

# **CHAPTER-I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

A human being between birth and puberty is called a child. Children whose life style grows up in the street without parental love, and support are regarded as the street children. For a child nothing is warmer than a home with parental care and love. Street children are those who use the street as their permanent home, spending majority of their time out there and doing whatever is necessary for their day to day survival. As mentioned by CWIN all the children who stay in the street are street children (CWIN, 2005). But every child is not privileged of this thing although it is his/her inherent right. Half of the world's populations live in the Asia-Pacific region; 30% of them live in poverty, and of them 40% are children and young people (ADB 2001). Child labor and street children are sometimes found taking synonymously. Going into the 21st century, child labour remain/s a serious problem in many parts of the world, despite the efforts to combat it made by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since its inception in 1919. Many child laborers live in underdeveloped countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Typically they work in poor conditions, and have little or no chance of receiving a proper education. Often their eager income is necessary for the survival of their families (Encarta, 2007).

Street children can be defined in various categories according to the time they spend as their personal and family background. A widely accepted set of definitions, commonly attributed to amnesty international (2007), divides street children into two main categories.

The children who actually live on the street (or outside a names) family environment. Family ties may exist but are tenuous and are maintained only

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

Child labour, designation formerly applied to the practice of employing young children in factories, now used to denote the employment of minors generally, especially in work that may interfere with their education or endanger their health. Throughout the ages and in all cultures children joined with their parents to work in the fields, in the marketplace, and around the home as soon as they were old enough to perform simple tasks. The use of child labour was not regarded a social problem until the introduction of the factory system. (Encarta, 2007).

The three concepts child work and labour constitute a major debate in the sociological milieu of development literature. Though the meaning of childhood differs from one content to another from one culture to another and also from rural to urban areas, different laws have self varying age limits for the definition of child in Nepal. In the contest of child labour, the ILO's minimum age convention of 1973 has defined 'child' as a person below the general limit of 15 years or in special circumstances 14 years. Similarly according to Nepalese labour Act. 1992. 'Child' means a person who is below the age of 14 years. And 'worker' means person employed in return for payment of salary (or wage in any production process). It explicitly states that those children who are under 14 years of age should not be employed at the expense of their mental, spiritual and physical status. Children under the age of 18 years are also prohibited to work in the health hazardous form of work. Similarly, the convention of the rights of the child (1989) talks of the rights of the child to be

protected from hazardous work and others works that are likely to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

Child labour is not a new phenomenon in Nepal. It is a part and parcels of the feudal economy. For years, child labour has been perceived as a way of life in this country. In the rural economy, children have played a significant role in the family subsistence: fetching water, collecting firewood, grazing cattle, caring for children and supporting parents in the fields are the most common works that children in the rural areas perform. In addition, many children of poor families also extend support as a family breadwinner working as domestic servants in the homes of village merchants. The migration of children to urban areas has been tremendously increasing these days and this has led to the increase of child labour in the urban areas. Street children: mainly beggars, rag pickers, street vendors and workers in sweet shops, restaurants and bars are also very common in the cities. The rising number of slums and squatter areas has also contributed to the growth of the child labour population.

The popular image of street child is the neglected, abandoned or orphaned child who begs, collects and sells recyclable goods such as plastic metal, and sleeps on the street. The conception is based upon certain assumptions about street children and their lifestyles. While some of these assumptions are grounded in reality, the criteria for defining street children still remains vague. In the late 1980, when programs for street children were initiated from the non-government sector in Nepal, the term street children was use to refer to children who literally lived in the streets, i.e. those who worked and sleep on the street. By 1993, the definition of street children became ambiguous. This ambiguity is in the report of the street flexed children's national convention held in October 1993 (CWS, 1993). The report uses terms such as "homeless", "helpless", "Khate", "Uncared for", and underprivileged to refer to and thus define street

children. It also tends to categorize children into "hard core street children" and those who work but do not sleep on the street. This implies that who work on the street but live with their families are also street children. This conceptual ambiguity is still prevalent among those who work with street children in Nepal.

The definition of a street child used in this research is based on the definition provided by the inter NGO committee on youth and is also follows " . . . any girl or boy' for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word including unoccupied dwellings, waste lands etc.) has become his or her habitual abode or source of livelihood and who is inadequately protected supervised or directed by responsible adult" (Inter NGO program on street children and street youth 1985).

This definition best suits the prosper of this research as it includes both "children of the street" and children on the street." The former refers to children who live in the street and the letter refers to children who only use the street as their workplace or social hangout, but live with their families. Hence, "Street children" in this research is used to refer to all children who have a special relationship with the street. Hence forth the terms "children of the street", "Children on the street" and "street children" are used without quotes. It must emphasize here that the two categories children at the street and children on the street are not fixed and exclusive. In other words, children move between the categories all the time. For example; Children who work on the street and usually live with their families occasionally spend a few days on the street. Also, children who work in hotels, restaurants or in home sometimes live on the street in between jobs. The terms are used here to point out the different relationship that the children have with street culture their families and their peers.

In Nepal, different terms are used to refer to the street children. The direct translation of this is Sadak Balbalika. The media and NGOs use the term Khate, which, originally created by the children of the street who worked as ragpickers. The term Kawadi is derived from the work Kadadi the Nepali word for Junkyard where here children sell the recyclables they collect. Some people also refer to the street children as Sadak Chhap meaning those who live and sleep on the street. In this study, children are defined as those who are 14 years and younger. The concept of the street broadly includes all public lands, Buildings, temples, pavements and public shelters built for travelers. The nature of the work these children do is an important criterion that determines whether they are street children or not. For example, those children who beg and sing on the street, who work as tempo conductors, rag pickers, street vendors, porters, and those working in restaurants and hotels but living on the street are all considered as street children whether they live with their guardians or not.

### **Street Children of Nepal: A General Overview**

Nepal, a landlocked Himalayan nation with a population of about 2.5 million people, is considered one of the least developed countries in the world. It has been striving to accelerate the pace of its socio-economic development within the framework of a multiparty parliamentary system adopted since 1990.

Child labour jeopardizes children's potential to become productive adults, robbing them of their health their education and their prospects for a better future. It is an affront to the principles of social justice, child rights and to the protection of human rights. Children are among the most neglected, abused and exploited segments of the population, exposed to such worst forms of labour such as becoming street children. In Nepal, child work in general and child labour in particular is a common phenomenon, as estimated, 42 percent of the total population of children from 5-14 years old is economically active

(Suwal et al. 1997). At the expense of education, children who work as family helpers as well as wage laborers must take on heavy workloads for survival. This deprives them of their right to development, protection and participation (ILO/IPEC, 1995).

Most children run away from their origin because of ill treatment in their households. Most ill treatment reported included physical abuse (49%) mental abuse, malnutrition, lack of schooling and being thrown out of the house. Household poverty associated with death and absence of own mother was the main reason for most children coming to the street. Also the respondents' fathers were reported to be literate (ILO/IPEC, 2002).

The growth in the armed insurgency by the Maoist in rural Nepal, where by young children are indoctrinated into the struggle, many believe, has resulted in forced migration and the increase in numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs). This has increased the children's vulnerability in general in these areas. Though there are no figures available on this issue it is generally believed that trafficking of children for military indoctrination is rampant.

Street children are highly vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation as well. Their vulnerable condition in the street increases in cases of pedophilia. The expanding sex market appears to be one of the major causes of sexual abuse and exploitation of street children. Foreign pedophiles abuse about 5 percent of the street boys in Nepal (CWIN/ 2001). Various forms of negative media, cheap cinema, availability of alcohol and drugs in the market, pornographic activities including sex tourism are some of the major factors putting adverse impacts on the street children due to their vulnerability. The fact that children are left to gang protection for survival inscribes in them a distinct coping strategy and survival technique.

This study surveys the general situation of street children in Nepal and looks into the factors that compel children to leave their homes and motivate them to live and work on the street. The study includes a report on the children's street life and overview of the national context in which the situation has arisen. The street has become the place of survival, serving as home and workplaces for many children. The phenomenon of children living on the streets of Nepal's cities has also greatly increased. The changes created by the situation have important implications for the country. While the increase in the population of street children is very noticeable, the conditions associated with the occurrence are not generally understood because of scarcity of information and data. Mere assumptions about causes of the movement to the street may be inaccurate and thus cannot be the situation clearly; poverty is one of many factors that could play a role in bringing this situation.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The problem of the worker children in each sector is universal. The nature and characteristics of worker children differ from normal children who have been brought up in warm hands of parents. They have been influenced by the environment of places where they work; the culture is reflected in their lifestyle.

Although there are several acts and amendments framed out in the constitution regarding the protection of child against the hazardous work that is likely to interfere with child's education, health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social unpleasant and intolerable situations, many children are exploited at work and facing ordeal of hardship, their spontaneous work without payment is indeed a matter of pathetic wail.

The extent of a country's development can be shown by the extent to which its child population has got its rights because children are the future of nation. However, most of the people in Nepal are living a very poor life and they are

unable to feed their children even one a day. In such a situation children have to work very hard from their early stage of life to survive.

The existence of street children is not a new phenomenon. Despite the growing number of INGOs and NGOs, it is even more difficult to get a count of those children who are invisible: work behind closed doors, confined to factories, mines black room bass, kitchen quarters, in illegal activities or other more invisible occupations such as domestic workers, or sexually exploited children and we do not even know the actual number of street children. The amount of information and data on street children is very limited. In such a situation, appropriate policies cannot be formulated.

Report of UNDP 1998 has focused on poverty as the main factors of child labour because if a household is very poor and is unable to afford their food, cloth and shelter for everyone, then all the members the household have to work for living. But many children also work because their step mother or fathers do not accept them easily and they cannot tolerate their domestic violence. So they run away from their home and it is the main factor for a child to be a street child.

Pokhara being focus of child labour in western development region. Thousands of children exposing in to the workforce are concerned here. The main reason behind it are the push factor of rural areas such as poverty, landlessness, and the urbanization and industrialization of this city contributing to the pull factor for those categories of people who come to work in different sectors. Among the different forms of child labour, street children face various problems, which arise in different sectors. These problems are related to their living and working. But these living and working problems have many other problems, such as developmental problems, health problem, and educational problems. These problems are the burning issues for all developing countries including



Nepal. The growing number of street children is one of the greatest challenges for all advocates of development, human right activities and policy makers.

This study has tried to find out the solution of the following research problem:

- ) What are the causes forcing children towards the street?
- ) What is the living style of the children in the street?
- ) What are the occupations acquired by the street children in the street?
- ) What are the socio-economic statuses of 'children on the street' and 'children of the street'?
- ) What are the major problems of the street children?
- ) What are the street children's future plans?

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

The main objectives of this study are to investigate the unknown facts and nature of the street children and indentify their problem and needs.

Before this study many studies have been conducted to evaluate the situation of street children in Pokhara, their problems and situations are still sensitive; therefore, a study in this area will help to enlighten the problem affecting street children and hopefully help in the resolution of the problems faced by the street children.

The general objective of this study is to understand and describe the exact situation and problems of street children in Pokhara sub-metropolitan city. But the specific objectives of this study are as follows:

- ) To analyze the circumstances and factor given birth to street children.
- ) To explore the factors pushing children on the street.
- ) To access the problems and prospective of street children.

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

Children are regarded as a priority area of development since they have a significant role to play in the future. In this context, it should be a matter of

concern for all development workers to study and find out about the lives of these street children, who are at risk and are having hard time including their daily activities and living style.

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

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

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

### **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

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

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

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

The research study has been divided into seven chapters. The 1<sup>st</sup> chapter is introductory chapter. The 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter is the literature review. The 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter is research methodology. The 4<sup>th</sup> chapter is about the circumstances and factors given birth to street children. The 5<sup>th</sup> chapter is pushing factor of street children. The 6<sup>th</sup> chapter is problems of street children. The 7<sup>th</sup> chapter is of summary, conclusions and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER-II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

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

#### **2.1 Theoretical Overview**

Human beings are social animals by nature. Children are also important part of our society. 'Our children of the present time are the key for the future of the nation. The whole responsibility of the nation in coming years falls on the shoulders of the children. "The ongoing process or leaning the way of our culture is called socialization" (Davita Silfen Glaberg Kenneth J. Neabeck 1993).

Street children are the cause of economic growth, poverty loss of traditional values, domestic violence and physical and mental abuse. Every street child has a reason for being on the street (CPCS 2007).

In Nepal because of street children social disorganization, crime and deviance come in the society. In social disorganization society equilibrium is disturbed and society gets out of year. Emile Durkheim defined. "Social disorganization as a state of disequilibrium and lack of social solidarity of consensus among the members of society" (Durkheim).

When people hear the word deviance most people thinks of such behaviors as gross-dressing prostitution, homosexuality, theft, assault and murder. Many people consider them deviant behaviors because they believe that they violate natural moralities as absolute morality. Sociologists; however tend to reject this

reasoning because it ignores the social origins of deviance. Peter Conrad & Joseph Schneider define deviance as behaviors that is negatively defined or condemned in our society (Peter and Joseph Schneider, 2001).

In this situation to restore the balance of society social control is very necessary. In this context, MacIver and page write "Social control is meant the way in which entire social order coheres and maintains itself, how it operates as a whole as a changing equilibrium" (MacIver and page, 1950).

Until the late 1980s the term "Street children or its Nepali equivalent "Sadak Balbalika" had not become part of the vocabulary of the child welfare sector in Nepal. Today "street children" has become an established category representing a marginal group in the urban society, development organization, the media, the state and the children who live in the street.

Street children problem is one of the burning problems in Nepal. Lots of NGOs and also Government are trying to solve this problem. Nowadays we can get the good coverage in the media like newspaper, magazine, documentary and other publications of various social organizations.

Here are some attempts to review the related literature on child labour as well as street children. This study links with socio-economic perspective.

Street children are those who use the street as their permanent homes, spending majority of their time out there doing whatever is necessary for their one day to day survival (CWIN-1990). According to the research street children are categorized into three types.

- ) Runaway children: The runaway children were the one who had left their homes by themselves or with their friends to escape abuse, neglect and hard lives.

- J Abandoned children: These children are those children who had been thrown out on the street by fate and cruelty to find to themselves.
- J Squatter children: The squatter children are those children who spent their entire days working and playing on the street but often returned to their homes in the poor and shanty areas in the city at night.

UNICEF has defined 'street children' are those for whom the street, more than their family has become their real home, a situation in which there is no protection, supervision or direction from responsible adult.

The operational categories of street children as given by UNICEF are:

- a. **Children on the street:** Who have homes and mostly return to their families at the end of each day. These children live with their families in street in slum or waste land etc. but spend a lot of time working around on the street.
- b. **Children of the street:** Those children have chosen the street as their home and it is there that they seek shelter, livelihood and companionship. They have occasional contact with their families.
- c. **Abandoned children:** Children who have severed all ties with their families. Another group of children who are often found out on the streets are 'Khaate', the rag pickers, the most popular group among street children. These children survive by collecting bits of plastic and garbage thrown out on the street. The number of these groups of children is increasing with every passing day. From early in the morning till late at night one can easily see the children morning around the city collecting waste and garbage.

The term 'Khaate' however has evolved into a synonym for street or "Sadak haalabika" referring to all street children not withstanding their work, family ties or where they live.

