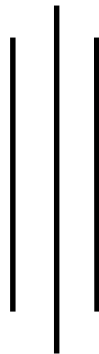
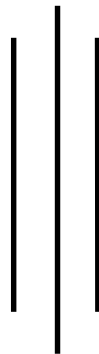


**Socio-Economic Status of Street Children
(A Case Study of Pokhara Valley)**



A Dissertation
Submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology
The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara
In partial fulfillment of the requirement of Degree of Masters of Arts
in Sociology



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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to explore the socio-economic status of street children in Pokhara valley with the specific objectives: to examine the overall status of street children in Pokhara in terms of their access to education, health and their lifestyle; to explore the factors pushing children on the street and to access the nature and magnitude of the problems of street children. Finally their socio-economic status is examined in the light of the indicators of the conceptual framework drawn in the study.

The exploratory research method is applied to explore the various aspects and variables of the topic of the study and similarly, the descriptive and quantitative methods are employed to describe and generalize the socio-economic status of the street children and possible opportunities to enhance their quality of life in all aspects. There are 262 street children in Pokhara. Among them 50 street children are taken for the study as a sample on the basis of convenience and random sampling method.

The results of the study are that most of the children are 13-15 in age and 58% of children are from dalit community and 72 % Hindu and 18% Christian and only 18% Buddhist. From the study we found that 88% of street children are literate but nobody had completed even primary education. The main reasons behind not completing even primary level of education are lack of interest and run away from home.

It has been deduced that 66% of children of children are giving importance to their health. 68% of children have a habit of taking bath once a week. Likewise, 84% of children don't have a habit of brushing whereas 90% of children have a habit of hand washing before having meal.

From the study we deduce most of the children leave home due to poverty, lack of love and affection and having companion with street boys. Children are bound to come to the street despite living in small family. Most of the street children are in the occupation of street rag-picking, begging, working in hotel restaurant and vehicle cleaner etc and their average income is Rs 100 per day. Though they earn very nominal amount of money some of them use to save their earning as well. 24% of the respondents have a saving habit. All of them spend their earning for food and cigarette/alcohol and most of them are habitual with dendrite sniffing which needs to be minimized giving them other opportunity or engaged them in other creative activities.

As street children have spent their life in street and they have to go through different circumstances and problems. They use to make different places as their shelter. Significant street children use to sleep in front of shop and with friends. They feel cold in the winter season as they don't have proper bed to sleep. Most of the street children feel problem of rain and coldness in their residency, mistreated by police and problem of things get stolen at the place of residence. This can prove that they don't have safe and secure place to sleep and life is very sturdy and painful for them. There is no arrangement from the government to improve their sleeping condition.

The main problem of street children that they (38%) are facing in their daily life is about safe accommodation. Likewise, 26% have a problem of shortage of healthy and hygienic food, 24% have a problem of poor sanitation and 12% have problem of abuse and violence. Street children and their family have an effect of culture of poverty. 66% of street children have an effect of culture of poverty, 30% do not realise culture of poverty in their family and 4% have no idea about it.

Even if the street children live in street, but they also have their own future plans. From the study we find that 46% street children want to give up living in the street whereas 54% want to stay on the street as they get free life despite various problems that they have to face in daily basis. 28% of street children want to become a driver in future followed by 18% who want to become rich people, 14% want to be an educated person, 12% want to be a hotel owner. Saving habit may lead them to get success in their future goal.

From the study, it is explored that street life is full of problems, challenges, difficulties and hardships. Every-day they have to fight with the hurdles, obstacles and risky circumstances in the street. The main factors that force children to leave home is the influence of the peers that children who have lived and worked in the city influencing their peers in their rural homes, poor economic situation of the family, change in family structure and social relations, and attraction towards city life. Once children come to the street they don't want to return home as they don't want to lose freedom.

Education status of street children is very worse. Some of the children have never been to school even if the government has its policy of free education up to secondary level. Health status of the street children is also very fragile as they don't get hygienic food to eat. They also don't give preference to their own cleanliness.

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ACRONYMS

ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBOs	-	Community Based Organizations
CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDB	-	Children's Development Bank
CPCS	-	Child Protection Centers and Services
CSC	-	Consortium for Street Children
CSEC	-	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
CWIN	-	Child Worker in Nepal
CWSN	-	Child Welfare Scheme Nepal
CWSUK	-	Child Welfare Scheme UK
HIV	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	-	International Labour Organization
IPEC	-	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
LCCI	-	Lekhnath Chamber of Commerce and Industry
NFE	-	Non-Formal Education
NGO	-	Non-Government Organization
NPC	-	National Planning Commission
PCCI	-	Pokhara Chamber of Commerce and Industry
SAS NEPAL	-	Society of Aware Students Nepal
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TOLI	-	Team Organizing Local Institute
TU	-	Tribhuvan University
UN	-	United Nations
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	-	World Health Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

"**Street children**" is a term used to refer to children who live on the streets of any city. They are basically deprived of family care and protection. Most children on the streets used to be between the ages of about 5 and 17 years old, and their population between different cities is varied.

Street children live in junk boxes, parks or on the street itself. A great deal has been written defining street children, but the primary difficulty is that there are no precise categories, but rather a continuum, ranging from children who spend some time in the streets and sleep in a house with ill-prepared adults, to those who live entirely in the streets and have no adult supervision or care (Wikipedia, 2010).

Street children are usually called "Khate". "Khate" is a very negative term and children refuse to be called that way. Anyway this word well describes the negative attitude towards street children. They are considered as social parasites, small criminals, drug abusers, and thieves. Their dirty and shabby clothes and refusal of any social constraints make the general public think that street children are basically unusual persons (CPCS, 2009).

Street children are a diverse group. Indeed, the meaning of the term "street children" is widely debated. But at the center of each definition are children who are "out of place." If they are sleeping, on the streets, they have lost or left their families and homes. If they spend their days working on the streets they have abandoned, or been abandoned by, the system of education. If they are playing in the streets, this is most likely because they lack other options. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) situation analysis and International Labour Organization- International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC) report on child labor are good points of departure for investigating child poverty, as well as to the extent to which this is manifested in the existence of large numbers of street children. Children tend to be

discriminated against in the statistical record because the unit of observation tends to be adult-focused (such as households) or service-focused (such as clinics and schools). Yet children-centered statistics can usually be easily calculated and are more useful for targeting programs at child protection and child poverty alleviation (ADB 2003).

Nepal has a population of 28.9 million (CBS 2008), around 40.93 per cent of whom are under the age of 16 years, and it is growing at a rate of 1.28 per cent per year. As one of the poorest countries in the world, Nepal has many problems for children in regard to health, nutrition, education, emotional care and basic rights.

With the rapid growth of urbanization, the number of street children is increasing in Nepal. The exact and reliable data on street children in Nepal is lacking as no provision has been made, so far, to enumerate these children in the national censuses. Although, the available data on street children, as reported by different organizations that are working in this sector, varies, it is roughly estimated that 'there are more than 5,000 such children living in the streets in Nepal' (CWIN, 2008). These children are scattered in various urban centers, mainly in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Dharan, Narayanghat, Butwal and Biratnagar.

Street children can be defined in various categories according to the time they spend on the streets, the work they do for their living and their personal and family background. A widely accepted set of definitions, commonly attributed to Amnesty International (2007), divides street children into two main categories:

Children of the street: The children who actually live on the street (or outside a normal family environment). Family ties may exist but are tenuous and are maintained only casually or occasionally (Wikipedia 2010).

Children on the street: The children engaged in some kind of economic activity ranging from begging to vending. Most go home at the end of the day and contribute their earnings to their family. They may be attending school and retain a sense of belonging to a family. Because of the economic fragility of the family, these children may eventually opt for a permanent life on the streets (Wikipedia 2010).

As per the Child Hope Asia 2010, street children are young people who spend a considerable time living and/or working on the streets of the world's cities. Different countries describe street children in different ways. However, two general categories have been frequently used to describe them:

-) children living and working in the street
-) children working on the streets who maintain regular contact with their families

There are various factors that are associated with pushing and pulling children down to the streets. Various studies suggest that the increase in the number of street children is due to current political conflict and instability, civil unrest, family disintegration (broken family, conflict in the family, parents' remarriage, orphan-hood etc.), natural disasters and growing urbanization. Besides, economic hardship, lack of opportunities (educational, employment and recreational), domestic violence, child abuse (physical and sexual exploitation), peer influence and growing trend of migration are also some of the common reasons that contribute children to come to streets (Consortium for Street Children 2007).

Pokhara, one of the largest cities in Nepal, is very famous for its natural beauty and peaceful environment. This phenomenon of Pokhara attracts thousands of tourists, from both within the country and abroad. Despite being a major center for tourism, the overall level of development of Pokhara is also quite high. But, at the same time, the other side of this beautiful city is unpleasant. There are unmanaged slum settlements in almost every part of the city, flow of growing number of child labor and street children. Being a fastest growing city, it has been a potential place for the street children. All these bitter realities attempt to ravish the beauty and peace of the city.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Problem of street children is a universal problem since a long time. In Nepal governmental and non-governmental organizations have been working with this problem since decades. Many efforts have been made to eliminate the problem of street children. Quite a number of projects have been implemented. Huge amounts of

money and human resources have been spent. But the problem is always the same or is not seen improved and the social-economic status is very low.

Due to deteriorating political situation and other social, culture and economic problems in Nepal, more and more children are forced to move into the cities in search of basic needs i.e. food and shelter. But the life of these children is miserable due to lack of access to adequate health care facilities, basic education, emotional care and proper guidance.

Over the past few decades, the standard of living of many urban Nepalese has risen beyond measure, even amid of political turmoil. But ironically, at the same time many poor children are struggling for survival out in the streets, sleeping on makeshift cardboard mattresses in main cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara, Dharan, Narayanghat, Butwal, and Biratnagar.

Life is not easy for street children in Nepal. They have usually taken to the streets because of a violent father or extreme poverty at home. Being a largest city in the western region, the fact cannot be ignored that many children with or without parents have moved to Pokhara since last few years. A study (unpublished) carried out by Child Welfare Scheme UK (CWSUK, 2010), shows that about 262 children are working and living in the street in Pokhara city. Similarly, the study carried out jointly by Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City and Lekhnath Municipality with the support from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Pokhara Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Lekhnath Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) 2010 shows 1383 child worker excluding Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Street children in Pokhara. These children are living at risk and have a little or no access to health facilities, education and proper care for their life. In Pokhara, 80% of the boys living on the streets and 90% of the working girls are sexually abused by hotel and restaurant owners and by people in places of work. Junkyard owners, older boys in the group, friends, local people, and tractor drivers are also among the perpetrators. (CSC, 2009)

Another study done by CWIN (2008) found that almost all street children were addicted to glue sniffing because of hunger and the influence of friends. About 95 percent of street children were using glue, and it would not take much to introduce the

habit to the remaining 5 percent. The report further found that some children used as many as 15 tubes a day (one tube of dendrite can be used four to five times) and many used it as a substitute for regular meals. The cheapest of all dendrites is Nepal-made, besides the imports from India and China. It is available in all hardware shops and costs less than Rs. 40 per 25mg tube.

The culture of poverty exists in their family so that they have a kind of family dysfunction which bound them to come to the street. When they come to the street they have to face various problems to survive on the street.

During the civil war from 1996 to 2006, 328 children (232 boys and 93 girls) were killed, and 250 children (167 boys and 83 girls) were seriously injured. Civil society raised a strong voice against violence, but the series of child killings and violence against children didn't stop. CWIN, during this period, tried to make everyone aware, using the slogan "Children are Zones of Peace". CWIN ran training sessions and published advocacy materials. CWIN also provided training for peace workers in different parts of the country to promote the slogan "Children are Zones of Peace" campaign (CWIN, 2008).

Other problems concerning street children are lack of willingness and financial capabilities of the community based organizations (CBOs) as well as local government authorities' inability to mobilize resources for activities focusing on such children at the local level as well as the national level. There are numerous factors which push and pull children to the street. Poverty, abuse, family conflict, discrimination and a search for freedom are highlighted in numerous studies. In most cases a child arrives to the street as a result of the interaction with many factors. Nevertheless his social economic status is fragile (CPCS, 2007).

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this research is to analyze and evaluate the social and economic status of street children in Pokhara.

The specific objectives of the study are:

-) To examine the overall status of street children in Pokhara in terms of their access to the education, health and their lifestyle.

-) To explore the factors pushing children on the street.
-) To access the nature and magnitude of the problems of street children.

Based on the objectives of the study, the following research questions have been raised.

-) What are the reasons for children to come to the street?
-) How do they start a day?
-) How do they survive in the street and where is their night shelter?
-) What types of work do the street children engaged with and what are the problems being faced by street children embedded with socio-economic status?
-) What kinds of opportunities are available for street children and what may be the challenges for street children?

1.4 Importance of the Study

Children are regarded as a priority area of development since they have a significant role to play in the future. In this context, it should be a matter of concern for all development workers to study and find out about the lives of these street children, who are at risk and are having hard time, including their daily activities and living style.

A large number of children in Nepal are deprived and are miserable due to the absence of adequate support and help. Among these deprived children, the condition of street children is figured even worse.

The study is able to evaluate the condition, status and life style of street children. Therefore, it is hoped that the outcome of the study would be useful for CBOs (Community Based Organization), NGOs and institutions that are already providing protection and care for street children in Pokhara.

Likewise, it is also hoped that the knowledge and information yielded by this research will be useful for future researchers who wish to carry out studies on the issues concerning with street children.

1.5 Operational Definition of Key Terms

Child Abuse: It is a physical, sexual, emotional mistreatment, or neglect of children.

Children at Risk: It is a situation where children are excluded from basic education, health care, love and affection. It is the situation where the lives of the children are in danger due to the job they are involved with.

Children of the Street: They are the children who don't have family support and are out of family contact.

Children on the Street: Children having insufficient family support and bound to come to street to work in order to supplement their families' income are referred as children on the street.

Children's Development Bank: The Children's Development Bank (CDB), a unique initiative by the Delhi-based NGO Butterflies, helps street children help themselves. CDB, founded in Delhi in 2001, not only offers street and working children the opportunity to put their money into a bank account and earn 3.5% interest rates, but also provides planning for long term savings for education and training. Furthermore, the CDB works with children to cultivate their entrepreneurial spirit toward developing small companies, instilling a more long-term approach in terms of how the children should use their money. A total of nine CDBs are operated in four countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal. In Nepal Jyoti Street Project is running this bank to help the street children.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: It refers to sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons.

Contact Center: It is the centre where the street children receive basic services and non formal education during day time.

Culture of Poverty: The concept of culture of poverty was introduced by American anthropologist, Oscar Lewis, as a result of studying the urban poor in Mexico and Puerto Rico. The culture of poverty constitutes a "design for living" that is passed on from generation to the next. The individuals feel marginalized, helpless and inferior, and adopt an attitude of living for the present.

Daily Income: The average income which is earned in a day is known as daily income.

Daily Life: It refers to the life of the street children in terms of fooding, shelter, interaction with society, types of work they do etc.

