labour in which the harm of work to the child is extreme and where rights violations are impossible to prevent.

#### **Work requiring improvement in Working Condition:**

Work where rights are violated, but where it is possible to prevent violations through improvement in working conditions or assisting children to find out better alternatives.

#### **Work need to be Encouraged:**

Work where rights are not violated and may contribute to the fulfillment of rights (SCJ, 2006).

This approach embraces no blanket ban on children's work. The harmful work concept includes exploitative and harmful work of children and child work simply may be non-exploitative light works. This approach may be more realistic to highlight the level of harm associated with children's work and may also provide concession to working children in rural informal sectors where home based work activities are predominant.

### **2.2.5 Approach to See All out of School Children 'Child Labour'**

This approach defines child labour from the perspective of right of the child and views that every child has the right of full time education. The argument of this approach is that the wage of working children contributes very little to family income, whereas the cost of children missing out on education is much greater for both individuals and families at the local, regional national levels (Stop Child Labour, 2004). A consensus about the norm that every child should be in school and out rage is expected at the existence of child labor . (SCJ 2006).

#### **Basic principles of this movement in defining child labour are:**

- a) All children must attend formal full time day school,
- b) Any child out of school is considered as child labour,
- c) All work/labour is hazardous and harms the overall growth and development of the child.
- d) There must be total abolition of child labour, and
- e) Any justification perpetuating the existence of child labour must be condemned on the whole this approach seems to be in favour of blanket ban of child work/labour, which might not be applicable in a subsistence rural economy where children are expected to help their parents after the school hour. .(SCJ 2006).

### **2.2.6 Approached to elimination of Child Labour**

Approaches to eliminate child labour come from the ratification of UNCRC, ILO convention 138 and 182. In order to eliminate poverty and child labour through economic development process, development professionals and organizations view that only the legislative provisions can not prevent child labour, if it offers poor parents the only safe

route to survival, unless alternative routes are offered and financed (Lipton, 1994). Therefore, for this approach reducing poverty through economic development is an essential element of effective strategies to attack child labour. First, labour market exhibiting higher adult wage rate will have higher incidence of child labour. Second, the incidence of child labour is much more prevalent in poor households. As the household income increases incidence of child labour also decreases. Finally, marginal utility of per worker's income is likely to be much higher in low income households so they desire child participation.

Formation of universal social capital through the means of universal education is seen as an instrumental approach to combating child labour. Therefore, any program to eliminate child labour must give highest priority to universal and compulsory education for working children as well as for all children who are at the risk of being child labourers. Such education, however, must be free in a poor country like Nepal where poor families just cannot afford to send their children to schools irrespective of quality and mandate leading child right organization including GOs, NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies have placed education as the major instrument to combat child labour (SCJ 2006).

### **2.3 Domestic Child Labour**

Domestic Child Labour is defined internationally as children working in an employer's house with or without wages. Domestic child workers are basically employed to perform domestic chores such as washing dishes cooking, cleaning the house looking after young children and any other household related activities. The DCL may be considered a 'helping hand' in the household, or may be solely responsible for the various activities (ILO 2006).

Child domestic work is a child labour issue because it involves economic exploitation and hazardous working conditions. Child domestic work is a child's right issue. It violates most children's rights. The nature and condition of the work itself is unfavourable for child development (UNICEF, 2003).

Use of domestic workers' help in household chores and other work inside and outside home is a common practice in Nepal. With the growing urbanization, commercialization of the society and life and both (husband and wife) involvement in the work for maximum earning has demanded the help of domestic workers. In spite of international commitment, national laws and regulations that can be indirectly channelled for the protection and promotion of domestic workers' rights. Nepal is still unable to provide legal and social protection for adult domestic workers and to have practice al ban of employing children in this sector (CWISH, 2009).

Domestic Child Labourers remain invisible, unreachable and among the most difficult child workers to protect with the exception of child agricultural workers they are believed to be the most numerous child labourers. Domestic work is an old profession, not only for adults but increasing for young girls, while societies change the names used to describe them from generation to generation. Although household technologies have changed, their situation remains essentially the same; they are the modern slaves of our globalizing world (UNICEF, 2005).

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Ignorance of, or disregard for the risks children might be exposed to in this kind of work is an alarming reality in many parts of the world. It is also one of the reasons for the widespread institutional reluctance to address the issue with specific policies and laws and why the issue has only recently come to the forefront of the international debate as potentially one of the most widespread “worst forms of child labour” (UNICEF, 2005).

Given its hidden nature, it is impossible to have reliable figures on how many children are globally exploited as domestic workers. According to the ILO, though, more girl-children under 16 are in domestic service than in any other category of child labour.

Available statistics mostly based on local research and surveys, and certainly only the tip of the iceberg, provide for an alarming indication of the extent of the phenomenon worldwide. Recent IPEC rapid assessments conducted in Asia, Africa and Latin America confirm the overwhelming extent and gravity of this problem (CWA, 2004).

According to recent reports, for example, some 175,000 children under 18 are employed in domestic service in Central America, more than 688,000 in Indonesia alone, 53,942 under-15 in South Africa and 38,000 children between 5 and 7 in Guatemala (CWA, 2004).

The root causes of child domestic labour are multiple and multi-faceted. Poverty and its feminization, social exclusion, lack of education, gender and ethnic discrimination, domestic violence, displacement, rural-urban migration and loss of parents due to conflicts and diseases, are just some of the multiple “push factors” for child domestic workers worldwide. Increasing social and economic disparities, debt bondage, the perception that the employer is simply an extended “family” and protected environment for the child, the increasing need for the women of the household to have a “replacement” at home that will enable more and more of them to enter the labour market, and the illusion that domestic service gives the child worker an opportunity for education, are some of its “pull factors” (CWA, 2004).

The hazards linked to this practice are a matter of serious concern. The ILO has identified a number of hazards to which domestic workers are particularly vulnerable and the reason it may be considered to be one of the worst forms of child labour. Some of the most common risks children faces in domestic service are:

- long and tiring working days;
- use of toxic chemicals;
- carrying heavy loads;
- handling dangerous items, such as knives, axes and hot pans;
- insufficient or inadequate food and accommodation, and

- humiliating or degrading treatment, including physical and verbal violence, and sexual abuse.

These hazards need to be seen in association with the denial of fundamental rights of the children such as, for example, access to education and health care, the right to rest, leisure, play and recreation and the right to be cared for and to have regular contact with their parents and peers (UNCRC). These factors can have an irreversible physical, psychological and moral impact on the development, health and well-being of the child (UNICEF, 2005).

Given the complexity of its root causes and impact, any effort to adequately and efficiently address child domestic labour must therefore be of a multidisciplinary, multi-faceted and integrated nature, and linked to the broader context of poverty reduction, elimination and prevention of the worst forms of child labour and promotion and enforcement of fundamental labour and human rights (UNICEF, 2005).

### **2.3.1 Domestic Child Labour as a worst form of child labour**

As per Article 3 of ILO convention No. 182, WFCL include:

- Slavery or practices similar to slavery including debt bondage, sale of children serfdom, and forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflicts.
- The use, procuring, or offering of a child for prostitution or for pornography.
- The use of children for illicit activities - particularly within the drug trade.
- Work that is likely to endanger the health, safety, or morals of children.

The accompanying recommendation (No. 190) draws attention to such cases where children are exposed to:

- Physical, psychological or sexual abuse
- Work underground, under water, at dangerous heights, or in confined spaces
- Work with dangerous machinery equipment and tools
- Manual handling or transport of heavy loads.

- An unhealthy environment exposing workers to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or temperatures, noise levels or vibrations damaging to health.
- Work under difficult circumstances, including long hours or during the night
- Unreasonable confinement to the employer's premises (ILO, 2006)
- Domestic child labourers are also exposed to hazardous work. Some are victims of emotional deprivation psychological violence and physical abuse. Many studies have shown that such type of child labourers feel very lonely; they are immobile and living in confinement, without seeing their family and friends for years (ILO, 2006)

According to the spirit of the UN convention on the rights of the child as well as to ILO convention Nos. 29, 138 and 182 the worst form of DCL employment is said to exist if:

- the child is sold
- is bonded
- works without pay,
- works excessive hours,
- work in isolation or during the night
- is abused
- is at risk of physical violence or sexual harassment and
- is exposed to grave safety or health hazards
- works at a very young age (UNICEF, 2005)

Although there is a general belief that domestic child labour provides disadvantaged children with a relatively safe, comfortable option out of poverty or other forms of child labour, many of the study's findings point to this occupation as a worst form of child labour (CWA, 2004).

In developing countries, domestic child service is a widespread practice. Employers in urban area recruit children from rural village through family, friends and contacts. Domestic child workers especially come from extremely poor families, abandoned and orphaned or come from single parent families (CWIN, 1995).

Millions of children work to help their families in ways that are neither harmful nor exploitative. But one in six children 5 to 14 years old, about 16 per cent of all children in this age group, is involved in child labour in developing countries. In the least developed countries, 30 per cent of all children are engaged in child labour. These children are put to work in ways that drain childhood of joy and crush the right to normal physical and mental development, and often interfere with children's education (CWA, 2004).

### **2.3.2 Bonded Child Labour as Domestic Child Labour**

Bonded Child Labour is also a form of child labour exploitation. A child working against a debt taken by himself / herself or his / her family members or guardians, and / or working against any social obligation with or without his / her consent under conditions that restrain his / her vulnerable to physical and other forms of abuse and deprive him / her of his / her rights (CWA, 2007).

In present time, bonded labour, popularly known as "Kamaiya" in Nepal while not large in scale, exists in different forms. In some instances, children from rural areas are assigned to work in urban household. Exploitation of the children and woman of the Kamaiya family by the master is common. One of the main reasons for employ in Kamaiya family by the master is to acquire full access to the labour of the Kamaiya's wife. If the Kamaiya does not have a wife or a sister, mother or a brother's wives are eligible substitutes. She is usually assigned to domestic work at the master's house for which she does not receive any wage. Children of a Kamaiya are also used by the master in domestic work (ILO IPEC, 2001).

## **2.4 Empirical Analysis**

### **2.4.1 The Global Scenario**

Parents may want children to work is as part of a survival strategy to minimize the risk of interruption of the income stream (which may be caused by failed harvests or loss of employment, for example). Interruption in the income stream is naturally severe for poor households, as this can threaten the lives of their members. Thus for poor households, child labour seems rational behaviour, since it increases the variety of their income

sources. This implies the usefulness of policies and programmes which provide households with insurance against income fluctuations in other ways (CWA, 2004).

Around 70 percent of child workers carry out unpaid work for their families. The majority of these economically active children are found in the developing countries. The magnitude of the problem is more severe in South Asia. South Asia is the habitat for half of the world's child labour population (UK, 1997).

Anti-Slavery International has estimated that one million children are engaged in India's stone quarries. Around the world 126 million children are engaged in hazardous work, such as mining or handling chemicals, which is described as the "worst forms of child labour."

Around 1 in 3 children aged 5–14 in Africa labours, compared to only 1 in 20 in CEE/CIS region. Children living in the poorest households and in rural areas are most likely to be involved in child labour. Boys are more likely to be engaged in child labour than girls because the former are more likely to be engaged in economic activity. Those burdened with household chores are overwhelmingly girls (UNICEF, 2005).

It would cost \$760 billion over a 20-year period to end child labor. The estimated benefit in terms of better education and health is about six times that—over \$4 trillion in economies where child laborers are found (ILO, 2003).

Some children are forced to work up to 18 hours a day, often never leaving the confines of the factory or loom shed (ILO, 2003). Of the estimated 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 who are economically active, in absolute terms, it is Asia (excluding Japan) that has the most (approximately 61%) child workers and one-fifth of 1% in Oceania, excluding Australia and New Zealand. The economic activity participation rate of children, in Asia is about one in five children or 21% and one in ten (10%) in Oceania (ILO - IPEC, April 1998).