The number of NGOs offering various programs to the street children has certainly increased. However, the definition of street children still remains ambiguous and contested.

## **2.2 Review of Related Literatures**

CWIN (2000) made some study about "Impact of alcohol and tobacco on street children. In Nepal most of the street children are affected by advertisement of alcohol. Advertisement is a new growing and industry in Nepal and alcohol products have become a prominent part of advertising to the given context of alcohol use in Nepal. CWIN conducted a study to examine the meriting number of children in urban areas who are being exposed to media, but are still promoted through many TV channels'. In this context, CWIN wants to measure what children knowledge of the effects of alcohol is as well as their ideas about media and law it affect them (CWIN, 2007).

CWIN in "The state of the rights of the child in Nepal" 2007 shows that lack of enforcement of existing laws and regulate regarding child right and child labour frustration development in children's health including child mortality, denial of education and the exploitation and abuse of children are the major challenges of the child rights movements in Nepal.

### **Peter Fallon and Zefiris Tzannatos, 1998: Child Labour, Issues and Directions for the World Bank**

The authors assert that child labour is a serious problem and it is primarily due to the conditions of poverty in which large segments of the population live and due to a lack of access to quality education among the poor. Further, they propose that the World Bank should take stronger actions such as:

- ) To design and introduce new project component to reduce harmful effect of child labour.

- ) Bring child labour issues into policy dialogue in countries where child labour is a serious problems.
- ) Increase staff awareness of child labour.
- ) To strengthen the banks partnership with other organizations like international labour organization, which are against the use of child labour.

**Munyakho Dorothey, 1992: The Urban Child in Difficult Circumstances, Kenya**

Munyakho's report of Kenya aims to develop a fuller understanding of the problem faced by children from birth until the age of 18. It seeks to do that by analyzing the causes of abuse, abandonment, mistreatment and neglect. The report deals with the problem of institutionalization with special emphasis on the problems faced by young girls highlighting differences from those faced by boys.

**Unesco: 2001: Education for Street and Working Children in India**

According to the study, their aims were to assess and evaluate the programmers of education for children in difficult circumstances with special reference to street and working children in India. The major findings of the study are the basic issues of the street and working children are to protect them from abuse in the cities through preventive and protective measures.

**Baker, 1998**

Baker has studied about the street children in 1993 under the title 'Homeless street boys in Nepal: their Demography and lifestyle. In this study he explores that homeless you're after rent a room in the city and some have marries women from poor urban localities drawing support from available local networks. However they establish homes and raise families. This behavior indicates that street children don't remain 'abandonees' of or 'abandoned' by all section of society. Also the another concludes that neither physical separation



from have effects on the social and moral careers of Nepal children. According to this report 72% of the homeless children visited home at least once a year.

### **Quoc Day Tran, 2007**

"Street youth in Nepal," Quoc Duy Tran is a Vietnams writer. In this publication he explains the majority of the youths living in the street of Nepal haven' chosen by themselves to lead this precarious lift. Several of them have been led by their parents in an insecure a venture aiming to settle down in the capital. This is in the hope important in their native country and their salary conditions are not secure. The financial situation of the families has a direct impact on the appalling fate of these children and youths. Those youths comes in the street because of the lack of affection and physical and moral mistreatments. The writer has explained that in Philippines that in Philippines the youth street boys are called hard core street children.

### **ILO, 1988: Nepalma Sram Virudhako Rastriya Karya Youjanako**

#### **Ruprekha**

Nepal categories the street children under the topics of child labour in various economic sectors and status that the number of street children in Nepal is growing day by day. According to the study, it has been 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.

### **Child Welfare Society, 1996: "Situation Analysis of Street Children in Nepal'**

According to the analysis, there are two kinds of street children in Nepal.

- ) Those who lives and works in the street and
- ) The one who lives with families but spends most of their time playing and working in the street.

It goes into analyzing the factors that force the children to leave their homes and pass their hard life on the street. Many of those children desert their homes because of their abusive and alcoholic parents, mistreatment by stepparent and due to the attractions in the towns. Most of these children fall in the age group of 9-16 years. The street for many of these children is not only their homes but also their workplace. These children are engaged in activities, like pottering, begging, guiding tourist, picking money in temples, petty vending, vehicle clearing, rag picking or tempo conductor etc. Recommendations given in the book for the improvement of the situation of the children are pragmatic.

### **Police Headquarters, 1998: Statistics of Street Children**

) According to the report, 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 years, 54.8 percent had both parents alive, 47 percent were illiterate, and 65.8 percent were living in the street.

### **Gauri Pradhan 1995: Child labour: Misery behind Rural, Migration and Urbanization**

In this study, Mr. Pradhan has attempted the problem of child labour against the background of rural and urbanization. Poverty, starvation and deprivation are obvious key factors that have contributed to growing number of children in the exploitative labour market. In rural and poor urban areas, parents send their children to work not only for the additional income, but also to reduce the number of hungry stomach to be feed.

### **Dr. Chiranjibi Nepal, 1998: A Study on Child labour in Nepal**

With the objectives of carrying on the study on existence of child labour understanding employment structure, working condition of child labour, and examining employers attitudes toward child labour to deduce viable area of

intervention along with suitable recommendation, a study was carried out on child labour situation in Nepal taking one enterprises each from all development regions of Nepal. The study has concluded that:

- ) A majority of child labour is employed as daily wage basis.
- ) Majority of family members generating child labour is illiterate and has a very low income.
- ) The child labour work for exceptionally long duration for a very low payment under adverse working condition.

**Lazima Onta-Bhatta, 2000: Street Children's Subculture and Cultural Politics of Childhood in Nepal**

- ) Ms. Lazima has tried an attempt to explore the lives of street children in urban Nepal. And also has adopted a multi-pronged approach to her analysis in order to ensure that street children's realities are understood and analyzed in political, economic, socio cultural and historical context. She has extensively discussed some of the general discourses of children in Nepal to juxtapose street children with what is considered the normative for children and childhood in the world view of urban privileged classes, the NGO's and the state.
- ) Many studies on street children have been conducted in other parts of the world. Street children from other geographical location show similar socio-demographic characteristics as in Nepal.

**Manu K.C. 2010**

"Situation of street children" she explains this survey: it is found that children from the age of 6 to 16 are found on the street but majority of street children are from the age of 12 to 14 years. She also finds that due to lack of nourishing food, these children's physical growth is lower so they seem to be younger than their actual age. This research also shows that most of the children are willing

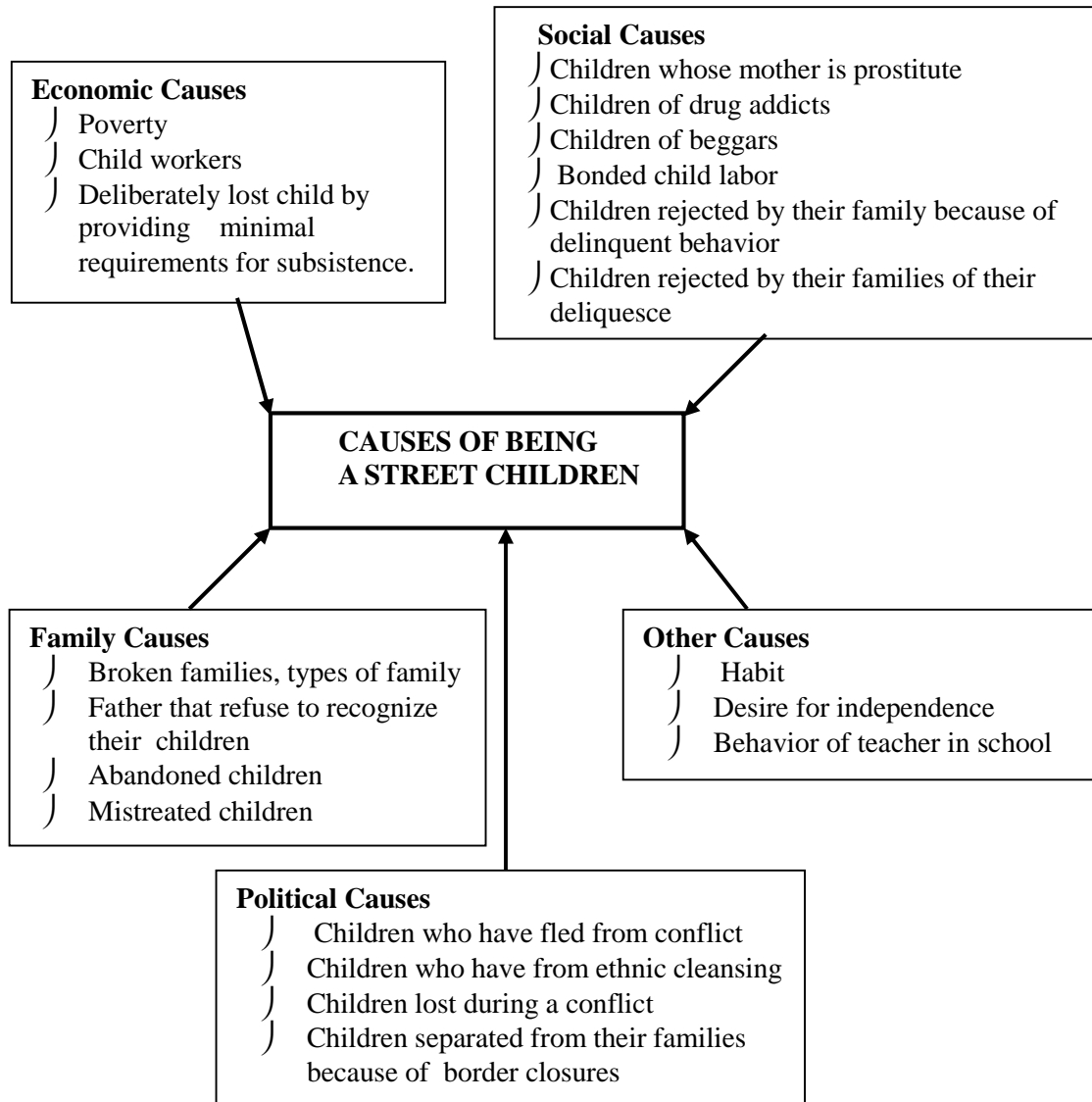
to go to school but they are not able to go to the school because needed by their family as fully are source of income. This survey also shows that 26 percent children from on the street category and 48% children from of the street category are dropout from school and are roaming on the street. She found that poverty, death of parent's maltreatment/ abuse and influenced by friends are the major causes for leaving home.

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

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

## 2.3 Conceptual Framework

**Fig.2.1: Root Cause of Child being onto Street**



Street children are treated differently in our society and they are socially and economically, politically low in status due to different reason. There are deprived to access to basic services like education, health and their right to survive as a citizen of the nation. The social causes: children whose mother is prostitute, children of drug addicts, children of beggars, bonded child labor, children rejected by their family because of delinquent behavior, children rejected by their families of their deliquescence. Economic causes: poverty, child

workers, deliberately lost child by providing minimal requirements for subsistence. Family causes: broken families, types of family, father that refuse to recognize their children, abandoned children, mistreated children. Political causes: children who have fled from conflict, children who have from ethnic cleansing, children lost during a conflict, children separated from their families because of border closures. Other causes: habit, desire for independence, behavior of teacher in school etc.

## CHAPTER–III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

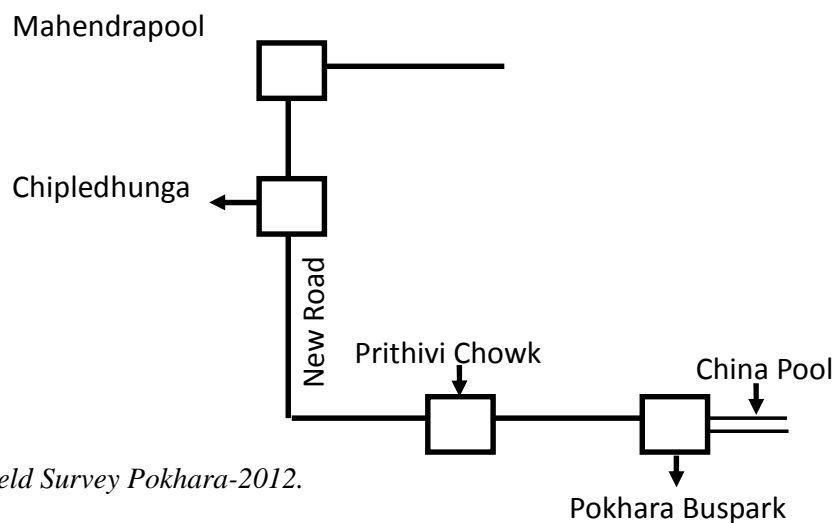
The present study is conducted to study about the problems of street children in Pokhara.

#### 3.1 Study Area

Pokhara sub-metropolitan city of Kaski district where the street children are making street as their home and come here in search of work and opportunity to earn. In this study only those areas are selected where street children are highly concentrated in Pokhara sub-metropolitan.

The areas selected for this research purpose are mainly Chipledhunga, Newroad, Prithivi Chowk, and Buspark areas. Stated from China bridge to Chipledhunga from the way of Buspark, Newroad. In these areas street children come to sell polythene bags, to collect garbage and to beg.

**Fig. 3.1: Study Area of Street Children**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

### **3.1.1 Purpose of Selection of Study Area**

Pokhara is an industrial area. We can see many opportunity in Pokhara so that people can get better opportunity here. We can easily come and go from Pokhara to other areas. Most of the people are migrated because of their economic condition. These kinds of family children are increasing in the street. My permanent residence is in Pokhara. So, I selected this study area for my research.

### **3.2 Research Design**

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

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

### **3.3 Universe and Sample Size**

Pokhara is the regional headquarters of Western Development Region of Nepal. One of the largest city in Nepal with a population of 2,960,000 on January 1<sup>st</sup> (PCC 2012). Many people from surrounding districts and villages come to Pokhara in search of work and better life.

According to Pokhara sub-metropolitan survey there are around 1383 children working in different sectors in Pokhara valley. Therefore, in order to understand and study about the lives of these children, Pokhara sub-metropolitan city has been chosen as the study area.



There are around 231 street children spending their lives in the different street centers in Pokhara city. Around Chipledhunga, Newroad, Prithivichowk and Buspark areas were selected as the universe for study. There were 90 street children in the universe, out of 90 street children, 60 children were selected as sampled respondents with the help of simple random sampling technique using lottery method. In order to obtain the relevant information for the study, face to face interviews are conducted with the selected number of street children.

**Table No. 3.1: Place and Numbers of Respondents**

Study Area	Sample Size	Percent
Chipledhunga	12	20
New Road	9	15
Prithvi Chowk	18	30
Buspark	21	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

In the above table shows that 35% of the street children are selected from Buspark, 30% selected from Prithvi Chowk, 20% from Chipledhunga and remaining 15% from New Road area.

### **3.4 Nature and Sources of Data**

As per the need of the study both primary and secondary data and information are collected from various relevant sources. In this study both primary and secondary data are collected. However, more emphasis has been given to primary data which are collected through different techniques in the field such as observation, interviewing and visiting street children during field visit.

The secondary data are collected from following sources.

- J The local NGOs
- J Child welfare scheme Nepal (CWSN) working for street children.
- J Literature in the form of books and articles published and unpublished on street children.
- J Literature available in library and contact centers for street children in Pokhara valley.

