

CHAPTER - ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

It is assumed that there are about 2000 million children of 1 to 18 years of age in the world, and developing countries alone have 87% of them living on the streets. Among the developing countries, almost one fourth of the total population of the street children lives in South Asia (UNICEF, 1997). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989 states that people under the age of 18, but legally below 16 years of age, are considered to be a 'child' and the Children's Act 2075 (2018) in Nepal has defined 'children' as persons who have not attained the age of eighteen years. The country's demographic structure is currently young with 40 percent of the population under the age of 18 years (Demographic Changes of Nepal: Trends and policy implications, 2017)

Children are the foundation stones in the social and economic development of a nation. However, in many developing countries such as Nepal, inadequate focus on the potential of children is manifested through indicators such as low access to health, education, security and love, at every step of their lives. They are oppressed, their development is threatened and their rights are violated which have resulted in their relegation to the bottom of the socio-economic ladder. As a result, many children have become the victims of the streets.

In Nepal, people increasingly migrate to urban city areas such as Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Narayangadh, Butwal, Pokhara, Birgunj, Dharan, Nepalgunj, Dhangadhi, Mahendranagar, Surkhet etc. Many of them are unemployed and cannot maintain their economic status. In such situations of absolute poverty, the children may not get love and affection from their family members and they may run away from home and desperately hang around the city areas working in filthy and dirty condition for their survival, as street children.

Over the past two decades Nepal has experienced an unprecedented rate of urban population growth. Between 1952 and 1987 Nepal's population increased about seven times (UNICEF, 1992), and the urban population has grown by 7 percent every year World Bank. Such rapid urbanization and rural-to-urban migration into cities like Kathmandu has led to

the creation of unplanned slum settlement areas, which in turn has led to an increasing number of street children.

Nepal has not been able to secure or provide a bright picture to all its children. Nearly 60% of the total children population lives the most underprivileged life, where they suffer from denial, negligence and exploitation. CWIN (2004).

Every year thousands of children come to the streets due to various socio-economic reasons. Children are our future. They not only have to build their own future but are also responsible for the future of a nation. The street children struggle for their own survival by either begging or rag picking on the streets. They sleep in open spaces on the streets, under the open sky. They are one of the most neglected groups of children who are denied all privileges and rights.

Nepal ratified The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989. Similarly, the Children's Act 1992 makes provisions relevant to the situation of Street Children Act highlighted on equal rights of children born in and out of wedlock and of natural and adopted children and the responsibilities of guardians and the circumstances under which they may be replaced. It is concerned with the establishment of homes for orphan, abandoned and handicapped children and the prohibition of using these children for the purpose of begging. It states that children under 10 years of age are not criminally liable. However, in practice, these acts are widely ignored.

According to the statistics, these are nearly 500,000 children in Nepal who have migrated from rural areas to urban centers. Among them, there approximately 300,000 children labour in different kinds of work, 40,000 are in debt bondage, 100 children in prison and nearly 50,000 working in the sex industry, including children being trafficked to India and elsewhere (CWIN, 2004). Moreover, the general adult population regard street children as 'social misfits' and have the misconception that street children are not 'normal children.'

In this study, the street children mean the children who depend on the street for their livelihood. They beg, collect and sell recyclable goods such as plastic and metal. Some have run away from their homes to escape abuses and neglect. Some children are from the slum areas, they visit their families now and then. These are squatter children who come to the street during daytime, work earn money and go back home at night. Some are orphan children who had lost their parents and came down to the street.

The collective form of all these types of children working on the street are being considered as the street children in this study.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Street children problem is common problem of Nepal and over a decade it has become one of the major problems of urban society. Despite efforts made by various government agencies and NGOs' and individual social workers, to rehabilitate the street children in Kathmandu, the problem is still alarming and threatening. However, the issue has already come to light and street children's problem has remained as acute as ever. Therefore, a study in this Thamel area will help to shed light on the problems affecting street children and hopefully help in the resolution of the problem.

There are a number of social, economic and cultural factors which push children from villages to urban areas. Poverty, family break up, lack of care of the child by the elder members of the family, step mother's violence and torture, abandonment, expulsion from the school, death of one or two parents are some of the major causes of children's migration to the city areas.

In fact, their situation and conditions are very serious. There are many myths surrounding streets children: that they are lazy, undisciplined, aggressive, uneducated, incorrigible and 'subhuman'. This is a very unfortunate situation for the country as this is a major factor that brings about a psychological change in them which makes them go against the society. Their existing problems and conditions will thus continue until the society gives an adequate emphasis on integrating the concerns, issues and fundamental rights of the children into the mainstream development efforts.

The nature and characteristics of street children differ from normal children who have been brought up in our homes. They have been much influenced by the street culture, which is reflected in their life styles. Their deep rooted problems not only lie in poverty but are also concerned with socio-psychological issues such as: they have been denied the love, care and understanding that a child requires. They do not have a specific place to live. Most of them suffer from police assault. They are often abused by local thugs (goondas), alcoholics, thieves and petty criminals. Most of them do not even get two meals a day and live on discarded food of the hotels and restaurants. They are unaware and unconcerned of their health and hygiene.

The current study will be mostly focused to answer the following questions:

1. What is the socio-economic condition of street children?
2. What are the factors pushing children to the streets?
3. What is their existing situation on the streets and what is their interrelation and interaction among themselves and wider society?

1.3 Objective of the Study

All scientific and systematic studies obviously have clearly specified objective or purpose. This current study is no exception. The objectives of this study will be as follows:

1. To identify and describe the socio-economic condition of street children.
2. To explore and identify the factors pushing children to the streets.
3. To explore and describe their existing situation on the streets and the interrelation and interaction of street children among themselves and outer society.

1.4 Significance and Importance of the Study

Childhood is a very important stage of our life. It is the preparation for adulthood and in this sense it is the foundation of our life. If the foundation itself is weak, definitely the whole construction cannot be as strong as we would desire it to be. In the same way, if childhood of a person is at risk, one's life cannot be beneficial for the society.

Kathmandu is the largest city of Nepal, as well as heart of the kingdom. So any negative or positive consequences surpasses all over the country easily at a short time. The issue of Street Children is one of the burning social problems in Kathmandu. So if this problem is ignored now, very soon the whole country will have to encounter this situation. Till now very few sociological studies have been carried out regarding the Street Children of Kathmandu, which are not enough to explore the actual status of Street Children; that is why this problem is growing worse day by day.

Hopefully this study will help to make the policy makers aware and push the researchers to study this matter in its depth. Besides, it may attract more people and concerned authorities to solve this social problem.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The children are usually hesitant to talk to strangers and do not readily give detailed information about them. Hence, the information obtained may be limited in the representation of the children's reality.

The very characteristics of street children make it difficult to obtain reliable data. E.g., children make up stories and often change their version of the story. It is difficult to keep the children interested enough to give out all the information that is required, partly because the children were asked about their lives, and partly because they would not be interested in something that would not end in a financial gain for them.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This thesis is organized in five chapters. Chapter one deals with the study introduction which further includes the topics like background of the study, statement of the problem research questions, major objectives, significance and the importance of the study. Limitations of the study and the organization of the study

Chapter two presents literature review and analytical approach to this thesis. It mainly consists of theoretical and empirical review.

Chapter three deals with the research methodology and looks at the research design, rationale of the site selection, universe and sampling, nature and sources of data, methods of data collection and data analysis methods reliability and validity of the data.

Chapter four includes data analysis and presentation and chapter five presents summary, and conclusion.

CHAPTER - TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literatures relevant to street children have been reviewed here in order to know about their existing status. The review is divided into two main kinds theoretical and empirical.

2.1 Theoretical Review

Aderinto(2000) has stated that children migrate onto the streets on their own initiative as a result of their unsatisfactory living conditions at home. For instance, a study conducted in Nigeria insists on the fact that children deliberately leave their homes to earn a living when their parents are unable to feed them in a decent manner Hunger becomes a reason for leaving home. Leaving the household becomes a rational decision that children take to ensure their well-being.

The concept and problem of street children is very recent. In the past children were not economic burden to elders. They were legally allowed to work and earn their living. Many parents used to send their children to someone rich to work for them and make an earning. In recent years child labour has been declared illegal as a result they are deprived of legal rights to work. Children become economic burden to parents and family members. In the past most children used to live where they were born but in urban societies due to improved communication and transportation children can migrate to faraway places for search of better and happy life. There are several reasons or explanation for the development of street children. Among them two major explanation are the poverty hypothesis (theory) and aberrant families theory.

The poverty hypothesis or explanation states that that poverty is the major explanatory factor for pushing many children from rural area to street on urban cities. As far as children on the street are concerned, a tendency has emerged which regards the “economic poverty” hypothesis as the main explanatory factor. Such a tendency has developed all the more easily since children *on* the streets represent the vast majority of street children.