Domestic Violence: The physical or mental violence perpetrated by intimate partners and other family members is a domestic violence.

Exploitation: Exploitation involves a persistent social relationship in which children are being mistreated or unfairly used for the benefit of certain people.

Saving: The amount of money which is left after deduction of street children's daily expenses from their daily income is saving.

Street children: Children on the street mean the children who purely live and work on the street. These kinds of children do not go to their families often or on the regular basis. Children involve in rag picking, boot polishing, begging, street porters, guiding, street venders are taken as the children on the street.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

As this research focused mainly on daily lives of street children, scare information are available regarding the magnitude and nature of the problem concerning those children in Nepal in general and in Pokhara in particular. So, in the absence of proper research and secondary data on those street children, it is difficult to assess the extent and the nature of the problem.

Children of the poor and marginalized groups and children of any particular castes who are living with their parents have less importance in this study. Likewise, the outcome and conclusion drawn from the study is based on the information obtained from a limited number of street children within Pokhara valley. Thus, the outcome may not be applicable or generalized in the same manner for other street children in other parts of Nepal.

1.7 Organization of the Study

The research study has been divided into six chapters. The first chapter is introductory chapter. The second chapter is the review of literature. The third chapter is research methodology. The fourth chapter is a profile of street children in Pokhara. The fifth chapter is socio-economic status of street children and the sixth chapter is summary, conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

While doing research in any field it is quite important to review the previous literature which gives us a way and an idea to move ahead. Here are some reviews done by different researchers and organizations which are related to the current study and which provides guidelines to this study.

2.1 Situation of Street Children - In the World and Nepalese Context

Situation of street children and their living condition is both a subject of interest and matter of concern for researchers, development workers and child right activists. Yet, only a few researches and studies have been conducted in this area so far. However, some organizations working for children have carried out some surveys and studies in this area for their own specific purposes. A short review of available literature is provided below to highlight the situation and status of street children.

The situation of children in the world over today looks as though children's rights are there, more to be violated than guaranteed. A large number of children in the world live in sub human conditions, in poverty, deprivation, infection by various diseases, malnourished, suffering from war, strife, and conflicts, maimed, abandoned, orphaned, exploited, economically and socially abused, physically and sexually alienated and neglected. The right of the child is violated daily in countless ways.

The number of people living in poverty has increased to 1.2 billion of which 600 million children are below the age of 18 while the world economy as a whole has grown massively. Even at the onset of the 21st century about 30,500 children are estimated to die daily due to various diseases and other causes like accident, war etc. which can be prevented (UNICEF, 2006).

It is almost impossible to estimate the number of children who are victims of trafficking, bondage and debt, forced labour, etc. ILO has estimated that 250 million

children between the age of 5-14 are employed in various sectors, most of who are in the less developed countries. Of these, at least 60 million between 5 and 11 years age are said to be engaged in hazardous sector of employment (ILO, 2001).

It is estimated that about 540 million children in the world live in very dangerous circumstances involving political conflicts, war, ethnic and communal clashes, etc. During the decade more than 2 million children have been killed, 6 million injured and 1 million orphaned (Amnesty International, 1999).

The dominant interpretation of street children is that of passive victims and deviants. Interventions are therefore designed to rescue or remove children from the street and to socialize them into mainstream society. Street children are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, however, street life also offers children access to income and control over day-to-day decision-making. For many, organizations are an integral part of street life not a way out. Therefore, understanding street children as passive victims fails to address the complexity of their situation. In not recognizing the opportunities as well as the problems of street life, organizations have been unsuccessful in providing viable alternatives. The way we perceive street children dictates our response to them. It is vital to gain an understanding of street children's perspectives of their own situation to encourage more appropriate and effective interventions (Save the Children UK/Sathsath, 2003).

Reality Situation of Street Children in Asia

-) The working street child works from 6 to 16 hours, often in a combination of “occupations”.
-) Street children usually come from large families, with six to ten children per family.
-) Street children are generally malnourished and anemic, many of them physically stunted.
-) Street children suffer psychologically from undue family pressures, abuses and neglect at home. Very often, they develop low self-esteem.
-) Street children are prone to street fights and bullying from bigger youth, harassment from policemen, suspicion and arrest for petty crimes, abuse and torture from misguided authorities.

-) Street children usually come from broken families.
-) There are more boys than girls. Female children are disadvantaged because of their sex; they do more housework and are prone to sexual abuses.
-) Parents of street children are preoccupied with earning a living, oftentimes engaged in irregular low-paying jobs as construction workers, vendors, and scavenger (Child Hope Asia, 2010).

The aforesaid situations also prevail in Nepalese condition which are prone to guide the study.

Street children fall into three main categories: fugitives from poverty in deprived rural areas, escapees from physical or mental abuse by family or step-parents, and orphans. Street children basically collect the things such as copper, brass, aluminium, iron, tin, plastic, high quality plastic, bottle, cardboard. Street children basically include rag pickers, shoe shining boys, street hawkers, and porters (Sattaur, 1993).

Most of the street children have reported experiencing all types of abuse. They perceive sexual activities as coping strategy and as a routine that is easily accessible to them and within their control. According to them exposure to sexual activity including obscene language, pornographic materials, involvement with pedophiles, and with commercial sex workers started within the first three months of their being on the street. Some of them reported being exposed to sexual activities back home, before coming to the streets. Some older street children had been luring younger street children into sexual activities. (Kansakar, 2003).

The rural family, which is supposed to be the bedrock of children's welfare and protection, is becoming a major source for street children. Parents, forced by poverty, are sending their children into the streets to beg, steal or engage in different child labour areas (mostly the worst form of child labour). Children are leaving their homes to escape domestic violence or breaking family structure. Government policies and strategies are directed by a centralized development trend, weak implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and lack of strong enforcement of existing laws and regulations. These are responsible for more and more children being out of schools and compelled to live on to the streets instead of ensuring the welfare of children and society in general. (CWS and UNESCO, 2005).

States parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and 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, moral or social development (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article no 32).

Youth homelessness and street children are phenomena, not only of developing countries, but also experienced worldwide. Definitions of "street children", "homelessness" and "youth" vary across countries and cultures, as do the causes of homelessness and the associated problems. There are major difficulties in trying to estimate the number of street children and the magnitude of difficulties they experience as these populations are not adequately covered by national census, educational and health data. Depending on the definition used, estimates of the numbers of street children range from 10 to 100 million, the majority being located in major urban areas of developing countries. By regions, estimates have included about 40 million in Latin America, 25-30 million in Asia, and over 10 million in Africa. Boys predominate (71-97%), but girls often have more difficulties. For the purposes of the Street Children Project, the 1990 estimate by UNICEF of 100 million has been accepted, representing those with current difficulties, and those at risk. Some of these children are "on the street", that is they maintain quite good family contact, often returning home each night. They may be on the streets to work, have fun, to pass time, or due to overcrowding in their homes which may provide little more than a place to sleep. In some countries, these are the majority of street children. Others are "of the street", where the street is their home. Some search for their identity on the streets (WHO, 1993). This tendency can be linked with the tendency of current study where it has been traced that many children are "of the street children".

Substance (tobacco, alcohol and drugs) use is a part of street life. Children on the streets begin this habit from the very beginning once they are adapted to the street life. CWIN (2008), a research on alcohol and drug use among street children in Nepal illustrates this fact. The central argument of the study was that street children in Nepal are much vulnerable of exposure to alcohol, drugs and tobacco use. Reasons for children choosing to live on the streets are also associated with dysfunctional family. These children run the risk of exposing to such substances. Further, this risk is

aggravated with the compatible alcohol use environment at all levels of child socialization processes, from home, company, community to market.

Regarding the economic conditions the work of street children usually consists of collecting various used materials at street corners and other dumping sites to sell them at variable prices to junkyards. Mornings and evenings are peak hours for rag picking. Their earnings range from NRs. 50 to 300 a day, though it fluctuates greatly depending on their age, the amount of hours worked in a day, and the season (ILO/IPEC, 2001).

Rag pickers (street children) live a day to day lifestyle, usually spending all the money they earn in a day, which means they often face the situation of not having enough money to feed themselves. This draws them to either borrow money from junkyards, putting them in a bonding situation, or to resort to petty crime such as begging, theft, or other criminal activities.

Similar characteristics and nature of the street children are also reported by other studies. “Street children are not like common children. Free life, mobile in nature, eating many times as they like, self and daily earnings, quick resentment and cold down, self-decision and implementation, distrust to other, unwilling to extend relationship with others, frank and sometimes cruel, recidivistic behavior, etc are the nature of street children” (TOLI, 2000).

2.2 Theoretical Review

While doing any kind of research, theoretical guidelines or base is necessary. It provides the way forward to conduct the study. In this research I have gone through different/various theories which are related to the study. Some the theoretical perspective related to children and child psychology as well as sociological/anthropological theories are mentioned below.

2.2.1 Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency refers to abnormal social or legal behavior by children or adolescents, for dealing with juveniles, such as juvenile detention centers. A Juvenile Delinquent is one who repeatedly commits crime. These juvenile delinquents

sometimes have mental disorders/behavioral issues such as post traumatic stress disorder or bipolar disorder, and are sometimes diagnosed with conduct disorder partially as a result of their delinquent behaviors (Wikipedia 2011).

Juvenile delinquency, legal term for behavior of children and adolescents that in adults would be judged criminal under law. In the United States, definitions and age limits of juveniles vary, the maximum age being set at 14 years in some states and as high as 21 years in others. The 16-years to 20-year age group, considered adult in many places, has one of the highest incidences of serious crime. A high proportion of adult criminals have a background of early delinquency. Theft is the most common offense by children; more serious property crimes and rape are most frequently committed in later youth.

The causes of such behavior, like those of crime in general, are found in a complex of psychological, social, and economic factors. Clinical studies have uncovered emotional maladjustments, usually arising from disorganized family situations, in many delinquents. Other studies have suggested that there are persisting patterns of delinquency in poverty-level neighborhoods regardless of changing occupants; this "culture of poverty" argument has come into disrepute among many social scientists. The gang, a source of much delinquency, has been a common path for adolescents, particularly in the inner cities. Not until the development, after 1899, of the juvenile court was judgment of youthful offenders effectively separated from that of adults. The system generally emphasizes informal procedure and correction rather than punishment. In some states, psychiatric clinics are attached, and there has been a tendency to handle cases in public welfare agencies outside the court. Juvenile correctional institutions have been separated from regular prisons since the early 19th century, and although most of them are inadequate, some have developed intensive rehabilitation programs, providing vocational training and psychiatric treatment. The parole system, foster homes, child guidance clinics, and public juvenile protective agencies have contributed to the correction of delinquent and maladjusted children. Especially important for prevention is action by community groups to provide essential facilities for the well-being of children. On international level, delinquency rates are highest in the more economically and technologically advanced countries (Cromwell et al, 1978).

The majority of studies and programmes dealing with juvenile delinquency focus on youth as offenders. However, adolescents are also victims of criminal or delinquent acts. The continuous threat of victimization is having a serious impact on the socialization of young men and on their internalization of the norms and values of the larger society. According to data on crimes registered by the police, more than 80 per cent of all violent incidents are not reported by the victims. Information about the victims allows conclusions to be drawn about the offenders as well. The results of self report studies indicate that an overwhelming majority of those who participate in violence against young people are about the same age and gender as their victims; in most cases the offenders are males acting in groups. Those most likely to be on the receiving end of violence are between the ages of 16 and 19, with 91 in every 1,000 in this group becoming victims of some form of crime. Surveys have shown that men are more likely than women to become victims. In the United States, 105 in every 1,000 men become crime victims, compared with 80 per 1,000 women. Men are 2.5 times more likely to be victims of aggravated assault. Older people are less often affected; as mentioned, crimes are usually committed by representatives of the same age groups to which the victims belong (UN, 2003). These data are prone to provide adequate guidance to the current study. Nevertheless, these data depicts the situation of developed societies whereas the situations are different in developing country like Nepal. Hence, the current study will fill up this lacuna.

2.2.1.1 Juvenile Crime and Violence

Adolescents are sometimes perceived as a threat to community peace and security. This view is by no means confined to the scaremongering or routine stereotyping of youth in the mass media; the UN High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, for example, considers that the combination of a booming adolescent population with unemployment and urbanization can raise the risk of civil strife.

The suggestion is that if adolescents are not productively employed or feel disaffected from society, particularly males, they are more likely to express their frustrations through violence. But despite the difficulties of making the transition to adulthood, the fact is that the vast majority of young people function as stable members of society going peacefully about their affairs.

In practice, while a small proportion of adolescents develop bad habits of drug abuse, violent behaviour and criminality that adversely condition the course of their adult lives, the overwhelming majority move on to an adulthood in which they accept the prevailing codes of conduct and themselves come to be concerned about the criminal behaviour of later generations. According to the United Nations Guidelines (1990) for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines), “youthful behaviour or conduct that does not conform to overall social norms and values is often part of the maturation and growth process and tends to disappear spontaneously in most individuals with the transition to adulthood.” (UNICEF, 2011)

As with every other age group in society, adolescents are infinitely varied in their characteristics, life situations and attitudes. In the literature about young people and violence, there is generally a marked absence of material pointing to the positive contributions to society made by adolescents, or reference to the vast majority who do not become involved in violence of any kind.

In today’s world, the word ‘juvenile’ is being seen followed by the word ‘delinquency’ to a disturbing degree. Clearly adolescence is an uncertain period that can put some young people in conflict with the law and endanger their health and well-being (UNICEF, 2011).

Juvenile delinquency approach has become very useful for my study and this approach guided me to study about the street children's behaviour and how they become delinquent.

2.2.2 Deviance

Deviance in a sociological context describes actions or behaviors that violate cultural norms including formally-enacted rules (e.g., crime) as well as informal violations of social norms (e.g., rejecting folkways and mores). It is the purview of sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, and criminologists to study how these norms are created, how they change over time and how they are enforced (Wikipedia, 2010).

2.2.2.1. Deviance as a Violation of Social Norms

Norms are the specific behavioral standards, ways in which people are supposed to act, paradigms for predictable behavior in society. They are not necessarily moral, or even grounded in morality; in fact, they are just as often pragmatic and, paradoxically, irrational. A great many of what we call manners, having no logical grounds, would make for good examples here. Norms are rules of conduct, not neutral or universal, but ever changing; shifting as society shifts; mutable, emergent, loose, reflective of inherent biases and interests, and highly selfish and one-sided. They vary from class to class, and in the generational "gap." They are, in other words, contextual (Clinard and Meier, 1968).

Deviance can be described as a violation of these norms. Deviance is a failure to conform with culturally reinforced norms. This definition can be interpreted in many different ways. Social norms are different in one culture as opposed to another. For example, a deviant act can be committed in one society or culture that breaks a social norm there, but may be considered normal for another culture and society. Some acts of deviance may be criminal acts, but also, according to the society or culture, deviance can be strictly breaking social norms that are intact (Wikipedia, 2010).