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

Various techniques and methods have been used in the collection of data in this research study. The necessary, required information are collected through primary data collection techniques which are as follows.

#### **3.5.1 Observation**

Street children are observed to record their behavioral patterns, object and events in their daily activities like their living styles, health condition, problems and socio-economic condition are directly or indirectly observed by researcher herself.

#### **3.5.2 Interview Check List**

In this study the primary data required by face to face interviews with street children with the help of an interview schedule. A similar type of interview has been conducted with the person of organization working in the sector of street children, social workers, some senior persons of the society in order to obtain both primary and secondary data for study.

#### **3.5.3 Case Study**

Case study is the most important method of research through more than half of the population of Nepal is female the majority of the street children are boys.

Total interviewed 98.33% will be boys and 1.66% percent will be girl. Street children's age also varies.

#### **3.5.4 Key Informants Survey**

In this study for getting and collecting more importance and necessary data and information's, interviews are conducted with the key informants. In this interview, the questions are asked mainly with senior person. Pokhara sub-metropolitan that worked in child labour sector, social worker, staff of CWIN and the child welfare center Pokhara and Muskan club of Pokhara.

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

Available documents and reports related to child labour and street children are reviewed. Study on problem of street children, reasons to be children on the street is analyzed.

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

# **CHAPTER–IV**

## **CIRCUMSTANCES AND FACTORS GIVEN BIRTH TO STREET CHILDREN**

### **4.1 Introduction of the Study Area**

Nepal is a landlocked country which lies in the lap of the Himalayas. It is located between the latitude 26° 22' N to 30° 27' N and longitude 80° 4' E to 88° 12' E. It borders Tibet autonomous region of the people's republic of China in the north and India in the east, south and west. The country can be divided into three main geographical regions, Himalayan regions hilly regions and Terai region. Area of our country is 147181 square kilometers and altitude varies from 60 m to 8848 meters. Nepal is a land of immense ethnic and cultural diversity. Different ethnic groups have their own language of dialects which unite the people into one and is also the national language that unites the people into one and is also the national language.

#### **4.1.1 Brief Description of Pokhara Valley**

Pokhara a city of endless fascination is blessed with incredible diverse natural beauty and cultural varieties. It lies on the lap of panoramic Annapurna Himalayan range and its beauty is enhanced by fishtail shaped mountain Machhapuchhre and Phewa Lake. The long arrays of snow filled mountains peer. Turbulent rivers with deep gorges, crystal clear lakes friendly people having different culture are the inherent characteristics of Pokhara.

Himalayan rising behind the lake creates an ambience of peace and magic popular for water rafting, kayaking, trekking expeditions and paragliding. It grew as a catering place to caravan traders with limited infrastructure facilities located at the break of bulk point along the trans-Himalayan trade routes.

Pokhara extends from 20.10' N to 28.16'N latitude and 85°58'30" E to 84° 02'30" E longitude covering the area of 52.5 square km. The height of the valley range from 730m to 1030m from sea level. The population density of the valley is 4511 per sq. km. The climate of the Pokhara remains favorable all round the years. It is neither too warm no too cold. Summer months are hot and wet and winter months are cold and dry. Mean monthly temperature rises up to 22.85c in the month August and it falls down to 13.75c in January. The annual rainfall ranges from Pokhara is situated in the central part of Nepal and is the headquarters of western development region in Kaski district. It's the density of population is 2,960,000 on January 1<sup>st</sup> (PCC-2012). It is just 200km west of Kathmandu the capital city of kingdom and 212 km. north of Sunauli the boarder city of south.

Pokhara with population 2,960,000 (Pokhara chamber of commerce and industries Pokhara business directory 2012) have 53 slum areas (UNICEF 2010) where the marginalized and deprived communities settlement exist. Despite a tourist destination and having very rich community within it but it is facing several problems with regards to street children and they are also facing various and different problems in their day to day life. Pokhara sub-metropolitan as a government body with different INGOs and CBOs are working together to find out the real problem of street children and address them.

## **4.2 Status of Street Children**

Until the late 1890's the term "Street children' or in Nepali equivalent "Sadak Balbalika" had not become part at the vocabulary of the child welfare sector in Nepal. Today, "Street Children" has become an established category representing a marginal group of in the urban society. Development organizations, the media, the state and the children "who live on the street" have contributed to the formation of this category in Nepal. Street children

have been increasing with every passing day. Many children in Nepal have left their home due to poverty, maltreatment by their parents and many other reasons. Before finding out the lifestyles of street children likewise migration, family status, caste and ethnicity, age group, religion, earning level and literacy rate of the street children.

The total number of child labor of Pokhara sub-metropolitan city is 1383. In this city most of the people are from lower level and lower community.

According to survey most of the street children came as the street due to different causes: drunkard of their parents, violence in their family, torture of step parents. Due to such reasons children came on the street. It is not their desire but it is compelled by the situation.

According to survey in Pokhara most of the street children come from Sukumbasi tole, of Buspark, Rato Phaira and other areas.

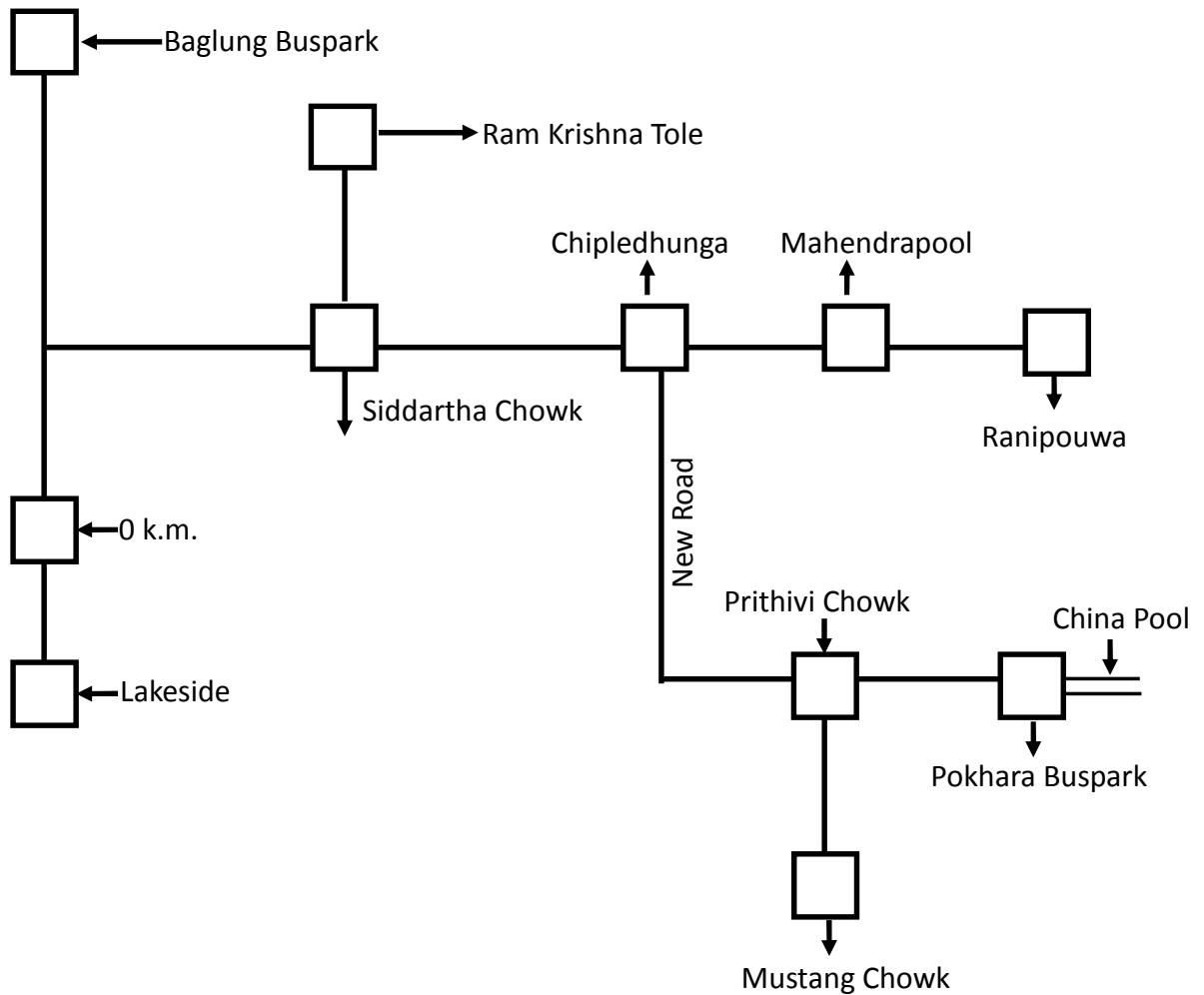
In this kind of street children there are 98.33% boys and 1.66% girls. According to time and phase, the total number of street children is changeable 27 children spent their night over road. This kind of street children didn't have and contact with their families. They stayed in road but if necessary these children moved another city also.

### **4.3 Street Children in Pokhara**

As mentioned in the sample, there are street children, including of the street and on the street in Pokhara.

They are scattered in different part of the city, wherever it is convenient for them.

**Fig. 4.1 Distribution of Street Centers in Pokhara**



Usually street children stay in a group in or around Junkyard (Gaddi, a place where they sell the Kawadi they collect). Chowks, Buspark, Public building etc. Most of the street children are found around the main chowks of the Pokhara city.

#### **4.4 Ages, Sex of Respondent**

As the study on street children the study focuses on sex and ethnicity of street children only. There are 60 children with whom the study conducted. Among them one girl is encountered on the street. Actually girls hardly spend their nights on the street as the boys do though they come to the street to pic/rags

and to do other activities during day time. Girls are easily victimized on the street thus only one girl was found during the study period. Table 4.1 makes clear that 98.33% of them are the boys and 1.66% of girls.

**Table No. 4.1: Distributions of the Street Children by Age Group**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number of Boys</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number of Girls</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>Total Percent</b>
5–10	18	30	0	0.0	18	30
11–15	26	43.33	1	1.66	27	45
16–20	15	25	0	0.0	15	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>98.33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

The table 4.1 present the age group of street children in Pokhara. A total of 60 children ranging from 5 to 18 years age group are interviewed during the study. Among them 11-15 years age group street children are in majority with 45 percent. Similarly 5-10 years age groups are followed by 30 percent. And 16-18 age groups are followed by 25 percent. It is because of the fact that 11-15 age group children are most vulnerable to migrate to the city area. Besides, these age group children are mostly demanded in the city area to work in the household work and in hotel.

From the above table 4.1 among the total number of street children almost all of them are boys the number of girls is only one. That girl aged between 11-15 years. But the girls don't spend their nights in the streets.

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



## 4.5 Ethnicity of Street Children

The street children are not a new phenomenon in the context of Pokhara. The children don't come directly on the street. Similarly, they try to find some job. Later on finding difficulties at work in hotel, factories and other area, they slowly step towards the street. In case of Pokhara this kind of trend is continuing with children from different ethnic group making the street their home.

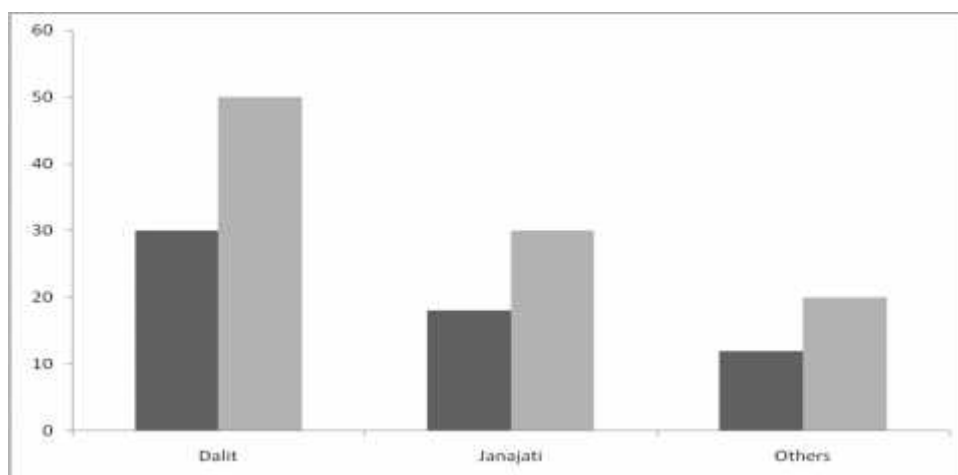
**Table No. 4.2: Distributions of the Street Children by Caste/Ethnicity**

<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Dalit	30	50
Janajati	18	30
Others	12	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

The table no. of 4.2 above illustrates the ethnic diversity of the street children in Pokhara city. It shows that the children have come from many ethnic groups. In table, Dalit has highest 50% of street children, followed by Janajati 18%. The other caste (Higher caste) is 12% only.

**Fig. 4.2: Distribution of the Street Children by Ethnicity**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

) Street children's are associated with different types of ethnic group. But the study reveals that most of the street children are from dalit with 50 percent. Dalit means socially oppressed castes, so called untouchables (Nepali, B.K., C.K., Pariyar: Damai, Kami, Sarki) whereas 30 percent Janagati caste (Gurung, Magar, Newar etc.) and others caste (Brahman, Chetteri etc.) are 20 percent only.

#### 4.6 Religious Background

Most of the children on the street are from Christian background because Christians affords them to eat and show other enjoyable materials. The percentages of Christian respondents is 70%, 20% are Hindu, and 10% are Buddhist. Street children from such background are also not orthodox. Despite all this now a days the facts are coming into light that Christianity is spreading widely in the oppressed community and in the slum areas and also among the street children.

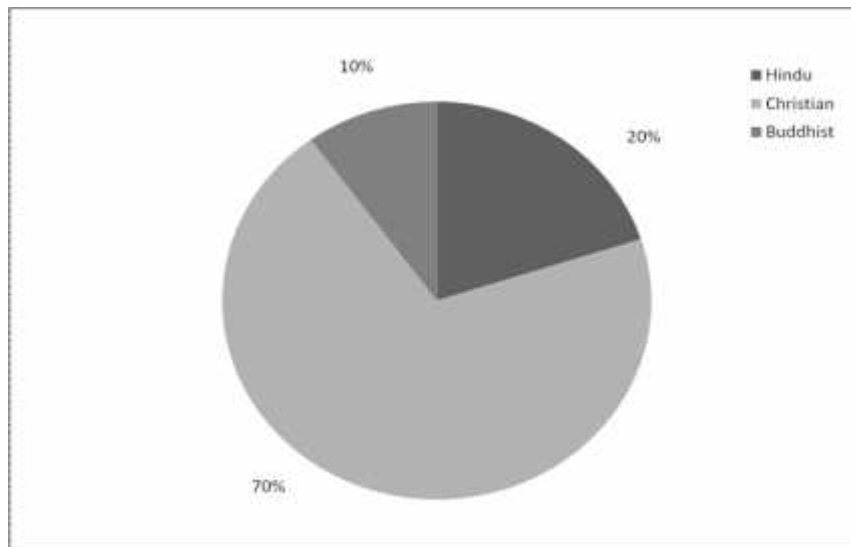
**Table No. 4.3: Distributions of the Street Children by Religion**

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hindu	12	20
Christian	42	70
Buddhist	6	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

There is religious diversity of street children in Pokhara. Children from various religion such as Hindu, Christian and Buddhist. In table No.4.3: highest percentage (70%) children are come from Christian background. The second highest percentage (20%) children are in Hindu background and only 10% children are in Buddhist background.