The economic argument cited by Blanc (1994) concerning children on the streets has thus been applied to the whole population of street children who have only street to stay. They do not have any house of their own or on rent. Blanc stresses, for example, that although “material poverty” (defined as income poverty) encourages the phenomenon of street-working children, they do not all become street-living children poverty could well

influence children's vulnerability to become children of the street. In other words, poverty feeds into the category of children at risk, some of whom will go on to become children of the street.

These two hypotheses explain why children decide to leave the family home. Ignoring these two sub-categories of children does however cause some problems as they also feed into the children of the streets, and by definition form part of this category. What it sets out to do is to find out why children decide to leave their family of their own volition. By definition, children who have been abandoned and orphans do not have any such choice.

Aptekar (1988), found that in Colombia 48% of street children left their homes for financial reasons. Many other studies have confirmed the role of economic poverty in the phenomenon of the migration of children onto the streets. Poverty is a decisive factor, but children of the street are also very likely to come from big households. In Aracaju, Brazil, the average size of a household is six family members. This means that when a household is facing poverty, some children take the decision to work to bring in money. As the child begins to earn, particularly on the street, elements of that lifestyle become cumulative and coupled with the child's feelings that s/he does not want to be a burden on the family, step by step the child takes the decision to leave the family home to settle in the street. Their decision to abandon their household is a rational one taken both to preserve household harmony, and also to allow the child to be more independent, to live his or her own life.

Aptekar (1988) also found that the children of the street have not completely broken off all contact with their households; they often send money to their parents and return home to visit their parents. The difficulty is that the longer they stay on the street and adopt a lifestyle that commonly includes becoming addicted to drugs, the harder it becomes to earn the money they need to support themselves. This adds to their feelings of shame, so that any return home becomes less likely, and eventually the streets become their permanent home.

2.2 Empirical Review

Dutta (2018) in her article *Street children in India: A study on their access to health and education* has primarily examined on access to health and education in street children from 6 to 18 years old in the Indian metropolises of Mumbai and Kolkata. The study also aimed to assess the role of social work interventions in ensuring the rights of street children. Findings revealed that extreme poverty was the primary cause for the increasing numbers of street children. Lack of awareness among illiterate parents regarding educational

opportunities kept most children away from school and lack of an educational ambience at home made it difficult for the children to work on their lessons outside school. Most children return to family at day's end. Their homes were rudimentary, little protection from sun, wind, and rain. Their pastimes and games, included playing alongside the gutters and fishing from them. Although the street children were enrolled in school with the help of NGOs Out of school they forget the study. The children return to the centres and tell that they have lost a book or stationery, or bag. These children were "difficult" teach to develop their own ideas. Children who are on the street may be there due to difficulty accepting a new parent following a remarriage, or even sexual abuse by family members.

According to Central Child Welfare Board (2017) in a report entitled State of children in Nepal Government of Nepal Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare introduced child welfare activities especially education and health since the beginning of planned development initiatives in the year 2013. After the ratification of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989 in 14th September, 1990 (Bhadra 29, 2047), noticeable positive changes in policy, legal, institutional and programming measures were made in line with the thrusts of CRC. The Constitution of Nepal promulgated by the Constitutional Assembly in 20 September, 2015 (Ashoj 3, 2072) has created a reassuring atmosphere for the rights of children. As in the past, this report has been prepared based on activities, updates, information of the FY 2016/017 and the latest statistics to the extent available.

There are over 40 Laws and By-laws that are concerned with children. Some of them are, Children's Act, 2048; Children's Regulation, 2051; Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Act, 2056; Breast Milk Substitution Act, 2049; Juvenile Justice (Procedures) Regulation, 2063 ; Emergency Child Rescue Fund Regulation, 2067 ; Inter-country Adoption Management Development Committee), 2067 ;Terms and Conditions and Process for Granting Approval for Adoption of Nepali Child by an Alien,2065; Civil Registration Act, 2033; Child Friendly Local Governance: National Strategy and Implementation Guidelines, 2068, Standards for Operation and Management of Residential Child Care Homes,2069.

There are many more Acts and Guidelines that have provisions related to children. Likewise, Legal Aid Act, 2054; Imprison Act, 2019; Donation Act, 2030; Cinema Making, Dissemination/ Showing and Distribution Act, 2026; Lottery Act, 2025; Printing Press and Publication Act, 2048; Pesticide Act, 2048; and Natural Calamities Rescue Act, 2039 also have some provisions that address the issues related to children. In addition, there are other

acts and rules which have some concern about children namely, Physical Construction (NirmanByavasaaya) Act, 2055; Election Offense and Punishment Act 2047; Liquor Act, 2031; Human Organ Transplant Regulation and Restriction Act, 2055; Drugs regulation Act, 2033; Disability Protection and Welfare Act, 2039 and its rules; Firm Registration Act, 2034; Education Act, 2028; Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act, 2063 and its rules 2064; and Tea Estate (Labour) Rules, 2050 also have provisions related to children. New Children's Bill is being prepared to address the lacunas of existing laws, which has also proposed 18 years as legal age for children.

Bhukuth and Ballet (2015) in the article entitled, 'Children of the street: why are they in the street? How do they live?' argues that economic poverty is the main factor pushing children to street. Poverty alone is not enough to explain the phenomenon of children of the street, and many studies have pointed out that neglect and abuse of children also needs to be taken into account. Some migrate onto the streets as a result of domestic violence while others may come to street due to parental neglect. He has mainly tackled two questions: firstly, the question of which factors can be decisive in the phenomenon of children of the street. It opens a debate on the respective roles of poverty and of other factors, such as domestic violence and parental neglect. Secondly, it considers the question of how they live in the street. Children develop survival strategies that are obviously based on their activities, but also involve an organization that calls for analysis in terms of strategic positioning on the territory they occupy.

Hall (2015) in the article entitled, 'Super-diverse Street: A 'trans-ethnography' across migrant localities' has presented a findings from an ethnography of the economic and cultural life of Rye Lane, an intensely multi-ethnic street in Peckham, south London. The effects of accelerated migration into London are explored through the reshaping and diversification of its interior, street and city spaces. A 'trans-ethnography' is pursued across the compendium of micro, meso and macro urban spaces, without reifying one above the other. The ethnographic stretch across intimate, collective and symbolic city spaces serves to connect how the restrictions and circuits of urban migration have different impacts and expressions in these distinctive but interrelated urban localities. The paper argues for a 'trans-ethnography' that engages within and across a compendium of urban localities, to understand how accelerated migration and urban 'super-diversity.'

Ghimire (2014) in his master's thesis entitled, 'Being on the Street: Causes, Survival Strategy and Societal Perception: An Empirical Study of Street Children in

Kathmandu has examined the problem of street children in Kathmandu. He argues that there are many reasons for being on the street like changing urban environment, social conditions, economic necessities, growth of urban centers and its glamour. The street involves in money making to maintain themselves, they do work like shoe shining, car washing, begging, pick pocketing, garbage collecting, etc. In Kathmandu valley street children live in different places. The place where they live is chosen either according to their necessity or because of other peer groups who encourage to come over there. They start their survival according to the locations and local context. He has attempted to examine the cause that drags the children into the street what survival strategies they adopt whether they are considered the part of the society and are there any efforts to reintegrate into the main stream society through in-depth research study.

Tuladhar (2013) has analysed the situation and causes of street children from a sociological point of view about the street children. This study has explored problems and causes of street children. She has provided the knowledge and necessary information concerning the street children in Nepal. The study was focused on the street children of New Road and Ratna Park region of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. The objective of this research study was to identify the situation of street children and to determine possible causes of being a street child and their age wise population composition, ethnic background and their lifestyle. For the study, both descriptive and exploratory research designs were adopted. Semi structured closed and open-ended questionnaires were used to collect data and the following major findings were drawn.

Pohharel (2013) in his thesis entitled 'Living on the Margins of Life: A Study about Street Children in Kathmandu, Nepal' has discussed the current situation of indigenous and minority children in capital city of Nepal. This work was mainly focused on the issue of street children in Kathmandu Nepal and the roles of different institutions to promote the issue of indigenous and minority children's rights in Nepal. The study was based on fieldwork conducted in Kathmandu, in 2012. The study was based on the different sets of concepts like marginalization, internal migration, and cultural assimilation. Viewing street life as the margins of life this work explores different aspects of street life and different factors associated with this. The study has attempted to elaborate on the issue of street children as an issue related indigenous and minority communities in Nepal. Are the children from these communities more vulnerable? This is the focus of questions discussed in different section of the thesis. The study therefore aims to map the current situation of indigenous and minority

children's right in Nepal by discussing the roles of Non-governmental Organization and International Non-governmental Organizations and the government of Nepal to promote the issue.