Viewing deviance as a violation of social norms, sociologists have characterized it as "any thought, feeling or action that members of a social group judge to be a violation of their values or rules"; "violation of the norms of a society or group"; "conduct that violates definitions of appropriate and inappropriate conduct shared by the members of a social system"; "the departure of certain types of behavior from the norms of a particular society at a particular time"; and "violation of certain types of group norms/behavior is in a disapproved direction and of sufficient degree to exceed the tolerance limit of the community" (Thomson, 2004).

2.2.2.2 Deviance as Reactive Construction

Deviance is concerned with the process whereby actions, beliefs or conditions come to be viewed as deviant by others. Deviance can be observed by the negative, stigmatizing social reaction of others towards these phenomena. Criminal behaviour, such as theft, can be deviant, but other crimes attract little or no social reaction, and

cannot be considered deviant (e.g., violating copyright laws by downloading music in the internet). Some beliefs in society will attract negative reaction, such as racism and homo negativity or alternatively even race-mixing or homosexuality, but that depends on the society.

People may have a condition or disease which makes them treated badly by others, such as having HIV-AIDS, dwarfism, facial deformities, or obesity. Deviance is relative to time and place because what is considered deviant in one social context may be non-deviant in another (e.g., fighting during a hockey game vs. fighting in a nursing home). Killing another human is considered wrong except when governments permit it during warfare or self-defense. The issue of social power cannot be divorced from a definition of deviance because some groups in society can criminalize the actions of another group by using their influence on legislators (Douglas and Waksler, 1982).

Deviance approach provides to understand the guidelines to the current study how the broken family pushes the children to the street life.

2.2.3 Social Disorganization

In Sociology, the social disorganization theory is one of the most important theories developed by the Chicago School, related to ecological theories. Social disorganization theory: linking (directly) high crime rates to neighborhood ecological characteristics, youths from disadvantaged neighborhoods were participants in a subculture in which delinquency was approved behavior and that criminality was acquired in social and cultural settings through a process of interaction. A core principle of social disorganization theory is that place matters -- i.e., one's residential location -- as much or more than one's individual characteristics (age, gender, race) in shaping the likelihood that a person will become involved in illegal activities. The theory is not intended to apply to all types of crime, but instead to street crime at the neighborhood level. The theory has not been used to explain organized crime, corporate crime, or deviant behavior that takes place outside neighborhood settings, which shows its effects are not highly regarded. A recent overview of social disorganization theory, including suggestions for refining and extending the theory, is a journal article by Kubrin and Weitzer (2003).

Thomas and Znaniecki (1918-1920) introduced the idea that a person's thinking processes and attitudes are constructed by the interaction between that person's situation and his or her behavior. Attitudes are not innate but stem from a process of acculturation. Any proposed action will have social importance to an individual both because it relates to the objective situation within which the subject has to act, and because it has been shaped by attitudes formed through a lifetime of social and cultural experiences. This is based on the "four wishes" of the Thomas theorem, viz., "If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences". These four wishes are the desire for new experiences, the desire for recognition, the desire for domination, and the desire for security. Combined with the cultural values of a pre-existing situation, the four wishes give rise to certain attitudes which are subjectively defined meanings and shared experiences, strongly emphasized and embodied in specific institutions. The root of new attitudes arises from the formation of new relationships and interaction between the person and the world outside the community. For example, the emergence of economics as an independent sphere reflected the tendency to reduce quality to a quantity in barter transactions and led to the development of money.

Edwin Sutherland (1934) adopted the concept of social disorganization to explain the increases in crime that accompanied the transformation of preliterate and peasant societies where "influences surrounding a person were steady, uniform, harmonious and consistent" to modern Western civilization which he believed was characterized by inconsistency, conflict and un-organization. He also believed that the mobility, economic competition and an individualistic ideology that accompanied capitalist and industrial development had been responsible for the disintegration of the large family and homogeneous neighborhoods as agents of social control. The failure of extended kin groups expanded the realm of relationships no longer controlled by the community and undermined governmental controls leading to persistent "systematic" crime and delinquency. He also believed that such disorganization causes and reinforces the cultural traditions and cultural conflicts that support antisocial activity. The systematic quality of the behavior was a reference to repetitive, patterned or organized offending as opposed to random events. He depicted the law-abiding culture as dominant and more extensive than alternative criminogenic cultural views and capable of overcoming systematic crime if organized for that purpose (1939: 8).

But because society is organized around individual and small group interests, society permits crime to persist. Sutherland concludes that "if the society is organized with reference to the values expressed in the law, the crime is eliminated; if it is not organized, crime persists and develops (1939:8). In later works, he has switched from the concept of social disorganization to differential social organization to convey the complexity of overlapping and conflicting levels of organization in a society (Sutherland and Cressey, 1934).

Ruth Shonle Cavan (1968) produced *Suicide* as a study of personal disorganization in which she confirmed that the mortality rate is relatively stable regardless of economic and social conditions. She was particularly interested in dance halls, brothels, insanity, divorce, nonvoting, suicide, and other forms of socially problematic behavior of interest to the political reformers, studying the working lives of "business" girls and their dispersal throughout the zones of Chicago (1929). Partly as a result of her studies, Cavan (1953) emphasized the importance to the efficient functioning of the entire social order of the regulation of sex. While there are variations in the specific arrangements, all societies contain family groups, forbid incest, sanction marriage, approve more highly of legitimate than of illegitimate births, and look upon marriage as the most highly approved outlet for sexual expression of adults. She has continued the work to review delinquency in different countries (1968), returning to write of the Chicago School itself in 1983.

Mapping can show spatial distributions of delinquency and crime, but it cannot explain the results. Indeed, such research has often been used politically to ascribe immorality to specific population groups or ethnicities. Social disorganization theory and cultural transmission theory examine the consequences when a community is unable to conform to common values and to solve the problems of its residents.

Shaw and McKay (1942) apply Sutherland's theory of systematic criminal behavior, and claim that delinquency is not caused at the individual level, but is a normal response by normal individuals to abnormal conditions. Thus, if a community is not self-policing and imperfectly policed by outside agencies, some individuals will exercise unrestricted freedom to express their dispositions and desires, often resulting in delinquent behavior. They consider the Concentric Zone Theory and produce a diachronic analysis to demonstrate that delinquency is already dispersed in urban

areas, and that more wealthy and important groups move to avoid the existing social disorganization. Their concepts, hypothesis, and research methods have been a strong influence on the analysis of delinquency and crime rates of street children in many countries (Shaw and McKay, 1942).

Shaw and McKay (1942) demonstrate that social disorganization is endemic to the urban areas which are the only places the newly arriving poor could afford to live. In these areas, there is a high rate of turnover in the population (residential instability) and mix of people from different cultural backgrounds (ethnic diversity). Shaw and McKay's analyses relating delinquency rates to these structural characteristics establish key facts about the community correlates of crime and delinquency:

-) The rates of juvenile delinquency are consistent with an ordered spatial pattern with the highest rates in the inner-city areas and declining with distance from the city center.
-) There is an identical spatial pattern revealed by various other indexes of social problems.
-) The spatial pattern of delinquency rates shows significant long-term stability even though the nationality structure of the population in the inner-city areas change greatly throughout the decades.
-) Within inner-city areas the course of becoming delinquent occurs through a network of interpersonal relationships involving family, gangs, and the neighborhood.

Comparing the maps, Shaw and McKay (1942) recognize that the pattern of delinquency rates correspond to the "natural urban areas" of Park and Burgess' Concentric Zone Model. This evidence the conclusion that delinquency rates always remain high for a certain region of the city, no matter which immigrant group lived there. Hence, delinquency is not "constitutional", but is to be correlated with the particular ecological environment in which it occurs. In this context, Shaw and McKay assert that ethnic diversity interferes with communication among adults, with effective communication less likely in the face of ethnic diversity because differences in customs and a lack of shared experiences may breed fear and mistrust. These data are highly relevant in the context of present study where the urban centers of Pokhara has high concentration of street children.

There are a number of problems in Shaw and McKay's work. As defined, social disorganization downplays the significance of ethnic and cultural factors in delinquency. Some ethnicities may encourage criminal activity because the behavior is not considered criminal or wrong. Although research in different countries has tended to support their findings that delinquent rates are highest in areas with economic decline and instability, that research has not found that crime rates spatially disperse from the city center outward. In fact, in some countries, the wealthy live in the center, while the poorest zones are near its fringes. Further, their work does not consider why there is significant non-delinquency in delinquency areas. Thus, the theory identifies social causes of delinquency that seem to be located in specific geographical areas, and its conclusions are not completely generalizable. For a general discussion the work of Snodgrass (1976), (Shaw & McKay (1942) are vital.

Social disorganization approach has provided guidance to the current study in the sense that if the society is organized with reference to the values expressed in the social norms and law, the delinquent can be reduced. Migrations also force to be delinquent. While studying the street children they frequently migrate from one place to another.

2.2.4. Functionalism

American sociologist Talcott Parsons (1951) is fascinated to develop a framework for a perception of society in the form of a system of social interaction. The uncomplicated units of this interaction system are the human individuals. They participate in the interaction process for the fulfillment of some goals. Social interaction does not appear only between individual members of society. It appears also between different types and levels of groups and institutions formed by people for the fulfillment of different types of their goals.

Parsons (1951) says that the economic institutions, the political and administrative institutions process, the legal and the ideological and symbolic aspects of culture are vital to keep continuity of the existing pattern of culture. All these four categories of institutional structures appear collectively in the form of different kinds of sub-systems of society. Individually, each of these institutional structures may appear in a distinct type of system in itself motivated to satisfy the functional prerequisites of its

own to maintain its own existence. Accordingly, for Parsons and other scholars Durkheim, Malinowski, Brown, society is a self regulating system in which all of its individual components operate for the maintenance of its stability and equilibrium. Any of the deviating behaviour shown by either of these components that lead to disturb the equilibrating tendency of society are regarded just as its sorrow. They are cured by its own internal processes to bring back its status again in the form of an equilibrium system (Upadhyay, 2011).

Parson's general assumptions:

- Systems are made of order and the interdependence of parts
- The system, and all the sub-systems, strive for equilibrium
- Systems are generally static, or move in a deliberate manner
- A disruption in the normal flow of one subsystem can cause a disturbance throughout the whole system.

Systems have boundaries, which may involve actual physical space, or time and distance are vital in the sense that problems with systems create anarchism, disturbance leading to street children.

Functionalism is one of the core perspectives of Sociology. Sociology examines the contexts in which people live and how these contexts affect them. In essence, Sociology examines the question of why the world is the way that it is. Functionalism, along with conflict theory and interactionism, is one of the major schools of sociological thought, examining society through a functional framework which stresses that everything, no matter how seemingly strange, out of place, or harmful, serves a purpose (Ritzer, 2000).

According to Bohm (2001), functionalism can be summed up with one simple premise: The world is a system of interrelated parts, and each part makes a necessary contribution to the vitality of the system, and the disturbance in the part as family may lead to the rise of street children problem. Functionalism could be described as the most generalized and ineffective of the sociological schools. It is not logically in sync with variability between cultures and it cannot effectively explain change. Still, it has its strong points, such as its ability to explain crime and deviance (Bohm, (2001).

Parson (1951) assumes that actors usually are passive recipients in the socialization process. Children learn not only how to act but also the norms and values, the morality of society. Socialization is conceptualized as a conservative process in which need-dispositions (which are themselves largely molded by society) bind children to the social system, and it provides the means by which the need-disposition can be satisfied. There is little or no room for creativity; the need for gratification ties children to the system as it exists. Parson sees socialization as a lifelong experience. Because the norms and values inculcated in childhood tend to be very general, they do not prepare children for the various specific situations that they encounter in adulthood. Thus socialization must be supplemented throughout the life cycle with a series of more specific socialization experiences. Despite this need later in life, the norms and values learned in childhood tend to be stable and, with a little gentle reinforcement tend to remain in force throughout the life.

Parson was concerned that social control is strictly a second line of defense. A system runs best when social control is used only sparingly. For another thing, the system must be able to tolerate some variation, some deviance. A flexible social system is stronger than a brittle one that accepts no deviation. Finally, the social system should provide a wide range of role opportunities that allow different personalities to express themselves without threatening the integrity of the system.

Socialization and social control are the main mechanisms that allow the social system to maintain its equilibrium. Modest amounts of individuality and deviance are accommodated, but more extreme forms must be met by re-equilibrating mechanisms (Ritzer, 2000). This theory guide the research study to elaborate the function of family where the parts are interdependent and when the state of equilibrium break-up then there is a violation of social norms.

2.3 Empirical Review

Case study: Children and Young People in Detention in Nigeria

The case found more relevant with this study happened in Nigeria where a lady named Nkeiruka was kept in jail for 5 years when she was 15 years old which was considered under juvenile detention centre accusing her of killing her own child (State

of World's Children, 2006). Sometimes, we also come to know about similar case here in our country as well.

Her eyes welled up as she struggled to hold back the flood of tears that threatened to ruin her neatly pressed coveralls. Soon the floodgates opened as she recounted the details of the past five and a half years spent in jail. Nkeiruka became pregnant while unmarried, which was considered a taboo among the Igbo community in Nigeria to which she belonged. In December 1999, the then 15-year-old Nkeiruka gave birth unassisted at home, and her child died as a result of complications. Her uncle accused her of killing her newborn, and Nkeiruka and her mother Monica were arrested and taken to prison in Anambra state. Now 21, Nkeiruka faces an uncertain future: Deprived of a formal education while in prison and possessing few skills, she is uncertain of the reception she and her mother will receive from the community and family when they return home.

Nkeiruka was one of over 6,000 children and teenagers in Nigeria who are in prison or juvenile detention centers. About 70 per cent of them are first-time offenders, usually arrested for misdemeanours such as vagrancy, petty stealing, truancy or simply wandering or hanging around the streets. Others are detained at the request of their parents or guardians, who say that they are out of control. Many of these children come from broken homes and large poor families, or are orphans.

In many countries young people, especially girls, are also victims of criminal acts such as domestic violence, rape, sexual exploitation and trafficking. However, due to aberrations and delays in the administration of justice, especially during investigations leading to trial, these child victims can find themselves in jail. Their parents are denied access to them and they are deprived of due process, detained under deplorable conditions, put in contact with adult criminals, at risk of physical and sexual abuse, and often denied their right to bail. Many children are forced to admit to being older than they are or the police change their ages on arrest warrants in order to prosecute them as adults.

Where juvenile courts do not exist, children and youths are tried in adult courts. Lacking the means to secure legal representation, or to pay bail, they often languish in jail for long periods. Juveniles in prison are often cut off from family and friends, as a

deep-seated fear and distrust of the police and justice system leads people to shun those who come in contact with the law, whether as perpetrators or victims. Stigmatization and rejection by society further affect the reintegration of victims.

