

Working Condition of Domestic Child Labour in Nepal:
A Case Study of Swayambhu Area of Kathmandu District

A Thesis

**Submitted to Central Department of Rural Development
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Partial
Fulfillment of Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in
Rural Development**

By

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December, 2010**

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This is to certify that the Thesis submitted by Rajesh Dhital entitled **Working Condition of Domestic Child Labour in Nepal: A Case Study of Swayambhu Area of Kathmandu District** has been prepared under my supervision and guidance as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. Therefore, this is recommended for the final evaluation and approval.

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APPROVAL SHEET

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Central Department of Rural Development Tribhuvan University for allowing me to submit this thesis on this topic in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

I am grateful and indebted to my supervisor Lecturer Umesh Prasad Acharya for providing me an opportunity to conduct this study under his supervision. I never forget his kind guidance, inspiration and supervision during the preparation of this thesis. I must humbly express my deepest respect for to accomplish this study.

Last but not the least, my very special gratitude goes to my respected parents, sisters, brothers, wife, son and daughter and stakeholders of the childright working in Kathmdndu district for their encouragement, co-operation and support to complete this thesis. The response and co-operation shown by the respondents of the study area (Swayambhu Area) of Kathmandu district are very memorable in my life so, I would like to thank them heartily.

Also, I'm thankful to all the respondents. It would not have been possible to complete this thesis without them. I would like to apologize if I've forgotten anyone who'd helped me in conducting research and completing this thesis as a whole. Hence last but not the least, I would like to each and every friends who helped me to complete this thesis.

-Rajesh Dhital

ABSTRACT

This study conducted on Working Condition of Domestic Child Labour in Swayambhu Area of Kathmandu district as a case study is mainly based on primary data collected from the area of study. The data were obtained through the use of structured questionnaires, field observation, and interview as major tools. Altogether, 100 respondents as domestic child labourers were sampled by using the purposive sampling under the non-probability sampling. They were the child labourers of different districts of the nation. The main objectives of this study were to find out the socio-economic condition, family background and general working condition and root causes of the prevalence of domestic child labourers of Swayambhu Area of Kathmandu district.

Study has found that the maximum (48%) respondents are of 12 – 14 years of age. The main castes of domestic child labour are Chhetri, Brahmin, Tharu, Tamang, Magar, Newar, Bhote/Sherpa, Thakali and Gurung. Among them, the highest number is of Chhetri (25%) in the study area. The educational level of domestic child labour is 56 percent literate and 44 percent illiterate. The majority (82.2%) has the knowledge of primary level education. The main cause of drop-out of school of them is poor economic condition of their family. The maximum (39%) child labour in Kathmandu Metropolitan City are from surrounding districts; Nuwakot, Dhading, Kavreplanchowk, Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha. The family size of domestic child labour is 7 – 10 (47%), 10 and above (41%), 4 percent have no family members in the family rest of them are 4 – 6 family members in the family. Out of total 43 percent domestic child labours have either father only or mother only in the family. The study further reveals that the family literacy of domestic child labour is only 25 percent.

Family occupation and land holding are the main factors of position and condition of the family in Nepalese context. The family occupation of domestic child labour

shows 30 percent agriculture, 55 percent wage labour and rest of them others. The land holding status of their family is (63%) having own land and (37%) having no land. The insufficiency of food because of less agricultural land, poor housing status and burden of debt are the push factors to domestic child labour of the respondents. The parents of domestic child labour are themselves on compulsion of their children's labour because of the hand to mouth problem in the family. The majority (51%) children work more than 10 hours in a day, they have to do all the works of the home that ordered by their employer. The monthly earning ratio of domestic child labour is very less, majority of them earn 401 – 800 per month. Only 55 percent of them are found that they are getting the chance of study. In total 85 percent are satisfied with current job and rest of them are not satisfied, the main reason of not satisfied with current job is too much work. The relation of domestic child labour with employer is found normal (54%), good (30%), bad (15%) and worst (1%). The wake up time of them is before 6 a.m. and sleeping after 10 p.m. Their sleeping place is primarily floor of the room.

The health status of domestic child labour is poor because they were found suffered from either cough, cold, fever, chest problem, breathing problem, diarrhea, headaches or ear infection while this study surveyed them. The main message of them was “Don't Make Other Children Work like Us.” The present study has found the way of relief of them by raising the income level of their family, for this purpose the activities or programmes related to awareness and raising income level such as; goat farming, poultry farming, commercial vegetable farming etc are essential.

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ACRON YMS AND ABBREVIATION

CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CPC	-	Child Protection Centre.
CRC	-	Child Rights Convention.
CWA	-	Child Works in Asia.
CWIN	-	Child Workers Concerned Center in Nepal
GOs	-	Government Organization
HMG	-	His Majesty's Government
ILO	-	International Labor Organization
ILS	-	Institute of Labor Service
INGO	-	International Non-government organization
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organization
NHRD	-	Nepal Human Development Report
No.	-	Number
NPC	-	National Planning Commission
SAARC	-	South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation
TU	-	Tribhuvan University
UK	-	United Kingdom
UN	-	United Nations
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VDC	-	Village Development Committee
WDR	-	World Development Report