Abro (2012) in his dissertation entitled, 'Problems of street children: Asociological study of Urban Sindh' primarily attempts to offer insights into the problems of street children in four cities of Sindh province and analysis of their socio-economic-cultural situation. He Street children are the casualties of economic woes, war, poverty, loss of traditional values, domestic violence and physical and psychological abuses. They do not have a choice and are not able to go to school. These children turn to smoking, drinking alcohol or taking drugs or to sniffing rubber solvent. Many street children gather money by begging, selling flowers, washing cars, shoe-shining, working in small hotels, selling water and newspapers or other items. Some of them pick plastic, glass, metal and other knick-knack from the garbage thrown out on the streets, and sell them to the shopkeepers. The street children then go back to their 'dera', where they eat and sleep. The street children usually form groups to secure themselves from exploitation and abuse, which is common. The media can play a role to help send street children to school, instead of leaving them to the vagaries of the crime world, and in the hands of abusers.

Ryckmans (2012) has undertaken the study of street children in Kathmandu from an anthropological perspective. He found that for these children who have faced social problems, have had their childhood stolen, the confiscation of their dreams and the exposure to dangers that no child on this planet should have to endure. This research work has helped to increase awareness of this global problem and pilot research for a durable solution.

The study is based on ten years of observation and intervention with the street children and youth who are "isolated" on the street and excluded from all parental or family support. They are either plastic pickers, thieves, beggars or money collectors in public transportation means.

In this work Ryckmans has approached the subject of these children and tried to better understand their situation. He tried to find answers to the questions raised in the mind of the reader or general observer about the children who live in the streets of Kathmandu. In Nepal the concept of "street children" is mentioned every day in local, national or international newspapers and he has tried to find the causes and consequences.

Basnet (2010) in her thesis entitled *The Lost Childhood of Street Children in Nepal* argues that in the situation of armed and political conflict in Nepal, protection of children is at stake. One group of children in crisis are those living on the street picking rags, sniffing glue, begging & selling newspapers. These children, living on the streets day and night, have been directly affected by poverty and social exclusion. A large group of these children remain a part of the urban landscape. They are perceived as victims or criminals. Within this context she has explored the lives of street children in Nepal with a goal to uncover some of the perceptions about the lives of street children. Through semi-structured interviews and observations the study explored how agencies identify street children, the main reasons children come to street children and the risks street children faced.

Dahal and Poudel (2007) in the study entitled *Life of Street Children: Crisis with Complexities* has examined and found that lack of planned and proper family and other institutional care systems in Nepal has pushed some children into the streets. There are street children who live in most wretched conditions in cities across Nepal. There are an estimated 900 children living in the streets of Kathmandu valley alone. Ratio of boys was higher than that of girls on the streets. There were more children from areas nearby Kathmandu. Geographical distance and transport facilities in Kathmandu, low economic and educational situation of the family and the lack of emotional attachments as necessitated by the age of a child were the main causes of pushing children into the street. Subhuman treatment by parents, guardians and the public is another main factor for leaving home. Many children leave home while they are still young. Street children have to face lack of appropriate shelters, low level of income and livelihood insecurity, vulnerability in relation of health and safety, and a lack of economic support from family in their daily life. Many street children prefer to work as rag-pickers. The pattern of drug use among street children seemed to be an alarming crisis. This study found that most of the street children use drugs and other intoxicating materials to satisfy their desire. Consumption of dandrite was common. Another aspect of drug use is related to spending of large parts of their income in drugs. Further, more than half of the children start taking drugs before the age of 12. Many children have knowledge of communicable disease including HIV/AIDS and but no safety measures were available for them. There was always a risk of transmission due to unsafe intercourses including sexual pleasure and use of common syringes.

Brick (2002) in her study entitled *Street Children, Human Rights, and Public Health: A Critique and Future Directions* presents a critique of the academic and welfare literature on

street children in developing countries, with supporting evidence from studies of homelessness in industrialized nations. This review examines five stark criticisms of the category “street child” and of research that focuses on the identifying characteristics of a street lifestyle rather than on the children themselves and the depth or diversity of their actual experiences. Second, it relates the change of approach to a powerful human rights discourse—the legal and conceptual framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child—which emphasizes children’s rights as citizens and recognizes their capabilities to enact change in their own lives. It also examines literature focusing specifically on the risks to health associated with street or homeless lifestyles. This review thus highlights some of the challenging academic and practical questions that have been raised regarding current understandings of street children.

Subedi (2002) in a report on Trafficking and sexual abuse among the street children of Kathmandu examined and explained about the situation of sexual abuse of street children, the forms of sexual abuse, the abusers, of Bir Hospital, Bus Park, New Road, Basantapur, Bisal Bazar, Annapurna, Gausala, Themal, Chhetrapati, Durbar Marg, Kalimati and Kuleshowar area. He found that most children run away from their origin because of physical abuse (49%), mental abuse, malnutrition, lack of schooling and being thrown out from home. Family poverty in association with death and/or absence of own mother was the main reason for most children coming to the street.

Azad (1998), in his study of street children in Kathmandu, in determining their health status and their daily exposure to environmental pollution, found that newcomers on the street had less incidence of fever, ear ache, vitamin B deficiency and colds than their longer term street peers; the existence of contact with their family had a positive influence on the street children’s personal cleanliness behavior, and while all subjects performed environmentally hazardous occupations, rag picking was the most harmful, increasing the likelihood for frequent injury by 25 percent. The nature of the jobs streets children did for their survival and the very fact that they spent most of their time on the street, exposed them to all kinds of health hazards. Many studies on street children have been conducted in other parts of the world. Such studies on street children in other geographical locations show similar socio-demographic characteristics as in Nepal.

Onta Bhatta (1996) has analyzed the evolution of different conceptions about street children in Nepal. She found that various states, development organizations, the media, and the street children themselves have contributed to the process of creating and consolidating

street children's identities. While certain conceptions are meant to locate Nepali street children within internationally established categories, others are meant to create a shared local identity among the Nepali street children. These generalizing conceptions are created by the state, the media, child development organizations, and child rights activists in the process of designing policies and programs, raising public awareness on child rights, and making the situation of the street children visible to the rest of the society. Such attempts to give meaning to the realities of the street children have, however, not been sensitive to the differences among the street children or to their perceptions of themselves. The street children contest these generalizing categories for blurring the differences among them, resent them for demeaning their very existence, but also utilize them to take advantage of immediate circumstances for long or short-term personal gains. In this paper she has traced the history of the identities of the street children in Nepal over the past few decades.

Munykho's (1992) report of Kenya focused more on disadvantaged children in the community and their relationship to work, education and the street. It discusses the problems of institutionalization, focuses especially on problems faced by young girls, highlighting the difference between those faced by boys. The aim of the study is to develop a fuller understanding of the problems faced by children from birth till age 18, by analyzing various levels of cause for their abuse, abandonment, mistreatment and neglect. The report has also sought to identify and highlight common problems such as overcrowding, pollution, urban violence, internal and external migration, and the lack of a sense of belonging.

Shah (1994), in his study, suggested that besides being subjected to health hazards such as accidents, STDS and drug addiction, street children had virtually no access to basic health, nutrition or education. According to Shah, the most damaging effect observed in such street children was the development of a deep sense of insecurity, which often resulted in uncontrolled aggressiveness and over rebellion, directed at the existing social system.

ILO (1992) in the paper *Nepal mabalsramvirudhakorastriyakaryayojanakoruprekhadeals* with children's rights published by. Under the topic of 'Child labour in various economics sectors,' it states that the number of street children in Nepal is growing day by day. According to ILO, it has been happening so because of the massive migration trend and rapid process of urbanization as well as the increment of the urban poor settlements popularly known as slum or squatter areas. It further says that these neglected and abandoned children either beg or pick rags for

their survival. Pointing to the result of street culture, it raises the issue that girl child prostitution on the street is snowballing.

CWIN (1992) in a country report released on the State of the Rights of the Child in Nepal declares that the problem of street children is universal referring to an estimation given by the WHO, which says that there are 100 million children who have landed on the streets of cities due to various socio-economic and socio-psychological reasons and family violence.

A study conducted by police headquarters (1992) in Kathmandu found that there were about 3100 street children in Nepal. They found that 700 street children existed in Kathmandu, of which 58.2 percent were between the ages of 11 and 15, 54.8 percent had both parents alive. 47 percent were illiterates and 65.8 percent were living on the street.

A CWIN (1990) study of 100 street children reported longer work hours among street children (14 to 18 hours per day), and a lower income from rag picking (23 NRs per day). The type of street children interviewed in the study included 48% runaways, 13% squatters and 39% abandoned and orphaned children. The most common reason given for being a street child was prior abuse and neglect. In Kathmandu valley street children live in different places. They choose places according to their necessity or nearby their friends who encourage them to come to Kathmandu. They start their survival pathways according to the locations and local context. On the street they adopt various survival strategies.

Angelli (1986) has published reports and case studies from different countries showing how street children have become a growing urban tragedy. The literature on street children from different parts of the world suggest that a few salient characteristics of the children's lifestyles are common cross culturally, such as making a living by selling recyclable goods, living in social groups, experiencing violence, having unstable relationships with their families and having a high level of competence and resilience.