Since 2003, UNICEF Nigeria has helped to promote improved treatment and legal aid for juveniles in conflict with the law. As part of the Juvenile Justice Administration Project – undertaken in partnership with the National Human Rights Commission, the Nigerian Bar Association and local non-governmental organizations – a pro bono service was introduced and institutionalized for lawyers renewing their licences with the association. UNICEF has assisted in supporting the training of magistrates, police, prison officers, lawyers and social workers in juvenile justice administration, which has strengthened the provision of free legal services for children, young people and women.

The project, which aims to reduce the number of children being detained, was started in three pilot states in southern Nigeria. By mid-2005, almost 600 children had benefited from the project in these states, either by being released from prison or detention centers, being granted bail, having their cases dismissed or settled out of court, receiving counseling or having the project handle their ongoing case.

The number of children and young people in detention has decreased as a result of the project. The training of magistrates has facilitated more careful use of custodial sentencing of juveniles to prison terms for minor offences. Police officers are exercising restraint in detaining juveniles in police cells for minor offences and instead immediately take them to court for processing. Given its success, the project is now being implemented in nine additional states throughout the country in a strong partnership with the Nigeria Police Service (UNICEF- State of World's Children 2006).

This case study is highly relevant in the Nepalese context in the sense that many of the street children who are juvenile are arrested and prosecuted by legal system. Nevertheless, rather than improvement, juvenile street children's condition is deteriorated in the prison cell owing to the contact with adult prisoners in the prison. Hence, all these evidences are prone to provide adequate guidance to this present study on the street children of Pokhara.

2.4 Theoretical Framework:

Theoretical framework is the base of the study upon which the study is established. It is based on different theories related to society which makes children different in behaviour and their life-style.

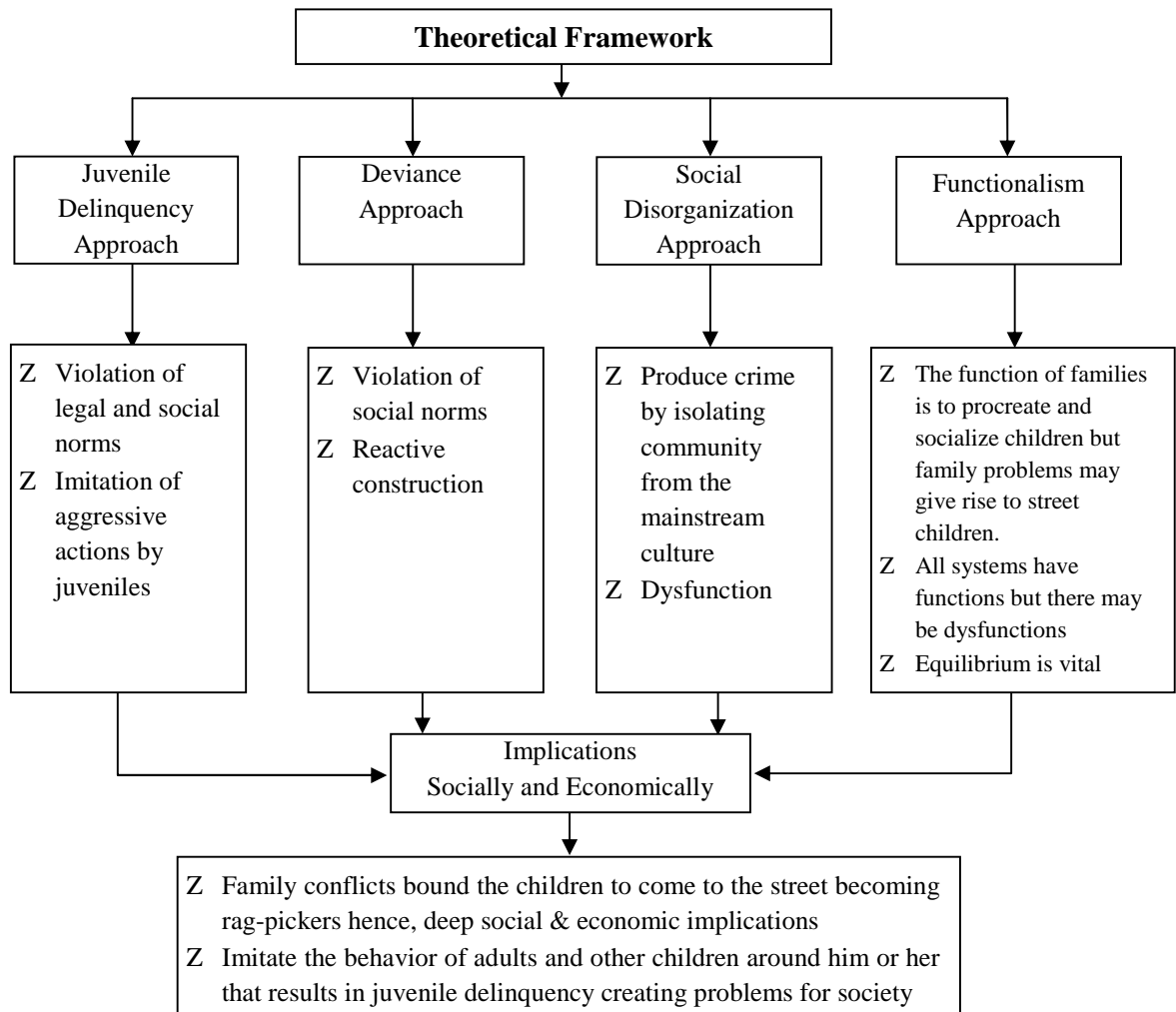


Figure 2.1 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework espoused in the study viz. juvenile, deviance, social disorganization and functional approaches are vital. The juvenile approach holds the notion that violation of legal and social norms are rampant leading imitation of aggressive actions by juveniles. The functional approach holds the notion that the function of families is to procreate and socialize children but family problems may give rise to street children. All systems have functions but there may be dysfunctions but equilibrium is vital. Family conflicts bound the children to come to the street. They imitate the behavior of adults and other children around him or her that results in juvenile delinquency.

2.5 Conceptual Framework:

Street children are treated differently in our society and they are socially and economically low in status due to different reasons.

They are deprived to access to basic services like education, health and their right to survive as a citizen of the nation. The social indicators viz. family relation, education, health etc embedded with economic status viz. daily income, saving, etc are vital. The implications and consequences embedded with socio-economic status of the children on the street and of the street are also vital. The detail follows:

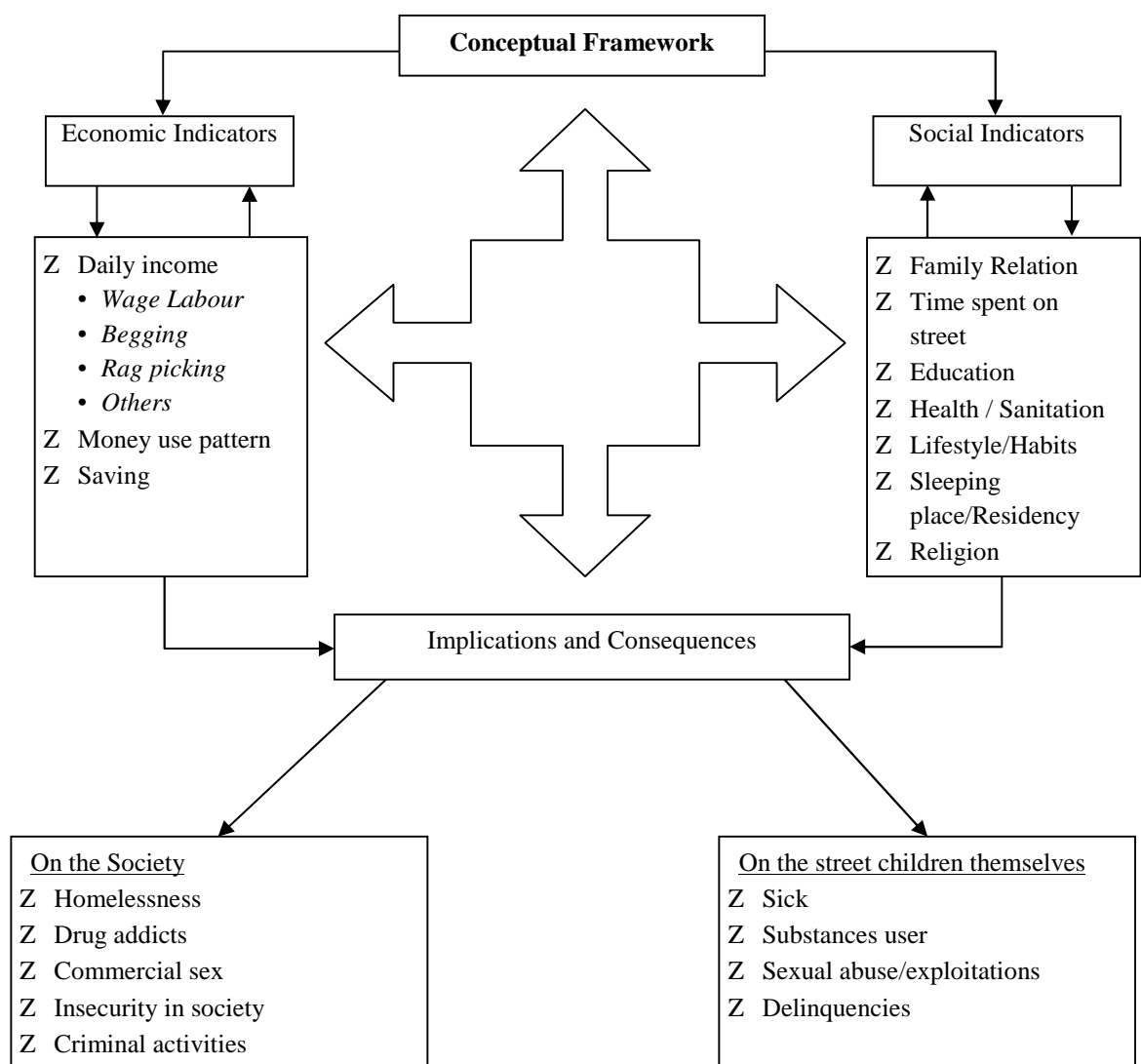


Figure 2.2 Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is undertaken/conducted to study about the social and economic status of street children in Pokhara.

3.1. Location of Study Area

The study site is within the Pokhara sub-metropolitan city of Kaski district where the street children are making street as their home in the different locations. From the survey done in 2010, sampled areas are Amar Singh Chowk, Budhha Chowk, Buspark, Chipledhunga, Lakeside, Mahendrapul, New Road and Prithvi Chowk.

3.2 Research Design

This study aims to evaluate and analyze the current status, problems and opportunities for street children in Pokhara valley. Thus, the nature of this study depicts both exploratory as well as descriptive research design.

The exploratory research design has been used to explore the various aspects and variables of the topic of this study and similarly, the descriptive research design has been employed to describe and generalize the current situation of the street children, their social and economic status, and possible opportunities to enhance their quality of life in all aspects.

3.3 Population and Sampling

Pokhara is the regional headquarters of Western Development Region of Nepal. It is the second largest city in Nepal with a population of 380527 (CBS 2001). Many people from surrounding districts and villages come to Pokhara in search of work and better life. According to a recently done survey (unpublished report by CWSUK, 2010) there are around 262 children working and living in the street in Pokhara.

Therefore, in order to understand and study about the lives of these children, Pokhara Sub-metropolitan city has been chosen as the study area.

The population for this study comprised of children who are living in the street in Pokhara. A sample frame is taken from a list of all NGOs and CBOs, which are working and providing protection to the street children in Pokhara sub-metropolitan city.

There are around 262 street children spending their lives in the different street centers in Pokhara. Out of these numbers of children only 50 children (19%) of the street have been taken for the study on the basis of convenience sampling method.

In order to obtain the relevant information for the study, face-to-face interviews are conducted with the selected number of street children.

Table 3.1: Sample Size

Study Area	Sample size	%
Amar Singh Chowk	3	6
Buddha Chowk	3	6
Buspark	13	26
Chipledhunga	2	4
Lakeside	1	2
Mahendrapul	8	16
New Road	15	30
Prithvi Chowk	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

3.4 Nature and Sources of Data

As per need of the study, primary and secondary data have been gathered from various relevant sources. However, more emphasis has been given to primary data which are collected through different techniques in the field. The main source of secondary data have been the local NGO-Child Welfare Scheme Nepal (CWSN) working for street children, street children literature available in library and contact

centers for street children in Pokhara valley. Thus, the main sources of both qualitative and quantitative data are acquired from street and NGOs working for street children. The attempts have also been made to acquire primary information from children who are based in street for the survival of their daily lives.

3.5. Data Collection Techniques

To meet the objectives of the study, the required data and information are gathered through primary data collection techniques which are as follows:

3.5.1. Interview

In order to avoid misunderstanding in question and have adequacy of the instruction, a pre-test is carried out on a few target group in similar situations representative of the prospective respondents and situation before the actual interview conducted with the real sample.

The primary data required to the study have been acquired by face-to-face interviews with street and street based children with the help of an interview schedule. A similar type of interview has been conducted with the person of organization working in the sector of street children in order to obtain both qualitative and quantitative data for study. Unstructured interviews are also conducted.

3.5.2. Observation

Street children are observed to record their behavioral patterns, objects and events in their daily lives. Direct (Reactive) observation and unobtrusive observation (indirect) have been done.

3.5.3. Key Informants

Interviews are conducted with the manager of the contact center for street children, who have a long working experience with street children and a peer educator of the center who used to be a street child once.

3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation

Both quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis have been applied to analyze gathered data. Data are categorized, processed and analyzed using statistical methods such as frequency distribution. Similarly data are illustrated in the form of bar charts and pie charts. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) computerized tool is used as a major tool for analyzing collected data through frequency and cross-tab descriptive option have been used. An effort is made to verify and measure the reliability and validity of gathered data by comparing them with data acquired by secondary sources.

CHAPTER FOUR

A PROFILE OF STREET CHILDREN IN POKHARA

4.1. Brief Description of Pokhara Valley

Pokhara is a remarkable place for natural beauty situated 200 km west of Kathmandu the capital city. This city is ever known as a real paradise in Earth. The valley is filled with swift flowing river and dotted with clear gleaming lakes. It is blessed with the back-drop in the most dramatic sceneries in the world. A 140 km of panoramic Himalayan ranges seem close enough to be touched. The serenity from the nature can not only be touched but also can be felt. The magnification of the Himalayas rising behind the lake creates an ambience of peace and magic, popular for water rafting, kayaking and trekking expeditions. Following the unification of Nepal in 1769, it took a shape of permanent bazaar (small town). Newar migrants from Kathmandu Valley established business and introduced new architecture design of the city. It grew as a catering place to caravan traders with limited infrastructure facilities located at the break of bulk point along the trans-Himalayan trade routes (www.pokharacity.org.np, 2010).

Pokhara with population 380527 (CBS 2001) have 53 slum areas (UNICEF 2010) where the marginalized and deprived communities' settlement exist. Despite a tourist destination and having very rich community within it but it is facing several problems with regards to street children and they are also facing various and different problems in their day to day life. Pokhara Municipality as a government body with different I/NGOs and CBOs are working together to find out the real problem of street children and address them.