Child domestic work is one of the oldest forms of child labour and still widespread in Asia. Despite the absence of comprehensive national data, estimates indicate 1.2 million in Bangladesh, 1.5 million in Indonesia, 1 million in The Philippines, 62,000 in Nepal and at least 100,000 in Sri Lanka. The myth that this is a safe form of work in which children are cared for in households and able to attend school supports the practice; yet many child domestic workers are victims of physical, verbal and sexual abuse (CWA, 2004).

There are 218 million children working illegally in the eyes of international treaties. Child labour is defined as all economic activity for children under 12 years, any work for those aged 12-14 of sufficient hours per week to undermine their health or education, and all "hazardous work" which could threaten the health of children under 18. Almost all child labour occurs in developing countries, largely in agriculture but also including domestic service, factory production and backstreet workshops. Over 25% of children in sub-Saharan Africa and 18% in Asia remain trapped within the cycle of poverty of which child labour is part (OneWorld.net, 2009).

ILO has estimated that there are 250 million child workers in developing countries. Domestic work is the largest employment category for girls under the age of 16.

According to Government and UN estimate, there are 43 million working children in South Asia. While it is difficult to count child domestic workers, as most of them are dispersed, hidden and invisible, it is estimated that about five million children are working as domestic in the region, predominantly in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal (UNICEF, 2005).

#### **2.4.2 The Nepalese Context**

Child labour remains a major economic and social phenomenon in Nepal. According to the National Child Labour Survey undertaken in 1997, the number of children between 5 to 14 years of age was 6,225,000.

Based on several studies conducted under the IPEC time-bound Programme (TBP), they were able to categorize child laborers as (a) 'working Children': 2,596,000; (b) 'Economically Active Children': 1,660,000; (c) 'Waged Child Labour': 279,000; and (d) 'Worst Form of Child Labour': 1,127,000 children- as bonded laborers, rag pickers, porters, domestic workers, in mines, in the carpet sector, and being trafficked. Many of these children do not go to schools (14.54 per cent of the boys and 25.96 per cent of the girls); the large part (99.7 per cent, 1.576 million) of the economically active children are engaged in the agriculture sector, mostly as unpaid family workers and partly as forced labour attached to their parents under debt bondage or similar other exploitative labour.

Besides agriculture, working children are mainly involved in the service sector (27,000) and communications and transportation sector (26,000).

Factors that generate child labour in Nepal can be summarized as follows:

- Legal provision on safeguarding child rights and preventing child labour are inadequate in enforcement and children continue to be hired as child laborers. In rural areas, children work mostly in the agricultural sector, while in urban areas, they can be found in almost all kinds of work requiring manual labour;
- Illiteracy of the parents, lack of access to as well as low perceived value of education, particular in rural areas, to send their children to work; In rural areas, many families prefer to send their children to urban areas out of fear of them being caught in the cross-fire, or becoming a victim of the security forces or Maoists. As a result, these children enter the child labour market and very often end up in the worst forms of child labour. (UNICEF, 2005)

Domestic labour is mainly an urban phenomenon in Nepal and hiring a live-in domestic worker to undertake domestic household chores and care work is apart and parcel of local traditions. Employing a domestic worker is not only regarded as socially acceptable, but as a status symbol among growing middle and upper class of affluent urban areas, who form the majority of employers. It is estimated that there about 150,000 people working as domestic labourers in Nepal (CWISH, 2009).

Domestic labour however is undervalued and poorly regulated and many domestic workers are denied adequate monetary compensation and working conditions. Furthermore, domestic workers are particularly vulnerable to various forms mistreatment, abuse and violence due to invisibility of their work (CWISH, 2009).

In addition, in Nepal, like in many other developing countries, domestic labour is largely performed by child labourers. It is estimated that about 70 percent of all domestic workers in Nepal are under 17 years old. Poverty, rapid growth of the population, political instability, urban homelessness, debt-bondage and weaknesses in education system are prevailing challenges in Nepal and encourage the supply of child labour. However, for economic and even social reasons, society and even many parents of children in domestic labour turned a blind eye to the exploitative and servitude - like circumstances of child domestic labour (CWISH, 2009).

An article entitled “Poverty, Literacy and Child Labour in Nepal : A District Level Analysis” was prepared by Shyam Thapa, Devendra Chhetri and Ram H. Aryal, states that in agricultural based societies child labour begins as early as 5-6 years of age, at about the same age when children are expected to enter primary school (Kang Argi, 1991). An in-depth, time-budget allocation study in Indonesian and Nepalese villages has found that the average time inputs of 12-14 years old girls in all types of work is almost the same as that of adult males (Nag and Others, 1978). This article focuses on child Labour in Nepal with two main objectives. One is to estimate the prevalence of child labour in the 75 districts of Nepal and another is to examine the hypothesis that child labour is significantly higher in districts that have a higher incidence of poverty and lower level of educational attainment. The major findings of the study were as of 1991, there were over 2.3 million male and female children aged 10-14 in Nepal. Of these, 422,286 worked at least six months in the year proceeding the census time. This represents nearly one-fifth (18%) of all the children 10-14 years old in 1981. (Those who worked fewer than six months consisted of an additional 4.6%). There is a wide variation in the prevalence of child labour in the 75 districts, and further, the differences between male and female children are striking.

CWIN National Resource Centre on Rights of Child published an article in July 2008 and states that there are 2.6 million child labourers in Nepal. The population of below 16 year's children accommodates 40.93 percent of total population. Children have contributed 6 percent of Nepal's total domestic production.

In Asia the numbers range from Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, alone, an estimated 700,000 domestic workers are under age to Nepal where, some 62,000 urban domestics are under age 14 (UNICEF, 1999).

### 2.5 Major Areas of Child Labour

Despite its legal prohibition, child labour exists everywhere in our country. No area of the labour market is completely free of child labour exploitation. It exists one way or another. Several CWIN research and survey studies have revealed that child labour is an integral part of our labour market. From agriculture to industry, domestic service, plantation, construction and transport service, one can find children employed as labourers. The following areas can be taken as the main areas of child labour employment in Nepal (UNICEF, 1999).

<b>Industries</b>	<b>Areas</b>
Factory/Industry	Carpet, handicraft, welding, bread, loaf, pottery, garments, printing press, confectionary, match and brick kilns
Mines	Stone, quarry, magnetite
Plantation	Sugarcane, tea, tobacco, rice, maize, millet
Domestic Service	Fetching water, collecting fuels and fodder, taking care of young siblings, kitchen works, cleaning, house keeping
Entrepreneurship / Shop	Confectionery / sweets, tea, shops, restaurants and bars
Transportation Works	Helper, ticket collector
Porter	Street porter / loader, porters of businessmen, porters of treks / tourists

Street	Street vendors, rag / garbage pickers, beggars, street singers, shoe shiners /shoe makers, newspaper sellers, rickshaw puller
Construction Works	Building roads, building house, building bridge, sewerage construction
Sex Work	Child prostitute, middlemen / contractors, massage parlours, child trafficking, children in pornography
Bonded Labour	Kamaiya tradition, debt bonded labourers
Migrant Child Labour	Migrant child labour from India, Immigrant Nepali child labour in India, rural migrant children
Refugee Children	Children of Tibetan refugees in carpet factories, children of Bhutanese refugees in eastern Nepal
Circus / Music	Children in circus, children in puppet show / magic, children in commercial musical program
Commercial / Advertisement	Children in TV advertisement, children in radio, children in print media

has broken down the child labour into seven main areas unique to any one region or world. These are domestic service, forced and bonded labour, commercial sexual exploitation, industrial and plantation work, street work, work for the family and girl's work (UNICEF, 1997).

Fifty-two per cent of children below eighteen years of age and 44% of children below sixteen years of age constitute Nepal's population of 23.1 million. ILO/IPEC have estimated 2.6 million children are working as child labourers (includes worst forms of child labour) in Nepal in more than 75 sectors of work.

Seven areas of child labour out of the 75 sectors of works are prioritized as Worst Forms of Child Labour that children are involved in. These areas of are considered as physically and mentally exploitative. ILO/IPEC has also estimated that 1,27,000 (excluding stone quarry, brick kiln, restaurant and metal works) children are working in the worst forms of labor, which are featured in the urban sectors (Concern Nepal, 2003).

## **2.6 Working conditions of Domestic Child Labour**

### **2.7 Situation of Children in Nepal**

The mortality rate of children below 5 years of age is 61 per 1000 birth. The infant mortality rate of below 1 year of age is 48 per 1000 birth. In Nepal, the neonatal mortality rate is 34 per 1000 birth. The population of below 16 year's children accommodates 40.93 percentage of total population. In Nepal 87.4 percent of children are admitted in primary level school. Among the school going age children, 48 percent are girls. Children who are physically disabled constitute 1-8 percent of the total population. 475 children have lost their lives in the armed conflict in Nepal. 24 children have lost their lives in different political incident. Out of total marriages, thirty-four percent are child marriage in Nepal. There are approximately five thousand street children in Nepal. Every year 27000 children die due to diarrhoea but now it has become 24000 in a year. There are twenty-six lakh child labourers in Nepal. From 2057 till Ashad 2064, 1800 children have been adopted. 1088 children below 19 years of age are infected by HIV. Children have contributed 6 percent of Nepal's total domestic production. 12000 Nepali girls are sold in India every year. 40 percent (Thirty seven lakhs ninety thousand three hundred and fifty seven) of children are suffering of malnutrition and are affected by disease though it. 35 percent children have birth registration of the total children population in which 50.29 percent are boys and 48.71 percent are girls. There are approximately forty six thousand three hundred and nine consume drugs. Among them 21.6 percent between the ages 15 and 19 use drugs. (Source: CWIN July 2008)

### **2.8 Government Policy towards Child Labour**

The 1990 Constitution of Nepal seeks to protect the interests of children by conferring on them fundamental rights, while imposing duties on the state in the form of “directive

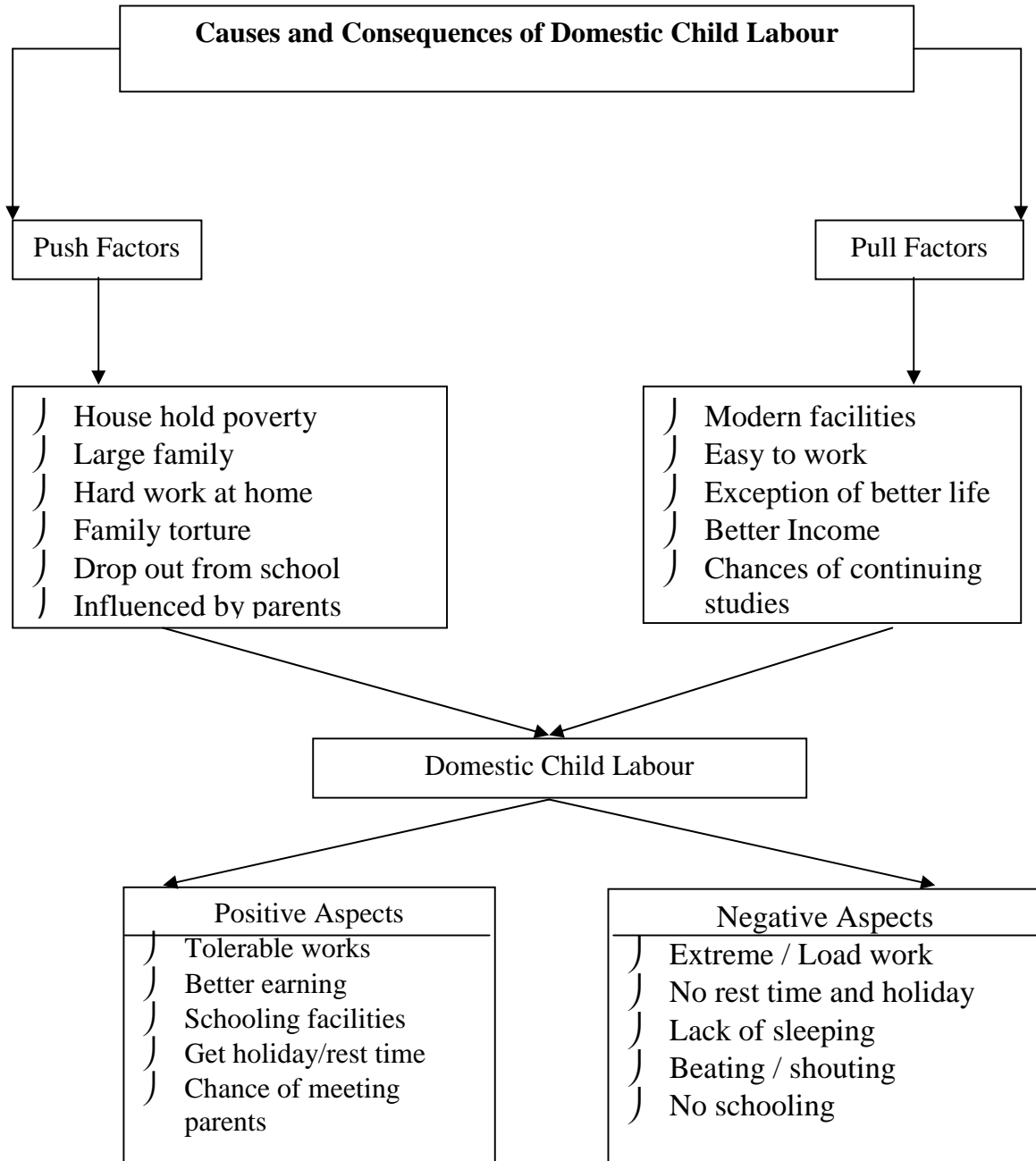
principles and policies of the state." Article 20 of the Constitution guarantees the right against exploitation. It prohibits traffic in human beings, slavery, serfdom or forced labour in any form and any contravention of the provision is punishable under law. The article also prohibits the employment of minors in factories, mines, or any other hazardous work site. The Labour Act of 1992 and the Children's Act in the same year, enacted in pursuance of the constitutional mandate, make the employment of children below the age of 14 illegal (ILO, 2006).