The problem of street children has been increasing dramatically globally and locally. There are many reasons for children being on the streets. The social problems and economic difficulty, a rapidly changing rural and urban environment- all are forcing children into the street life. The growth of urban centers and its glamour has been affecting children who are facing difficulties, such as poverty and poor living standards. The street children are also involved in money-making to maintain themselves or their family. They do marginal economic activities like shoe shining, car washing, begging, pick pocketing, garbage collecting, etc.

CHAPTER-THREE

RESEARCH-METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

Research on the situation of street children in Kathmandu is very limited. The present study has attempted to fulfill the gap of knowledge on the sector of street children by systematically exploring and describing the situation. Therefore it was obvious that research design of this study was basically exploratory and descriptive in nature. The methods employed definitely have dug out quite many hidden and unknown facts regarding street children in Kathmandu Thamel area.

3.2 Rationale for the Selection of Study area

The study area was selected from the streets of Thamel, Kathmandu Metropolitan City. This area is generally densely populated by street children. Here many hotels and shelters were available for the children to work and earn. There were tourists to feed the poor people and beggars and other helpless where street children can also eat. They are soft hearted and offer more money to street children than in other business areas. Since large number of street children live in this Thamel area this region was selected for the purpose of this study.

3.3 Sources and Nature of Data

This study was based on both primary and secondary sources of information. For the primary data collection, children on the streets were contacted and they were asked to answer the questions by taking an interview using the questionnaire. The secondary data was collected from various reports, books, journals, and seminar reports. Therefore the nature of data was both qualitative and quantitative, focusing on information relevant to the study.

3.4 Universe and Sampling

The actual population of street children in Kathmandu is exactly unknown. The dwelling places of street children are not fixed so it is not possible to use probability sampling technique. Accidental and purposive sampling method was used. The researcher made decision of the time period and the area from where the children are selected for the interview and questionnaire. All the children who come across the researcher were selected. This is accidental sampling. The sample size of the children will be about 29. Both male and female children were selected in which more male children are expected to be selected. It

was purposive because it would include the street children only and not all the people or children who come across.

3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

All the necessary primary and secondary and qualitative and quantitative data were collected by using various data collection tools and techniques.

3.5.1 Interview Schedule

A standard semi-structured interview schedule was developed and interview with the respondents was taken to collect and record the information, to meet the objectives of the study. In making the schedule emphasis was placed in children's family background, reason of leaving home, strategies of earning for living on the streets, existing situation of life on the street and opinion towards their recovery and rehabilitation. The questionnaire or checklist of an interview was used on the basis of questions which are mostly quantitative.

3.5.2 Observation

Observation method was used to verify the data or information and relevant features in the study area. A great deal of data was collected through the observation method. Places children frequently visited for various purposes were closely observed to see their living styles, dress, bed, shed for sleep, how they look like, how clean or dirty they are, nails, hair and so on, of the street children.

3.5.3 Key Informant's Interview

Unstructured interviews were taken from social workers and officials of concerned organization. Data was collected regarding population of concerned area, their views and their exact roles. A checklist was developed.

3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretations

The data, after collection was processed using operations like, classification and tabulation of data. Data of the study was analysed by using techniques of percentages in the form of tables and some qualitative description was made too.

3.7 Reliability and Validity

By cross checking the answers given by the respondents and seeing whether same consistent answers would come or not, the reliability of data was maintained. For that the

researcher was tally validated the collected data with current census and municipal profiles, which were then adjusted or re-asked if doubts arose.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Researcher has considered respondents' privacy and personal matter. Questions were asked only after getting the permission of respondents. It was given value on ethical matter during the time of research. Researcher has committed not to use or supply this information to any other authorities except the concerned academic department of sociology.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1 Social Characteristics of Street Children

In this section empirical data and its findings on various social characteristics of street children are presented.

4.1.1 Sex and Gender

Sex composition of the total population of Nepal shows that the female population is greater than the male population. For example the sex ration of population of Nepal is 49.51. As per the population it must be seen that there should be more girls than boys in the street but that is not true according to research data. But this particular research shows that the number of boys as street children is more than the girls. The table below shows the ratio of male and female street children.

Table No. 1

Sex Composition of Street Children of the Study Area

SN	Sex	Population	Percentage
1	Male	23	79.31
2	Female	6	20.69
	Total	29	100.00

Source: Field Study 2019

The above table shows that among the total number of respondents i.e. 23 of the respondents i.e. 79.31 were males and 6 of the total respondents i.e. 20.69 were females. Hence, we can draw the conclusion that the sex composition of the street children is unequal where males exceed females.

4.1.2 Age

Age is one of the most important social categories of people living in society. In modern industrial societies children are taken care of by parents and social organizations but in country like Nepal children are made to work from an early age both in formal and

informal sectors. That is why children even the age of below 10 leave their home in search of work in urban centres such as Kathmandu. The proportion of Street children is therefore high in country like Nepal. The table below gives the detail age distribution of street children of the study Area.

Table No 2
Age Composition of Respondent

SN	Particulars	Population	Percentages
1	Children below age 10	16	55.17
2	Children above age 10	13	44.83
	Total	29	100.00

Street children of the study area are of different age groups. In this research street children were classified into two main groups: children below the age group 10 and children above the age 10 and below the age 16. Among them 16 children were below the age 10 which represents 55.17 percent of the total respondents. Similarly, children between the age 10-16years were found to be 13 which represent 44.83 percentof the total respondents. Hence the data illustrates that the majority of the street children were below the age 10.This is a very serious matter.

4.1.3 Family Connection

Children at home are dependent on their parents, family members or kin groups. Their life totally depends on the environment and the nourishment provided by parents or other relatives. Parent's nourishment, love, care and affection are very important factor in shaping child's personality, attitude and aim in life. In the study area the connection of street children with their parents is investigated and found that most of the respondents have connection to their family ad parents but they are not willing to go back to the family because of many different reasons. They however very much miss the home and the family. Analysis of family contact tendencies helps to identify the responsibility and attitudes of respondents towards their family therefore following table has been given for further analysis.

Table No. 3
Distribution of Family Connection

SN	Particulars	Population	Percentage
1	Children with Parental Connection	21	72.41
2	Children without Parental connection	8	27.59
	Total	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The table above shows that 21 children i.e. 72.41 percent children have connection with their parents and family members and the remaining 8 children i.e. 27.59 percent do not have any connection or contact with their parents or family members recently. It shows that majority of children do not want to keep in touch with their family members.

4.1.4 Frequency of Family Contact

Children are expected to love their family members and live or want to live with them. But all street children do not keep in touch with their family members. Some of them keep in touch with their families on a regular basis but most of them only keep in touch occasionally. Their frequency of contact is shown in the table below.

Table No 4
Distribution of the Respondents by Frequencies of Family Contact

S.N.	Contact Frequency with family	Population	Percentage
1	No Contact	13	44.83
2	Once a year	9	31.04
3	Twice a year	4	13.79
4	Thrice a Year	3	10.34
	Total	29	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Above table shows that 44.83% respondents had not kept any contact with their family members. Some 30.04 percent respondents had gone home or had contacted family once a year, 13.79 percent respondent go twice a year and 10.34 percent contact thrice a year. Majority of the street children do not like to contact their family after their street life. As the

above analysis majority of the respondents are not in contact with their family since they left home because they abandoned their home being suffered from vast poverty so that neither they show any charm to contact with their family nor any alternates with them. Some of them who are in contact they have to support their family with their earning and some use to go home to celebrate different festivals with their family.

4.1.5 Place of Origin by Respondents

This study is conducted in Thamel and surrounding area of Kathmandu metropolitan city covering 29 street children. The place of origin of the respondents and their population determines the population structure of the respondents. The table below shows the detail distribution of population structure of the respondents.

Table No 5
Street Children by Place of Origin

SN	Province No.	District	Population	Percentage
1	One	Jhapa	2	6.90
2		Morang	1	3.45
3	Two	Saptari	1	3.45
4		Siraha	2	6.90
5		Dhanusha	1	3.45
6		Bara (Birganj)	2	6.90
8	Three	Kavre	1	3.45
9		Kathmandu	2	6,90
10		Sindhupalchok	3	10.34
11		Dhading	1	3.45
12		Nuwakot	1	3.45
14		Makwanpur	1	3.45
15		Bhaktapur	1	3.45
16		Chitwan	2	6.90
17		Lalitpur	3	10.34
18		Four	Kaski	2
19	Gorkha		1	3.45
20	Five	Rupandehi	1	3,45
21		Banke	1	3.45

As the above table indicates that 51.72 percent respondents are from different districts of province number 3, 20.6 percent respondents are from different districts of province number 2 10.34 percent respondents are from different districts of province number 1 and 4 and 6.90 percent respondents are from province number 5..The analysis shows that majority of the street children have come from province 3 and minority have come from province number 5. There are no street children from province number 6 and 7. i.e. very nominal from mid and far western parts of Nepal.