4.2. Number of Street Children in Pokhara

As mentioned in the sample, there are 262 street children, including of the street and on the street, in Pokhara. They are scattered in different parts of the city, wherever it is convenient for them.

Distribution of Street Centers in Pokhara

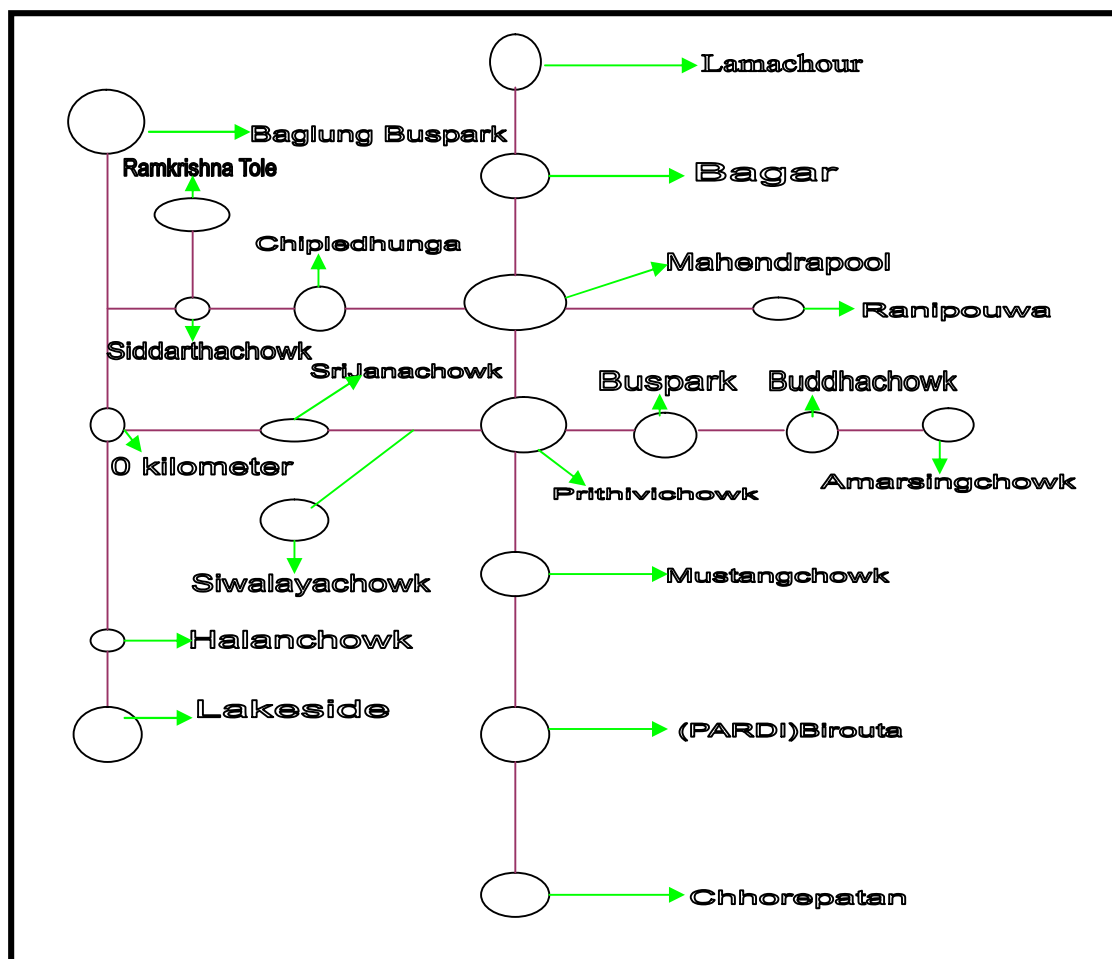


Fig 4.1

Usually street children stay in a group in or around junkyard (Gaddi, a place where they sell the kawadi they collect), chowks, bus-park, public building etc. Most of the street children are found around the main chowks of the Pokhara city.

4.3. Ages, Sex and Ethnicity of the Respondents

As the study on street children, the study focuses on sex and ethnicity of street children only. There are 50 children with whom the study conducted. Among them one girl is encountered on the street. Actually girls hardly spend their nights on the street as the boys do though they come to the street to pick rags and to do other activities during day time. Girls are easily victimized on the street thus only one girl was found during the study period. Table 4.1 makes clear that 98% of them are the boys and 2% girls.

Table 4.1: Distribution of Street Children by Age Group

Age group	Male Number	Percent %	Female Number	Percent %	Total number	Percent %
9-12	15	30	0	0.0	15	30
13-15	25	50	0	0.0	25	50
16-18	9	18	1	2	10	20
	49	98	1	2.0	50	100

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

The table 4.1 presents the age group of street children in Pokhara. Of the 50 children interviewed, majority of the children's age group is 13-15 followed by 9-12. The percentage of them is 50% and 30% respectively and children between 16 to 18 year's age are 20 % only. It is because of the fact that 13-15 age group children are most vulnerable to migrate to the city area. Besides, these age group children are mostly demanded in the city area to work in the household work and in hotel.

From the above table 4.1, among the total number of street children, almost all of them are boys. The number of girls is only one. But the girls do not spend their nights in the streets. They work in the street all the day and spend their nights with their own families. Most of these girls come from slum settlements.

Similar results appeared, also, from the key informant's interviews about the general background of the street children.

4.4. Ethnicity of Street Children

The street children is not a new phenomenon in the context of Pokhara, however, no child comes directly on the street, first they try to find some job somewhere. Only later on finding difficulties at work especially in hotels, factories they slowly and gradually step towards the street. In case of Pokhara this trend is continuing with children from different ethnic background making the street their permanent home.

The table 4.2 below illustrates the ethnic diversity of the street children in Pokhara. It shows that the children have come from many ethnic groups.

Table 4.2. Distribution of the Street Children by Ethnicity

Ethnic group	Number	Percent
Dalit	29	58.0
Janajati	8	16.0
Others	13	26.0
Total	50	100.0

The data have also been shown in the figure 4.2

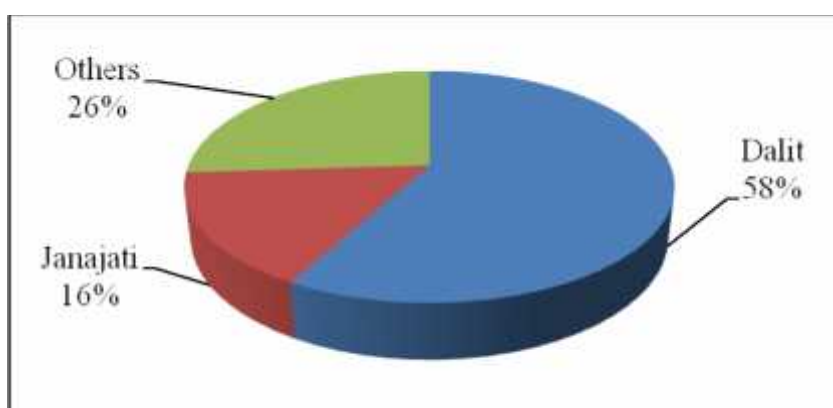


Figure 4.2. Distribution of the Street Children by Ethnicity

Basically children come to the street from the community in and around the city and from adjoining districts. Mostly dalit children who are economically and socially underprivileged are in high number. Above all, Dalit's population is high in the street. Children belongs to others ethnic group with 13 % followed by 8 % of Janajati (Gurung, Magar, Tamang etc) children. Though Gurung population (Janajati) is dominant in the region, their children's number on the street is not so high. It is most probably because of good economic condition in this community mainly due to foreign employment and army related occupations in foreign countries.

4.5. Religious Background

Most of the children on the street are from Hindu background. The percentage of Hindu respondents is 72, 18% are Christians, especially, the Dalit children and 10% are Buddhists. Usually, migrated communities in the slum areas are not very much orthodox. Hence street children from such background are also not orthodox. Despite

all this, now a days the facts are coming into light that Christianity is spreading widely in the oppressed community and in the slum areas and also among the street children.

Table 4.3: Distribution of the Respondent by Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Hindu	36	72.0
Christian	9	18.0
Buddhist	5	10.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

4.6. Place of Origin of the Respondents

Distribution of origin of the children in the sampled region is found to have a wide converge of the country. The origin differs region-wise. The Western Region shares 78%, Central Region 20% and Far-western Region 2% respectively. They are from 14 different districts.

Table: 4.4 Distribution of the Respondent by Regions

Development Region	Frequency	Percent
Central	10	20.0
Far-western	1	2.0
Western	39	78.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

As the table 4.10 shows mostly the surveyed children are from western development region. Within western region Kaski district contributes majority of the children i.e. 26%. There are over 53 slum areas and urban poor settlements within the valley (UNICEF 2010). These settlements have contributed not only labours to the city but also the children on the street. Such areas are full of social problems because of ignorance, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and family break-up. Above all being

within the city or very close to city, children get exposed to the street having no good guidance at home. The origin districts of street children are as follows;

Table: 4.5 Origin District of Street Children

Name of District	Number	Percent
Baglung	2	4.0
Banke	1	2.0
Birgunj	1	2.0
Chitwan	2	4.0
Dadeldhura	1	2.0
Dhading	6	12.0
Gorkha	3	6.0
Kaski	13	26.0
Lamjung	3	6.0
Myagdi	1	2.0
Parbat	4	8.0
Rupandehi	3	6.0
Syangja	6	12.0
Tanahun	4	8.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the table 4.5 it is clear that street children come from 14 district and 26 percent of the street children are from Kaski, 12 percent from Dhading and Syangja districts respectively with adjoining districts like Parbat and Tanahun which are 8% each respectively.

4.7 Household Size

The definition of a family used here includes everyone living in household, including members of the extended family. The household data are derived from the questionnaire presented to the sampled street children in the study area.

Table: 4.6 Household Sizes of the Respondents

Number of Family	Number of Household	Percent
less than 3 members	4	8.0
4 members	9	18.0
5 members	8	16.0
6 members	12	24.0
7 members	9	18.0
8 and more than 8 member	8	16.0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

The above table shows that 24 percent of street children have a 6-member family, 18% of them have a 4-member family and 7-member family respectively. 16% of them have more than 8-member family and 8% of them have less than 3-member family.

4.8 Current Status of Parents of the Respondents

Most the street children come from broken or fragmented families. They report that they have parents but have not taken their responsibilities of taking care of their children seriously. It indicates that children are abused or not-provided adequate love, care and support in broken families. The given table shows the condition of parents.

Table 4.7 Number of Household by the Status of Parents of the Respondents

Parents status	Number of Children	Percent
Have father and mother	32	64
Have father only	7	14
Have mother only	7	14
Have no parents	4	8
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the above table it is clear that 64% have their father and mother both in the family, 14% have their father only, another 14% have their mother only and 8% don't have their parents.

4.9 Family Economy

Economic condition of the families of the respective children is essential to know in order to find out the economic role in displacing the children from the family of community. The study comes up with the result that economic drawbacks are not only the main causes to make children abandon the family. In fact, lack of love and affection from the parents and having companion with street boys are the main reason. However, Nepal is a poverty stricken country but all the children from poor families are not on the street. The table 4.15 clarifies the situation.

Table: 4.8 Distribution of the Respondent by Family Occupation

Occupation	Number of Children	Percent
Agriculture	17	34
Wage Labour	29	58
Business	3	6
Foreign Employment	1	2
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the above table, it is clear that 34% of children's family depends upon agriculture, 58% depends upon wage labour, 6% depends upon small business and only 2% upon foreign employment. This means significant number of children's family depends upon wage labour.

Table: 4.9 Distribution of the Respondent by Level of Family Income

Level of Income	Number of Children	Percent
Income is sufficient to feed the family	22	44.0
Income is not sufficient to feed the family	28	56.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

The street children are asked whether income source is sufficient to feed the family. The above table 4.9 shows that 44 percent of the children's family income is sufficient

to support the family even though they escape from their home and 56 percent of them have the reverse condition.

CHAPTER FIVE

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF STREET CHILDREN

5.1 Reasons for Leaving Home and Coming to Street

There are various reasons for the street dwellers behind leaving their home and family away and coming down to the streets. The report from both the primary data and key informant's interviews reveal the major reasons behind coming down to streets which are shown in the table below.

Table 5.1. Proportion of Street Children Who Left Home According to Reasons

Reasons	Frequency of responses	Percent
Death of the father	9	18
Father has abandoned	17	34
Death of Mother	7	14
Mother eloped	18	36
Misconduct of step parents	16	32
Poverty	19	38
Lack of love and affection from parents	37	74
Having companion with street boys	32	64
Attraction towards city life	17	34
Parents can't afford for education	9	18

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

Street children may have multiple reasons to leave home. In this table 5.1, significant numbers of children have left home due to lack of love and affection and companion with street boys which are 74% and 64% respectively. There are other reasons as well but that are very nominal in number.

Lack of love and affection from parents (74%) and companion with street boys (64%) are significant factors that encouraged children for coming to the street.

5.2 Social Status

Social status is the honor or prestige attached to one's position in society (one's social position) (Britannica dictionary, 2010).

Social status of the street children is very low and one of the main objectives of this study is also to explore the social status of the street children. Hence, the social variables which define the social status of the street children are described below.

5.2.1 Relation with Family

As the street children have left home due to various reasons but some of them are in contact with their family and some are out of contact. It is important whether street children are in contact with their family. Do they want to be in contact with their family or not. From the study, the majorities interviewed are in contact with family but the frequency is different which has been presented in the figure below.