**Fig. 4.3: Distribution of the Street Children by Religion**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

The above figure shows that the street children come highest percent of 70% from Christian background. Only 10% are come from Buddhist and 20% are come from Hindu background.

#### **4.7 Place of Origin of Respondent**

Distribution of origin of the children in the sampled region is found to have a wide converge of the country.

As the table 4.4 shows mostly the surveyed children are from western development region, within western development region is Kaski district contributes majority of the children ie, 33.33%. There are over 53 slum area and urban poor settlements within the valley (UNICEF 2010). These settlements have contributed not only labours to the city but also the children on the street. Such areas are full of social problems because of ignorance, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and family break-up. Above all being within the city or very close to city children get exposed to the street having no good guidance at home. The origin districts of street children are as follows.

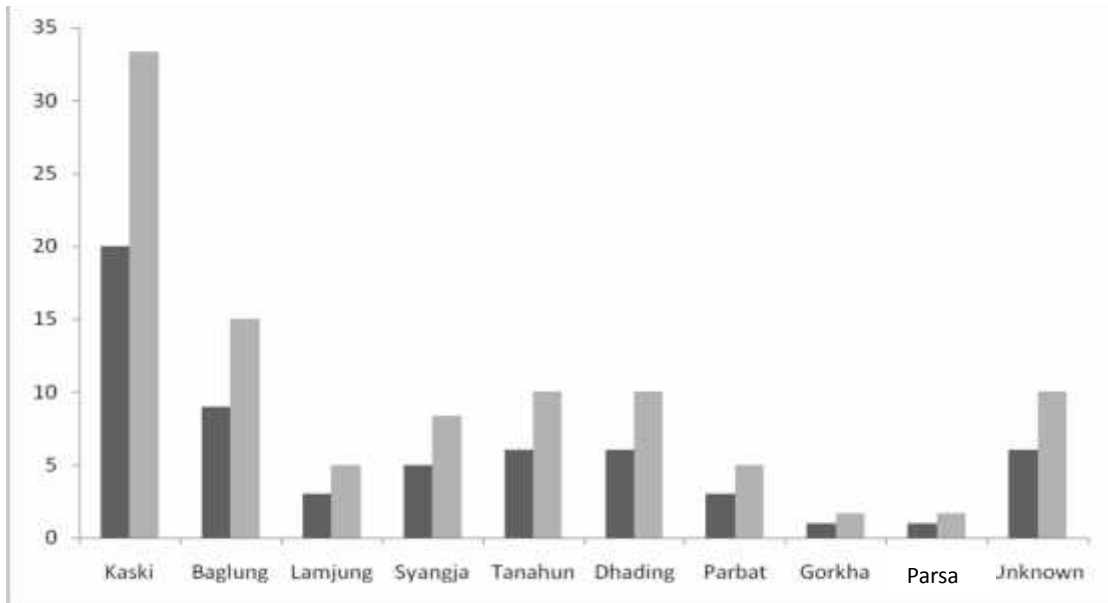
**Table No. 4.4: Distributions of Street Children by District**

<b>Name of district</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Kaski	20	33.33
Baglung	9	15
Lamjung	3	5
Syangja	5	8.33
Tanahun	6	10
Dhading	6	10
Parbat	3	5
Gorkha	1	1.66
Parsa	1	1.66
Unknown	6	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the table no. 4.4 it is clear that street children come from 9 different districts and one unknown districts. The highest 33.33% of the street children is from Kaski. In table 15% from Baglung district. Tanahun, Dhading and unknown district which is 10% each respectively, 8.33% is from Syangja, 5% is from Lamjung and Parbat. And the lowest percent of Gorkha and Parsa district which is 1.66%.

**Fig. 4.4: Origin District of the Street Children**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the figure the highest percentage of the street children's are in Kaski district. Then second highest percentage of the street children's are from Baglung district and the lowest percentage of the street children are from Gorkha and Parsa.

#### **4.8 Relation with Family**

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

**Table No. 4.5: Frequency of Contact with Family**

<b>Time Duration</b>	<b>Frequency of contact</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1-7days	2	3.33
7-30days	4	6.66
1-6months	6	10
During festivals	15	25
Out of contact/ No response	33	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the above table 3.33 percentages children are in contact with family in between 1-7 days, 6.66 percent children are in contact with family in between 7-30 days, 10 percent children are in contact with family in between 1-6 months, 25 percent of street children are in contact with family only during festivals and 55 percent children don't want to be in contact or no response with family.

#### **4.9 Educational Status**

Education is essential for the overall development of a country like Nepal. Today education has become an indispensable factor in the development of various shares of society. It is a means by which a society can contribute to the task of conservation as well as transformation of advancement of its culture. It is also an important factor in bringing attitudinal change new ideal, values, morals and customs. Therefore education plays a vital role for the modification of human behavior and social changes, and ultimately human civilization as a whole.

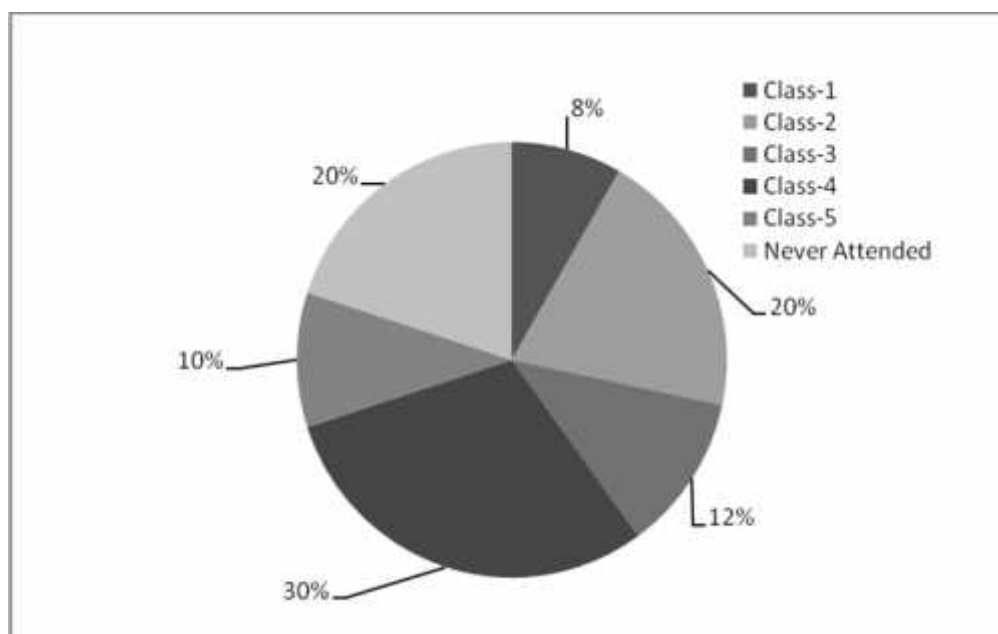
Education opens the portal for the choices of career and enhances the standard of living and quality of life. It is an important determinant of country's

economic and technological progress. It enhances the quality and productive capacity of people to meet human resource needs of the nation.

Education is a key for the enhancement of the ability of children. Without systematic education a person or children cannot realize the right way of development. A man has two eyes to see but education provides a man one more eye. Through that third eye one can see about the pass, present and the future. So the educated person is the torchbearer of the society.

The government of Nepal and international donors has made a certain commitment to children's right to education through, the framework of the education for all. In particular steps have been made to promote universal access to free primary education for all children. However it is also recognized that many children are left behind.

**Fig.4.5: Distribution of the Street Children by Education**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

Above the figure shows that 20 percent of the children's have never been to school and 80 percent of the children's have attended school. But no one has been to secondary level of education.

#### **4.10 Health and Sanitation of the Street Children**

UN convention protects lots of rights for the children. According to "Right of Living" every child has the right for nutrition food and hygienic residence. Similarly clean drinking water, clean environment, first aid services and protection against hazardous work are the rights of every child. Also the Nepal's endorsement of the Colombo Resolution on children in September 1992 is geared to accelerate progress in the broad area of education health and sanitation. As for the health and personal hygiene is concerned street children aren't very serious. Also their health is largely affected by the kind of work they are involved.

**Table No. 4.6: Number of the Street Children who give Importance to their Health**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Number of the children</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	42	70
No	18	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the table, 70 percent children have concern about their health whereas 30 percent children don't have concern about their health they don't give importance to their health, which is necessary for the street children.



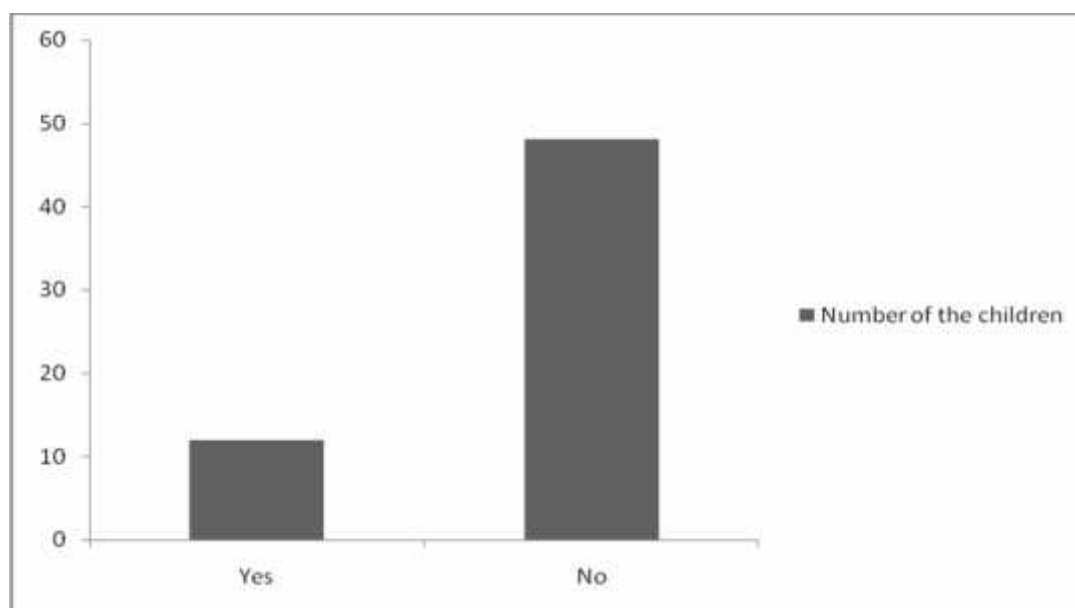
**Table No. 4.7: Numbers of the Street Children by their Bath Taking Habit**

<b>Bath-taking frequency</b>	<b>Number of the children</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Once a week	24	40
Twice a week	12	20
Once a month	21	35
Twice a month	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the above table it is clear that 40 percent children take bath once a week, 20 percent take bath twice a week, 35 percent take bath once a month and 5 percent take bath twice a month.

**Fig. 4.6: Numbers of the Street Children by Brushing Habits**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From this figure, only 20 percent street children have a habit to brush teeth, but 80 percent street children's don't have a habit to brush teeth.

**Table No. 4.8: Number of the Street Children by hand washing Habits**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Number of the children</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	42	70
No	18	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From this table, 70 percent street children have a habit of hand washing before and after meal and 30 percent street children don't have hand washing before meal. Even they have a concern about their health; they need awareness about the health and sanitation.

Most of the respondent complaint regarding their health problem during the survey for certain work related problems or common condition some children reposted seeking help from junkyard owners and shopkeepers help to buy them medicines. However, it cannot be assumed that these persons provide them care of a parent who could look after a child and have children's responses shaved that their street friends play a vital care.

Furthermore, these children cannot get nutrition and hygienic food and careless of sanitation which is irregular also. Such kind of habit creates a lots of health problem.

## CHAPTER-V

### FACTORS TO BE STREET CHILDREN

#### 5.1 Reasons for Leaving Home and Coming to Street

Family status of street children is affected by various factors such as family structure, parent's education level and economic condition. Nepalese society is male dominant society and polygamy is rather common in rural areas. On the other hand, if a child's one of the parents especially mother dies then father will do second marriage. It gives rise to discrepancy between own children and step children arise. These children are badly treated by their stepmothers.

A boy self image may change as he experiences the new social area of the city. The significance of street children's past experiences in the home, specifically with respect to family and friends, in forming their self-image and social identities are the major cause for leaving home.

The casual factors, poverty at home, problematic family relationship and the attractions of the city are the main causes of abandon home. It seemed logical to assume that a child's perspective on his departure, as well as those of members of his community, would differ depending whether it was prompted by conflict within the family, the encouragement of friends or the search or work.

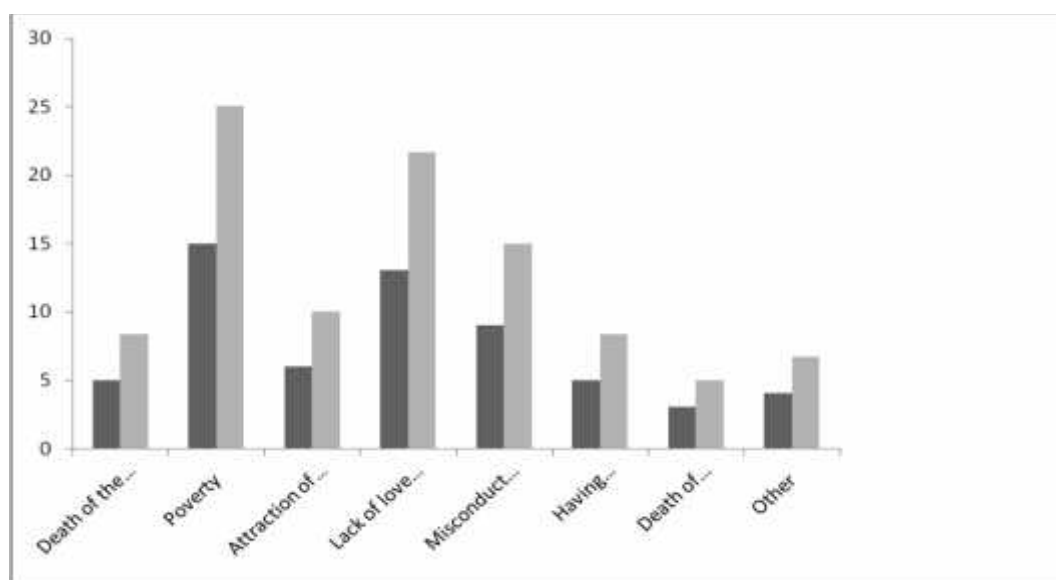
**Table No. 5.1: Proportion of the Street Children who Left Home According to Reasons**

Reasons	Number of Children	Percent
Death of the father	5	8.33
Poverty	15	25
Attraction of city	6	10
Lack of love and affection from parents	13	21.66
Misconduct of step parents	9	15
Having companion with friends	5	8.33
Death of mother	3	5
Other	4	6.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

The above table shows that, 25 percent (the highest percent) of the total respondent who left home due to the cause of poverty. Likewise 21.66 percent left because of lack of love and affection form parents, 15 percent give the reason as misconduct of step parent, 10 percent left their home due to attraction of city, 8.33 percent left their home due to the cause of death of the father or having companion with friends, 6 percent of respondents who left home due to death of mother and 6.66 percent other reasons for leaving home.