4.1.6 Caste/Ethnicity

Caste composition states initial relationship among street children, how they are passing their lives on the streets being closed to each other. The table below gives the detail of caste ethnic composition of the street children.

Table No 6

Caste wise distribution of the respondents

S.N.	Caste	Number	Percentage
1	Brahmin	6	20.69
2	Chhetri	3	10.34
3	Tamang	4	13.79
4	Magar	2	6.90
6	Newar	3	10.34
7	Rai/Limbu	2	6.90
8	Dalit	3	10.34
9	Muslim	2	6.90
10	Madhesi	4	13.79
	Total	29	100.00

Source field study 2019

The table above shows that 20.69 percent of respondents were from Brahmin caste 10.34 respondents are from Chhetri and 3.79 percent respondents belonged to Tamang ethnic group. Likewise, number of Newar were 3 and Magar respondents were 2 respectively which account for 10.34 and 6.90percentage respectively. Others like, Rai Limbu were 2 in number and Dalits were 3 in number, Muslims were 2 and Madhesi were 4 respectively.

Street Children from various caste existed in Nepali society who are compelled to live their lives on street as street children but they do not have the ego of caste superiority or inferiority. As the above data shows the number of Kshetri respondents is high but the other ethnic groups like, Tamang, Magar, Lama, Newar Limbu Rai.

4.1.7 Education

Literacy status plays vital role from the origin to solution of any social problem thus identification of literacy status of the respondents in this study can't be ignored for the further analysis following table is for details.

Table No7
Distribution of the respondents by literacy status

SN	Class	Population	Percentage
1	Illiterate	3	10.34
2	literate	12	41.38
3	Class 1	3	10.34
4	Class 2	2	6.90
5	Class 3	4	13.79
6	Class 4	2	6.90
7	Class 5	3	10.34
	Total	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As the above tabulation shows, 10.34 % respondents are illiterates and 41.38 percent are literate and literate respondents have studied classes from 1 to 5 but no one has studied more than fifth class.

4.1.8 Place of Residence

The place of residence of the respondent is very important factor of this study because the literacy this study has emerged from the residential pattern of the children who are passing their lives below the roof of sky and bed of ground on the streets as their permanent shelter. Following table has been given for further analysis.

Table No. 8
Inhabitants-wise distribution of the respondents

S.N.	Place of Residence	Respondents No.	Percent
1	Streets and pavements	8	27.58
2	Outsides of Shops	7	24.14
3	In the temples	5	17.24
4	Patipauwas	5	17.24
5	Inside of Buses	2	6.90
6	Anywhere	2	6.90
Total		29	100

The above table shows that 27.58 percent respondents use the streets, and pavements 24.14 percent sleep the outsides of shops, 17.24 percent sleep patipauwas and in the temples, 6.90 percent inside the buses and 6.90 percent sleep wherever they like and have no fix place to sleep. Street children use the street as their permanent residents but to be safe from rain they use shops, temples Patipauwas in summer and buses in winter to protect from cold. In the winter they burn fire to keep them warm.

4.1.9 Health and Illness

Street children are passing their lives on the open ground having rotten foots, wearing dirty clothes sleeping on open cold ground without sleeping clothes. Therefore, they have to face different diseases. Street children are bearing risky lives on the streets and hardly manage their hand to mouth problem but they have to go through terrible problems for their treatment, if they get any disease, because on one hand they do not have money for treatment and on the other hand health care institutions do not respond to them properly. The following table states the health care patterns of the respondents.

Table No: 9
Distribution of Respondents by Treatment Method

S.N.	Caring Methods	Respondents. No.	Percent
1	Medical	14	48.27
2	Vaidhya	8	27.58
3	Hospital	7	24.14
Total		29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

According to above table, 48.27 respondents use to take treatment from medicals. 27.58 percent respondents take the herbal medicine from Baidhya. 24.14 of them use to go hospital. As this analysis majority of the respondents use the medicines from Baidhyas and medicals with normal checking in preliminary stage of disease but when the disease become complex and do not get recovery from normal medicines then they to go to the public hospitals.

4.1.10 Food Management Pattern of the Respondents

Street children do not have permanent residence and formal routine of having generally they have to manage their foods like, rice, momo, chaumin, potato chips and other sorts of foods from the throwing spots of garbage and occasionally they used to have with their little money following table has been given for details.

Table No 10

Food Provision pattern of the respondents

S.N.	Patterns of Food	Respondents Number	Percentage
1	From restaurants/hotels	13	44.83
2	From garbage Pots/container	9	31.03
3	Get extra foods from nearby /restaurants	7	24.14
	Total	29	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Above table mentions 44.83 percent respondents buy food, restaurants with their money 31.03 percent respondents collect food from garbage containers and 24.14 percent respondents use to get extra foods from surrounding restaurants/hotels of their spots.

4.1.11 Habits of Street Children

Obviously respondents have obtained a lot of bad habits because street life becomes control less and boring, these matters leads person to the bad habits and this phenomenon affect the whole society therefore it is necessary to identify the bad habits on respondents for solution of this problem. Following table is for detail analysis.

Table No: 11**Distribution of Street Children by Habit**

S.N.	Unhealthy Habits Mostly involved in	Number of children	Percentages
1	Smoking Cigarette	12	41.38
3	Local Alcohol	9	31.03
4	Chewing Tobacco	8	27.58
	Total	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As the above table 41.8 percent respondents smoke cigarette, usually 31.03 percent respondents use drink local Raksi, 27.58 percent respondents chew tobacco *surti*, similarly, According to above facts street children have learned smoking and drinking habits.

4.1.12 Reasons for Bad Habits by the Respondents

We can major the weight of bad habits either they are complicated or simple to remove them from the respondents by the analysis of the obtaining reasons of bad habits. Therefore, following table has been given for detail analysis.

Table No 12**Distribution for Respondents of their bad Habits**

S.N.	Reasons	Respondents No.	Percentage
1	For enjoyment	16	55.17
2	Habit	7	24.14
3	Because of tension	4	13.79
	To Remove cold	3	10.34
	Total	29	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As the study 55.17 percent respondents chose bad habits just for enjoyment, 24.14 simply developed these habits from friends and now they are addicted, 13.79 percent earned these habit to free themselves from tension and 2.5% take because of tension and 10.34 percent learned these habit to avoid the cold. According to above analysis nominal

respondents have been obtaining the bad habits as habitual but majority of them have learned bad habits by compulsion or for enjoyment only.

4.1.13 Means of Entertainment

Means of entertainment is very important in person's life but street children do not have much choice for entertaining themselves. They try to enjoy their time by using whatever means and methods that are practically feasible for them. The table had shown the various ways of entertainment of respondents.

Table No 13
Means of Entertainment

S.N.	Entertainment	Respondents No.	Percentage
1	Playing Ludo	16	55.17
2	Playing Cards	8	27.58
3	Radio	3	10.34
4	Television	1	3.45
5	Newspaper	1	3.45
	Total	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As the above caste 55.17 respondents play ludo to entertain themselves and 27.58 percent children play cards when they are free or tired. Very few children watch television or listen to the radio or read newspaper as a means of entertainment. Usually they listen to the radio, watch television and read newspapers at the junkyard and shops of their spots to get information concerned with children or get entertained.

4.1.14 Harassment

Street Children are being harassed by various sources. Following table has been given of detail analysis of the misbehaving sources of respondents.

Table No: 14
Harassment Faced by Street children

S.N.	Sources of Harassment	Male Respondents	Percentage
1	Police	12	41.38
2	Local People	9	31.03
3	Local gang leader	7	24.14
4	Pedestrian	1	3.45
	Total	29	100

Sources: Field Survey, 2019

Above table explains that 41.38 respondents are misbehaved by police 31.03 percent respondents are harassed by local people, 24.14 percent respondents are being bullied by local gang leaders brokers, 3.45 children are troubled by pedestrians. So, street children suffer mainly by surrounding people, police, gang leader, pedestrian.

4.1.15 Protection / Safety

Everyone needs safety and security in life. People should be protected from harm by their enemies for their existence. Street children commonly face various enemies and threats on the streets so they have used some strategy for their safety. Following table shows the strategies used by the respondents.

Table No: 15
Distribution of respondents by safe guarding strategy

S.N.	Defending Strategy	Respondents No.	Percentage
1	Defending Collectively	21	72.41
2	Defending Alone	8	27.58
	Total	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Above table mentions that 72.41 respondents obtain collective strategy to face their enemies and only 27.58 of them face individually with their enemies.

Street children know the value of collective power and use it to face problem collectively for their existence on the streets as far as possible.

4.2 Economic Activities of Street Children

For the purpose to find out the economic status of the street children, the data related with street children's family economic source and status, economic activities, daily income alternative means of earning expenditure pattern, collective goods and their prices goods selling spots have been presents and analyzed in this group.