Percentage of Children by their Contact to Family

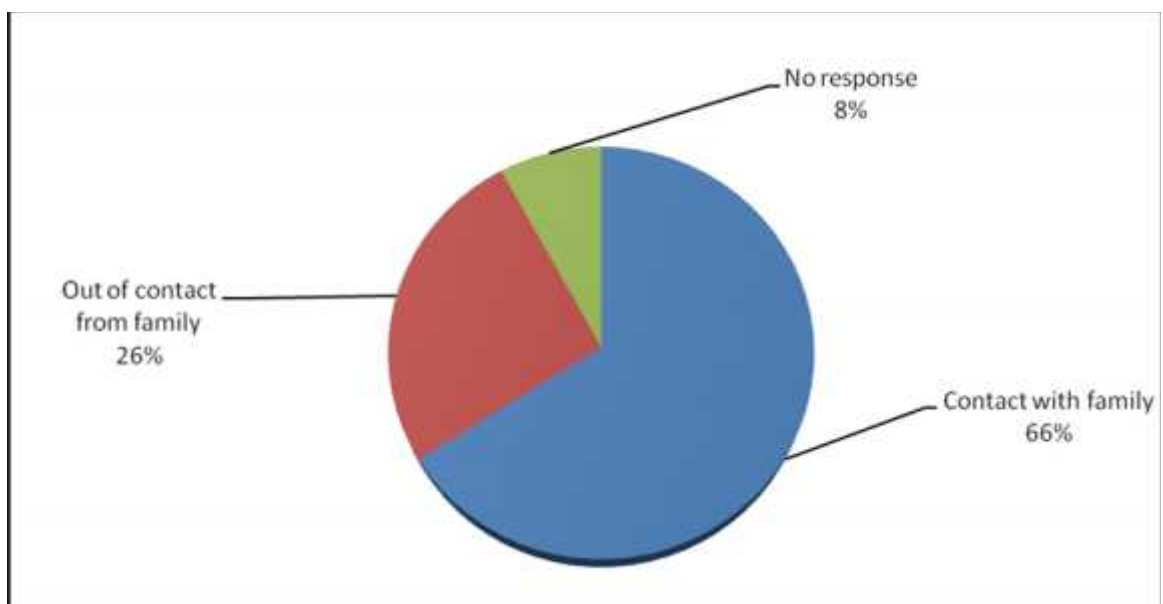


Figure 5.1

From the above chart, 66% of the respondents are in contact with their family, 26% of the respondents are out of contact from the family and 8% of the respondents have no response in this regard. The frequency of contact is shown below:

Table 5.2. Frequency of Contact with Family

Time Duration	Frequency of Contact	Percent
1-7 days	3	6.0
7-30 days	7	14.0
1-6 months	3	6.0
6-12 months	9	18.0
During Festivals	12	24.0
Out of contact/no response	16	32
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the above table 24 percent children are in contact with family only during festivals, 18 percent children are in contact with family in between 6-12 months, 14 percent children are in contact with family in between 7-30 days, 6 percent children are in contact with family in between 1-7 days and 1-6 months. Likewise, 32 percent children don't want to be in contact with family.

5.2.2 Time Spent on the Street by the Respondents

There is a wide range distribution of time spent on the street which has been shown in the figure 5.2.

Percentage of Children by Time Spent on the Street

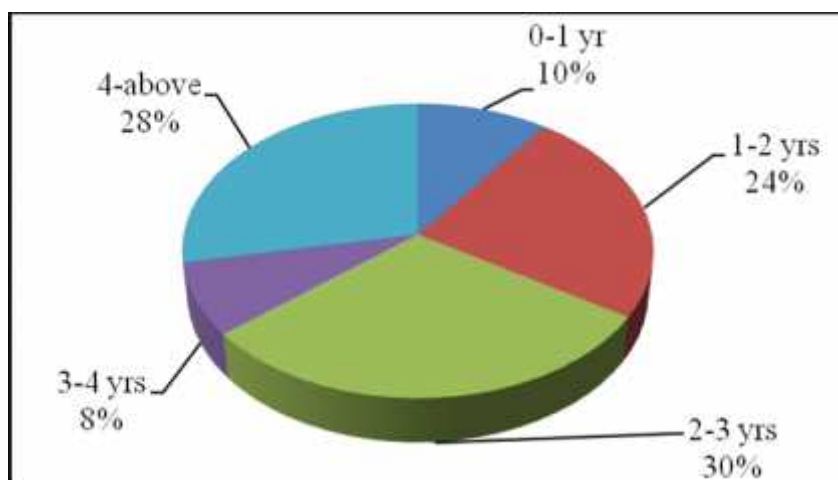


Figure 5.2

From the above table 5.2, 10% of the respondents have spent less than one year on the street, 24% of the respondents have spent between 1 and 2 years on the street, 30% of the respondents have spent 2-3 years on the street, only 8% respondents have spent 3-4 years on the street and the remaining 28% have spent more than 4 years on the street.

5.2.3. Education of Street Children

Education is a part of an individual's becoming a social member. Basic education starts from the home/family which socializes a child in the society when such education fails then children couldn't get socialized in the society and in the family and they come out from the home and their destination end up to the street.

An idea of formal education for the masses is very recent. Now education becomes foundation on which the destiny of a nation is laid. Most of the developing countries like Nepal which despite allocating a sizable portion of meager resources to the education sector every year is still faced with the challenge of bringing the light of education to all its' people, mainly the children. Since children are the nation's future citizens, leaders and captains of industry and commerce, any investment made by the nation in availing literacy programs to children having no access to education facilities will ultimately benefit both the nation and its people in the long run (Harlambos and Heald, 2002).

The government of Nepal and international donors have made a commitment to children's right to education through the framework of the Education for All campaign. In particular steps have been made to promote universal access to free primary education for all children. However it is also recognized that many children are left behind. Specially, the children from marginalized and impoverished family background as in the case of this study. The table 4.4 depicts the situation.

Table: 5.3 Distributions of Street Children by Education

Class/Grade	Number of street children	Percent
Class 1	16	32.0
Class 2	10	20.0
Class 3	10	20.0

Class 4	3	6.0
Class 5	2	4.0
Class 6	1	2.0
Never attended	8	16.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

Above table shows that 16% of the respondents have never been to school and 84% of the respondents have attended school. However, no one has been to secondary level of education.

In the 2001 census of Nepal a literate person is defined as one who have an ability to read and write any language. The status of street children with regards to educational situation is very worse. They have left school due to various reasons. Once they come to the street then slowly they lose their interest on study and try to enjoy free life in fullest. However, some of them want to have good education if they are provided an opportunity to go to school. As per the status of world's children 2011, youth (15-24 years) literacy rate of Nepal is 86% male and 75% female which has shown that literacy rate is increasing in Nepal. Likewise, 78% male and 64 % female enrollment is in primary education (UNICEF, 2011). Nevertheless the literacy status of street children derived from this research study depicts gloomy facts.

Table 5.4. Literacy Status of the Street Children

Status	Number	Percent
Illiterate	6	12.0
Level 1	20	40.0
Level 2	18	36.0
Level 3	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara, 2010

In this study, 88% of the street children are found literate and 16% do not get an opportunity to go to school while at home and are illiterate (cannot read at all). Rest of the respondents are literate with different level i.e. 40% are in level 1 (can read/write name but not read and understand text), 36% are in level 2 (basic reading

skills but not enough to fully understand a text) and 12% are in level 3 (read, write and understand the text confidently).

Table 5.5: Distribution of the Street Children by Reasons to Stop Attending School While at Home

Reasons	Frequency of Respondent	Percent
Migration	4	8
Need for income	16	32
Unable to pay costs	22	44
Lack of interest	35	70
Fail in class	11	22
Expulsion	2	4
Discrimination	20	40
Abuse/bullying	2	4
Run away from home	22	44

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

The above table shows that significant number of street children while at home stop attending school due to Lack of interest, unable to pay cost and run away from home.

5.2.4. Health and Sanitation of the Street Children

Healthy children represent a healthy nation. Reducing infant and child mortality has been a goal of population policy. The health of children in Nepal is closely and integrally linked to several factors from geographical location, climate, the socio cultural practices and attitudes to economic changes that are taking place in the country. The health situation of street children is not much remarkable in Nepal owing to the lack of awareness on the fact of children. The table 4.7 depicts the importance given by street children on health.

Table. 5.6 Number of Children Who Give Importance to their Health

Responses	Number of Children	Percent
Yes	33	66.0
No	17	34.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the table, 66 percent children have concern about their health whereas 17 percent children don't have concern about their health which is quite good that street children also give importance to their health that makes them healthy to some extent. The number of children aware towards sanitation and taking baths has been illustrated in the table.

Table 5.7 Number of Street Children by their Bath Taking Habit

Occasion	Number of children	Percent
Once a week	34	68.0
Twice a week	11	22.0
Once a month	3	6.0
Twice a month	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the above table it is clear that 68 percent children take bath once a week, 22 percent take bath twice a week, 6 percent take bath once a month and 4 percent take bath twice a month. The teeth brushing habits of children are also as follows:

Table. 5.8 Number of Respondent by Brushing Habits

Responses	Number of Children	Percent
Yes	8	16.0
No	42	84.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the above table 5.8. Only 16 percent street children have a habit to brush teeth whereas 84 percent don't have a habit to brush teeth. Even they have a concern about their health, they need awareness about the health and sanitation. The hand washing habit of children is as follows:

Table. 5.9 Number of the Respondent by Hand Washing Habits

Responses	Number of Children	Percent
Yes	45	90.0
No	5	10.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the table 5.9, 90 percent street children have a habit of hand washing before eating the meal and 10 percent don't have hand washing habit.

5.2.5. Other Habits of the Respondents

Street children have different bad habits which are harmful for their health but they are not aware about that. Some of the bad habits are shown in table below.

Table 5.10. Habits Adopted by Street Children

Sectors	Yes	%	No	%	Total
Consuming drugs	5	10	45	90	50
Smoking	47	94	3	6	50
Alcoholic	13	26	37	74	50
Dendrite sniffing	49	98	1	2	50

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the table 5.10, significant numbers of street children have habit of dendrite sniffing which is the main problem with these kinds of children and habit of smoking i.e. 98% and 94% respectively.

5.2.6. Sleeping Place of Street Children

The respondents are mostly residing in the city centers, close to the junkyards, slum areas, bus park, public places or in the vicinity of temples. Some of the children have been sleeping on the street, rented room, temple, etc. Table 5.11 clarifies it.

Table 5.11. Sleeping Place of the Street Children

Place	Number	Percent
At street	4	8
In front of shop	47	94
With friends	38	76
At rented room	14	28
Anywhere	23	46
At temple	2	4
Others	5	10

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the table 5.11, significant numbers of the street children sleep in front of shop and with friends which are 94% and 76% respectively. This shows the pathetic condition of these underclass road children.

5.2.7. Residency Problem of the Street Children

As street children don't have fixed residency and they changed their residency area time to time. They have to face various problems with their residency which are as follows:

Table 5.12. Type of Problems Faced by the Respondents

Problems	Number	Percent
Problem of rain	49	98
Coldn	49	98
Things get stolen at the place of residence	41	82
Misconduct of police	48	96

Source: Field survey, Pokhara 2010

All the problems are significant. The table 5.12 indicates that 98 percent respondents are facing problem of rain and cold respectively, 96 percent respondents are facing problem of misconduct of police, 82 percent respondents are facing problem of stolen things from the place of residence as they don't have safe place to sleep.

5.2.8. Problem Faced by the Street Children in their Daily Life

As we all know that street children have to face different problem in their daily life which made their life measurable. The problems are shown in table below.

Table 5.13 Problems Faced by the Street Children in their Daily Life

Problems	Number of Street Children	Percent
Safe accommodation	19	38.0
Shortage of healthy and hygienic food	13	26.0
Poor sanitation	12	24.0
Abuse and violence	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

Above table shows that 38% of the street children have a problem of safe accommodation as we can see many street children have to sleep in front of shops which is obviously not a safe accommodation. 26% of the street children have a problem of shortage of healthy and hygienic food as a result they suffer from different diseases. 24% have a problem of poor sanitation and 12 % have a problem of abuse and violence.

5.2.9 Effects of Culture of Poverty on Street Children and their Family

Lewis argued that culture of poverty emerged when populations that were socially and economically marginalized from a capitalist society developed patterns of behavior to deal with their low status. This behavior was characterized by low aspirations, political apathy, helplessness, disorganization, provincialism, and the disparagement of so-called middle-class values. Once this culture was in place, Lewis argued, it developed mechanisms that tended to perpetuate it, even if structural conditions changed (Lewis, 1969).

The culture of poverty perspective argued that the poor remained in poverty not merely as a result of their economic conditions but also because of cultural values and practices they had developed from poverty (Lamont and Small, 2007).

The culture of poverty has affects our community as well especially slum communities due to which children tend to leave home and come to the street. The table shows the effect of culture of poverty on street children and their family.

Table 5.14 Response of the Street Children on Effects to Culture of Poverty

Responses	Number of Street Children	Percent
Yes	33	66.0
No	15	30.0
No idea	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source : Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

Above table depicts that 66% of the street children have an effect of culture of poverty on them and on their family whereas 30% of children don't have its effects and 4 % have no idea about the culture of poverty.

Case Study Box Showing the Problems of Street Children.

Ram never met his own father; he abandoned him and his mother as soon as he was born. They used to live with their stepfather and his two daughters in a village of Dhading. He was never happy there. He felt deeply discriminated even in the comfort of his own home. While his stepsisters went to school, his stepfather made him walk more than an hour into the woods each day to collect fodder for the cattle. He also had to fetch heavy loads of water at least three times a day from the nearby stream and cook meals for everyone. There were countless number of times when he wanted to put on his old school uniform and go back to school, but he never had the courage to ask his stepfather to let him attend school and neither did his mother. Overwhelmed by the injustice and favoritism at home, he decided to leave the village and start a new life in city called Pokhara. But it was not easy to survive in the city where he was totally new and he had to leave on the street with the different problem in his daily life. He had no place to sleep at night and had to sleep on the street even sometimes he had to sleep along with dogs as well. Not only problem with accommodation, he had to work hard to survive. He used to collect garbage during morning time and sell to junkyard. Due to this situation he had to give up his interest for education. He mentioned that if he got assistance to go to the school he wanted to continue his education.

5.3 Economic Status

Street children are fully self-dependent in terms of their livelihood and survival. They do not have any one to look after them and to take care of them except for the mutual help and support they get from their friends. They have to work hard the whole day to feed themselves every day. If they do not work, that means they do not have anything to eat for that day. Their economic activities are mainly concentrated in these areas.