**Fig. 5.1 Proportion of the Street Children who Left Home According to Reasons**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the above figure the highest percent children are left home because poverty and the lowest percent are left home death of mother or other reasons.

## **5.2 Reason to Stop Attending School**

Every child has a dream to go to school. But they cannot go as most of these children come from poor families where main source of income generate from agriculture. Many of these familiar have a little land or no land at all. Though primary level education is free in Nepal but the prevailing socio-economic

condition like poverty, illiteracy, lack of adequate working and employment facilities compel parents to send their children to work rather than to school for their survival.

During the survey, when they were asked to give the reasons for stop attending or not continuing school, respondent gave different reasons which were mainly family related and personal causes.

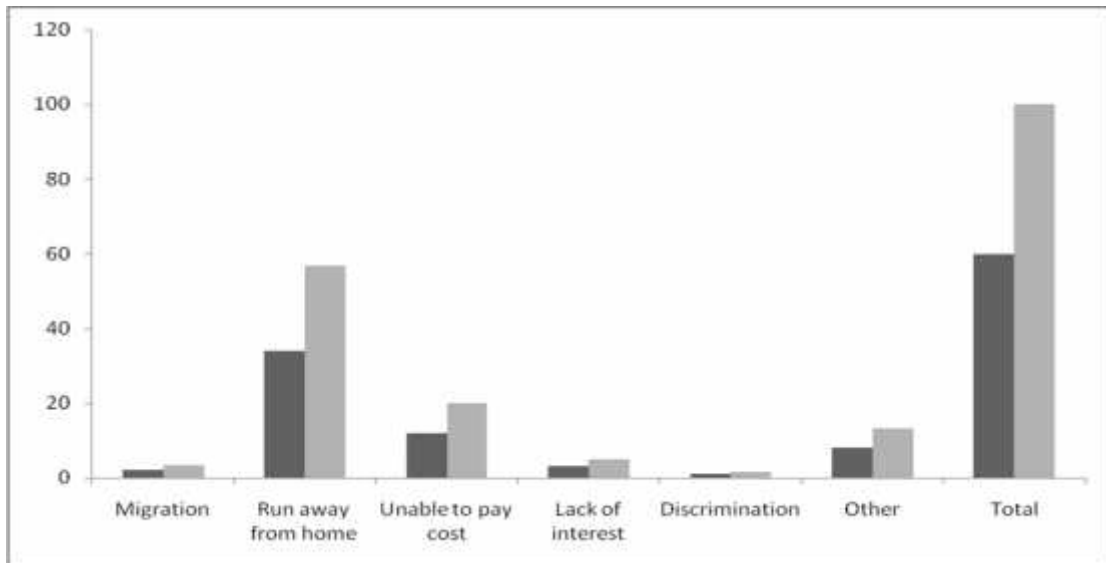
**Table No.5.2: Distributions of the Street Children by Reason to Stop Attending School while at Home**

<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Frequency of the children</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Migration	2	3.33
Run away from home	34	56.66
Unable to pay cost	12	20
Lack of interest	3	5
Discrimination	1	1.66
Other	8	13.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From this table out of 60 respondent, 56.66 percent children were run away from home to stop school, 20 percent children did not pay cost so they stop school, 5 percent children were not interested to attending school, 3.33 percent of children stop school to migrate from their family, 1.66 percent children stop school for the reasons of discrimination and 13.33 percent of the total respondent gave other reason for stopping or not continuing school.

**Fig. 5.2 Distribution of the Street Children by Reason to Stop Attending School while at Home**



Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

From the above figure out of 60 respondent. The majority of children stop attending school is run away from home and the lowest percent are discrimination.

### 5.3 Current States of Parents of the Respondents

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

**Table No. 5.3: Status of Parents of the Street Children**

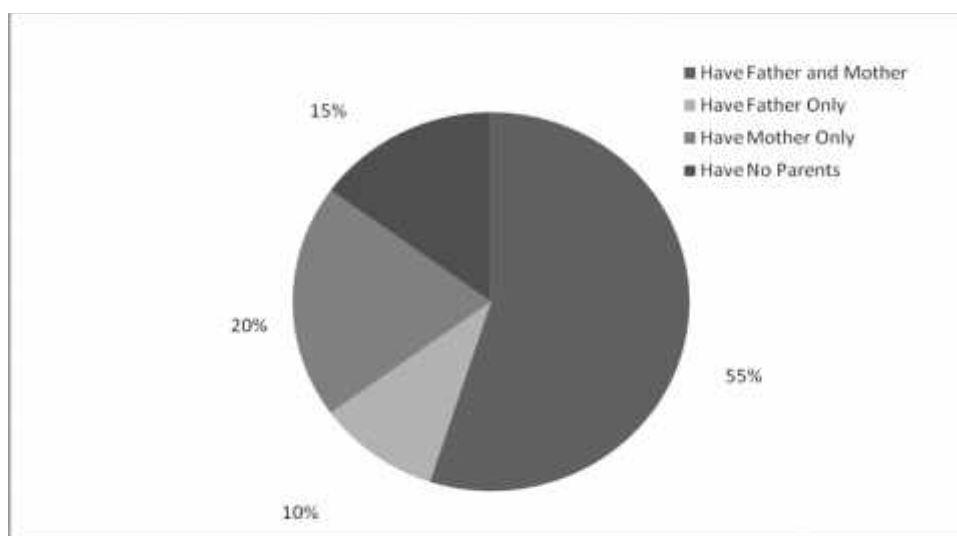
Parents Status	Number of Children	Percent
Have Father and Mother	33	55
Have Father Only	6	10
Have Mother Only	12	20
Have No Parents	9	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

From the above table it shows the condition of parents from this table it is clear that 55% respondents have their father and mother both in the family, 10% have their father only, another 20% have their mother only and 15% don't have their parents.

The survey report exhibit that majority of the street children have both parents alive. However, this does not mean that the parents are living together as a family. They could be remarried or separated. But it supports the argument that parental neglect is one of the reasons why children are leaving their homes and opting to live in the city streets. It also disproves the popular assumption that street children are orphans.

**Fig. 5.3 Status of Parents of the Street Children**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From this figure clearly demonstrates that out of 60 street children, 55 percent children's have their father and mother, 20 percent of children's have mother's only, 10 percent of children's have father only and 15 percent of children's have no parents. And 15 percent of the street children doesn't know about their parents.

## 5.4 Household Size

The deliration of a family size is to include every living in family those members includes in household size, which are living in family.

The family data are derived from the questionnaire presented to the sample street children in the study area.

**Table No.5.4: Family Size of the Respondents**

<b>Number of Family</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Big	31	51.66
Small	22	36.66
Unknown	7	11.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the above table shows that 51.66 percent of street children have big family. Big family means more than 5 to less than 10 members which is called big family and less than 5 members is small family. So, 36.66 percent of street children have small family. And 11.66 percent of the children was unknown with their another family member.

## 5.5 Family Economy

In Nepal more percent of the total population live in rural areas and more than 80 percent of them are solely dependent on agriculture for their survival. The study supports the general assumption that the street children are a result of poverty of the family. Family occupations of street children are not always same.



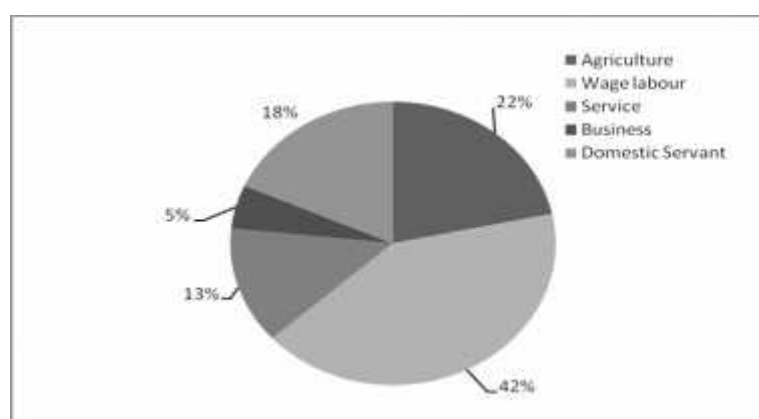
**Table No. 5.5: Distributions of the Street Children by Parental Occupation**

Occupation	Number of Parents	Percent
Agriculture	13	21.66
Wage labour	25	41.66
Service	8	13.33
Business	3	5
Domestic Servant	11	18.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

It is apparent from the table that the largest numbers of parents of the street children were wage labour out of 60 respondent 41.66 percent were engaged in wage labour. These wage labours were mainly engaged as driver porter and worker. Five percent of the parents of the 60 street children were involved in business, 21.66 percent of parents were engaged in farming, 18.13 percent parents work as domestic servant. Only 13.33 percent parents of street children were engaged in service. From the above table it is clear that most of the parents are involved in low paying and less prestigious jobs. Only few are found involved in well-paid and prestigious jobs.

**Fig. 5.4 Distribution of the Street Children by Parental Occupation**



Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

From the above figure out of 60 respondent. The majority of children by parental occupation are wage labour.

## 5.6 Family Income

Family income is one of the cause that lead children to be on the street. From the study of parental occupation it was found that majority of the families don't receive regular wage. So, there families are insecure financially. Those who receive regular wage are able to earn invariably low income. Under these circumstances, poverty normally would not allow them to schooling and eve sufficient food for their livelihood. Thus children have to work hard from their early age and they cannot take burden of heavy work. So, there is no other way to these children except to run away from their home to city areas in search of betterment of life. Thus insufficient family income or poverty is also deep-rooted cause to become street children.

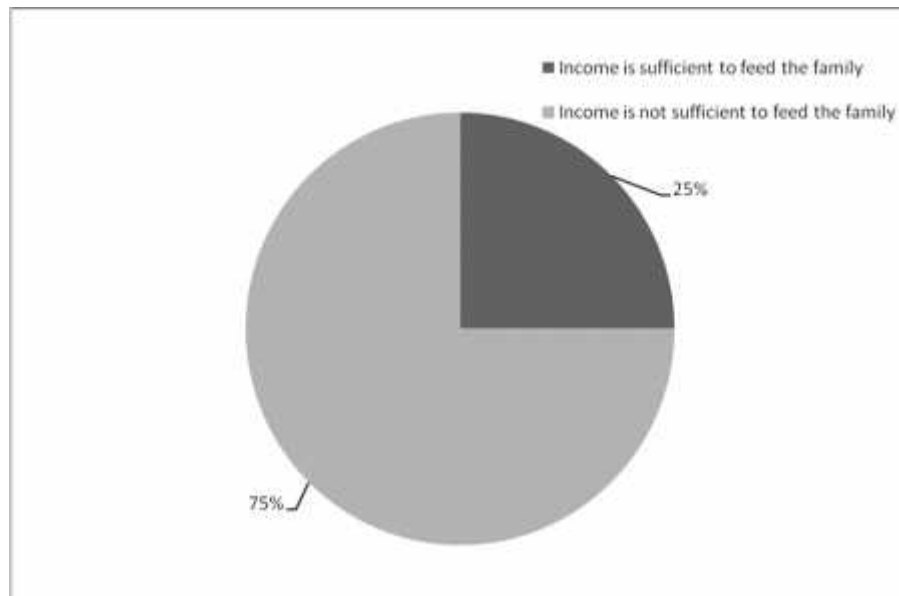
**Table No. 5.6: Distribution of the Level of Family Income**

<b>Level of Income</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Income is sufficient to feed the family	15	25
Income is not sufficient to feed the family	45	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

Above table shows that, 75% of street children's family income is not sufficient to a certain level and style. Out of the total 60 respondents, 25 percent children's family income is just sufficient for their family survival that means tightly sufficient but no saving for education health etc.

**Fig. 5.5 Distribution of the Level of Family Income**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the above figure it shows that out of 60 respondents, the majority of children's family income is not sufficient to feed the family. Only 25% of children's family income is sufficient to feed the family.

### **5.7 Parents Alive or Dead**

The main reason driving children out of their home is the maltreatment of their step parents. Because either one or both of the parent death leads to fulfill the vacancy by step parents. This observation may not be true in all cases because most of the respondents of this study are from the families of both parents alive. But, it is death of the any one of the parents bring stress and strain beyond the management of the child and the family dissolution may drive him/her away from the family sanctuary.

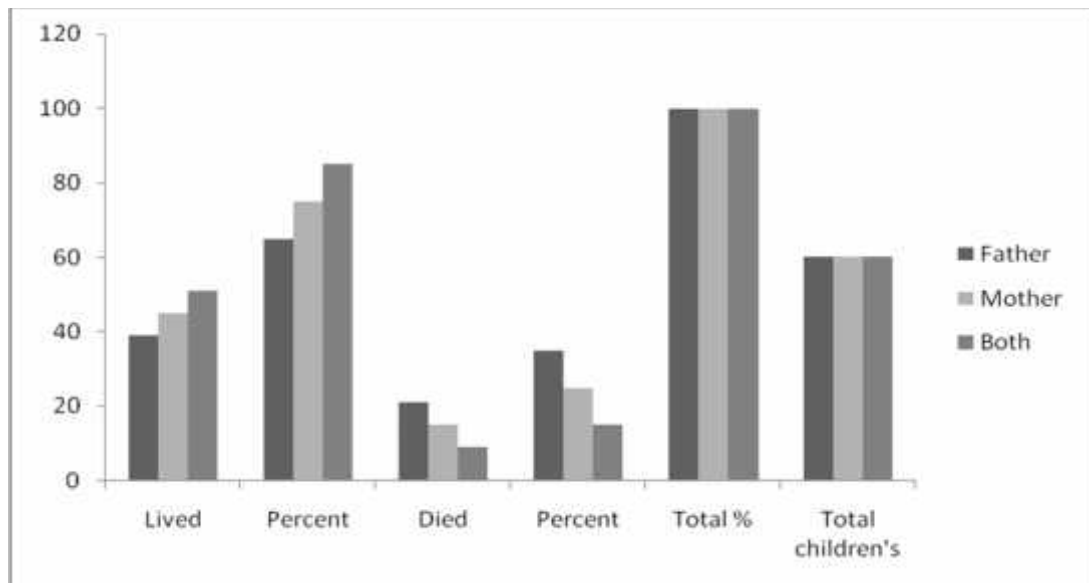
**Table No. 5.7: Parents Alive or Dead**

Status	Lived	Percent	Died	Percent	Total %	Total children's
Father	39	65	21	35	100	60
Mother	45	75	15	25	100	60
Both	51	85	9	15	100	60

Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

Clearly shown that out of 60 street children, 65 percent children's have their father alive. Similarly, 35 percent children's father was dead, 75 percent have their mother alive, 25 percent mother was dead. Only 15 percent children's don't have their parents.

**Fig. 5.6 Parents Alive or Dead**



Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

From the above figure, out of 60 respondents, the majority of children have mother alive is 75 percent and majority children have father alive (65 percent). And 51 percent children have both (father and mother) alive.