4.2.1 Family Income Sources of the Respondents

The identification of family income source of the respondents helps us to know the background and origin places of them either they are from city areas or village areas. The detail distribution has been given on following table.

Table No: 16

Distribution of the Respondents by Family Income Source

S.N.	Income Sources	Population	Percentages
1	Agriculture	7	24.14
2	Labour	13	44.83
3	Agriculture and Labour	7	24.14
4	Others	2	6.90
	Total	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

According to the above table agriculture is main family income source of parents or family of street children whereas 24.14 respondent's family depends upon daily basis wage labour. Similarly agriculture and labour combined is the family income source of 44.83 family of the respondents. This analysis shows that majority of the respondents come from family who have poor agricultural and marginal labour economic background belonging to rural village and peripheral areas of large cities.

4.2.2 Family Economic Status of the Respondents

Family economic status is main factor, which leads the future of child towards prosperity or poverty, and emergence of street children problem is directly related with their family's economic status. The distribution of family's economic status of the respondents is given on following table below:

Table No 17

Family economic status wise distribution of the respondents

S.N.	Economic Status	Respondents No.	Percent
1	Income enough to survive	12	41.38
2	Income not-enough to survive	9	31.03
3	Unknown about it	8	27.58
Total		29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As the above tabulation 41.38 respondents have family income enough to maintain their livelihood, only 31.03percent respondents family do not have enough for living and 27.58% respondents are unknown about the economic status of the family from where they have come. According to this analysis majority of the respondents are from poor family economic status, who do not have income even for hand to mouth and very nominal respondents have income only for survive but not for sound living.

4.2.3 Survival Related Activities of the Street Children

Obviously street children don't have any employment of other sources of income. Therefore, activities obtained by the respondents on the streets for their survival are the main economic activities from which they earn for livelihood. Following table shows these activities for analysis.

Table No 18**Distribution of the Respondents by Economic Activities**

S.N.	Survival Activities	Respondents No.	Percent
1	Collection of Waste Materials.	14	48.27
2	Begging	9	31.03
3	Pickpocketing	6	20.69
3	Total	29	100

As the table 48.27percent respondents are fully dependent on waste Kawadi materials and plastics other 9percent of them use to beg only with volunteers who show concern with them as the partial source but their main source of earning is also Kawadi materials and plastics. 20.69 percent respondents accepted threat they sometimes pickpocket to earn their living.

According to this analysis the main economic source of respondents is collection and selling of useless but recyclable Kawadi materials (thrown metals, pots, hangers, pieces of broken pipes, frames, shoes and slippers) and polythene bags, milk pockets, plastics etc. Likewise other survival source is begging with only closed clients with them.

Table No 19**Distribution of respondents by the collective items**

S.N.	Goods Items	Respondents No.	Percentage
1	Plastic bags	9	31.03
2	Milk Pockets	7	24.14
3	Pieces of pipes plastic metal	5	17.24
4	Old shoes and sleepers	3	10.34
5	Goggles Frames	2	6.90
6	Hangers	2	6.90
7	Metal Pots/pieces	1	3.45
Total		29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As the above tabulation out of total respondents 31.03 percent street children use to collect plastic bags only and rest of all use to collect often all above mentioned goods. The main collective goods of respondents are, metal pots, polythene bags, milk pockets, broken pieces of pipes, old shoes/sleepers, gaggles frames, hangers etc.

4.2.4 Daily Income of Street Children

Daily income pattern of the respondents suggests us the survival status and bearing scarcities by them on the street. The detail income pattern has been given on following table.

Table No. 20

Distribution of the respondents by average daily income

S.N.	Daily average income	Respondents No.	Percentage
1	up to Rs. 100	10	34.45
2	Rs 100 to Rs 200	7	24.14
3	Rs. 200 to Rs 300	6	20.69
4	Rs 300 to Rs 400	4	13.79
5	More than 500	2	6.90
Total		29	100

Above table explains 34.45 respondents earn daily maximum Rs 100, 24.14 percent of them earn between least Rs 100 to highest Rs 200, 20.69 percent earn Rs 200 to 300 and 20.69 percent of them earn Rs 300 to 400 in average, and 6.90 respondents who earn more than Rs 500 and they were able to save for their own future as well as for their family.

This analysis shows nominal respondents who are comparatively matured age of 14 years to 16 years with wound health and have ideas about their business are able to earn for saving but most of them earn only to manage their hand to mouth problem.

4.2.5 Savings of the Respondents

Saving trends modify the consumption patterns and consumption trends modify the habits of person. Therefore, it is necessary to identify the saving pattern of the respondents to know either they are conscious or not towards their future but majority of the street children don't save because they become looted by police and stolen by own friends if they save money. Very nominal fallow who have to support their family with their earning use to save

as unorganized deposition patterns. Following task states the saving patterns of the respondents who use to save and deposit.

Table No 21

Distribution of the Respondents by Saving Pattern

S.N.	Saving Source	Respondents No.	Percentage
1	Sahuji and friends	19	77.5
2	Own self	10	22.5
	Total	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

According to above table 77.5percent respondents use to deposit their saved earning with sahuji (junkyard owners where usually they use to sell their goods and Hotel/Restaurants owners where usually they use to have and friends, 22.5percent of the them keep with own selves.

4.2.6 Expenses

Expenditure patterns represent the trends of habits and natures of requirements. Therefore, we should analyze the expenditure patterns of respondents to identify the habits and requirements of them. Following talk helps to analyze the detail.

Table No 22

Distribution of the respondents by expenditure priorities

S.N.	Source of Expenses	Population	Percentage
1	Film	10	34.45
2	New Dress	8	27.58
3	Smoking	6	20.69
5	Cards	3	10.34
6	Alcohol	2	6.90
	Table	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As the study 34.45 respondents spend their earning on watching films 27.58 respondents spend on new dress, 20.69 respondents spend on smoking, 10.34 respondents spend on cards, 6.90 respondents spend on alcohol According to above analysis majority respondents are involved in bad habits like alcohol, smoking, and cards. They do not spend their earning in good sources

4.2.7 Reasons for Leaving Home

Main objective of this study is to find out the leading causes of home leaving by the street children and probabilities of rehabilitation in normal life. For this purpose, the data related with children's home leaving causes. One of the important of this study is to determine why and when children have left their homes and taken to the streets. Most of the cause point to poor economic condition of families and towards family neglect and abuse following table have been given for details analysis.

Table No 23

Distribution of the respondents by the causes of home leaving

S.N	Home leaving causes	Respondents No.	Percentage
1	Following friends advice	10	34.45
2	Because of family poverty	7	24.14
3	Because of step mother	6	20.69
4	Because of father's death	4	13.79
5	Abandoned by father/mother	2	6.90
Total		29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As the above tabulation 34.45 respondents have left their home due to their friends suggestion to go with them, 24.14 respondents have left their home because of family poverty, 20.69 respondents left home because of step mother of lack of love and care at home, 13.79 percent respondents left home because of father's death and 6.90 children were abandoned by their parents. According to this analysis there are so many causes of leaving home by the street children comparatively the family poverty has playing a vital role more the child to the street leaving their home. Likewise other factors mainly caused by poverty as well as social negligence also are responsible for this problem.

4.2.8 Problems of the Street Children

To identify the recent problem facing by street children data related with street children inhabitant, bearing misbehaves, disease have been mentioned and analyzed in this group. The problems of the street children as a whole. Therefore, following table is for detail analysis of the inhabitant problems.

Table No: 24

Distribution of the Respondents by Inhabitant's Problems

S.N	Problems	Respondents	Percentage
1	Rain	8	27.58
2	Storm	6	20.69
3	Cold	5	17.24
4	Stealing	4	13.79
5	Police ragging	4	13.79
6	Bullying by gang leader	2	6.90
	Total	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

According to above tabulation the main problems of the street children in their places of resident are varied. 27.58 children face rain as their main problem 20.69 percent of them have , storm as main problem , for 17.24 percent respondent their main problem was cold, 13.79 percent has experienced stealing police ragging as their main problem, 6.90 percent respondent felt bullying of gang leader as their major problem. Almost all are being suffered by the above mentioned problems but the levels of priorities are different such as rain, storm cooled, stealing, are common problems of all.

4.3 Network among the Street Children

For the purpose to find out the interaction patterns among street children and relationship natures without society, data attached with street children's responses towards stranger street child, domestic child, police, junkyards, journalist volunteers, pedestrians, surrounding people, brokers of garbage, have been presented and analyzed in this group.

Street children also have their own universe and society with certain norms of adoption to maintain their unity. Therefore they use to live with harmonious relationship in group and help to disabled/small/sick street child. They use to well response to a newly arrived street children to involve in their group. Following table has been given for detail analysis.