5.3.1 Catchments Area of Work

While going out for work, they scatter around different places in small groups. All of them do not go to a single place. Inside Pokhara, Bagar, Mahendrapool, Kahunkhola, Industrial area, Lakeside, Chipledhunga and bus park area are the main center for collecting kabadis. But sometimes they also go out of Pokhara valley. According to them, they earn more when they go out but it is also more costly as they have to travel in a bus and have to pay the fare. The catchment areas are:

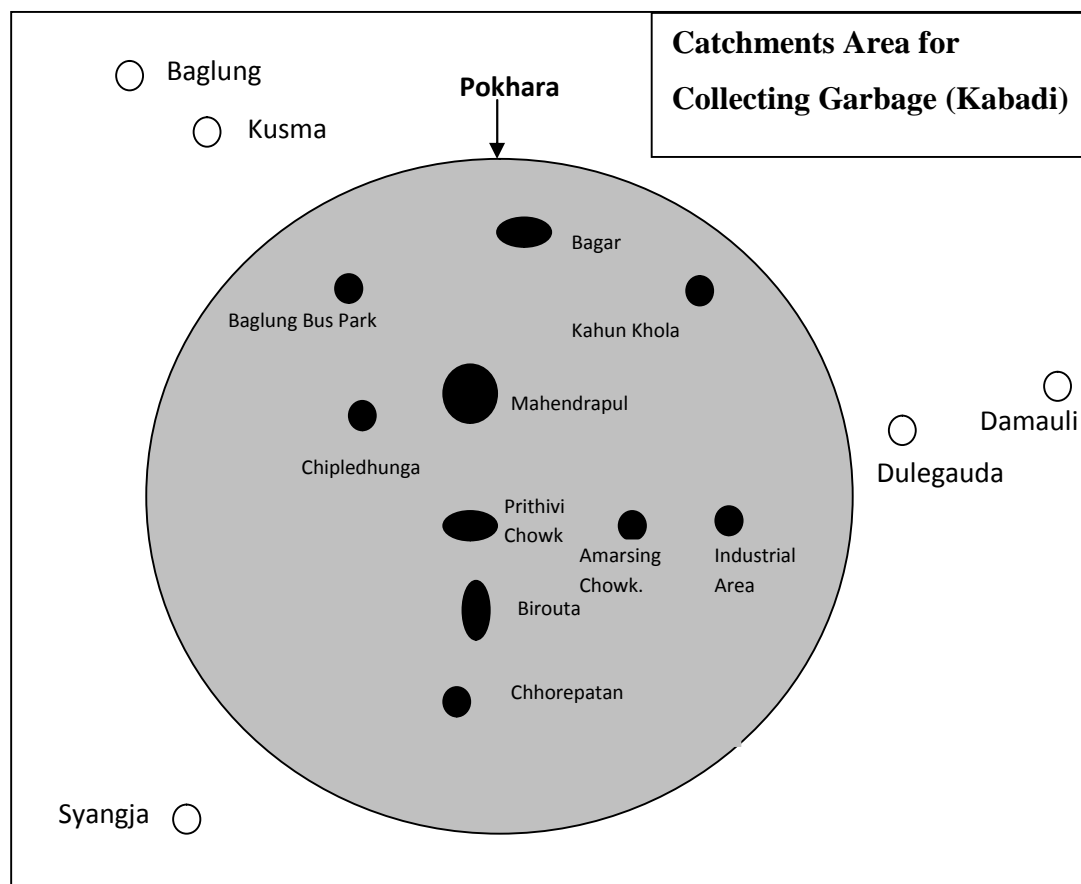


Figure 5.3

While taking interview we come to know about the catchment area for collecting garbage daily from them. According to them Bagar, Mahendrapul, Chipledhunga, Prithvi chowk, Amarsingh Chowk, Insdutrail area, Birauta, Chhorepatan, Baglung Bus Park and Kahun Khola are the areas where the street children mostly go to collect garbage.

5.3.2 Sources of Income of the Respondents

There are various types of work that street children get involved in for their earnings.

Once the children come to street, they take up all kinds of work. Some of the major sources of income are shown in table below:

Table 5.15. Distribution of the Street Children by Income Source

Source of income	Number of respondents	Percent
Rag picking	46	92
Conductor	12	24
Vehicle cleaner	10	20
Small business	6	12
Construction labour	5	10
Hotel/Restaurant worker	19	38
Sex worker	1	2
Begging	38	76
Selling good in cinema hall	4	8

Source; Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

Table 5.15 shows that, significant number of the street children depends upon rag picking work which is the most popular and widely practiced work and begging in the street and bus i.e. 92% and 76% respectively.

5.3.3 Daily Income

The average income which is earned in a day is known as daily income. The street children, generally, work for long hours. Their earnings are directly related to the amounts of items collected (in case of rag picking), which depend on the number of

hours they work. On an average they work for about 4-6 hours per day. Daily income of the street children varies according to the work and the age group of the children. However, they do not necessarily earn every day. Their daily income has been shown in table below.

Table 5.16. Number of Street Children with Average Daily Income

Average daily income (in NRs)	Number of the street children	Percent
Rs. 10-50	1	2
Rs. 50-100	10	20
Rs. 100-150	16	32
Rs. More than 150	23	46
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the table it is clear that, 23 children earn more than Rs 150 in a day, 16 children earn Rs 100-150, 10 children earn Rs 50-100 and only one children earn only Rs 10-50. The income sufficiency of the street children is also vital which is as follows:

Table 5.17: Income Sufficiency of the Respondents

Responses	Number of the respondents	Percent
Yes	32	64.0
No	18	36.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the table 5.17, 64 percent of the respondents have enough earnings to feed themselves and 36 percent respondents do not have enough earnings to feed themselves.

5.3.4 Street Children's Earnings Use Pattern

The question arises as to what the children do with their earnings. The very simple answer is that they spend all the money they make on food, drug/addict substance use

and recreational activities. Even the smaller ones, spend a high amount of their amount to buy cigarettes and alcohol. These are the major areas on which they spend their earnings.

Table 5.18 Sectors Where Street Children Spent their Earning

Sectors	Yes	%	No	%	Total
Food	50	100	0	0	50
Clothing	8	16	42	84	50
Medicine	0	0	50	100	50
Helping family	9	18	41	82	50
Buying drugs/alcohol	50	100	0	0	50
Watching movies	26	52	24	48	50

Source: Field survey, Pokhara 2010

From the table 5.18, we can see that 100 percent of street children are spending money on food and buying drugs and alcohol.

5.3.5 Saving

The amount that remains after deducting street children's daily expenses which needs to be saved is taken as their saving. Also, one of the habits of street children is that they live for present and do not think about the future. Therefore, they do not want to save their money for future needs. However, they may have other specific reasons for not willing to save their earnings. The saving habit of street children has been depicted in table 5.19.

Table 5.19 Distribution of the Street Children by Saving Habit

Responses	Number of Street Children	Percent
Yes	12	24.0
No	38	76.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

The above table 5.19 depicts that 76% street children don't want to save their money and only 24% street children have a habit of saving. Likewise table 5.20 shows where the street children want to save their income and table 5.21 shows why they don't want to save the money.

Table 5.20 Distribution of Street Children by Place of Saving

Place of saving	Number of street children	Percent
Give to junkyard owner	2	4.0
Give to shop owner	1	2.0
Save in children's development bank	9	18.0
Don't want to save money	38	76.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field survey, Pokhara 2010

From the above table 5.20, 18 percent of the street children save their money at children's development bank, 4 percent save at their junkyard owner and only 2 percent save at shop owner to whom they feel secure to keep money with and 18 percent have saved their money in CDB (Children's Development Bank). Likewise, 76 percent don't want to save money and the reasons behind it are shown in table 5.21.

Table 5.21. Reasons for Not Saving Money

Reasons	Number of the Street children	Percent
No safe place to keep money	10	20.0
Cannot open bank account as they do not have citizenship certificate	14	28.0
Fear of being looted from older ones	12	24.0
Have to share with others in the group who have no money	2	4.0
Save money	12	24.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the above table 5.21, 28 percent street children can't save in bank as they don't have citizenship certificate to open an account in a bank, 24 percent don't want to save as they have a fear of being looted from older ones and 20 percent feel that they don't have safe place to keep money.

5.4 Future Plan of the Street Children

Every human being has their future plan and street children also have their own plan for future. However, the culture of poverty directly affects the way in which street children think about their future and the actions they take to improve their social status. They are confused about the future plan and they don't know how the future goal will be achieved. While talking with them about their present life satisfaction and future plan some of them are satisfied with the present life as they love to have freedom in their life and some want to give up street life. Some respondent would like to be good person in the future. The table below clarifies this fact.

Table 5.22. Number of Street Children who want to Give-up Living in the Street

Responses	Number of respondents	Percent
Yes	23	46.0
No	27	54.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the table 5.22, 46 percent of the respondents want to give up living in the street and 54 percent of the respondents want to spend life in the street.

The future plans of the street children area are also vital which are as follows:

Table 5.23. Future Plans of the Street Children

Future Plans	Number of the Respondents	Percent
Rich people	9	18.0
Doctor	1	2.0
Educated person	7	14.0
Police	2	4.0
Driver	14	28.0
Hotel owner	6	12.0
Tourist guide	2	4.0
Go to abroad	4	8.0
Carpenter	1	2.0
Construction worker	2	4.0
Electrician	1	2.0
Pilot	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Pokhara 2010

From the table 5.23 it is clear that, 18% of the respondent want to be rich people, 2% of the respondents want to be doctor, 14% of the respondent want to be an educated person, 4% of the respondents want to be a police, 28% of the respondents want to be a driver which is the most popular ambition of the street children, 12% of the respondents want to be a hotel owner, 4% of the respondents want to be a tourist guide, 8% of the respondents want to go to abroad to earn money, 2% of the respondents want to be a carpenter, 4% of the respondents want to be a construction worker, 2% of the respondents want to be an electrician and 2% of the respondents want to be a pilot. But all the ambitions are a far flung dream which seems impossible to achieve. In the present the living condition of these children is gloomy as shown in the photo gallery (appendix iii) prepared after the consent of the street children and concerned agencies.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary

The field survey, which forms the basis of the present study, covers 50 street children of Pokhara sub-metropolitan city. The general objective of the study is to explore and describe socio-economic status of the street children. The specific objectives are as follows:

-) To examine the overall status of street children in Pokhara in terms of their access to education, health and their lifestyle.
-) To explore the factors pushing children on the street.
-) To access the nature and magnitude of the problems of the street children.

This study deals with street children and their situations, which play vital role for the development of country's future. Therefore, if we could improve their life and bring them into the mainstream of development it will be fruitful for the nation and its development. Different approaches are used as the theoretical background of this study like, juvenile approach, functionalism approach, deviation approach and socialization approach. The conceptual framework is drawn based on which the study goals are accomplished.

Pokhara is the second largest city of Nepal and a major tourist destination. Along with the rapid urbanization, street children problem is rising. There are some researches done on the situation of the street children in Pokhara by different organization however, it hasn't supplied exact information as nature of street children is mobile and the number is being always fluctuated. The present study has tried to fulfill the gap of knowledge on the street children by systematically exploring and describing the situation. Hopefully, this study will help to make aware people and planners of this terrifying problem of street children to a great extent.

In this study 50 street children from Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City have been taken especially from Mahendrapul, Amarsingh Chowk, Budhha Chowk, Chipledhunga, Lakeside, New Road and Prithvi Chowk where street children concentrate. It is because of the areas where the street children spend their nights and gather for various purposes during day time, to sell goods and collect garbage. The brief summary of the study has been presented below:

- In this study, street children are considered those who are away from the families and depend on the street for their livelihood. Apart from these, the nearby slum children, who spend most of their time on the street and occasionally visit their families too, are being taken as the street children.
- To come up with the real socio-economic situation of the children, investigative chance sampling method questionnaire, interview, group discussion and observation method are applied in the study.
- In this study, structural questionnaire has been used for their interview. A total of 50 children ranging from 9 to 18 years are interviewed during the study. Among them 13-15 years age group children are in majority with 25 in number and 50%, followed by 9-12 age group 15 in number i.e. 30%.
- Socially oppressed castes, so called untouchables (Damai, Kami, Sarki) are 58% whereas 26% other castes (Brahman, Chettri, Thakuri, etc.) and Janajati (Newar, Gurung, Magar etc) are 8% only. This data of ethnic group of the children reflect the social relation of our society. Among them 72% are from the Hindu community whereas 18% are from the Christian community and 10% are from Buddhist community.
- With regards to the education of the sampled children, 88% of them are literate. Among the literate, they have been to school up to class six only. 84% children have been to school whereas 16% of children have never attended the school. It shows that all these school going children haven't completed even primary level of education. 12% of sampled children are illiterate.
- The main reasons behind not completing even the primary level of education are Lack of interest and run away from home. There are also other reasons which made them to stop going to school. If children get interesting curriculum then this type of problem could be minimized.

- Even the sampled children stay on the street, they do give importance to their health. 66% of children are giving importance to their health and 34% of children are not. 68% of children have a habit of taking bath once a week, 22% take bath twice a week, 6% of children take bath once a month and 4% take bath twice a month. 84% of children don't have a habit of brushing whereas 90% of children have a habit of hand washing before having meal.
- Most of the children are from Western Development Region i.e. 78% where 26% of children are from Kaski district which shows the influences of urbanization, 20% are from Central Development Region and 2% are from Far-Western Region.
- So far as family background is concerned, most of them have got the moderate family size of 6 members. 24% of them have 6-member family, 18% of them have a 4-member family and 7-member family respectively. 16% of them have more than 8-member family and 8% of them have less than 3-member family. Due to poverty, lack of love and affection and having companion with street boys children are bound to come to the street despite living in small family. This shows the implications of family dysfunction based on the notion of functionalist perspective.
- Among the sampled 50 children 64% have their father and mother both in the family, 14% have their father only, another 14% have their mother only and 8% don't have their parents.
- As per the respondents their families' economic condition depends upon physical labour which is 60%, agriculture 35%, small business 8% and foreign employment 4%.
- Children are bound to come to the street due to various multi reasons. Among the 50 respondents 74% of the respondents have left family and home due to lack of love and affection from parents, 64% of the respondents have left home as they have a companion with street boys, 38% of the respondents have left home due to poverty. Likewise, some have left home as their father abandoned, mother's elopement, attraction towards city life, etc.
- Although the respondents have left home due to various reasons but they do not discontinue the family relation. 66% of them claim that they still have family connection, 26% do not have family connection and 8% do not respond. It is good that most of them have got the family connection and binding.

- Most of the respondents are on street for 2-3 years in different occupation. The main occupations of street children are rag-picking, begging, working in hotel restaurant and vehicle cleaner etc. Rag-picking was adopted by 92%, followed by begging 76%. From which they earn the money for survival. 46% of the respondents earn more than Rs.150 in a day followed by 32% who earn Rs100-150 in a day, 20% earn Rs 50-100.
- Though they earn very nominal amount of money some of them use to save their earning as well. 24% of the respondents have a saving habit. Most of the street children spend their earnings for food and cigarette/ alcohol. 100% of street children spent their earnings for food and cigarette/ alcohol.
- 98% of the respondents have a habit of dendrite sniffing, 94% are smoker, 26% are alcoholic and only 10% are drug addicted. This shows that glue sniffing is more common habit of street children which directly affects their health.
- They face problem of their residency. 94% of street children use to sleep in front of shop and 76% sleep with friends. They feel cold in the winter season as they don't have proper bed to sleep. 98% of them feel problem of rain and cold in their residency, 96% are mistreated by police and 82% were have problem of things get stolen at the place of residence. This proves that they don't have safe and secure place to sleep.
- The main problem of street children that they are facing in their daily life is about safe accommodation which is 38%. Likewise, 26% have a problem of shortage of healthy and hygienic food, 24% have a problem of poor sanitation and 12% have problem of abuse and violence.
- Street children and their family have an effect of culture of poverty. 66% of street children have an effect of culture of poverty, 30% haven't realised culture of poverty and 4% have no idea about it.
- As far as their future planning is concern, 46% street children want to give up living in the street whereas 54% don't want o give up. Most of them want to become a driver which is 28% in future followed by 18% who want to become rich people, 14% want to be educated person, 12% want to be hotel owner. Saving habit may lead them to get success in their future goal.

From the study, it is deduced that street life is full of problems, challenges, difficulties and hardships. Everyday they have to fight with the hurdles, obstacles and risky circumstances in the street.

The study has deduced the factors responsible for converting a normal child into a street child by forcing the child to leave home.