During the past five years, there has been a substantial increase in the government's level of commitment towards combating child labour and bonded labour, and putting in place labour standards in general. Indeed, eradication of the worst forms of child labour has become an essential element of the national development strategy (ILO, 2006).

The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act were endorsed by both Houses of Parliament in 2000 but it is not fully enforced. The Children's Act of 1992 has been amended to make it more abuse-specific, especially with regard to sexual abuse against children. There are currently two bills in parliament to combat trafficking in women and children, and to abolish bonded labour. In July 2000, the government took a landmark decision by outlawing Kamaiyas, a practice where generations of families work as bonded labourers to pay off debts incurred by their ancestors (ILO, 2006).

Nepal is signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). It also ratified ILO's Minimum Age Convention NO. 138 in 1997 and ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour in 2002. The ratification Convention no. 182 will require a revision of the Labour Act as well as the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act. Such revision has not yet taken place (ILO, 2006).

## 2.9 Conceptual Framework of Domestic Child Labour



Poverty is seen in much of the literature as one of the main contributing factors to child labour. In 1994 Nepal was described as the fifth poorest country in the world. In 1999, 49% of the population were described as "absolute poor." Due to the high depending on agriculture, declining productivity increased landlessness and therefore increased unemployment; children are forced to find work in order to survive. Thapa et al (1996)

conclude that "Child Labour exists largely due to a lack of access to resources (poverty) and low levels of literacy" and that the poverty affects proportionally more girls than boys (UNICEF, 1997).

There is also the argument that child labour can be seen not only as a result of poverty but also as a cause, as the low wage of child labour reduces the purchasing power of the family (compared to a better paid adult counter part). Cheap child labour / work can prevent the payment of a minimum wage and may devalue the adult labour market (Crawford, 1995).

Illiteracy amongst parents particularly the mother is thought to be one of the main reasons behind child work / labour. Parents who have no education or skill training themselves often do not see the point for their children to be educated. Parents often see child labour as an apprenticeship for adult life (Bhimapokhara Youth Club, 1995). Lack of and access to high quality, free education for all is thought to be a major contributing factor to child work / labour.

Large family size contributes to child labour as many parents may face financial difficulties and so are compelled to send at least one child out to work (case studies from Misery behind the Looms, CWIN 1993). Due to increasing rates of family break up and consequent remarriage, many children face exploitation, beatings, neglect and verbal abuse from their step parents / other family members. Children run away to the towns and end up working in some form or another to survive.

Because of hard working at home, children from poor houses want to be involved in child labouring. Their parents also want to send their children for better and easy working.

Analyzing the factors which are responsible for being child labour, it is known that poverty is the main factor at all. It can be seen in the following chapters practically.

In the same way, there are also pull factors which are responsible for being child labour. Being practical, it can be said that the main pull factor may be expectation of better life. Children and their parents hope that, the place where they are going to join for work has modern facilities where, it is easy to work. Another important pull factor is education. Many parents in Nepal are unable to give education to their children. Some children are dropped out and some have never been to school. So, they hope for the better education and continuity of their schooling. Similarly, another part of this framework is consequences of child labour. Even though there are many rules, regulations and government policies to address the issues or problems of child labour, they are only limited on the books. Nevertheless, if such rules and regulation are applied, there are some positive aspects also.

If the children are given tolerable works, it is not harmful for their health and they can support their family economically. The domestic child labourers, in most of the employers' house are getting schooling facilities nowadays which is not possible by their parents because of extreme poverty. If the children get holiday and rest time they meet their parents and share their sorrows and happiness.

However, the irremovable fact is, the negative aspects of child labour are increasing day by day. Most of the child labourers are found suffering from extreme load of work. They don't get rest time and holiday. They have to do their work compromising with their sleeping. They are beaten and scolded by employers. Some are being deprived from schooling, opposite to employers' promises. Therefore, the government should be responsible for all of happenings, and should go for follow up of their policy implementation.

## **CHAPTER - III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction of the Study Area**

The present study has covered the households of Budhabare VDC of Jhapa district. Budhabare is a VDC of Jhapa district spreading from 45° 54' to 26° 41' 2" North latitude and 88° 04' 05" to 87° 59' 44" East longitude with a height of 308 metres from the sea level.

The study area i.e. Budhabare VDC has nine wards and has an area of 28.66 square kilometres. There are 3,112 households with a population of 22,125 (2001 Census). The VDC is the home village of the researcher, so the area is selected for the simplicity and easy data collection.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Both research design i.e. descriptive as well as explorative methods are taken into consideration. The purpose of the study is to accumulate information regarding different variables that effect the domestic child labour situation which require both quantitative as well as qualitative data.

#### **3.3 Sources of Data**

This study is mainly based on primary data collection in Budhabare VDC. The data has been collected under the major headings normally age, sex, educational grade completed, family characteristics, working condition, health and nutrition, relation with employer etc. Both quantitative as well as qualitative data have been used.

#### **3.4 Sample Size**

The total number of household, according to the population census of 2001 in Budhabare VDC is 22,125. The study has selected 115 domestic child labourers interviewed, residing in Budhabare VDC of Jhapa district. The convenience sample method has been adopted among the domestic child labourers aging under 17.

### **3.5 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection**

The study depends on data from primary sources. For primary data collection, the following techniques have been used.

#### **3.5.1 Interview Schedule**

The information has been collected by interviewing the domestic child labourers in their houses and schools. This method helps to find out the reaction of respondents and provides opportunity to observe things from very close. The domestic child labourers thus identified are interviewed using a longer, structured questionnaire.

### **3.6 Analysis and Presentation of Data**

The collected data in this study have been analyzed descriptively. Thus, the collected data have been tabulated and analyzed in terms of simple statistical tool percentage. The information has been commonly presented to sketch the reality of the general figure.

### **3.7 Operational Definitions of Domestic Child Labour**

In most definitions of domestic child labour, a child is usually considered to be below 16 years of age. Yet, as the new ILO Convention stipulates that any person under the age of 18 years is to be protected from employment in the worst forms of child labour, this study has accepted any person aged 5 to 17 working in an employer's household as a domestic child labour.

**CHAPTER - IV**  
**DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC**  
**CHARACTERISTICS OF DOMESTIC CHILD LABOURERS**  
**AND THEIR PARENTS**

This chapter focuses on presenting the number of domestic child labourers identified and their age and sex composition. It also describes about their socio-economic characteristics such as; caste ethnicity, migration, house description.

**4.1 Demographic characteristics**

**4.1.1 Age and Sex**

The following table shows that the majority of domestic child labourers in the study fall in the 10-14 years age group. The females are being more likely to be within this cohort at 61.3 percent, compared to males at 38.7 percent. As a whole, female dominated domestic child labourers at 59.1 percent. It suggests cultural shifts in terms of young girls' mobility and / or increased contractions in household incomes. The youngest worker is 1 boy and aged 5 while the eldest is 17 years old comprising 1.7 percent of the total sample.

According to field research girls are favoured as domestic child laborer, because females are seen as ideal in carrying out domestic activities. They are reported to have more patience and to be less likely to quit the job.

**Table: 1**

**Percent Distribution of the Total respondents by Age and Sex**

Sex	Age group distribution of the total population						Total	
	5-9		10-14		15-17			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	4	33.3	29	38.7	14	50.0	47	40.9
Female	8	66.7	46	61.3	14	50.0	68	59.1
Total	12	100.0	75	100.0	28	100.0	115	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### **4.1.2 Age**

The children's age appears to partly determine their entry into domestic work. Children who got employed as domestic help rise from 1 person at age 5 to 25 at age 13. From 13, however, the numbers decline so that by age 17 only 2 children working as domestic child labourers. The biggest decline has been occurred between the age of 14 and 15 years. The mean age of respondents is 12.45 years.

**Table: 2**

**Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to their age**

Age	N	%
5-9	12	10.4
10-14	75	65.2
15-17	28	24.3
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Mean Age 12.45

#### **4.2 Socio-economic Characteristics**

##### **4.2.1 Caste/Ethnicity**

Domestic child labourers represent different caste/ethnic groupings that make up the population of the country. More than half has their origins in the Brahmin / Chhetri, Hill Janajati comprising 44.3 percent and 37.4 percent of the total population respectively with the proportion obtained from the Brahmin / Chhetri castes reflecting the relative

numerical dominance of this group in the total population. An explanation offered for this pattern is that these ethnic groups are considered 'pure' and could be seen as more suitable for kitchen work (Sharma et. al, 2001).

Other groups which are accounted for lesser number are Terai Janajati and Dalit. Dalit fall within the 'untouchables' in the traditional caste system and are not allowed performing household activities in homes of other castes, which may account for their low representation among domestic child labourers.

**Table :3**  
***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to their Caste/ Ethnicity***

Caste	N	%
Brahmin/Chettri	51	44.3
Hill Janajati	43	37.4
Terai Janajati	17	14.8
Dalit	4	3.5
Total	115	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### **4.2.2 Migration**

Domestic child labourers could be viewed as migrants, having left their parents, siblings and other relatives to reside with the families they work for. Most of the selected children are from Ilam district and second highest numbers of children are from other different villages of Jhapa district. Some of them are also from the neighboring district Morang.

##### **4.2.2.1 Age at Leaving Home**

More than half of the respondents (62.6 %) reported that they left their home between the ages of ten to fourteen followed by 35.8 percent with the age range of before age of 9. But a miracle change could be seen in this trend between the ages of fifteen and above with one child. In fact, child labourers use to be engaged in their job at early age. It

might be because of the parents' poverty. Employers also want to accept them as a domestic helper at early age, so that they can mobilize them as their will.

**Table :4**  
***Percent distribution of domestic child laborer according to their age at the time they left home***

Age at the time of leaving home	N	%
Before $\leq$ 9	42	35.8
10-14	72	62.6
15+	1	0.9
Total	115	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### **4.2.2.2 Main reasons of leaving home**

Poverty is a main responsible factor which compelled 51.5 percent of female domestic child labourers to leave their home and the same reason has been stated by 46.8 percent of male children. Second highest number of female domestic child labour (25.0%) cited the reason parents' advice as to why they left their home followed by 17.0 percent of males. Another significant reason i.e. domestic conflict has also been mentioned by male (14.9%) and female (17.6%) labourers. Other various reasons such as: work for money (3.5%), stepfather/mother (2.6%). Own opinion (1.7%) are also responsible for children to leave their home. Four of male domestic child labourers also mentioned that they left their home because they stole the things from their village and one female child labour stated that she got married without consent of her parents and she became domestic child labour when her husband left her alone after marriage. In overall, poverty is seen as a main factor that is responsible for the increment of domestic child labourers day by day.