## CHAPTER-VI

### PROBLEM OF STREET CHILDREN

#### 6.1 Habits of the Street Children

Street children have different kind of bad habit, which habits are harmful for their health but they are not aware about that kind of had habit. So that kind of bad habit makes ill/sick. Some of the street children adopted that kinds of bad habits shown in the given table.

**Table No. 6.1: Habits Adopted by the Street Children**

Sector	Yes	%	No	%	Total %	Total children
Consuming drug	12	20	48	80	100	60
Smoking	48	80	12	20	100	60
Alcohol	23	38.33	37	61.66	100	60
Dendrite sniffing	52	86.66	8	13.33	100	60

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

Out of 60 children's, 86.66 percent street children have a habit of dendrite sniffing, 80% children have a habit of smoking, 38.33 percent have alcohol and only 20 percent have drug addicted. This shows that dendrite sniffing in more common habit of street children which directly affects their health.

#### 6.2 Sleeping Place

This is the big problem being faced by the street children. The night stay problem especially in winter season is horrible. The survey results of the 60 respondent are presented.

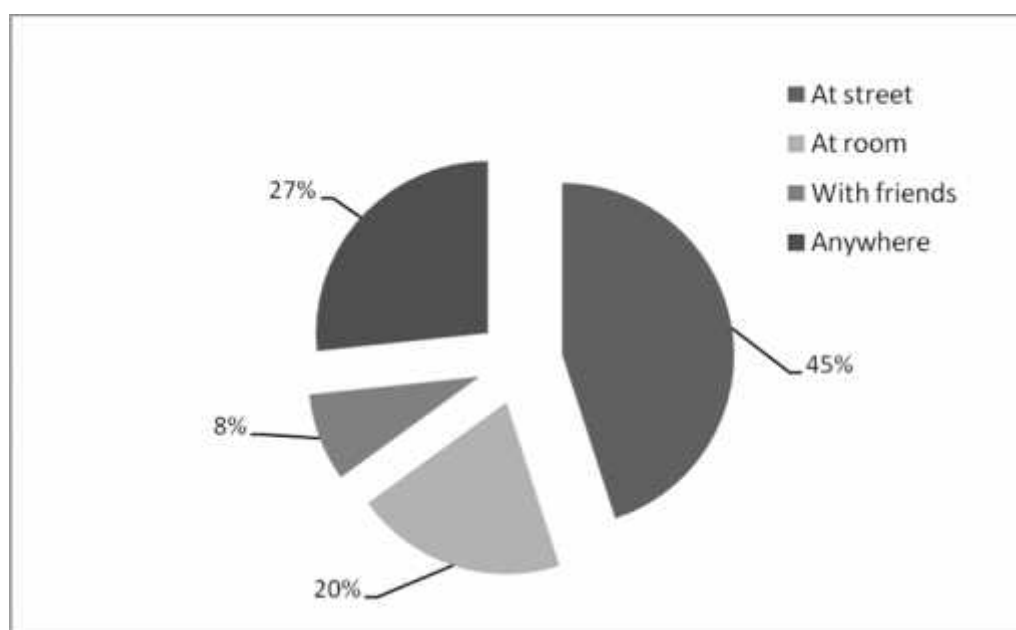
**Table No. 6.2: Sleeping Place of the Street Children**

Place	Number of the children	Percent
At street	27	45
At room	12	20
With friends	5	8.33
Anywhere	16	26.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

According to the table, 45 percent of the street children sleep at street and 20 percent manage at room, 8.33 percent with friends and 26.66 percent children were manage anywhere place.

**Fig. 6.1 Sleeping Place of the Street Children**



Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

According to the figure 45 percent of the street children sleep at street and 20 percent manage at room. And 26.66 percent children were manage themselves.

### 6.3 Type of Work

All the children interviewed for this study did something or other to earn money. While children of the street had to completely depend on their own income for survival, what the children on the street earned was supplementary income for their families. Most of the street children work either rag picking and selling it on a junkyard or begging at tourist areas. To fulfill the immediate basic needs accept these two jobs. Many children are engaged in different types of work such as small hotel, restaurant assistant, vehicle cleaner, porters, thief etc. Types work depend upon the area where these children live for example a street children at bus park work as a vehicle cleaner, at business area does porters and at tourist areas does begging.

Street children are struggling for survival though it is common to all. They are busy early from in the morning to late evening to make same earning. The researcher in the study to know their income generation activity and the population distribution according to the survey is presented in table.

**Table No. 6.3: Distribution and Types of Work done by the Street Children**

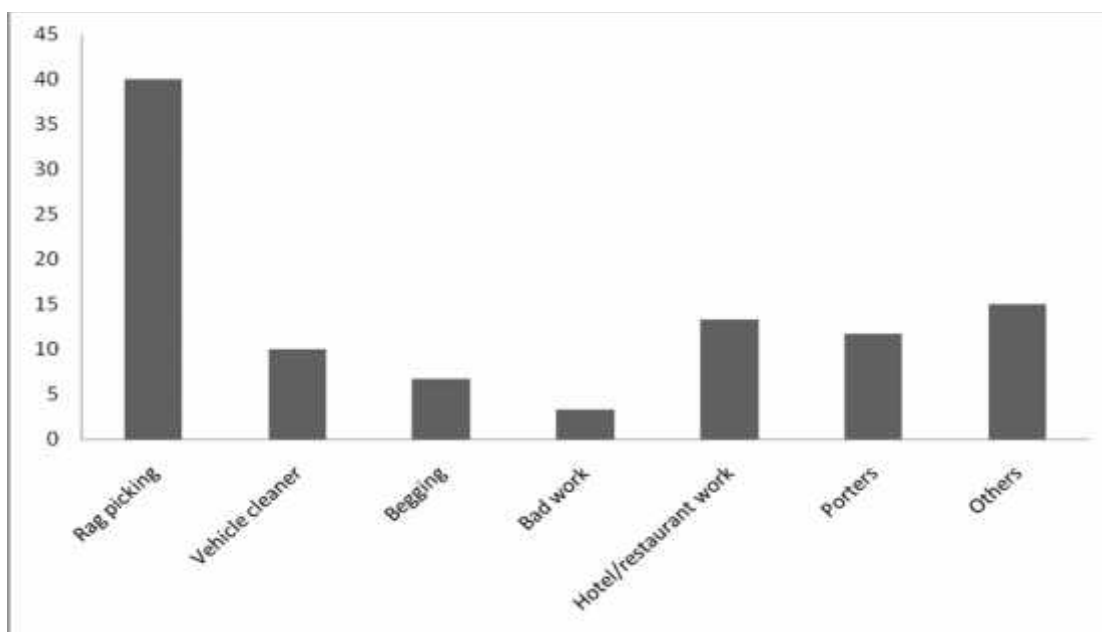
Source of income	Number of the children	Percent
Rag picking	24	40
Vehicle cleaner	6	10
Begging	4	6.66
Bad work	2	3.33
Hotel/restaurant work	8	13.33
Porters	7	11.66
Others	9	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

The main occupation of street children are shown by above table no. 6.3: Among the 60 respondents, 40% of children was adopted rag picking work

following by work in hotel and restaurant 13.33%, 11.66% children work in porters, 10% and 6.66% children do by vehicle cleaner and begging each respectively. And 15% children do other types of work.

**Fig. 6.2 Distribution of types of Work done by the Street Children**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

Among the 60 respondents, 40 percent children were found as a rag picking who pick the rag and sell it in a junkyard, 10 percent children were surviving by cleaning vehicle, 6.66 percent children were found as a beggar, 3.33 percent children were thief, 13.33 percent children were working as hotel/restaurant, where they can get food. Similarly, 11.66 percent were porters and remaining 15 percent were does the other work. Other work denotes different work.

## **6.4 Income Profile**

The level of income of street children depends upon their types of work. Begging is an easy type of work whereas rag picking is of hard and risky type of work. But 40 percent of the street children do the hard and risky type of work and sell into junkyard area and earn. Street children earn sufficient



income for their daily survival but they spend huge amount of their income in smoking, watching cinema, alcohol and dendrite sniffing etc.

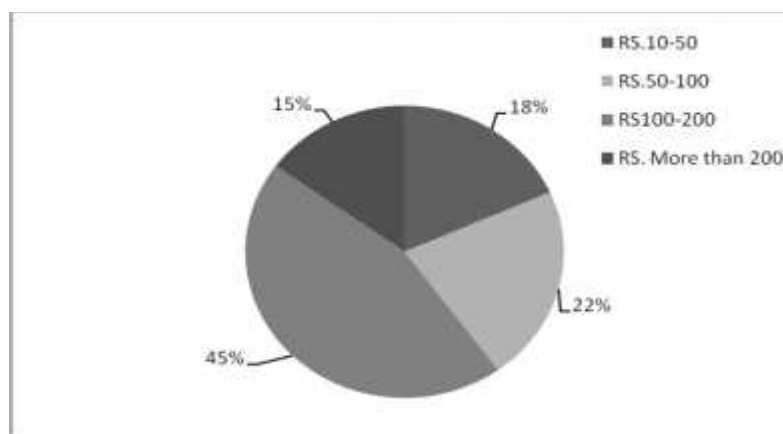
**Table No. 6.4 : Number of the Street Children with Average Daily Income**

Average Daily Income (in NRS)	Number of the children	Percent
RS.10-50	11	18.33
RS.50-100	13	21.66
RS100-200	27	45
RS. More than 200	9	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

The table shows that, 18.33 percent of children earn Rs. 10-50 per day, 21.66 percent of children earn Rs. 50–100, 45 percent of children earn Rs. 100–200 and 15 percent of children earn Rs. more than 200. The highest percent of children earn Rs. 100–200 day.

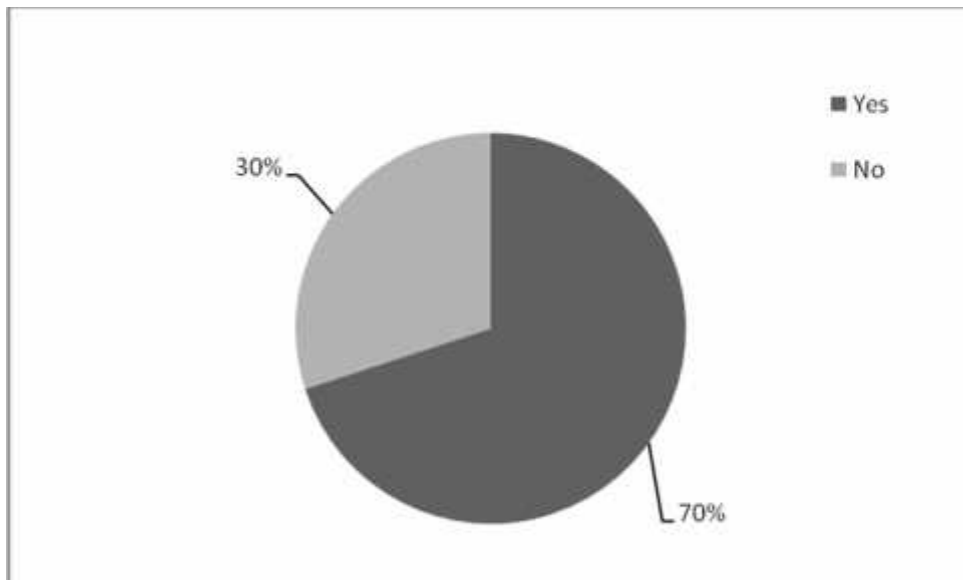
**Fig. 6.3 Number of the Street Children with average Daily Income**



Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

Among the 60 respondents 21.66 of the children earned Rs. 50-100. Only 15% of the children earned more than Rs. 200.

**Fig.6.4 Income Sufficiency of the Respondents**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the figure, 70 percent of the respondents have enough earning to feed themselves and 30 percent of respondent don't have enough earning to feed themselves.

## **6.5 Expenditure Pattern**

The street children, who have no home or guardians taking care of them, usually spend all their earning in a day, therefore they have no means of survival for days where earnings are insufficient. As they come from the families who are living in precarious economic conditions and where overall earning may be insufficient to feed the family.

It is expected that street children usually earn sufficient income to cover their food cost after half a days rag-packing. But they spent their whole income from rag-picking in dendrite sniffing/entertainment. So they have to borrow for food and clothes from the junkyard owner. Borrowed cash is more often spent on tasty food, alcohol, dendrite sniffing, smoking etc. The phrase much repeated

by boys. "Money comes in quickly and is gone quickly in "Khate' Job". Sums up what they see as their inability to resist spending money immediately.

**Table No. 6.5: Sector where Street Children Spent their Earning**

Sector	Yes	%	No	%	Total %	Total children
Food	46	76.66	14	23.33	100	60
Clothing	33	55	27	45	100	60
Give Parents	24	40	36	60	100	60
Buying alcohol/drugs	51	85	9	15	100	60
Watching Movies	23	38.33	37	61.66	100	60

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

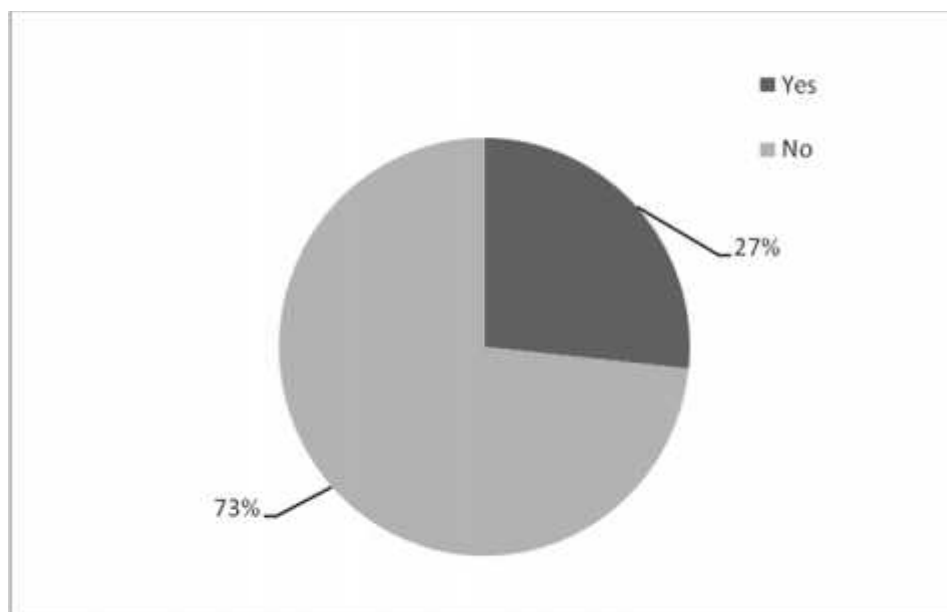
The table shows that the street children's expenditure items are according to their priority basis. Their main expenditure was in alcohol/Smoking/ drug/ dendrite/ food clothing, entertainment (watching movies) and give parents. Out of 60 respondents, 85 percent of the respondents were expenditure in alcohol drug, smoking, dendrite, 76.66 percent children spent in food, 55 percent of the children spent in clothing, 38.33 percent children spent in watching movies and 40 percent of the children gave them to parents. The highest amount of the earning spent in buying alcohol, drugs, smoke, and dendrite.