1. Factors that force children to leave home
 - a) Peer influence
 -) Children who have been lived and worked in the city have influenced their peers in their rural homes.
 - b) Poor economic situation of the family
 -) Not enough food for the family.
 -) Parents send their children in cities to work
 -) Parents cannot afford fee to send their children to school.
 -) Seeking an alternative to family poverty
 - c) Change in family structure and social relations
 -) Death of both parents
 -) Mistreated by step parents
 -) Parents abandoning the children
 - d) Attraction towards city life
2. Dislike to return home as they live in freedom on the street and enjoying the life in the street
3. Urbanization - easy movement from rural areas to cities and between cities, rise in slum area in the outskirts of the urban centers
4. The necessity of street children to work for the survival and due to poverty

The main income source of the street children is collecting garbage. They earn at around 100 (NRs) per day in average. They spend most of their income for food and entertainment. Because of various difficulties, most of them do not save their income. Education status of street children is very worse. Some of the children have never been to school although the government has its policy of free education up to secondary level. Health status of the street

children is also very fragile as they don't get hygienic food to eat and they don't give preference to their own cleanliness.

6.3 Conclusions

The social and economic status of street children depicts their pathetic situation with gloomy status as they are excluded from the society. Due to low social status of their family they are bound to come to the street. They can't afford cost to go to school and culture of poverty exists in their family which is yet another reason to push them into the street. Disadvantaged and marginalized people are under poverty line that is why their economic status is low and they are unable to feed their children properly which results them to come to the street for survival. As street children's family have low economic status children are pushed into the street.

In this study, the data are presented collectively to give an overall picture of the socio-economic situation of the street children in Pokhara. The age group of the street children studied is 9-18 and most the children are between the ages 13-15.

The study shows that most of the street children are literate. Lack of opportunity and Lack of interest in the education is certainly one of the factors contributing to the creation of street children. Another important factor is poor economic condition.

Most of the street children give importance to their health even they need more awareness about the health and sanitation. Most of them have a bath taking, teeth brushing and hand washing habits.

From this study it is found that most of the street children have their parents alive. But some of them have step parents from whom they are facing problems of mistreatment. Children have to come to the street because the parents have not carried their responsibilities of taking care of their children. Lack of parental care and guidance is one of the main reasons why children are on the street in Pokhara.

This study makes it clear that majority of the street children work as a rag-pickers and beggar, except for the children who work as a vehicle cleaner and worker in hotel/restaurant. The children who have left home and are living in the street created social networks among themselves. Street children also have contact with family.

Being named as *Khate*, affects their everyday lives. This perception of outsider is one of the obstacles of their better future and better life. Its long-term effect is that they may lose their self-esteem, that makes them difficult to cope with society, unable to find jobs and ultimately may become hopeless of their lives. The role of culture of poverty, frustration, feeling of insecurity, distrust are playing a vital role in determining the socio-economic status of street children.

It is therefore really necessary to address the problem of street children as a whole, not only the problems of the children living in streets.

6.4 Recommendations

The following recommendations have been drawn from this research study. These are aimed at government agencies, other organizations working with street children, social workers and individuals concerned in this area.

-) To stop children come down to street, appropriate policy ought to be formulated by the government and those organizations that work for child welfare and child rights. Therefore, it is recommended to plan and carry out both preventive and protective measures to solve the problem of street children.
-) The government and an organization working with street children should sensitize society to change their negative attitude towards street children.
-) The government and the concerned organizations have to work with media regarding the real and appropriate depiction and presentation of street children and their image.
-) An organizations and people working with the street children should respect them as individuals. They must see them as individuals. They must see them as humans and recognize their interests and honor their independency.
-) Education must be made compulsory and universal. It should be made practical and skill-oriented. Those who are at street already, NFE (Non Formal Education) classes should be run to make them literate and be provided with vocational training which would create opportunities for them in the job market.

-) Street children must have an access to the basic health facilities as they can't afford for the medical services in the private as well government hospital which charges the fee.
-) Most of the street children do not possess citizenship certificate, which is necessary for getting formal jobs, open a bank account (save their earnings) and for other many purposes. The government should make necessary provision to ensure them their rights to identity.
-) Culture of poverty (poverty based attitude) need to be eradicated by social members.

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Appendix I

Questionnaire

Socio-Economic Status of Street Children in Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City

Questionnaire Schedule for Street Children

1. Personal Information

1.1	Name (Optional)						
1.2	Age						
1.3	Sex						
1.4	Caste / ethnicity/religion						
1.5	Previous (home) address						
1.6	Current address (if any)						
1.7	Family description	<p>Family size: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Step mother: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Step father: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Father/Mother: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Father only <input type="checkbox"/> Mother only <input type="checkbox"/></p>					
1.8	How long have you been leaving the home?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>0 - 1 yr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1- 2 yrs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 - 3 yrs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 - 4 yrs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 – above</td> </tr> </table>	0 - 1 yr	1- 2 yrs	2 - 3 yrs	3 - 4 yrs	4 – above
0 - 1 yr							
1- 2 yrs							
2 - 3 yrs							
3 - 4 yrs							
4 – above							
1.9	Are you in touch with your family?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No response <input type="checkbox"/>					
1.10	If yes, how frequently do you go to	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1 – 7 days</td> <td>7 – 30 days</td> </tr> </table>	1 – 7 days	7 – 30 days			
1 – 7 days	7 – 30 days						

see family in a year?	1 – 6 months	6 – 12 months
	Festivals	Other

2. Economic Background of the Family

2.1	Income source of the family	Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Labour <input type="checkbox"/>
		Business <input type="checkbox"/>	Abroad <input type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Is the income sufficient to feed the family?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
		No <input type="checkbox"/>	
2.3	Any other sources		

3. Reason of Leaving Home

3.1	Why did you come to street? (Multiple choice)	Choice	Description
			Death of the father
			Father has abandoned
			Death of Mother
			Mother has eloped
			Misconduct of the step parents
			Poverty
			Lack of love and affection from parents
			Having companion with street boys
			Attraction towards city life
			Parents can't afford for education
	Others		

4. Works and Earnings

4.1	What kind of works do you do? How long have you been with these jobs? (Multiple choice)	Choice	Description	Durati on
			Rag picking	
			Carrying loads / unloads	
			Conductor of auto, taxi & bus	
			Vehicle cleaner	
			Guide	
			Collect money in temples (from worshippers)	
	Shoe-boy on the street			

			Rickshaw driver	
			Small business by the road side	
			Construction labourers	
			Porter for tourist	
			Domestic servant	
			Hotel / restaurant workers	
			Sex worker	
			Begging	
			Pick pocketing	
			Selling of foods in cinema halls	
			Other	
4.2	How much do you earn in a day? (Average in a day)		Rs. 10 to 50	Rs. 100 to 150
			Rs. 50 to 100	More than Rs. 150
4.3	How do you spend the earnings?		Fooding	Helping family
			Clothing	Buying drugs/alcohol
			Medical	Watching movies
			Others	
4.4	If you also spend for drug/alcohol, which drugs you normally use?		Alcohol	Glue sniffing
			Smoking	Marijuana
			Syringe	Other
4.5	Do you save your income?		Yes	No
4.6	If yes, how do you save your income		Give to junkyard owner	
			Give to shop owners	
			Save in children's development bank	
4.7	If no, why don't you want to save the money?		No safe place to keep money	
			Cannot open bank account as they do not have citizenship certificate	
			Fear of being looted from older ones	
			Have to share with others in the group who have no money	
4.8	Are your earnings enough to feed yourself?	1.Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	2.No <input type="checkbox"/>	3.No response <input type="checkbox"/>
4.9	If not, how do you get food on those days?			

5. Residency of Street Children

5.1	Where do you usually sleep?	Choice	Description
			At street
			In front of shop
			With friends
			At room
			Anywhere
			At temple
			Others
5.2	What do you like about living in the street		
5.3	What sort of problems do you have at your residence?		Problem of raining
			Cold
			Things get stolen at the place of residence
			Misconduct of police
5.4	What sort of problem do you face in your daily life?		Safe accommodation
			Shortage of healthy and hygienic food
			Poor sanitation
			Abuse and violence
5.5	Attitude of children towards residency		It's ok
			Alright
			Boring
			Entertaining
5.6	Anybody helping towards residency?		Tourist Local people Institution Others

6. Educational Background

6.1	What standard have you completed in school?	
6.2	Are you currently attending school?	Yes No
6.3	Which school are you attending?	

6.4	How many times have you left (dropped out) schools?	
6.5	Why did you stop attending school?	Migration Need for income Unable to pay costs Lack of interest Health problem Fail in class Expulsion Discrimination Abuse/bullying Runaway from home Other (SPECIFY) Unknown
6.6	Have you attended non-formal education?	Yes No
6.7	For how long did you attend non-formal education?	Days Months Years
6.8	Assess the literacy level of the child <i>Level 1 (can read/write name but not read and understand text)</i> <i>Level 2 (basic reading skills but not enough to fully understand a text)</i> <i>Level 3(read, write and understand the text confidently)</i> <i>Illiterate (cannot read at all)</i>	Illiterate Level 1 Level 2 Level 3
6.9	Have you ever received vocational/skill training?	Yes No
6.10	What type of training did you receive? (OPEN)	

7. Health/Sanitation Status

7.1	Do you give importance to your health?	Yes No
7.2	Are you aware of your health during seasonal changes especially in winter, rainy season and summer?	Yes No
7.3	How often do you take bath?	Daily Once a week Twice a week Once a month

		Twice a month
7.4	Do you brush your teeth?	Yes No
7.5	Do you wash your hand before eating?	Yes No
7.6	Where do you go for medical treatment?	
7.7	Do any organizations organize medical camp for you?	
7.8	What type of health problems do you face in your daily life?	
7.9	Where do you get your clothes from?	
7.10	Are they warm/comfortable enough?	Yes No
7.11	What about when it rains heavily?	
7.12	Do you ever get cold?	Yes No
7.13	Where and how do you clean your clothes? How often?	

8. Children Attaining Bad Habits

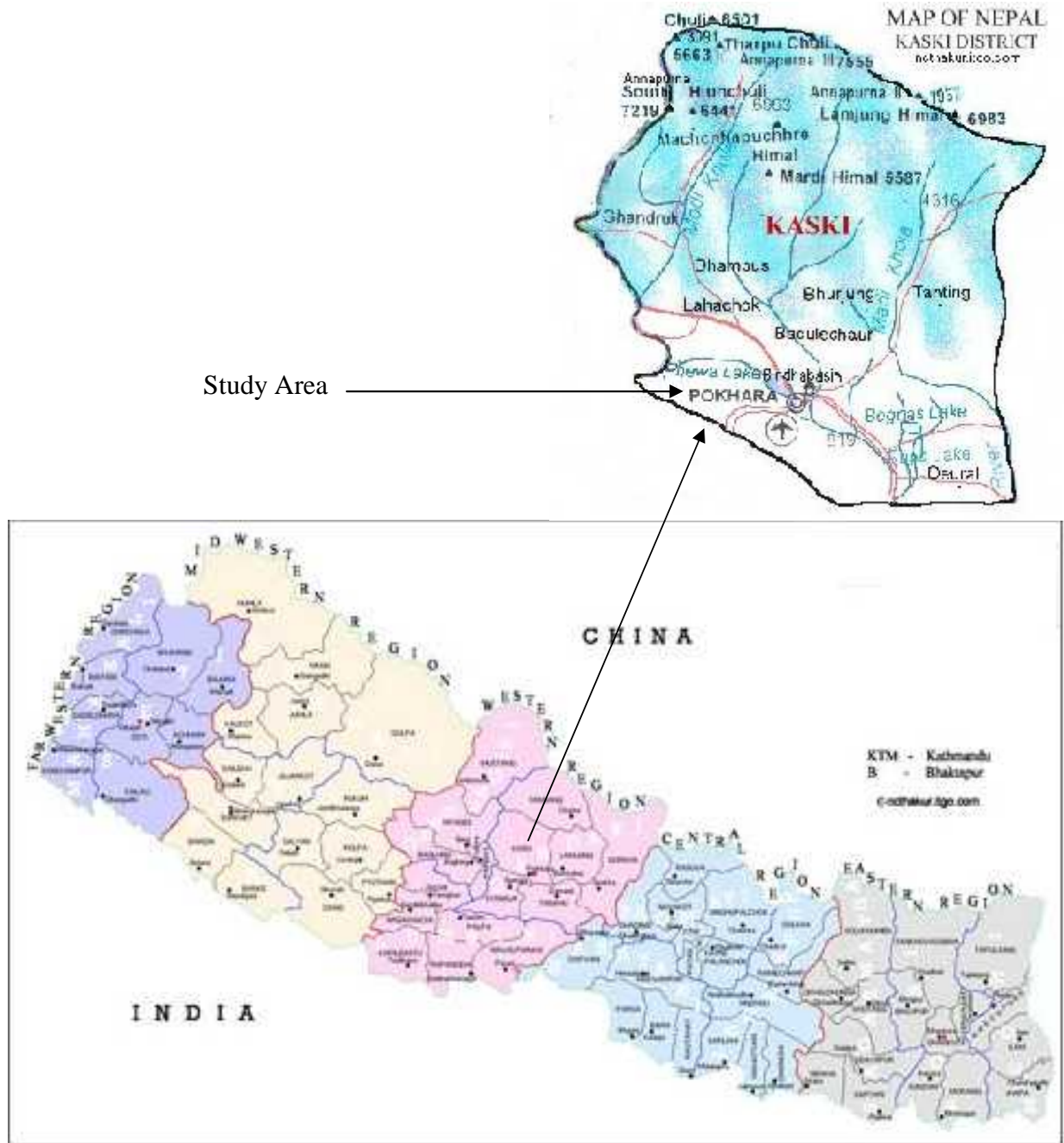
8.1	Do you have any kind of bad habits?	Yes No
8.2	If yes what kind of bad habits do you have?	Consuming drugs Smoking Alcoholic Dendrite sniffing
8.3	Have you been in trouble with the police because of your substance use (Bad habits)?	
8.4	Have you had to leave a place you were living in because of your substance use (Bad habits)?	
8.5	Do you think there is the effect of culture of poverty among you and your family in the past?	

9. Future Plan of the Street Children

9.1	Do you feel good about yourself?	Yes No
9.2	Are you as physically strong as everyone else?	Yes No
9.3	Do you want to give up living in the street?	Yes No
9.4	Will you be able to find a job? What kind of job could you get?	
9.5	What type of training would assist in getting the type of job you would like to have?	
9.6	What kind of job would you like?	
9.7	If yes then what do you want to be in future?	Rich people Doctor Educated person Police Driver Hotel owner Tourist guide Social worker Go abroad
9.8	Do you often feel sad, lonely or unhappy?	Yes No
9.9	Have you ever tried to harm or kill yourself?	Yes No

Appendix -II

Map of Nepal with Pokhara Valley and Kaski District



Source: www.ncthakur.itgo.com, 2010

Map 1

Appendix - III

Photo Gallery



Street Children on the Street



Street Children Collecting Rags



Street Children going to Collect Rags



Street Children taking Risk while Collecting Rags



ren- Glue

Interview with Street Children



The Researcher with Street Children in Non-Formal Class in Jyoti Street Project