Table No: 25

Distribution of the respondents by the response over new street children

S.N.	Responses to new street child	Respondents No.	Percentage
1	Make them friend	15	51.72
2	Quarrel	9	31.03
3	Do not care them	5	17.24
4	Help in Trouble	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As the above table 51.72.5percent respondents like to make friend when they meet new street child and 31.03 of them do not care to response but none of them like to quarrel/bite with new street child and almost all are ready to help if any street child gets trouble. This means street children have the real soul of humanity. Street children have harmonious relationship among themselves and exchange their help each other and well treat to the stranger street child to involve their group.

4.3 Relationship and Inter-relationship of Respondents

4.3.1 Relationship of Street Children with Wider Society

As the observations made by researchers go, street children do have harmonious relationship among themselves because they use is relationship to help for sick/disabled street children. Young fellows give their collected goods to small children or those who cannot make an earning whole day. They work whole day and even until late night for food and money. They are organized into small groups and they divide the food among each other. They smoke cigarettes take alcohol and use tobacco in groups. They face challenges and problems collectively with police and pedestrians. They face problems from the police,

pedestrians, brokers and garbage collectors, volunteers/researchers and surrounding people of their sites.

Street children have positive relationship with junkyards being directly related with their livelihood and some brokers help them. Some volunteers/researchers specially concern with their conditions and some of them cheat highlighting them as the smuggler, pickpocket and cheater on news media. But they have negative relationship with police, pedestrians and surrounding people because police suffer them by nonsense in quires and bite, suffer them looting their money and clothes, pedestrians and surrounding people suffer them with bitter hate.

4.4 Attitudes and Aspirations of the Street Children

Attitudes and aspirations of the respondents reflect the mode of problem and guide for solution. Therefore, to find out the street children's attitudes on street life and aspirations for future, data related with their attitudes towards the job, customer, inhabitant, habits, perception of street life, children's rights, this study and aspirations of future have been presented and analyzed in this group.

4.4.1 General Attitudes of the Respondents towards their Job

The male of attitudes towards their job either they are positive or negative reflect the whole perception towards their street life, from which the probability of removal from street life to normal life can be assumed following table shows the attitudes in detail.

Table No 26

Attitude wise distribution of the respondents to the job

S.N.	Attitude	Respondents.	Percentage
1	Satisfied or at least better than home	13	44.38
2	Not Satisfied	10	34.45
3	Little Satisfied	6	20.69
Total		40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As this study reveals chat, 44.38 respondents are fully satisfied, 20.69 percent of them were little satisfied and 34.45 percent of them are dissatisfied.

According to above analysis majority of the respondents are negative in general towards their job but they are compelled to obtain that job not getting any alternative.

4.4.2 Respondents Attitudes towards Self

Respondents are getting risky lives on the street but they have also own personal perceptions towards their street life and have some ambitions in future. Following table shows the attitudes in detail.

Table No. 27

Distribution of the respondents by attitudes over street life

S.N.	Attitudes Over Street Life	Male Respondents	Percentage
1	Enjoyful Life	13	44.83
2	Boring Life	9	31,03
3	Wishing to back home	5	17.24
4	Not to back home	2	6.90
	Total	29	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As the above table 44.83 female respondents think street life as enjoyable, 31.03 respondents feel boring life on the street, 17.24 percent respondents want to return to their home, Only 6.90 respondents do not wish to go back home.

According to this study most of the respondents are unknown about their future goal and they are passing their lives on the street by the compulsion with bore feelings but they are not ready to return their home because they have no alternatives of survival and majority of them are interested to study if they get opportunity.

4.4.3 Future Aspirations of the Respondents

Obviously every human use to have ambitions for future and they guide their present by these aspirations. Likewise, even though respondents are living painful lives with scarcities but they also their aspirations for future and seeking for opportunities for future and seeking for opportunities. Following table states the future aspirations of the respondents in detail.

Table No. 28**Distribution of the Respondents by future aspiration**

S.N	Aspirations	Respondents	Percentage
1	Policeman/woman	11	37.93
4	Conductor/Driver	8	27.58
5	Shopkeeper	6	20.69
6	Foreign Employment	4	13.79
	Total	29	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2019

According to above tabulation no of them respondents given preference to wealth, such as 37.93 of respondents want to be police man or woman in future. Likewise, 27.58 respondents want to be bus driver or conductor 20.69 respondents want to be shopkeeper 13.79 respondents want to go to foreign country for foreign employment.

Above analysis states that previous studies regarded with street children are biased over real life and compulsion of street children, because most studies concerned with street children have shown street children are involved in stealing, smuggling, pick pocketing, but according to this study street children are not involved in such activities, neither they have ambitious elusions like, doctor, pilot politician, actor/actress nor them demon aspirations, like thief, pickpocket, smuggler etc. This means street children are on the street by their compulsions but standing in their real ground consciously.

This chapter presents the summary of findings based on a study conducted on 29 street children in the Thamel area as well as the conclusions drawn thereof.

4.5 Case Studies

i. Shiva , a 14 years old boy

My name is Dipak. I come from Panchkhal, Sindhupalchok, I have a younger brother, a younger sister, my parents and grand parents in my family. I left home because there was not enough to eat at my home due to poverty. It has been three of four years since I left home. First came to Banepa and worked in a small restaurant cleaning dishes. Left after three or four days and came to Kathmandu, I did not know my way around Kathmandu. A man took me to weave carpets. I did not know that weaving concepts, meant, but I said that I would

stay there. They said that they would pay me after three months. They taught me to weave. I worked there for five months and asked for my salary. But they did not give it to me. One day when I was weaving, the thread on the loom accidentally got cut. The manager hit me on the hands with a “ghimsi” (a hammer like tool used in carpet factories). I run away from the factory and worked in a restaurant. But the owner did not like, and so I left this job too. I was sitting in Ratna Park when a rag picking boy asked me to go with him. He taught me to beg and I started begging.

ii. Hari, a 13 years old boy

I work as a Khate (Helpless street child). It has been five or six years since I came to Kathmandu, I am from Saptari. My house was swept away by a flood, and I lost my home and any entire family. I was saved because that day I had gone to the jungle to graze the cattle. Three were five of us in the jungle, and when we returned to the village, our homes had been destroyed by the flood, we all started crying. My friends said that we could all go to Kathmandu. But there was no money. One of my friends suggested that we sell a goat from the village and get some money. So took a goat and went to the market one man asked us where we were going with the goat, and we told him that our homes and families were swept away by the flood and we were going to sell the goat to get money.

We all came to Kathmandu by bus. We paid 95 rupees each for bus fare. The bus dropped us at Kalimati, but we did not know on way around in Kathmandu. We joined a small restaurant for work. We stayed for two or three days, but the restaurant owner shouted to us. So we left. In Bansbari, a man asked if we would work for him. We did the work he gave us and ran away from there too and came to Thamel. Then we decided to separate. I went to the old bus park, and worked as a bus conductor for a month. I left that and lived in Tripureswor, then in a restaurant in Dillibazar. One day I met someone from Balkendra and came here. I have been living here for the last six or seven months. I like Balkendra because we are all friends here and we co-operate with each other. I have not heard anything bad from my friends or teachers here so far. I want to be a big person *Thulomanchhe* (Well reputed social man). I want to study and become a citizen. Everybody gives me their blessings to become a good man. I don't have a home. I came when I was small. There were ten of us in my family. My home was swept away by the flood, everybody except me was swept by the flood. This is my life story.”

This chapter presents the summary of findings of being street child conducted on 29 street children at Thamel as well as the conclusions drawn thereof.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

The problem of street children is universal. Because of high push factors in rural areas and strong pull factor of urban areas a number of street children in Kathmandu city is rapidly increasing. Street children are indications of a growing poverty in rural areas and individualism in attitude of people nowadays. The main reason is family tension and acute poverty but other reasons include widespread, political instability, and civil unrest, natural disaster and growing urbanization.

The study was carried out with to identify socio economic status and the situation of street children and to identify and explain major causes of street children.

For the study both descriptive and exploratory research design was adopted. 29 samples were selected on the basis of non-probability, and accidental sampling technique. The researcher has also used semi observation *to analysis respondents'* behavior and to acquire relevant information. Semi structured closed and open-ended questionnaires were prepared and asked to make study more flexible and rational. The findings of the study based on 29 respondents are summarized. The respondents were both boys girls but boys were more in number than girls. On the basis of field observation and interview the data were collected and analysed however the findings drawn may not be generalized to other urban areas.

The summary of findings of the study is briefly described herein: The most influencing age wise population composition of street children is below 10 years. The average age of street child is 13 years. However the study infers that children as young as 6-7 years are on street. The study depicts that there are four categories of causes that influence a child to be on the streets. They are social causes, family causes, economic causes and other causes. The study revealed that the most influencing causes are the family causes, in which the main reason was poverty of the family. Other causes noted during field study were friends' suggestions, step mother's torture and death of the father. Famine and poverty is the most influencing root cause. Despite these causes, a habitual desire for independence is the other cause of children being on the streets.