## **6.6 Saving Pattern**

The street children do not labour hard like other working children. During the survey, all the respondents were asked whether the earning was sufficient to their survival and could save some from the earning. They entire respondent save something from what they earned. But the children were influenced by the bad atmosphere and have learnt all types of bad habit. They do earn and also spend their earning immediately. These children don't have any incentive to

save. So explained earlier, drinking, smoking cigarette and watching movie is the main areas of their enjoyment.

**Fig. 6.5 Distribution of the Street Children by Saving Habit**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

The street children earn a little amount money. Among them, some use to save their earning money. Only 26.66% children have a saving habit of their earning. But 73.33% children were not saving there earning.

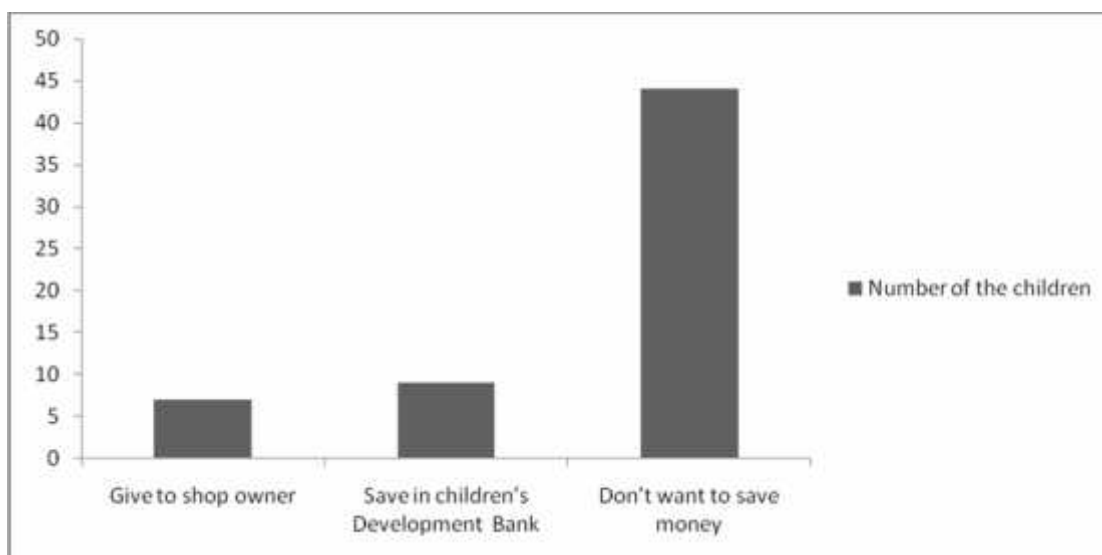
**Table No. 6.6: Distribution of the Street Children by Place of Saving**

Place of saving	Number of the children	Percent
Give to shop owner	7	11.66
Save in children's Development Bank	9	15
Don't want to save money	44	73.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the above table, 15 percent of the street children save their money at children's development bank, 11.66 percent save at shop owner (Junkyard owner) and 73.33 percent children don't want to save money.

**Fig. 6.6 Distribution of the Street Children by Place of Saving**



*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the above figure, 73.33 percent of the children don't want to save money. And 26.66 percent of the children want to save money.

## **6.7 Future Plan**

The condition of children in Nepal is very poor and getting worst day by day. Most of the children are at different level of risk and their future is completely void. As country like Nepal whose socio-economic condition is very poor due to poverty illiteracy traditional tern and social environment children are deprived of education and implied to work as labour.

Children's desire to make such radical changes in their lives can be understood in the light of their apprenticeships to street life and the implications of being labeled as Khate. In case of 'Khate' the work 'occupation' can be replaced with

social identity. Although the social identify ascribed to Khate is based as ideas about their current activities without consideration of their concoctions to family, such relationship may be critical in same children's attempts to move off the streets. It should be remembered that many children leave home due to family poverty. Like their relatives, children may have seen their departures as opportunities to address these social stigmas by bringing money and good repute into the family.

The respondents were asked that if they were given a choice who want to give up living in the street.

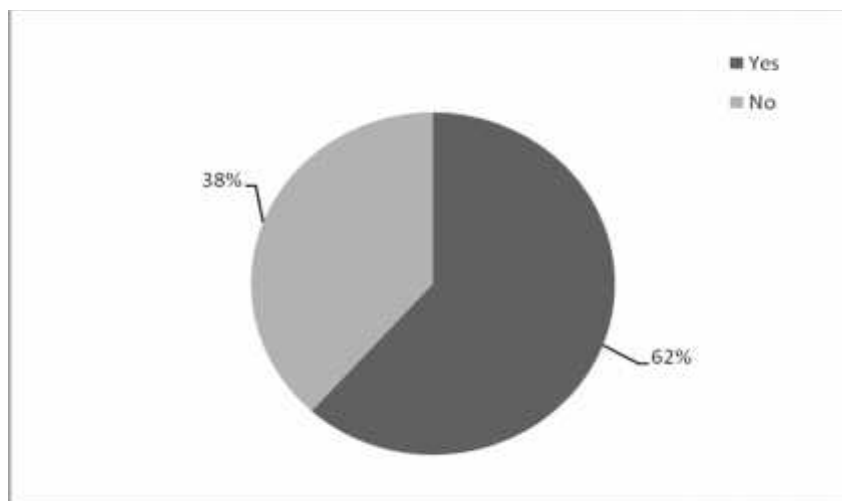
**Table No. 6.7: Number of the Street Children who want to give up Living in the Street**

<b>Want to give up</b>	<b>Number of the children</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	37	61.66
No	23	38.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.*

From the table, 61.66 percent of the respondents want to give up the living in the street. They want to go back their home. But 38.33 percent of the respondent don't want to give up the living in the street, they don't want to go back home. They want to spent their life on the street.

**Fig. 6.7 Number of the Street Children who want to give up Living in the Street**



Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

From the figure, 61.66 percent of the children who want to give up living in the street. And 38.33 percent of the children who want to spent their life on the street.

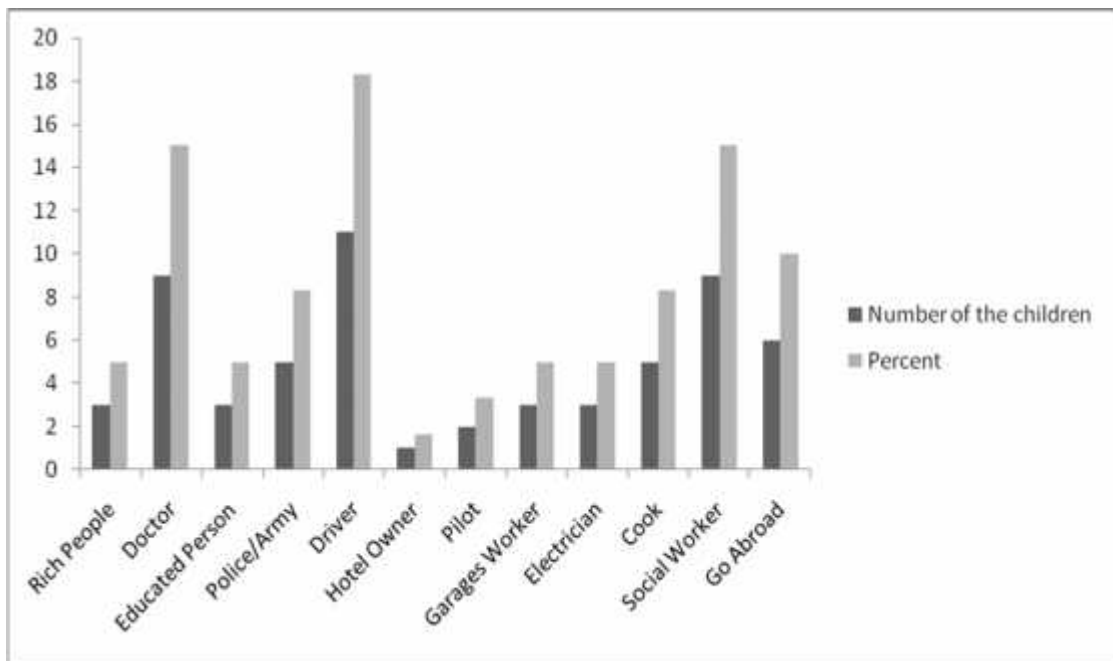
**Table No. 6.8: Future Plans of the Street Children**

Future Plans	Number of the children	Percent
Rich People	3	5
Doctor	9	15
Educated Person	3	5
Police/Army	5	8.33
Driver	11	18.33
Hotel Owner	1	1.66
Pilot	2	3.33
Garages Worker	3	5
Electrician	3	5
Cook	5	8.33
Social Worker	9	15
Go Abroad	6	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

From the table it is clear that, the respondents were asked that if they were given a choice what kind of work they would most likely to choose. In response, 18.33 percent children wanted to be driver, 5 percent children wanted to be rich people, 15 percent children wanted to be a doctor and social worker. Among the respondent 5 percent children wanted to be educated person, rich people, garages worker and electrician, 8.33 percent children wanted to join police/army and cook, 1.66 percent children wants to take up their own small business or they want to open a hotel, 3.33 percent of the children want to fly the aeroplane meant they want to be a pilot, 5 percent children want to work in garage and electrician and 10 percent children want to go to earn money.

**Fig. 6.8 Future Plans of the Street Children**



Source: Field Survey Pokhara-2012.

From the figure the majority of children want to be a driver and the lowest majority children want to be a hotel owner and pilot.



But all the ambitions are a far flange dream which seems impossible to achieve. From the street children's opinion, it is fairly clear that "Khate" work was not considered to be attractive. Although some children's dream as police/army, social worker, garage worker, driver, cook, electrician may achieve in their future as well if the general public, government, NGOs and INGOs help them. Street children in their upper tens and above spoke eloquently or men wish to find alternative jobs and places to live. The criticism they receive from the general public acquires an extra urgency amongst older boys, for it confronts them with the fact that changes must occur before they will be regarded as respectable adults. They are conscious of a tension between what is easy and lucrative now and what is desired for the future. However for boys in their mid-teens and below who benefit from the lucrative and unstructured nature 'Khate' work. There was a detectable ambivalence in their statements about doing something else.

## 6.8 Bird's Eye View

### *Case -I*

*Anil never met his own mother, he abandoned his mother as soon as he was born. He stayed with stepmother and her one daughter and one son in a village of Parbat. He was never happy there. He felt deeply discriminated even in the comfort in his own home. While his step sister and brother went to school. His step mother made him more than work just like, housework, care of cattle, cleaning pot, home and in farm. He worked everyday in his life. He also had to carry heavy loads of water at least three times a day. He wanted to wear his old school uniform and go back to school. But he never had, he asked his step mother to let him attend school and neither did his father. Overwhelmed by the injustice and favoritism at home he decided to leave home and start a new life in city. But it was not easy to survive in the city where he was totally new and he had to stay on the street with the different problem in his daily life. He had no place to sleep at night and he had to sleep on the street. He had to work had to service on the street along with dogs as well. Not only problem with accommodation, he had to work hard to service on the street. He collected rag and sell to junkyard. While he didn't go to collect rag he did the work of porter and earn a money. Due to this situation he had to give up his interest for education. He mentioned that if he got assistance to go to the school and he wanted to continue his education.*

### **Case -II**

*A boy named Ravi Thapa at the age of seven left his home at Gorkha. He was convinced that he would get a better work at Pokhara. In the first month of his arrival, he worked in a hotel at Chipledhunga. Due to the maltreatment of the hotel owner, he left the hotel and came to the street life. With in a month school-going child first changed into child labour of a restaurant and again came to the street a ragpicker (street child). As it is said when it rains it pours same thing happened in the life of Ravi, first he lost his father and then one day her mother didn't return from the market where she used to go to sell vegetables. After loosing their parent's three children (one brother and one sister with Ravi) were left with their uncle. In the meanwhile, Ravi arrived Pokhara initiating by peer influence.*

*He wakes up early in the morning and starts his search of cartoons, if he is able to earn a little he use it to buy his tea. After tea, again he wanders here and there in the street to continue his job in search of rags. Until midday collection, he sells the articles collected and takes his meal. His common meal is beaten rice and vegetable (Chiura and Tarkari). Sometime he takes beaten rice with chicken curry if he is able to earn a little bit more. After his food, he passes out time by playing carom board with his friends. Sometime he uses to visit contact center to take morning class where he can get free breakfast instead of taking breakfast. There street children can get food (dal, bhat) in Rs. 10, Ravi also goes there to have food. About the bad habits developed within himself he says that he plays cards sometimes and he did not have other habits as most of his friends have such as smoking, drinking, glue sniffing, thieving, etc. according to him he once tried the glue sniffing due to which he had vomited, after that he had never tried it. Ravi has a group of four street children. They share their earnings to each other when any of them became unable to earn. He had more than 6 nights in a month without food. When he was asked whether he wants to return home he replied that there is no one to look after him so his life of street is better for him. He is fond of street life. He also does not want to work at hotel.*

### **Case -III**

*It has been three years since Ram left his home and mingled in the different world of so called 'Khat'. His stepmother's maltreatment especially accusing him thieving compelled him to climb down the street. Baglung was his birthplace and his destiny brought him to the street of Pokhara. It sounds strange that a boy of 15 has jail experiences of more than six times and he knows all the police station/post in Pokhara municipality. All the times when he was taken into custody he was accused of stealing. While giving such information no hesitation was found on him. Smoking, drinking, gambling and glue sniffing are the new habits he had developed within himself. He had given the name of glue he uses mostly that is 'maxbon'. His father is a taxi driver, when he brought second wife, Ram's life became very miserable. In such an age of 12 when a child needs more family care and protection, Ram could not bear his step mother's treatment and left his home.*

*Nowadays, streets of Mahendrapool provide shelter for him. According to him, shopkeepers woke them up early in the morning. His every new day starts with the search of cartoons, selling which he could collect some money for tea. Again, he goes in search of "Kawadi" (rags or recyclable materials) toward dumping sites, riverbanks, street corners, or in residential areas. After selling whatever he gets up to midday, he bought his food commonly beaten rice and cooked vegetable, sometimes dal bhat. He uses his remaining money to buy glue. The most common thing he shares with his friend is glue. Here glue sniffing has become a part of his life. Although he was aware about its bad impacts, he uses it to be hallucinated to have victory over his grieves.*

## CHAPTER–VII

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 7.1 Summary

This study presents the findings of this rapid assessment on street children in some selected area of Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City. The field survey that forms the basis of this study covered 60 street children among which 59 were boys and one girl who were interviewed at different places of Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City.

In this study an attempt was made to identify the major factors of children to be in street and the conditions under which they are surviving and the steps taken by governmental and non-governmental agencies for the welfare of street children. The general objectives of the study are to explore and describe problem of the street children. The specific objectives are as follows.

- ) To analyze the circumstances and factor given birth to street children.
- ) To explore the factor pushing children on the street.
- ) To access the problem and prospective of the street children.

The brief summary of the study has been presented below.

Majority of the street children were come up with the real problem of the children, investigative opportunity sampling method checklist, interview and observation method are applied in the study. In this study, checklist has been used for the interview. There were 90 street children in the universe. Out of 90 street children, 60 children were selected as sampled respondents with the help of simple random sampling technique using lottery methods.