**Table: 5**  
**Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the main reasons of Leaving Home**

Main reason of leaving home	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Due to poverty	22	46.8	35	51.5	57	49.6
Parents' advice	8	17.0	17	25.0	25	21.7
Domestic conflict	7	14.9	12	17.6	19	16.5
Work for money	3	6.4	1	1.5	4	3.5
Step mother/father	1	2.1	2	2.9	3	2.6
Own idea	2	4.3	0	0	2	1.7
Other	4	8.5	1	1.5	5	4.3
Total	47	100	68	100	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### **4.2.2.3 Main encouragers to leave their Home**

Almost 64.3 percent of respondents reported that they were encouraged by their parents. Since the majority of children told this fact, it can be said that, generally children are influenced by their own parents to be at work or to leave their home. Parents, in general, don't want their children to be at work from their early age, but there might be various reasons which compel them to do so. Poverty, domestic conflicts, loans are some common factors for parents to do so. 22.6 percent of domestic child labourer reported that they were encouraged by their relatives, while dalals and neighbors have lowest percentage. Sometimes relatives also play a great role for the children. But in Budhabare VDC dalal and neighbors are not so much responsible for domestic child labourers to leave their home.

**Table: 6**  
**Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to**  
**Influencing persons to leave their home**

Encouragers to leave home	N	%
Parents	74	64.3
Relatives	26	22.6
Friends	6	5.2
Dalals	1	0.9
Neighbours	1	0.9
Others	7	6.1
Total	115	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### **4.2.2.4 Person with whom they left their Home**

The following table shows that 41.7 percent of respondents left their home with their parents while 22.6 percent respondents left home with their relatives. Second highest percentage of children (24.3%) left their home with their employer. 8.7 percent of them reported that they left their home themselves. This is an important factor although it has less percentage. This fact can bring another question with itself, that is "Did they leave their home with consent of their parents?" Some children run away without consent of their parents. The result after research is, 85.2 percent of respondents left their home with consent of their parents, while rest of the respondents (14.8 %) left their home without consent of their parents. When they were asked for the reason, some of them said that they had to suffer from domestic conflict and some of them never had sufficient food at their home.

**Table: 7**  
**Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the**  
**Person with whom they left their home**

With whom leave home	N	%
Parents	48	41.7
Relatives	26	22.6
Own	10	8.7
Friends	3	2.6
Other	28	24.3
Total	115	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### **4.2.2.5 Main influencing person to join the Current Job**

Domestic child labourers leave their home by various reasons. It has already been discussed about it in previous tables. Some of them already use to be informed about where to go? But some of them leave their home without consent of their parents. They use to be deceived by Dalals and use to be trafficked also. The following table shows the responses of the respondents about this issue.

It is found from the above table that domestic child labourers of aged 5-9 are mainly encouraged by their parents to join this job, with highest number (58.3 %) followed by the children belong to age cohort 15-17 and 10-14 (57.1 % and 56.0 % respectively). The respondents of aged 5-9, with second highest percentage (33.3%) also reported that they were mainly encouraged by their relatives to join this job, followed by age group 15-17 and 10-14 (32.1 % and 20.0% respectively). One of the respondents also said that he has been joined for the current job by broker. The respondents of aged 10-14 with 5.3 percent also reported that they joined the job by their self decision. 11.3 percent of respondents in total said that they were encouraged by some other person, such as employer and their teachers.

**Table :8**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to their main influencing person to join the current job***

Influencing person to join the current job	Age group distribution of the total population						Total	
	5-9		10-14		15-17			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Parents	7	58.3	42	56.0	16	57.1	65	56.5
Relatives	4	33.3	15	20.0	9	32.1	28	24.3
Friends	0	0.0	2	2.7	2	7.1	4	3.5
Own	0	0.0	4	5.3	0	0.0	4	3.5
Broker	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0	1	0.9
Other	1	8.3	11	14.7	1	3.6	13	11.3
Total	12	100	75	100	28	100	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### **4.3 Other Matters**

#### **4.3.1 Job prior to joining the Current Job**

About 79.1 percent of domestic child labourer reported that they were attending school before becoming child labourers. Only 18.3 percent reported that they were engaged in their own farm/household work before joining the current occupation and one of them was wage worker. Although there is highest percentage of school attending student before joining the job as domestic child labourer, there was not satisfaction in their schooling because of various obstacles, such as fee, insufficient educational materials and many other reasons.

**Table :9**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to their job prior to joining the current job***

Job prior to joining the current job	N	%
Attending school	91	19.1
Own farm / Household work	21	18.3
Wage work	1	0.9
Other	2	1.7
Total	115	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

#### 4.3.2 Duration after joining the Current Job

The following table provides information about the period of working by the children. Respondents who are working as domestic workers (less than or equal to 2 years) comprise 60.0 percent of children in total. Children who are working as domestic workers (3 to 4 years) comprise 32.2 percent of the children in total. Only 7.8 percent however reported still being employed as a domestic worker 5 years or more.

**Table :10**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the duration after joining the Current Job***

Duration of work (Years)	N	%
≤2	69	60.0
3-4	37	32.2
5+	8	7.8
Total	115	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

#### 4.3.3 Age at the time they started working as a Domestic Child Labourers

This table represents information about the age of the children; they started to work in the current place. This survey shows that of 115 children, highest numbers of children (64.3%) belong to age group 10-14 who started to work from this age. Second highest number of children belong to less than or equal to 9 age group cohort comprise 32.2 percent of total children for this issue. Less percentage (3.5%) has been comprised by the children of 15-17 age groups.

**Table: 11**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to their age at the time they started working as a domestic child labourers***

Work starting age	N	%
≤9	37	32.2
10-14	74	64.3
15-17	4	3.5
Total	115	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

#### 4.3.4 Reasons for choosing the Current Job

Majority of children (44.3 %) reported that they are working for their education. 20 percent of children reported that they joined the job as their parents' will. 11.3 percent of children had no alternatives except that work. By age group, majority of children (46.7 %), who are working for their study, belong to 10-14 age group cohort, followed by 42.0 percent of respondents belong to age group 15-17. 0.9 percent of children found the work easy to find. 19.0 percent of respondents in total reported that they are working as they have expectation of better life. 3.5 percent of children think that the current job is easy to perform. The overall information indicates that main reason for working as domestic labourers are related with poverty and parents' pressure.

**Table: 12**

***Distribution of children according to the reasons for choosing the current job***

Reason for choosing this job	Age group distribution of the total population						Total	
	5-9		10-14		15-17			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
For my study	4	33.3	35	46.7	12	42.9	51	44.3
Parents sent	2	16.7	17	22.7	4	14.3	23	20.0
Expectation of better life	2	16.7	17	22.7	3	10.7	22	19.1
No alternatives	2	16.7	4	5.3	7	25.0	13	11.3
Easy to work	1	8.3	2	2.7	1	3.6	4	3.5
Easy to find job	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.6	1	0.9
Others	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.9
Total	12	100	75	100	28	100	115	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

#### 4.4 Household Description

##### 4.4.1 Parents' Status

When they were asked about their parent's status 85.2 percent replied that their fathers' are alive and 90.4 percent stated that their mothers are alive. 2 of the domestic child labourers also reported that their fathers are deserted and they both don't have any idea about where they have gone. They joined the current job when their father was deserted

and same for those whose fathers are dead. The children whose mothers are dead have been brought to employer's home particularly by their relatives.

**Table: 13**

***Distribution of children according to their Parents' Status***

Parents' status	Yes		Total	
	N	%	N	%
Father alive	98	85.2	115	100
Mother alive	104	90.4	115	100
Father deserted	2	1.7	115	100
Mother deserted	0	0	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### **4.4.2 Status of Family Members**

In general, domestic child labourers are from poor families. They have no money and no education. They have a kind of concept of making more family members to earn more money. The following table shows the increasing percentage with increasing number of family member.

It is observed that almost 51.3 percent of the total sample population of domestic child labourers are belong to nine and above family member which is the highest percentage among others. Only 7.0 percent of them have less than and equal to four family members at their home, and 41.7 percent of total has five to eight family member. This study shows that more than 50 percent of domestic child labor has nine and above family size. The average family size of domestic child labourers' household supplying domestic child labour is close to eight. The mean value of survived family member of DCL is 7.54 which is greater than national average (i.e. 5.8).

**Table: 14**

***Percent distribution of the domestic child labourers according family Size***

Family Size (members)	N	%
≤4	8	7.0
5-8	48	41.7
9 +	59	51.3
Total (N)	115	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Mean Size =7.54

**4.4.3 Family member below 17 years of age as a domestic worker or Wage Earner**

In general, the economy of domestic child labourers' house is not good. Most of them are suffering from poverty. So, their family members do the work with the expectation of better condition. It can be wage earner or domestic labour.

During the field work, it was found that, out of total 115 domestic child labourers, there are 72 domestic child labourers whose family members are engaged in some types of work. 51.4 percent reported that they have two members at their own home working as a wage earner or domestic labour. Another important percentage was 33.3 percent, who have one member as a wage earner or domestic labour. 15.3 percent reported that they have three and above members of family at work.

**Table: 15**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the members of family below 17 years, working as domestic worker or wage earner***

Working sibling below 17 Years	N	%
One member	24	33.3
Two member	37	51.4
Three and Above	11	15.3
Total	72	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

#### 4.4.4 Home status

Almost 94.8 percent of total sample population reported that they have their own home. Moreover, 60 percent of total sample population reported that they have their farm land of home. It can be taken as a positive aspect of domestic child labourer's economic condition.

*Table: 16*

*Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the status of their home*

Own home of family	N	%
Yes	109	94.8
No	6	5.2
Total	115	100.0

*Source: Field Survey*

#### 4.4.5 Farm Land of Home

In general, domestic child labourers don't have so much farm land of their own home. Poverty is seen as a main factor to be domestic child labour. Out of 115 domestic child labourers, 46.4 percent reported that they have farm land and home, 8.7 percent have farm land of their own home rest have land which only covered by the home.

*Table: 17*

*Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to their farm land of home*

Land distribution (in Kattha)	N	%
1-4	31	44.9
5-9	32	46.4
10+	6	8.7
Total	69	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### 4.4.6 Amount of debt of Parents

During the field work, in the following table 18 it was found that most of the parents of domestic child labourers are indebted. 60.9 percent domestic child labourers said that their parents are indebted where as 7.0 percent mentioned that their parents are not indebted. 32.2 percent of domestic child labourers don't know about it.

**Table: 18**  
**Percentage distribution of Domestic Child Labourers according to their Indebted Parents**

Parents Indebted	N	%
Yes	70	60.9
No	8	7.0
Don't Know	37	32.2
Total	115	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Regarding the loan structure shown in table 19, all of the indebted parents have not taken loan from employers 7.0 percent reported that their parents have taken loan from their masters, 60.0 percent refused that their parents have taken loan from their masters and 33.0 percent are unknown about their parent debt.

**Table: 19**  
**Percentage distribution of Domestic Child Labourers whose parents have taken loan from their Employers**

Borrow Loan from Employers House	N	%
Yes	8	7.0
No	69	60.0
Don't Know	38	33.0
Total	115	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

## **CHAPTER - V**

### **TYPES OF WORK AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

The most important aspect of the domestic child labourers is the types of work and the working condition as well. So, the chapter focuses on the work carried out as domestic child labourers and working environment, they are facing in the working place.

#### **5.1 Types of Work**

In general, the four most frequent household activities undertaken by both female and male domestic child labourers are kitchen work, dish washing, house-cleaning and grass-cutting. Other chores frequently mentioned by them are child minding and washing clothes. As might be expected, the proportion of female domestic child labourers doing this type of activities is higher especially for washing clothes and child minding. More of their counter-parts, on the other hand, are involved in farming/ weeding the kitchen garden, fetching water and going to market. 17.6 percent of female domestic child labourers reported that they have to do kitchen work while only 8.5 percent of male domestic child labourers do it.