The largest population is from Brahmin followed by Chhetri and TamangNewar, Tharu Limbu Muslim and Madhesi. According to the respondents, majority are from agricultural profession of their families followed by labor in agriculture and construction. This can be inferred that most street children are from agriculture background family.

Most of the street children at Thamel are from adjoining districts of the Kathmandu valley. One can say that Kathmandu BhaktapurKavreDhadingMakwanpur and Nuwakot are the most influencing districts. Little influence for other districts was observed in the field survey. The life of street children is vulnerable because of street population. Most of their illness is due to pollution and lack of food. Some of the problems depicted during observation are presented as follows:

Due to significantly low income, they desperately need to choose their source of food areas. Most of the respondents go to Bhatti for food followed restaurant and some manage by begging. Most of them have one to two set of cloth followed. They also expressed that they are not fully paid for their labour.

They preferred to visit government hospital for medical treatment if they do need treatment. According to survey, most of them go to government hospitals followed by Ayurvedic hospital, some get treatment from their friends and few do not care about diseases.

They are mobile population and therefore do have little span of concentration. They are short tempered and reactive in nature inclined to violence and irresponsible about their future. They prefer to stay in a group of 4-8 numbers. Normally they conceal their true identity and don't want to disclose. They are mobile and always struggle to survive. They are involved in crime and the most influencing age group is 13+ year children. There is no single factor to push child onto street. Multiple elements are playing role for children to come in street and spend their life. Social factors such as children of prostitute, children of baggers, children of drug addicts, women trafficking, bonded child, children rejected by the family and society, child slave, children who have escaped from the school are more involved as street child. Moreover caste discrimination, religious discrimination, conservative way to look at illegal born children etc. are other important social factors which push children onto the streets.

Likewise some family causes such as broken families, father who recognize his children, abandoned, orphan, mistreated behavior of family are found playing role to push children

onto street. Children are not only forced to involve in street life because and social and family causes moreover their own habit and behavior are also influencing factor to push them onto street.

5.2 Conclusion

It needs to be emphasized that street children represent a worldwide phenomenon despite cultural differences. Examination of the literature also indicates that the backgrounds of street children, despite some differences, are remarkably similar, and so are the findings presented in the present study which reflects the aspects of street children in the Thamel area of the Kathmandu Valley. Based on the field survey, available materials, and extensive literature review, the following conclusions are drawn. However, because of a short period of time and limited resources, it is extremely difficult to draw firm conclusions. Still, materials, data and information available from the various NGOs working in this field and this survey point towards serious problems in the days ahead if the concerned government organizations, and other social organization who are working in this field, do not take it positively.

It is found that the most influenced population in age-wise group is 9-13 years and average age is 13 years. Children's reasons for leaving home are: family violence, parental alcoholism, abuse, poverty, personal reasons, social causes, economic causes etc. Most of the street children are from adjoining districts of the Kathmandu Valley. Dominant numbers of street children are higher from Brahmin and Chhetris caste/ethnic identity than the others. Street children are normally mobile population. However, generally they have made certain areas their base where they do their business and sleep at night.

Street children take up a number of jobs available in the street such as rag picking, begging, public transport conducting, portering, street vending, shoe shining etc. Almost half of the street children are literate. They only know Nepali alphabet to read and write. The preferable area of food places is Bhatti but it depends on income they are able to generate. Most of them have one set of clothes i.e. the cloth they are wearing. Mandirs and Dharamashalas is the preferred area for night stay. Community people are treating street children as people with delinquent behaviour. Street children are harassed by government organizations. Government hospitals and ayurvedic hospitals are the preferred area for treatment. Becoming conductors and hotel worker 'kancha' is the common job to be involved

for survival. Older age group street children force new comers and younger age group street children to follow them. Glue sniffing is a relatively new drug addiction technique adopted by Nepali street children. Street children are found to be not interested in schooling. Behaviour of street children is totally different from the other children. They start with smoking cigarettes, tobacco-chewing and alcohol and then it leads to hashish or tablets. Then they begin experimenting with the syringe. Eventually they develop diseases and die from Hepatitis 'B', HIV/AIDS, drug-overdose, etc. Street children know about children's rights and Juvenile Justice a little bit. To conclude, street children of Kathmandu valley are facing lots of problems in different aspects. There are no strong programmes and policies of the government and other non-governmental sectors in order to boost up their condition and lives. It seems that their future life is in dark if this situation continues. First of all, the causes of street children should be found out completely and subsequently such causes should be alleviated.

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APPENDIX I

List of Questions

Interview Schedule for Street Children

1. Personal Background

- (a) Name: (b) Age: (c) Sex:
 (d) Caste: (e) Present Address:
 (f) Home Address: V.D.C/Municipality and ward No
 (h) Education: Illiterate / Literate (Class:)

2. Family Background

- Family members: Father: (i) Active (ii) Dead (iii) Abandoned
 Mother: (i) Active (ii) Dead (iii) Abandoned

3. Family economy

- (a) Income source of the family
 (i) Agriculture (ii) Business (iii) Service (iv) Labour
 (v) Other

4. Why did you leave home?

- (i) Father's death/abandonment
 (ii) Mother's death/Abandonment
 (iii) Tyranny of step parents
 (iv) Family neglect
 (v) Poor influence
 (vi) City attraction
 (vii) Not being taught
 (viii) To earn money
 (ix) Others

5. Contact with family

- (a) Are you in touch with your family?
 (i) Yes (ii) No
 (b) If yes how often do you go home in one year?

6. Working Condition

- (a) What kind of work do you do?
 (i) Rag picking
 (ii) Begging
 (iii) Collecting money from worshippers in temples

- (iv) Guarding shoes in temples
 - (v) Conductor in public vehicles
 - (vi) Labour _____
 - (vii) Guide
 - (viii) Selling newspapers
 - (ix) Others _____
- (b) Are you happy with your work?
- (i) Yes because _____
 - (ii) No because:
 - (1) Very less money
 - (2) Difficult Work
 - (3) Abasement from others
 - (4) Others
- (e) How much do you earn in a day?
- (f) Are you earning enough to feed yourself?
- (i) Yes (ii) No
- (g) What do you do in case of insufficiency?
- (i) Go for more work
 - (ii) Beg
 - (iii) Borrow money
 - (iv) Steal
 - (v) Nothing
- (h) Where would you go if you need to borrow some money?
- (i) How do you spend your earnings?
- (i) Cinema (ii) Food (iii) Hiring bicycle
 - (iv) Drinking/gambling/cigarettes (v) lending to friends
 - (vi) Buying Clothes (vii) Others
- (j) Can you share any of your earnings?
- (k) Do you send money to your home?
- (i) Yes (ii) No
- (l) Where do you keep your savings?
- (i) Yes (ii) No
- (m) Who feeds you when you do not have money?

- (n) If you need clothes, where would you go?
- (o) How do you manage when you are sick?

7. Shelter

- (a) Where do you usually sleep?
 - (i) Pavement (ii) In-front of shops (iii) Open Air
 - (iv) Together with friends (v) Temple Area
 - (vi) No fixed (vii) Other
- (b) What sort of problems do you face in your place?
 - (i) Rain (ii) Cold (iii) Stealing (theft)
 - (iv) Police harassment (v) Harassment from adult person

8. Habits of the Children

- (a) Do you smoke ?
 - (i) Yes (ii) No
- (b) Do you drink ?
 - (i) Yes (ii) No
- (c) Do you take drugs ?
 - (i) Yes (ii) No
- (d) If yes, what kind of drugs ?

9. Health Condition

- (a) What sort of health problem do you get usually ?
 - (i) Fever (ii) Stomach-ache (iii) Cold/Flu
 - (iv) Street Injuries (v) Others

10. Abuse and Harassment

- (a) Have you suffered any kind of abuses and harassment ?
 - (i) Yes (ii) No
- (b) If yes, by whom ?
 - (i) Elders (ii) Friends (iii) Police (iv) Local Police
 - (v) Others

11. Feelings of the Street Children

- (a) How do you feel living on the street ?
- (b) Do you want to return to your home ?
 - (i) Yes (ii) No (iii) Don't know
- (c) Would you like to study ?
 - (i) Yes (ii) No (iii) Don't know

- (d) If yes, why do you want to study ?
- (e) What do you want to be in the future ?
- (i) teacher (ii) Doctor (iii) construction worker (iv) Police (v) Driver (vi) Hotel Owner (vii) Tourist
- Guide (viii) No Planning (ix) other

APPENDIX-II

Key Informant's Checklist

1. How do you define street children?
2. Can you give a brief background of the nature and history of the street children?
3. In which area are the street children most found?
4. What do you think could be the reason for these children to live on the street?
5. Do you know any of the rehabilitation programs being implemented?
6. How many organizations are now currently involved for the welfare of such children?
7. Do you think the government is willing to support these organizations?
8. What problems do you face in implementing programmes for the street children?
9. Can you tell something about the programmes that have been successful?