- ) A total of 60 children ranging from 5 to 18 years age group are interviewed during the study. Among them 11-15 years age group street children are in majority with 45 percent. Similarly 5-10 years age groups are followed by 30 percent.
- ) There is no relationship between the caste and extent of street children. Street children's are associated with different types of ethnic group. But the study reveals that most of the street children are from dalit with 50 percent. Dalit means socially oppressed castes, so called untouchables (Nepali, B.K., C.K., Pariyar: Damai, Kami, Sarki) whereas 30 percent Janagati caste (Gurung, Magar, Newar etc.) and others caste (Brahman, Chetteri etc.) are 20 percent only.
- ) Among them 70 percent of the street children are from Christian community whereas 20% are from Hindu and 10% are from Buddhist community.
- ) Most of the street children are come from western development region. Whereas 33.33% children were from Kaski, 15% children were from Baglung district, 1.66% children are Gorkha and Parsa district. So the street children come in highest percent of Kaski district and the lowest percent of Gorkha and Parsa district.
- ) Out of the total number of 60 children, 25 percent of the children contacted with their family only at festivals, 55 percent children do not contact with their parents and 3.33 percent children contact with their family once a week.
- ) With the education of the sampled children, 30% children has been attended up to class -5, and 20% children have never attended the school. It shows that 80% children had gone school but not completed even primary level of education.
- ) Even the sampled children stay on the street they do give importance to their health. Out of 60 respondents, 70% of children are giving

importance to their health and 30% of children are not giving importance to their health. And 40 % of children have a habit of taking bath once a week, 20% take bath twice a week, 35% of children take a bath monthly, 5% take a bath twice a month. And 80% of children don't have a habit of brushing whereas 70% of children have a habit of hand washing before having meal.

- ) Among the sampled 60 children, are forced to the street due to various reasons. In 25% of the children have left home due to poverty, 21.66% of the children have left had due to lack of love and affection from parents, 15% of the children have left due o misconduct of step parents. 10% left attraction of city, 8.33% left death of parents and having companion with friends, 5% of children have left due to death of mother and 6.66% of the children have left home due to the other causes.
- ) Different reasons are associated with their stop attending school while at home. Such as migration run away from home unable to pay cost lack of interest, discrimination and other reasons. Out of 60 children's, 56.66% of children's stop attending school from the reasons of runaway from home.
- ) Among the sampled 60 children, 55% have their father and mother both in the family, 10% have their father only, 20% have mother only and 15% don't have their parents.
- ) With the family background is concerned most of them have got the moderate family size. The children sampled with big and small family. Big family means more than 5 and les than 10 member and the small family means less than 5 member. So, 51.66% of them have big family and 36.66% of them have small family, 11.66% of them don't know the family member.

- J Most of the children came from the wage labor and agriculture, 41.66% and 21.66%. However 18.33% of total children came from the domestic servant, 13.33% and 5% of children came from service and business.
- J The family of 25% children were generating sufficient income for tightly feed to family survival whereas 75% family were not earning income for sufficient to feed.
- J Out of 60 children, 86.66% children have a habit of dendrite sniffing, 80% children have a habit of smoking, 38.33% have alcohol and only 20% have drug addicted. This shows that dendrite sniffing is more common habit of street children which directly affects their health.
- J The street children face problem of their sleeping, 45% of street children use to sleep in street, it means they sleep in form of shop waiting station, 20% children use room, 8.33% children sleep with friends and 26.66% sleep other areas. So, 80% children don't have proper bed to sleep.
- J Most of the children are on street 2-5years in different occupation. The main occupation of street children are rag picking, vehicle leaner, begging, porter, work in hotel and restaurant and soon, 40% of children was adopted rag picking work following by work in hotel and restaurant 13.33%, 11.66% children work in porter, 10% and 6.66% children do vehicle cleaner and begging each respectively. And 15% children do other types of work.
- J The street children earn the money for survival, 45% children earn more than Rs. 100-200 in a day-21.66% of the children earn Rs. 50-100 in a day, 18.33% of the children earn Rs. 10-50 in a day, 15% of the children earn Rs. More than 200 in a day.
- J Out of 60 children, 70% of the children earn sufficient money to survive but 30% do not earn sufficient money for their survival.
- J Most of the street children spent their earned money in different sector. 85% of children spent their money to buying alcohol and drug 76.66%



children spent on food, 55% children spent on clothes, only 40% of the children give their money to parents and 38.33% children spent on entertainment.

- ) The street children earn a little amount of money. Among them, some use to save their earning money. Only 26.66% children have a saving habit.
- ) Out of 60 children only 15% children save in children's development bank and 11.66% children save in shop owner or junkyard owner.
- ) As far as their future planning is concern, 61.66% street children want to give up living in the street where as 38.33%. Children do not want to give up living in the street. Most of them want in different sector. Most of them want to become a driver which is 18.33% in future, 15% children want to become a doctor and social worker, 8.33% children want to become a police/army and cook in future, 5% children want to become a rich people, educated person, garages worker and electrician, 3.33% want to become a pilot. Only 1.66% children want to become a hotel owner and 10% children want to go abroad. So, their saving habit may lead them to success in their future plan.

Street children's future dreams are different although they cannot achieve it. But they have some incentives to do a good job in future. Most of the children wanted to be a driver in their future profession. If these children are supported, they can do other prestigious work and become a good citizen.

As street children come from the poor least organized and most deprived segment of the urban population. From the survey, it can be inferred that street children's do not give a high importance towards health and personal hygiene issues. This is due to the fact that their main concern is with meeting the daily requirements of food along with the fact that they sleep on the streets where there is no sanitation facilities. Most street children had their meal twice a day,

but a very simple food. However cough, diarrhea, headache, back pain are major forms of sickness among the street children.

According to the Nepalese laws, namely children's Act, 1992, labour Act 1992 has strictly prohibited the employment of children in labour force and their rights of physical, educational, health and moral development. But the attempt to abolish it is not successfully encouraging because of servable reasons, such as mass poverty, illiteracy and glaring inequalities in socio-economic life of Nepal. The laws made for protecting weaker section of the society have become less affective.

Having enacted legislation prohibiting the employment of children and taken a few measures to apply it may not be adequate. Legislation is not an end in itself but only a means among many. Nonetheless, laws can andoubteldy do something better for elimination of child labour system. And the success depends largely on the removal of mass poverty and the economic upliftment of the child labour.

## **7.2 Conclusion**

Street child is a global phenomenon. The problem however, is the most critical in the least developed countries. Generally, in developed countries children do not need to support their families: instead, parents support their children until they are able to stand on their own feet. In under developed countries, it is vice-versa. Children must support their families economically through their labour of they are forced to leave home and survive independently. For this reason, the overwhelming majority of children are street children. In spite of many efforts to limit street child, the problem is growing in Nepal. Today, street children are a burning issue. Many NGOs and INGOs are putting their effort to enhance the world. Socio-economic status of children in developed countries have already declared the child right and stated to extend it in developing countries by

giving technical and financial support. Since street children is a common phenomenon, the complete abolition of street child may not be possible overnight. Efforts should be made without further hesitation to defend the child rights and to battle against all forms of violations of children's right and child servitude. Street child is extremely expensive both for the children and society.

In Nepal, migration from rural to urban area looking for a job is a old practice in which children from the age of 12 years are permitted, and sometime encouraged to participate. The phenomenon of children to street life is mostly due to their instinct to survive in hard life conditions such as poverty, maltreatment of the stepparents etc. Street may not be their primary goal, but rather a natural progression in their search for easy work and relative freedom. But this development represents a significant problem for the children, making them vulnerable to illness and crime. In fact, the problem of street children is one that cannot be solved unless children from disadvantaged families are given a way to fully enjoy their fundamental child rights. The socio-psychological issues caused by poverty and family adversity, which are amplified by lack of social support and structure, contribute to the migration of these young boys and girls away from their family and environment into a life on the street. The more time these children spend on the street, the more difficult it is to take them away from it, as they enjoy a sense of freedom and self-dependence, which they feel they cannot have in other environment.

Therefore, the ultimate solution to this problem is by way of social awareness and action group to help develop these children's sense of society and belonging and provide them with the tools to reintegrate into society in an agreeable way. Such social work required commitment and dedication from government agencies non-government organizations and society as a whole. The extension and application of universal compulsory education and the provision of training and apprenticeship schemes can reduce the number of out

o school children as well as provide other opportunities for skill acquisition and later employment.

There are many a social problems threatening children's right. No doubt the political commitment of the country on the issue of the right of the child is being gradually strong. For the last few years some NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies have started creating awareness against child exploitation in Nepal. Nepal has made various commitments in the national and international area for the cause of children following the democratic government set up. With the changed political atmosphere issues of children are being raised quite often and a number of seminars, symposiums, meetings and rallies are being organized on different issues on children. It is apparent that their implementation has so far had little impact on effectiveness. Though child labour would be abolish through the economic prosperity, rapid spread of schooling facilities and street enforcement to anti-child labour laws, the necessity of today is to protect working children from exploitation, abuses, improper influences and hazardous condition prejudicial to their physical, mental, emotional, social and moral development. And it is universally recognized that children are not simply small adults, they deserve special consideration and treatment.

In this study, the data are presented collectively to given an overall picture of the socio-economic situation of the street children in Pokhara. The age group of the street children studied is 5-18 and most the children are between the age 11-15.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **7.3 Recommendations**

In order to make policy recommendations, street children can be categorized into three heading so that each group can be addressed with appropriate approaches and thus.

- ) Children on the street
- ) Children of the street
- ) Abandoned children

Preventive and protective measures are equally important to address the situation of street children. A preventive approach would discourage children from leaving home for street life. A protective approach would prevent the children, who are already on the street, from engaging in the worst forms of child labour. The following recommendations are provided.

- ) Income generating programmes should be launched for those families who are unable to send their children to school as an alternative to making their children work.
- ) The focus should be given on vocational and skill oriented training. Pertinent patterns of education adapted to local needs should be introduced at the regional level.
- ) Through publication, meetings, publicity and mass media campaign, a new and lightened public awareness should be created about the exploitative nature and hazardous conditions of street children. People should make aware of children's rights. A general awareness concerning the exploitation of children should be developed nationally.
- ) A separate act for the betterment of street children's should be introduced. Anti child labour laws, for example, children's Act. 1992, labour Act, 1992, constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal 1990, must be implemented and enforced effectively.
- ) With a joint effort of the governmental and non-governmental agencies, a national task force should be established to find out the magnitude of street children, to investigate the situation, problems and to offer

effective measures to prevent such self-destructive behavior for once and all.

- ) Growing trend of migrating from rural areas to urban cities should be immediately controlled and discouraged by creating better employment opportunities in rural areas.
- ) Counseling is the most important and basic requirement for children who have left home, who have no home and no parents, or who do not want to return home. Socialization is important to minimize the gap between those children who generally feel hated by society, and the people living in the society who do not consider as social element.
- ) Mobile health services should be provided for street children. Free health clinic should be available for their present and future well-being.
- ) To strengthen and expand the protective net of the laws regulating street children there is a must for increased collaboration and cooperation between governmental, local and other authorities is non-governmental sectors.
- ) Rehabilitation is necessary for all street children so that they can find their place in society. Whenever possible, the children who still have parents willing to take them back should be reintegrated into their families. A part of rehabilitation process should be to provide vocational or entrepreneurship training to street children. The government should provide such rehabilitation and reintegration center.
- ) Free training centre, such a mechanical, carpentry, cooking etc. should be provided in order to develop the street children's skills in some other safe income generating occupations.

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# APPENDIX-I

## Interview Check List

A Study on the Street Children of Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City

Interview Schedule for Street Children

### PERSONAL PROFILE

1. What is your name? .....

2. Age:

3. Sex: Male  Female

4. Address:

Previous (home) address = .....

Current address .....

5. Caste/ ethnicity/ religious: .....

6. What is your father's name? .....

7. What is your mother's name? .....

8. Family description:

Family size: Big  Small

Father/ Mother: Yes  No

Father alive: Yes  No

Father dead: Yes  No

Mother alive: Yes  No

Mother dead: Yes  No

Step mother: Yes  No

Step father: Yes  No

9. How long have you been leaving home?

Days:  months:  years:

10. Are you in regular contact with your family? Yes  No

11. What are the reasons

Poverty: Yes  No

Death of parents: Yes  No

Misconduct of step parents: Yes  No

Attraction of city: Yes  No

Lack of love and affection from parents: Yes  No

Other:

12. What type of works do you do? How long have you been with these jobs?

Rag picking: Yes  No

Begging: Yes  No

Bad work (stealing): Yes  No

Others:

13. How many hours do you work daily? Hours:

14. How much money do you earn daily?

Rs.10to50: Rs.50 to 100: More than 100:

15. Where do you spend your money?

Fooding and clothing: Yes  No

Give parents: Yes  No

Buying alcohol and drugs: Yes  No

Others:

16. Did you save money from your income? Yes  No

17. If you spend for drug /alcohol, which drugs you normally use?

Alcohol: Yes  No

Syringe: Yes  No

Glue sniffing: Yes  No

Others:

18. Are your earnings enough to feed yourself? Yes  No

19. If not, how do you get food? \_\_\_\_\_.

20. Where do you usually sleep?

At street: Yes  No

At room: Yes  No

Anywhere: Yes  No

21. What class have you completed in school? .....

22. Are you currently attending school? .....

23. Which school are you attending? .....

24. If not attending, how many times have you dropped out of school?.....

25. Why did you stop attending school?

Migration: Yes  No

Runaway from home: Yes  No

Unable to pay costs: Yes  No

Discrimination: Yes  No

Others:

26. Have you attended non- formal education? Yes  No

27. Do you have any kind of bad habits? Yes  No

28. If yes which kind of bad habits do you have?

Taking drugs: Yes  No

Smoking: Yes  No  Drinking alcohol: Yes  No

29. Do you like this kind of bad habits? Yes  No

30. What is your interest.....

31. Do you give importance to your health? Yes  No

32. How often do you take bath?

Daily: Yes  No

Once a week:  No

Twice a week: yes  No

Once a month: Yes  No

Twice a month: Yes  No



33. Do you brush your teeth? Yes  No

34. Do you wash your hand after and before meal? Yes  No

35. Do you want to give up living in the street? Yes  No

36. What kinds of jobs would you like? \_\_\_\_\_

37. If yes than what do you want to be in future?

Rich people:-  Driver:

Pilot

Doctor:  Hotel owner:  Garages Worker

Educated person:  Social worker:

Cook

Police:  Go abroad:  Electrician

38. Do you often feel sad, lonely or unhappy? Lonely  Unhappy

39. Have you ever tried to harm or kill yourself? Yes  No

40. Are you happy with this kind of life? Yes  No

41. Do you want to return home? Yes  No

## **APPENDIX-II**

### **Check List**

#### **Questions for key informant**

1. How many street children are there in Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City?
2. How many girls and how many boys are there ?
3. How many street children are there in Buspark, Prithivi chowk, New road and Chipladhunga?
4. Where did you survey street children?
5. When did you survey street children?
6. From where the street came?
7. How many street children have bad habit?
8. Where did you meet such children and survey?
9. After survey what would you do for their improvement?
10. How many children are in contact with you?
11. What types of training did you give him?
12. In your opinion what types of work should we do for their improvement?

13. How many street children want to leave up street?
14. How many street children are satisfied with street life?
15. How many street children want to return back home?

## APPENDIX-III



Street Children ready for rag Picking



Street Children using dendrite



Interview with Street Children