Similarly, another most important work with highest percentage is dish washing. 76.6 percent of male domestic child labourers stated that they have to wash the dish, which is followed by female domestic child labourers with 69.1 percent. 4.4 percent of female domestic child labourers mentioned that they mainly do the work of child minding, which is followed by male domestic child labourers with 2.1 percent. Of the total, 1.7 percent domestic child labourers reported that they wash the clothes daily. 5.9 percent of female child labourers have to clean house everyday, whereas only 4.3 percent of male domestic child labourers do it. 3.5 percent of domestic child labourers in total have to do other works mainly, such as farming, grass-cutting, fetching water and going to the market.

**Table: 20**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the types of work***

Types of work	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Dish washing	36	76.6	47	69.1	83	72.2
Kitchen work	4	8.5	12	17.6	16	13.9
House cleaning	2	4.3	4	5.9	6	5.2
Child minding	1	2.1	3	4.4	4	3.5
Washing cloth	0	0.0	2	2.9	2	1.7
Others	4	8.5	0	0.0	4	3.5
Total	47	100	68	100	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### **5.2 Starting and Finishing Time of Work**

Working time starts from the morning and lasts at night. Generally, domestic child labourers work long hours. They don't get rest as needed. During the field work, most of the domestic child labourers have complaint about their rest time.

Majority of domestic child labourers (80.87 %) reported that they start their work at 3 to 5 am, 19.13 percent start at 6 am and onward.

Domestic child labourers have lots of complaints that they have to compromise with their sleeping. It means they don't get rest, which is necessary for their health. 60 percent of them have to work till 8 pm, while 40 percent of domestic child labourers have to work till 7 pm. This is one of the facts of working condition mentioned by the children.

**Table: 21**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the time, they start to work in the morning and finishing time in the evening***

Time of Starting Work (am)			Time of Finishing Work (pm)		
Time	N	%	Time	N	%
3-5	93	80.87	5-7	46	40
6-7	22	19.13	8-9	69	60
Total	115	100	Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### **5.3 Quality of Food**

In general, most of domestic child labourers are from poor families. They are not well-educated and have not so much farm land and they are not able to feed their children properly. Some of domestic child labourers' parents have sent their children to the employer's house in order to make them satisfied with sufficient and qualified food.

From the following table, it can be said that most of the domestic child labourers are getting food better in quality than in their own home. 91.3 percent of them reported that they are getting food, better than home, while 7.8 percent said that the quality of their food is as good as home. But one of them also reported getting his food much worse than in his own home. Even though, majority of children are getting better quality of food than in their house, they are dissatisfied with the time table. Some of them claimed to have experienced not eating for a whole day in the previous days. 20.0 percent of them have complaint about food that, it is different from their masters. 60.0 percent of them are being given remaining or wastage food. They are also dissatisfied with the employers that they don't care about the side-effects of such type of food.

**Table: 22**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the quality of Food***

Quality of food	N	%
Better than home	105	91.3
As home	9	7.8
Not good as home	1	0.9
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### **5.4 Quality of Bed**

During the field work, it was found that, domestic child labourers are not given a separate room. Majority of children (76.5 %) have been provided khatia but rest of them sleep without khatia.

When they were asked about the quality of their bed, 74.8 percent reported that it is better than home, while for 23.5 percent of them it is same as home. Two of them are totally dissatisfied with the quality of their bed. Out of total 115 children, 94.8 percent have been provided sufficient bedding materials, but 5.2 percent are not given as needed. They have expectation of more clothes on their bed.

**Table: 23**

***Distribution of children according to the quality of Bed***

Quality of your bed	N	%
Better than home	86	74.8
As home	27	23.5
Not good as home	2	1.7
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### **5.5 Remuneration Arrangement**

Remuneration arrangements for most domestic child labourers are ambiguous because monthly pay appeared to be frequently combined with agreements to sent the child to

school, to cover food, lodging and among some, to include clothing. None of them stated that they get salary.

Around sixty two percent of domestic child labour respondents reported that they don't get salary (they only get food, lodging and education) because they had no promises with employer at the time of joining the job. Out of total 19.1 percent of domestic child labourers also have complaint with their employers that they are not paid and they are not capable to send money for their parents, whereas 19.1 percent are unknown about the salary.

**Table: 24**

***Percent distribution of children according to their Remuneration Arrangement***

Remuneration arrangements	N	%
No Remuneration (Food, Lodging and Education)	71	61.8
Employers don't pay	22	19.1
Don't know	22	19.1
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

**5.6 Facilities**

Generally, parents have more expectation of more facilities by the employers to their children. And the children who agree to join the job also want some additional facilities.

Majority of children (88.7 %) are facilitated by food, clothing and schooling, whereas 45.2 percent of them also get other facilities such as bicycle, pocket money and visit different places. Two of them get food, shelter and clothing only, but not schooling, but they are given promises to continue their schooling by the employers.

**Table: 25**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the facilities, they were getting in the Current Place***

Facilities	Yes		Total	
	N	%	N	%
Food, shelter and clothing only	2	1.7	115	100
Food, clothing and schooling facility	102	88.7	115	100
Other	52	45.2	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### **5.7 Workload**

One of the important aspects of the domestic child labour is the work load that they have to face in the working place because it is directly related to their human rights.

The majority of the domestic child labour respondents (86.1 %) offer positive views on their work load; whereas 12.2 percent suffer from over work load. 1.7 percent of them don't know about work load. Even though majority of them showed positive response about their work, some of them seem to be frightened with their employers to reveal the truth. But they express their unhappiness with the work load in other different ways. Whoever clearly mentioned about their work load, are very dissatisfied with their masters. They complained about the unacceptable conditions of working for them, since they could not go to school for many days. Sometimes they also get too much tired and sick because of their work over load.

**Table: 26**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to Work Load***

Satisfied with work load	N	%
Yes	99	86.1
No	14	12.2
Don't know	2	1.7
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

## 5.8 Amount of Loan

Asked if their parents taken loan after they began to work, 56.5 percent of domestic child labour respondents said "No", whereas 11.3 percent said "Yes". 32.2 percent of them are unknown about that.

Children who were asked about the reason, for which their parent took loan from their master, said that their parents mostly need money for medical expenses, food and fuel as well. The loan amount ranges from rupees 1500 to rupees 5000. Most of the parents have taken loan between the ranges of rupees 2000 to 5000. Some of them couldn't mention the amount of loan.

*Table: 27*

*Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the amount of loan, their parents took from their masters after joining the Job*

Loan amount	N	%
1500-2900	5	45.45
3000-5000	6	54.55
Total	11	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

## 5.9 Education

### 5.9.1 Literacy Status

Most of the domestic child labourers are aware about education and its importance. Some of them also mentioned that they became domestic child labour for the continuity of their study. From the following table, it can be said that, literacy among domestic child labourers increases with age and greatest at the 15-17 age cohort, with 100 percent out of 28 domestic child labourers. The largest number of domestic child labourers (75) lies on the 10-14 age cohorts but only with 89.3 percent of children with ability to read and write. Out of 12 domestic child labourers, 50 percent are literate, who belong to 5-9 age cohort.

**Table: 28**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to literacy status by age group***

Can read and write (Literacy status)	Age group distribution of the total population						Total	
	5-9		10-14		15-17			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	6	50.0	67	89.3	28	100	101	87.8
No	6	50.0	8	10.7	0	0	14	12.2
Total	12	100	75	100	28	100	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### **5.9.2 School going children at the time of Leaving Home**

When the respondents were asked for the reasons which compelled them to be domestic child labour, most of them stated that their problem is poverty. They couldn't continue their study. So, poverty is related with various aspects of their life. It is found that most of them used to go to school at the time they left home, but they had no options except being domestic child labour to continue their study.

It has already been mentioned that, out of total 115 domestic child labour respondents there are 68 females and 47 males. 83.0 percent of males used to go to school at the time they left their home, where as 77.9 percent of female domestic child labourers used to go. One of the traditional views about son preference could be seen there, because the proportion of school going male children is higher than female children. Girls are more likely to be kept in house at work rather than boys. In total, 80.0 percent of domestic child labour respondents used to go to school, at the time they left their home.

**Table: 29**

**Percent distribution of domestic child labourers, who were in school before  
Joining Child Labor**

school going children before joining child labour	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	39	83.0	53	77.9	92	80.0
No	8	17.0	15	22.1	23	20.0
Total	47	100	68	100	115	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

**5.9.3 Reason for not going school at the time of Leaving Home**

The most frequently mentioned reasons for not ever attending school or not going school are lack of money and lack of parents' interests, probably due to financial constraints. There is a "lack of money" in fact, is also offered by 60.0 percent of female and 75.0 percent male domestic child labour respondents as a factor for their non-attendance. Lack of parents' interests is also offered by 20.0 percent of female and 12.5 percent of male domestic child labourers. But it also could be related with financial problem. "No one to work at home" is offered by 8.7 percent of children. Distances of the school from the work place, unwillingness of children are the other reasons that are likewise mentioned by the domestic child labourers.

**Table: 30**

**Reason for not going school at the time, they left their Home**

Reason for not going school at the time of left home	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Lack of money	6	75.0	9	60.0	15	65.2
Lack of parent's interest	1	12.5	3	20.0	4	17.4
No one to work at home	1	12.5	1	6.7	2	8.7
Others	0	0	2	13.3	2	8.7
Total	8	100	15	100	23	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

#### 5.9.4 Educational Attainment

One of the reasonable fact frequently offered by most of the domestic child labourers is they couldn't continue their schooling as their will. So, there is not such type of educational attainment as compared to their age.

There are 75 domestic child labour respondents belong to age cohort 10-14, whereas 12 respondents belong to 5-9 age cohort and 28 are in 15-17 age cohort. From the following table it can be said that majority of domestic child labour respondents (62.6%) have attained primary levels of schooling, whereas 37.4 percent domestic child labourers have reached to lower secondary level. Female domestic child labourers are few in numbers (27.9 %) compared to male domestic child labourers (51.1%) who have attained the lower secondary level of schooling. So, female domestic child labourers seem to be disadvantaged in the context of education.

**Table: 31**

***Percentage distribution of domestic child labourers according to their Educational Attainment by Sex***

Educational attainment	Age group distribution of the total population						Total	
	5-9		10-14		15-17			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Primary	12	100	55	73.3	5	17.9	72	62.6
Lower secondary	0	0	20	26.7	23	82.1	43	37.4
Total	12	100	75	100	28	100	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### 5.9.5 Current Educational Attainment

Out of total 115 domestic child labour respondents, all of them are currently enrolled. Of these, nearly half (49.6%) are in lower secondary school. 43.5 percent are in primary school and only 7.0 percent are in secondary level. The attendance percentage rises by 25 percentage points from the primary level to lower secondary level, but a drop of about

53.0 percent has been registered in attendance from lower secondary to secondary level of schooling among male domestic child labourers.

The attendance percentage rises by 25.0 percent points from the primary level to lower secondary level, but female attendance is registered in some different nature from males. It is 50.0 percent in primary level but it is 42.6 percent in lower secondary level, showing a drop of about 8 percent. Dropping is continuing and there is only 7.4 percent attendance registered in secondary level. Asked on whether their employers had promised them to send to school before joining that job, all of them said "Yes".

**Table: 32**

***Percentage distribution of domestic child labourers according to current educational attainment by sex***

Current educational attainment	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Lower secondary	28	59.6	29	42.6	57	49.6
Primary	16	34.0	34	50.0	50	43.5
Secondary	3	6.4	5	7.4	8	7.0
Total	47	100	68	100	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### **5.9.6 Availability of Educational Materials**

Domestic child labourers are generally provided educational materials by their employers. Majority of them (60.9 %) stated that they are provided enough educational materials, whereas 39.1 percent of domestic child labourers are not satisfied with their employers for that. Some of them have complaints of insufficient books. Some showed their needs of stationary materials. Some have fear of their teachers and sometimes hesitate to go to school because of insufficient educational materials.

**Table: 33**

***Distribution of children according to the availability of educational materials among domestic child labourers***

Enough educational material	N	%
Yes	70	60.9
No	45	39.1
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

**5.9.7 Time of Homework**

In general, employers use to be intended mainly to the work that has to be done by the domestic child labourer, employed at their home. So, according to most of the sampled children, employers were not serious about their study. They do not get time even for the homework. They can hardly get the free time for homework after all of the work at night compromising with their rest time.

Majority of the domestic child labourer (87.8 %) do their homework at night time, whereas 9.6 percent of them mentioned that they do their homework at day time after returning from the school. Most of them complained that the employers showed ignorance to their study whereas they give importance to the study of their own children.

**Table: 34**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to time of Homework***

Time of homework	N	%
Night	101	87.8
Morning	11	9.6
Day time	3	2.6
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### **5.9.8 Period of time for homework and reason for not getting enough time for Homework**

It is clear that, majority of domestic child labourer showed dissatisfaction for the attention that the employers give to their study. Domestic child labourer have to give first priority to the household work, rather than their homework.

From the following table, it can be said that there is positive response from majority of the domestic child labourer (83.5 %) when they were asked whether they were given enough time for homework. But, it is so, because most of them do their homework at night time after finishing work, compromising with the rest time. But 16.5 percent who are totally frustrated by their schooling revealed various reasons for that, which is described in following table and paragraph.

***Table: 35***

***Percent distribution of children according to the period of time for Homework***

Enough time for homework	N	%
Yes	96	83.5
No	19	16.5
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

It is observed that the domestic child labourers and their parents are also dissatisfied with the employers concerning the matters of their education. They are not getting enough educational materials. They do not go to school for many days because of household works. So, they seem to be frustrated in spite of their great desire to continue their education, they do not get enough time even for their homework. Out of total 115 children, 21.1 percent of domestic child labourers clearly mentioned that they do not get enough time.

Asked, why they do not get enough time for homework, 68.4 percent stated that they do not get time because of the pressure of work at home. 21.1 percent said that their employer do not allow. One of them is not interested to do homework, though the employer tries a lot. Another one showed other reasons such as "didn't know how to do", "my friends always do it for me". So, it can be said that, most of the employers are not serious for the domestic child labourers' education.

**Table: 36**

***Percent distribution of children according to the reason for not getting enough time for homework***

Reason for not enough time for homework	N	%
Work load	13	68.4
Employer do not allow	4	21.1
Others	2	10.5
Total	19	100

*Source: Field survey, 2009*

### **5.9.9 Responses about the current place and reason for feeling better off in working place than home**

Asked, if they were better-off in their present work place than home, majority of them (91.3 %) have given positive responses. In spite of their some bad experiences in their current work place, there are some reasons, by which they find themselves with a better condition than in their house. The rest of the respondents (8.7 %) given negative responses. They are dissatisfied with their employers and stated some reasons for that. They had complaints about quality of food, educational materials, workload, bedding materials and employers' behaviour.

**Table: 37**

***Percent distribution of children according to their responses about the current place***

Better-off than home	N	%
Yes	105	91.3
No	10	8.7
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

It has already been discussed that 91.3 percent of domestic child labourers are positive about their current work place. They were also asked for the reason. Food, clothing and education are cited by children as the reasons why they are content about their work. Out of 91.3 percent of domestic child labourer, 83.8 percent got better quality of food there. 84.8 percent of them are also satisfied with clothing, whereas 48.6 percent of them also offered the education as a reason. Companion is cited by 25.7 percent of domestic child labourers as a reason, why they like their current work place. Out of 105, 8 domestic child labourers stated other various reasons, such as to help support their family, felt relief from domestic violence in their own house.

'Supporting their family' can also be viewed as being one less mouth to feed or person to take care of. In poor family, this would be a big contribution to the welfare of the whole. None of them cited "urban expose", as the reason why they are content about their work. It might be, because of less urbanization of the VDC, the current working place.

**Table: 38**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the reason for feeling better off in working place than home***

Reason for better off in working place than home	Yes		Total	
	N	%	N	%
Education	51	48.6	105	100
Food	88	83.8	105	100
Clothing	89	84.8	105	100
Urban expose	0	0	105	100
Companion	27	25.7	105	100
Others	8	7.6	105	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

## **5.10 Health Status**

### **5.10.1 Types of injuring and sickness During Work**

Asked if they got any hurt due to work, out of total 115 domestic child labourers, 85.2 percent of them said "Yes". Out of them, 37 are males and 61 are females. Among these

males, 86.5 percent got hurt due to work and 88.5 percent of female also revealed this fact.

Some hazards encountered by domestic child labourers in carrying out their job included (a) cut (b) burn (c) fracture (d) Others (swollen or deformed hands due to extended periods of washing) (e) other incidents that might have occurred as a result of doing household work such as slipping.

It has already been mentioned that out of total 115 domestic child labourers, 98 of them got hurt during the work. But again, only 87.8 percent, out of 98 domestic child labourers, stated that they got hurt due to work.

Out of 98 domestic child labourers, 83.7 percent had cuts/wounds during their work, whereas 15.3 percent got burned and 18.4 percent suffered from fracture during their work. During the field work, it was also found that the most of the domestic child labourers hesitated to mention their health problem to their employers.

**Table: 39**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to types of hurt during work***

Types of hurt during work	Yes		Total	
	N	%	N	%
Cut	82	83.7	98	100
Burn	15	15.3	98	100
Fracture	18	18.4	98	100
Others	1	1.0	98	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Asked if they became sick after joining the job there, 93.9 percent of domestic child labourers stated that they suffered from different types of illness. Out of them, 42 are males and 66 are females. The proportion of females is higher than males who became sick.

In this table, fever/measles (87.0 %) and headaches (32.4 %) are the most frequently mentioned health problems by domestic child labourers. Back pain and cough/cold are also offered by 25.9 percent and 17.6 percent domestic child labourers respectively. Chest pain / respiratory problem and water born diseases are also the causes of illness mentioned by 5 domestic child labourers, among 108. Asked if their sickness was due to their work, 14.8 percent of domestic child labourer out of 108 were agreed or said "Yes", whereas, 22.2 percent denied it. But it is shocking information that 63.0 percent are confused whether the sickness was due to their work or not. The other part of the problem is the time of rest when they get sick. Out of 108 domestic child labourers, only 54.6 percent do not have to do the work, whenever they get sick. But the remaining domestic child labourers have to perform the work in spite of their sickness. 97.2 percent of domestic child labourers are facilitated by their masters for medical expenses, rest are unknown about that.

**Table: 40**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the types of sickness***

Types of sickness	Yes		Total	
	N	%	N	%
Cough and cold	19	17.6	108	100
Fever/Measles	94	87.0	108	100
Chest pain/respiratory problem	5	4.6	108	100
Headache	35	32.4	108	100
Water born diseases	8	7.4	108	100
Back pain	28	25.9	108	100
Others	1	0.9	108	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

## **5.11 Abuse and violence against Domestic Child Labourers**

### **5.11.1 Reasons for abuse and Violent Against DCL**

Nearly, all of the domestic child labourers (93.0%) have been punished by their masters. Out of them 88.8 percent accepted that they were punished due to their own faults, but 15.0 percent of them had complaints that they were punished without any reason. Similarly, 4.7 percent cited 'misunderstanding of the master' as a reason why they were punished.

**Table: 41**

***Distribution of children according to the reasons for Punishment***

Reasons for punishment	Yes		Total	
	N	%	N	%
Due to fault	95	88.8	107	100
Misunderstanding of the master	5	4.7	107	100
Others	0	0	107	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

**5.11.2 Violence against DCL**

Most of domestic child labourers identified being scolded by their masters. 88.8 percent of the domestic child labourers use to be punished with verbal abuse, whereas 29.9 percent suffer from physical torture. They also get hurts due to the beaten of the employers. Some of them were about to weep while giving these information.

**Table: 42**

***Distribution of children according to the types of punishment***

Types of punishment	Yes		Total	
	N	%	N	%
Verbal abuse	95	88.8	107	100
Physical abuse	32	29.9	107	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

**5.12 Job Related Activities**

**5.12.1 Rights to quit the current job on their self-will**

Majority of domestic child labourers (78.3 %) stated that they are unable to quit the current job on their own will. They also shared their problems or reasons by which they are unable to quit the job. Rest of them, who belonged to elder age group cohort, reported that they are free to quit.

**Table: 43**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to their rights to quit the current job on their self-will***

Quit job on self will	N	%
Yes	25	21.7
No	90	78.3
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### **5.12.2 Reason for being unable to quit job on self will**

Asked, why they can not quit the job on self will, the most common reason cited for this is "parents' objection" stated by 68.9 percent of them out of 90 domestic child labourers. Other reasons are the chances of getting worse job with compared to the current one (20.0%). Similarly, the domestic child labourers can not quit the job because of their parents' or relatives' loan taken from their masters (2.2 %). Some other reasons mentioned by 9.0 percent of them are: their employers have promised with them to get them involved in a nice job after completing higher secondary education level; "unwillingness to break company with the friends, nearer to employers' house".

**Table: 44**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the reason for being unable to quit job on self will***

Reason for not quitting the job on self will	N	%
Parents don't allow	62	68.9
Don't get better than this job	18	20.0
Parents/ Relatives has taken debt	2	2.2
others	8	8.9
Total	90	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### **5.12.3 Leisure time**

Virtually, 92.2 percent of domestic child labourers have free time and 60.4 percent of them prefer to study, while 30.2 percent amuse themselves in the playground. 10.4

percent are satisfied with their employers that they have been provided the facility of watching television during their free time. Out of 17.0 percent of domestic child labourers, some of them go to their own home, some go to visit market and some go to visit their relatives. The proportion of male domestic worker is higher than females, who spend their time by studying, which may be attributable to the fact that the latter's spare time is spent on their families' household work.

**Table: 45**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to their way to spend leisure time***

Spend leisure time	Yes		No		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Watch TV	11	10.4	95	89.6	106	100.0
Play	32	30.2	74	69.8	106	100.0
Study	64	60.4	42	39.6	106	100.0
Other	18	17.0	88	83.0	106	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

#### **5.12.4 Visiting Home**

Majority of domestic child labourers (88.7 %) have visited their home after joining their current job. Rests of them have not visited yet. Some of them, who are permitted to visit their home, only go in particular occasion, such as Dashian-Tihar, Sakranti, marriage ceremonies, while some of them frequently visit their home.

**Table: 46**

***Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to their responses about visiting their home***

Ever visited home	N	%
Yes	102	88.7
No	13	11.3
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### 5.12.5 Times of visiting home after joining the Job

Majority of domestic child labourers (42.2 %) have visited their home many times. Out of total, 29.4 percent domestic child labourers, have visited 3 to 4 times, while about 20.0 percent reported that they have got chance to visit their home 1 or 2 times. 7 domestic child labourers among 102 reported about 5 to 6 times that they have visited their home. Nevertheless none of them are satisfied regarding the times they have visited their home.

*Table: 47*

*Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to the times of visiting home after joining the job*

Time of visit home since start working here	N	%
0-2	20	19.6
3-4	30	29.4
5-6	7	6.9
7-10	2	2
Many times	43	42.2
Total	102	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### 5.12.6 Reasons for not visiting home

It has already been mentioned that 13 or 11.3 percent of domestic child labourers out of 115 have not visited their home after joining the job. Out of 13, 30.8 percent mentioned that their employers do not allow them to visit showing the reason of work. Another 30.8 percent have not visited on their own will, while 23.1 percent are worried about bad environment in their own family and do not want to visit. 2 of them are not permitted by their own mother. Asked on why it was so, they revealed the fact that their mother also has left their home and has got married with another man.

Asked on, whether their parents have ever visited to them, 76.5 percent of the domestic child labourers have given affirmative answer, while rests of them are negative for that. When they were asked for the reason, they said that their parents can not return the debt

to their employers. Some of the domestic child labourers' parents are unable to visit their children because of incapability to pay transportation cost.

**Table : 48**

***Distribution of domestic child labourers according to the reasons for not visiting home***

Reason for not visiting home	N	%
Not Interested	4	30.8
Employer does not allow	4	30.8
Bad environment	3	23.1
Parent does not allow	2	15.3
Total	13	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

**5.12.7 Reasons for recommending this type of job to Others**

Over half of respondents have recommended the current job to others like them, whereas 50.4 percent showed unwillingness to offer the same job to others. There are different types of reasons for both attitudes. From the table below, it can be said that, out of 49.6 percent of domestic child labourers, 66.7 percent of them are in favour of bringing others for the same job because it is a better place than their village, while 38.6 percent of them have given emphasis to the schooling. 10.0 percent of them want companion for them. Similarly, good food (15.8 %) and good clothing (19.3 %) have also been offered. Some other reasons offered by 39.7 of domestic child labourers are company for study and company for work.

**Table: 49**

***Distribution of domestic child labourers according to the reasons for recommending this type of job to others***

Reason for bringing somebody like you to work as a worker	Yes		Total	
	N	%	N	%
Better than in village	38	66.7	57	100
Good food	9	15.8	57	100
Good clothing	11	19.3	57	100
Schooling	22	38.6	57	100
Companion	10	17.5	57	100
Others	23	39.7	58	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

### 5.12.8 Reason for not recommending others for this type of Job

It could clearly be seen that the dissatisfaction of domestic child labourers about their current work place was increasing day by day. The fact has been revealed by half of domestic child labourer respondents (50.4 %) during the field work. When they were asked for the reason, 60.3 percent do not like anybody to be suffered by work load like them. Other reasons are: feel isolated (55.2 %), bad treatment (8.6%), bad food (3.4 %). There are other various reasons mentioned by 69.0 percent out of 58 domestic child labourers and those are bad clothing, bad schooling and do not get chance to meet their family.

*Table: 50*

*Distribution of domestic child labourers according to the reason for not recommending others for this type of job*

Reason for not bringing somebody like you to work as a worker	Yes		Total	
	N	%	N	%
Feel isolated	32	55.2	58	100
Bad treatment	5	8.6	58	100
Bad food	2	3.4	58	100
Work load	35	60.3	58	100
Others	40	69.0	58	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

## CHAPTER -VI

### WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND CHILDREN AND THEIR ASPIRATION

This chapter demonstrates the fact about the relationship between employers and the children in this research during the field work. The chapter also focuses on the children's aspiration, behaviour of the employers and the additional requirements of the children.

#### 6.1 Employers' Behaviour

Since the working relationship between employers and employee occupies a great place for overall situation of domestic child labourers, they were asked about the behaviour of employers' that they faced after joining the job.

According to this table, for majority of domestic child labourers (67.8 %) the behavior of the employers is not bad, while 28.7 percent find it good. 3.5 percent are totally disappointed with their employers because they find themselves being tortured and being suffered from various kind of punishment. They were also asked for the particular cause to say the employers' behaviour bad and 2 of them were complaining about physical torture. They have been beaten badly frequently but they can not complain to anybody because their own parents ignore it. There is no option except bearing because parents can not take their children back to home according to children. Another two domestic child labourers are fed up with verbal abuse and are planning to quit the job.

*Table: 51*

*Percent distribution of domestic child labourers according to employers' behavior*

Behaviour of employer	N	%
Good	33	28.7
Not Bad	78	67.8
Bad	4	3.5
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

## 6.2 Wants of additional facilities from the Master

There are various kinds of additional facilities that the children are expecting from their employers but only by 58.3 percent of domestic child labourers in total, because 41.7 percent of them offered nothing. Out of 58.3 percent, 13.9 percent offered a bicycle that they want from the employers, while 20 percent of them want the facilities of entertainment. Similarly, 16.5 percent want some facilities for their education. likewise some other additional facilities offered by the children are health facilities (0.9%), clothes (1.7%) training(3.5%) But most of them do not mention their desires to their employers because of the fear of being scolded.

**Table: 52**

***Percent distribution of the domestic child labourers according to their wants of additional facilities by Employers***

Wants of additional facilities from the master	N	%
Bicycle	16	13.9
Clothes	2	1.7
Education	19	16.5
Entertainment	23	20.0
Health Facilities	1	0.9
Training	4	3.5
Visit home more often	2	1.7
Nothing	48	41.7
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

## 6.3 Future Ambition

The tables below show the future ambition of domestic child labourers in different sector entertainment, professional and others. Out of total 22 are interested to involve in entertainment (actor, actress, dancer and singer). The most children has dream to become a teacher i.e. 46.68% and 17.28% want to become a doctor. Female domestic child labourers also aspire to establish themselves as a nurse (16.05 %). Some other dream of becoming scientists (6.17%), pilots (8.17 %), engineers (4.94 %). Only 12 child laborer has a wish to involve in other sector such as business, police personnel, players and

drivers as well. Seeing this detail, it can be said that most of the domestic child labourers are in favour of professional sector rather than others.

Future ambition of domestic child labourers are presented below

**Table: 53**  
**Entertainment Sector**

Future ambition	N	%
Actor/ Actress/ Dancer/ Singer	22	19.1
Medical Profession	27	23.5
Engineering	17	14.8
Teacher	37	33.0
Others*	12	10.4
Total	115	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

\*Others included: Businessman, Driver, Player, Police Social Worker and nothing

## **CHAPTER VIII**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

This study is about domestic child labourers aged 5 to 17 years. The main objectives of the study are to find out the root causes which compel the children to work as domestic child labourers, to assess the demographic and socio-economic status of the domestic child labourers, to find out the working condition of child labourers, to find out the problems, facing by child labourers. This study is based on the sample interview at 115 domestic child labourers working in Budhabare Village Development Committee in Jhapa district.

Child labour is one of the major social problems, which is persisting for a long time in Nepal. The magnitude of the problem is more severe in unorganized sector than in organized sectors majority of child labourers' work like slaves at home, agricultural fields, doing all kinds of work with little pay or without pay. The problem of child labour in Nepal is attributed to poverty, social attitudes that candor child labour, inadequate and inappropriate legal provision and weak and corrupt enforcement mechanism.

Child domestic labour is one of the most exploitative forms of child labour because the practice in many cases is close to that of slavery. The child labourers are large in number in domestic sector. So, this study is expected to be great importance in the context of the study area selected and for the nation as well.

#### **8.1 Major findings**

On the basis of discussion stated in chapter four the summary of finding is presented in this chapter.

Out of 115 domestic child labourers interviewed 40.9 percent are males and 59.1 percent are females. Majority of children (75.6 %) are below the age of 15 years. The mean age

of the respondents is 12.45 The highest number of domestic child labourers (44.3 %) is from Brahmin and Chhetri and second highest percent is from Janajati castes.

Majority of children (62.6 %) left their home between the age of 10 to 14 and 35.8 percent left below the ages of 9. Almost 85.2 percent left their home with the consent of their parents. 41.7 percent left the home with parents and another 24.3 percent left home with their employer, from the house where they joined the job.

Nearly half of the sampled children cited the poverty as a main reason which compelled them to leave their home, whereas 21.7 percent stated parents' advice and 16.5 percent mentioned domestic conflict as a main reason to leave the home. Moreover, 56.5 percent of domestic child labourers out of total 115, were encouraged mainly by their parents and 24.3 percent were encouraged by their relatives to join the job.

Majority of children (60.0 %) are working in the current place from 2 years and almost 64.3 percent of domestic child labourers started working as a domestic child labour between the ages of 10 to 14. Almost 44.3 percent domestic child labourers chose that job for their study. 20.0 percent of them chose the job because their parents advised them, whereas 19.1 percent chose the job because of the expectation of better life.

Majority of the children (79.1 %) are working for the first time in the current place. 79.1 percent reported that the current place of working is their first place of working whereas the rest 20.9 percent changed the place. Out of 20.9 percent, 66.7 percent are working in the second place, and most of them changed the place due to punishment and harassment according to them.

Out of 115, 85.2 percent respondents have their father alive and 90.4 percent have their mothers alive. Similarly, 17 domestic child labourers are without father and 11 domestic child labourers are without mother. Moreover, 94.8 percent of parents are well-known about the place, where their children are working.

The mean size of the family member of the respondents is 7.54 and 51.4 percent of domestic child labourers reported that they have two family members, below the age of 17 who are working as a domestic child labour or wage earner.

Almost 94.8 percent of domestic child labourers have their own home and 60.0 percent of domestic child labourers reported that they have their own farm land. Out of them the highest number of domestic child labourers (46.4 %) is owner of 5 to 9 kattha of farm land. According to 60.9 percent of respondents, their parents are indebted and 7.0 percent of them accepted that the loan is from their employers.

Most of the domestic child labourers (72.2 %) perform the task of dish washing as a main task and second priority of job is house cleaning (39.1 %). Similarly 80 percent of children start to work at 3 to 5 o'clock in the morning and highest proportion of children (60 %) finish their work at 8 - 9 o'clock in the evening.

Quality of food is better than home according to 91.3 percent of domestic child labourers and 17.4 percent of domestic child labourers find differences between their and master's food which is remaining/wastage or different food.

According to 74.8 percent of domestic child labourers, the quality of their bed is better than home and 76.5 percent of domestic child labourers have been provided khatia for sleeping.

None of them are getting salary and the reasons are: no remuneration (food, lodging and education) (61.8 %), employers don't pay (19.1 percent), don't know (19.1 percent).

Most of the domestic child labourers (88.7 %) are getting facilities of food, clothing, schooling and shelter as well and 45.2 percent are also getting pocket money as their extra facilities. 86.1 percent of domestic child labourers are satisfied with the workload.

11.3 percent of domestic child labourers mention that their parents have taken loan after starting their work in the current place. The maximum amount of loan is Rs. 5000 and minimum is Rs. 1500.

87.8 percent of domestic child labourers are literate. 20.0 percent of domestic child labourers are unable to go to school at the time they left their home and out of 20.0 percent, 1.5 percent of them cited lack of money as to why they couldn't go to school. According to child respondents their educational attainment are primary level (62.6 %) and lower secondary level (37.4 %). Their current educational attainments are primary level (43.5 %), lower secondary level (49.6 %) and secondary level (7.0 %).

About 40.0 percent of domestic child labourers lack enough educational materials and 87.8 percent domestic child labourers perform homework at night after finishing their household work. Out of 115, 19 domestic child labourers do not get enough time for their homework and 13 of them stated that they do not get time due to their household work.

In overall, 91.3 percent of domestic child labourers feel better-off in the current place than home. The most common reasons for feeling better are: food (88.0 %), clothing (84.8 %), education (48.6 %) and companion (25.7 %) as well.

Almost 85.2 percent of domestic child labourers got hurt during work. Most of them (83.7 %) got hurt of cut and out of 85.2 percent of domestic child labourers, 87.8 percent revealed the fact that the hurt was due to work.

Almost 93.9 percent domestic child labourers got sick after joining the job but most of them (63.0 %) do not know whether the sickness was due to work or not. 45.4 percent of them have to work at the time, while they get sick. Types of sickness that the children have faced mainly are fever/measles (87.0 %), back pain (25.9 %), headache (32.4 %) and cough and cold (17.6 %). According to 97.2 percent of domestic child labourers their medical expenses are paid by their employer.

Almost 93.0 percent of domestic child labourers have been punished by their employers and 88.8 percent accepted that it was due to their own fault whereas 15 percent of them said that they have been punished without any reasons. Most (88.8%) have been punished by verbal abuse and 29.9 percent have faced different types of physical torture. But most of them (78.3 %) can not quit job on their self will. 68.9 percent of them mentioned that their parents do not allow quitting the job while 20.0 percent think that they have no other options.

Majority of children (92.2 %) get leisure time and most of them (60.4 %) use it for self-study and 30.2 percent amuse themselves in the playground. Almost 88.7 percent of domestic child labourers have visited home after joining the job, while rest of them cited "employer does not allow", "bad environment in the family", "mother does not allow", "I don't want to go" as their rationale for not visiting their home. Moreover, 76.5 percent of domestic child labourers also mentioned that their parents have visited them after joining the job.

Nearly half of the domestic child labourers (49.6 %) have recommended the work for others that they are currently doing and stated the reasons such as better than in their village (66.7 %), schooling (38.6 %), good clothing (19.3 %), companion (17.5 %) and good food (15.8 %). On the other hand, 50.4 percent of domestic child labourers showed unwillingness to bring somebody like them to work as a worker and mentioned reasons such as work load (60.3 %), feel isolated (55.2 percent), bad treatment (8.6 %) and also bad schooling, bad food and bad clothing (69.0 %).

For 67.8 percent of domestic child labourers, behavior of the employer is moderate whereas 4 respondents badly suffered from physical torture and verbal abuses by employers.

Nearly 60.0 percent of the respondents wish for additional facilities from masters and mainly those are entertainment (20.0%), bicycle (13.9 %).

Highest number of domestic child labourers (33.0 %) dreamt of becoming teacher and second highest number (23.5 %) want to be doctor in future.

## **8.2 Conclusion**

From the discussion of all reported information, a sharp conclusion appears that extreme poverty, landlessness, family disruption, and parental force are root causes of domestic child labour. Many parents bring their children in employers' house to improve their economic condition and to lower responsibilities of their children. Large family size, economic insufficiency, lack of alternatives also force children to leave their home. Some children come in urban household with the expectation of better livelihood and good opportunities of education and earnings.

The study shows that domestic child labourers have to survive under the most humiliating conditions of neglect, injustice and inhuman treatment compared to their members of societies. Employers tend to take maximum advantages from their child domestic workers with a little pay or without pay. Domestic child labourers have to carry out almost all activities in house. Most of children work for long hours and don't get food and sufficient food as well. They are deprived of basic facilities like education, entertainments and health care. Some children are not taken to the doctor at the time of illness/injury and some children are forced to work at the time of illness/injury.

Almost all of child labourers are found not receiving monthly salary and they are working with expectation of support in education, food and shelter but only few children getting such facilities properly. Majority of them have to work more than 9 hours daily.

Nearly 20 percent of children get different food from their masters and some of them have to eat remaining or wastage food. They have not proper sleeping room and bed. Children are found scolded, slapped, and abused physically and verbally.

Based on the characteristics of the work, the working conditions of domestic child labourers and employer's attitudes, the study support the notation that the occupations can be considered as one of the worst forms of child labourers.

### **8.3 Recommendation for Further Research**

Since this study is confined to the domestic child labourers of one VDC of Jhapa district, results may not be generalized for all types of child labourers. Thus the study of them in sector basis as well as in totality is necessary.

Even in this study, the information from the side of parents and employers of domestic child labourers has not been explored. Further study is required to exhibit the view of parents as well as employer's perception, behavior and attitude towards the children and child rights.

This study is concentrated in one VDC of Jhapa district, so this study can not explore actual realities of domestic child labourer's problem in Jhapa. So, detailed household survey of domestic child labour covering all VDC of Jhapa district, is necessary to invoke the real size and condition of domestic child labour of at least one district of a country.

Female child labour condition should be the future study topic in this village as well as overall other village of the nation. Agriculture child labour and tea industry specific child labour condition should be the future study material for the researchers.

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## QUESTIONNAIRE

Serial number of respondent : .....

Name of respondent : ..... Caste / ethnic group : .....

Sex ( 1. Boy 2. Girl ) ..... Age of respondent (completed years) : .....

Place of working: .....

### **I. Family description and reason for work**

QN	Questions	Response Category and Code
01	What you used to do prior to joining this current job?	Attending school ..... 1 Own farm/ household work ..... 2 Wage work..... 3 Other (state) ..... 4
02	What was your age at the time you left home?	.....years
03	Why did you leave your home?	Earn money..... 1 Due to poverty..... 2 For work..... 3 Friends Advice..... 4 Own opinion..... 5 Parents advice..... 6 Domestic conflict..... 7 Step mother/ father..... 8 Others (specify).....
04	Who encouraged you to leave home?	Friends..... 1 Relatives..... 2 Parents..... 3 Dalals..... 4 Neighbours..... 5 Others (specify).....
05	With whom did you leave your home?	Parents..... 1 Relatives..... 2 Friends..... 3 Own..... 4 Others (specify).....
06	Did you leave home with consent of your parents?	Yes..... No.....
07	Who mainly encouraged you to join this job?	Parents..... 1 Relatives..... 2 Friends..... 3 Own..... 4 Brokers..... 5 Others (specify).....
08	How long have you been working here?	..... Years .....Months
09	In what age did you start working as a domestic servant here?	..... Years
10	Why did you choose this job?	Easy to find job..... 1 Easy to work..... 2 For my study..... 3 Expectation of better life..... 4 Parent sent..... 5 No alternatives..... 6 Others.....

11	Is it your first place of work?		Yes..... No.....	1 2
12	If not which place?		Second Third Fourth Fifth & above	1 2 3 4
13	Why did you change your working place?		Low remuneration..... Punishment/harassment..... Not allowed to school..... Insufficient food..... Dismissed by master..... Other.....	1 2 3 4 5
14	Do your parents know where are?		Yes..... No.....	1 2
15	Are your parents alive?		Father dead..... Father alive..... Mother dead..... Mother alive..... Father deserted..... Mother deserted.....	1 2 3 4 5 6
16	Family member(exclude married sister)		Number.....	
17	Which child are you?		First..... Second..... Third..... Fourth..... Fifth..... Other.....	1 2 3 4 5 6
18	Are there any members of your family below 18 years, working as a wage earner or domestic labour?		Yes..... No.....	1 2
19	If yes, how many?		Number.....	
20	Family has own home		Yes..... No.....	1 2
21	Family has farm land		Yes..... No.....	1 2
22	If has land, how much?		Bigha / Ropani Kattha / Aana	
23	Are your parents indebted?		Yes..... No..... Don't know.....	1 2 3

24	If yes, did they borrow loan from your master's house?	Yes..... No..... Don't know.....	1 2 3
25	If yes, how much?	Rs..... Don't know.....	1 2

## II. Type of Work and Work Environment

26	Type of main work you do here	Kitchen work..... Dish washing ..... Child Minding ..... Washing Clothes ..... House Cleaning ..... Other (specify) .....	1 2 3 4 5
27	What is your second priority job ?	Kitchen work ..... Dish washing ..... Child Minding ..... Washing Clothes ..... House Cleaning ..... Other (specify) .....	1 2 3 4 5
28	Time you start to work in morning	Time.....	
29	Time you finish the work in the evening	Time.....	
	Do you have any hurt?	Yes..... No.....	1 2
	If yes,	Cut..... Burn..... Fracture..... Others (specify) .....	1 2 3 4
30	Quality of your food (before or worse than home)	Better than home..... As home..... Not good as home..... Others (specify) .....	1 2 3
31	Is there any differences between your and master's food?	Yes..... No.....	1 2
32	If yes, what are the differences?	Different food..... Remaining /Wastage food..... Others (specify) .....	1 2 3
33	Are you satisfied with the quality of food that your master gives you?	Yes..... No.....	1 2
34	Quality of your bed (better or worse than your home)	Better than home..... As home..... Not good as home..... Others (specify) .....	1 2 3
35	Are bedding materials sufficient?	Yes..... No.....	1 2

36	How is your sleeping room?		Sufficient light..... Insufficient light.....	1 2
37	Has your master provided you a <i>khatia</i> for sleeping?		Yes..... No.....	
38	Do you get salary?		Yes..... No.....	1 2
39	How much per month?		.....Rs	
40	Are you getting in according to the promise?		Yes..... No.....	1 2
41	Who collects your salary?		Self..... Parents..... Others (specify).....	1 2
42	Do you keep money for your personal expenses?		Yes..... No.....	1 2
43	In what ways you spend your money?		Buying clothes..... Cinema..... Buying foods..... Playing cards..... Other (specify).....	1 2 3 4
44	If no, why?		..... .....	
45	What other facilities are you getting?		Food, shelter and clothing only..... Food clothing and schooling facilities..... Other (specify).....	1 2
46	Are you satisfied with workload and pay?		<u>Work</u> Yes..... No..... Don't know..... <u>Salary</u> Yes..... No..... Don't know.....	1 2 3  1 2 3
47	Have your parents taken loan after you began work?		Yes..... No..... Don't know.....	1 2 3
48	If yes, how much?		Rs..... Don't know.....	1 2

### III. Education, Health and Personal Matters

49	Can you read and write?		Yes .....	1
			No .....	2
50	Did you go to school at the time you left home?		Yes.....	1
			No.....	2

51	If no, why?		Lack of money..... Lack of parent's interest..... No one to work at home..... No interest..... Other (specify).....	1 2 3 4
52	Which grade have you completed?		Completed grade.....	
53	Are you currently enrolled in school?		Yes ..... No .....	1 2
54	If yes, in which grade?		Class.....	
55	Had your employer promised you to send to school before joining this job?		Yes ..... No .....	1 2
56	Do you have enough educational materials?		Yes..... No .....	1 2
57	Which is your homework time?		Morning..... Daytime..... Night..... No time for homework.....	1 2 3 4
58	Do you get enough time for homework?		Yes ..... No .....	1 2
59	If no, why?		Master did not allow ..... I don't get time..... Master tried but no interest..... Others (specify).....	1 2 3
60	If you are not admitted to school, has your master promised you to admit in the school?		Yes ..... No .....	1 2
61	Have you been dropped out from school?		Yes..... No..... ....	1 2
62	If Yes, reasons for dropping out		Master don't pay fee..... Over workload at home..... Discrimination in school..... Others (specify).....	1 2 3
63	Are you better off here than home?		Yes ..... No .....	1 2
64	If yes, what are the reasons?		Education..... Food..... Clothing..... Urban expose..... Companion..... Other (specify).....	1 2 3 3 5
65	Have you ever got any hurts during your work?		Yes ..... No .....	1 2
66	If yes, Type of hurt		Cut ..... Burn..... Fracture..... Others (specify).....	1 2 3
67	Do you think that the hurt was due to work?		Yes..... No..... Don't know.....	1 2 3

68	Have you been sick here?	Yes .....	1
		No .....	2
69	If yes, type of sickness	Cough and cold.....	1 2
		Fever/measles.....	3
		..	4
		Chest pain/respiratory problem.....	5
		Headache.....	6
		..	
		Waterborne disease.....	
		Back pain.....	
		Others (specify).....	
70	Who pays for medical expenses?	Self.....	1
		Master.....	2
		Others (specify).....	
71	Do you think that sickness was due to work?	Yes .....	1
		No .....	2
		Don't know.....	
72	Do you have to work when you are sick?	Yes .....	1
		No.....	2
73	Have you been punished from your master?	Yes .....	1
		No.....	2
74	Why?	Due to my fault.....	1
		Without any reason.....	2
		Misunderstanding of the master.....	3
		Other (specify).....	
75	What type of punishment did you get?	Verbal abuse.....	1
		Physical torture.....	2
		Master did not provide food.....	3
		Increased workload.....	4
		Others (specify).....	
76	Can you quit job on your own will?	Yes .....	1
		No.....	2
77	If not, why?	Complete the year.....	1
		Parents/ relative have taken debt.....	2
		Don't get better than this job.....	3
		Parents don't allow.....	4
		Others(specify)	
78	How do you spend your leisure time?	Watch TV.....	1
		Play.....	2
		Study.....	3
		Others (specify).....	
79	Have you ever visited home since you started working here?	Yes.....	1
		No.....	2
80	How many times did you visit your home since you started working here?	Times.....	
81	If not visited, why you have not visited home?	.....	

			..... .....	
82	Have your parents ever visited home?		Yes..... No.....	1 2
83	Would you bring somebody like you to work as a worker?		Yes..... No.....	1 2
84	If yes		Better than in village..... Good food..... Good clothing..... Schooling..... Others (specify).....	1 2 3 4
85	If not		Feel isolated..... Bad treatment..... Bad food..... Workload..... Other (specify).....	1 2 3 4

**IV. Working Relationship**

86	How does your employer behave on you?		Good..... Moderate..... Bad.....	1 2 3
87	If bad why?		..... ..... .....	

**V. Preferences of the child**

88	What types of additional facilities you want from your master?		..... .....	
89	What is your future ambition?		.....	

**THANK YOU**