

IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON CHILDREN IN NEPAL

A Case Study of Shaktikhor VDC, Chitwan

**A Dissertation Submitted To The Tribhuvan University, Faculty of
Humanities & Social Sciences Prithivi Narayan Campus
Department Of Political Science For The Partial
Fulfillment Of The Requirement For
The Degree In Master Of Arts In
Political Science**

**Submitted By
Indra Bahadur Shah**

MA IInd Year

Symbol No: 480058

T.U. Regd No:11628 -82

2013

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled “Impact of Conflict on Children in Nepal: A Case Study of Shaktikhor VDC Chitwan” has been prepared by Mr Indra Bahadur Shah under my supervision and guidance. I recommended this for approval by expert committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts in Political Science.

Date: 08 / 04 / 2013 A.D.

25 / 12 / 2069 B.S.

(Girdhari Dahal)

Supervisor

Lecturer in Department of Political Science

Tribhuvan University

P.N. Campus, Pokhara, Nepal

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
PRITHIVINARAYAN CAMPUS,
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POKHARA, NEPAL

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This dissertation entitled “Impact of Conflict on Children in Nepal: A Case Study of Shaktikhor VDC Chitwan” submitted by Mr. Indra Bahadur Shah has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Masters Degree in Arts in Political Science, TU by the expert committee comprised of :

Head of Department: Associate Professor, Mr. Hari Mohan Sharma

External Examiner: Associate Professor, Mr. Tara Nath Baral

Supervisor: Lecturer, Mr. Girdhari Dahal

Research Coordinator: Uma Nath Baral PhD

Internal Examiner: Mr. Girdhari Subedi

Date: 12 / 04 / 2013 A.D.

30/ 12 / 2069 B.S.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dissertation entitled, “Impact of Conflict on Children in Nepal: A Case Study of Shaktikhor VDC Chitwan” is one of my personal requirement for the partial fulfillment of Master Degree in Political science. I hope it will not only contribute to meet my immediate objective but also will be useful to the individuals having interest in related subject. In completion of this thesis, a number of institutions and persons have granted me a cordial support and assistance from various sides. So I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to them all.

First, I would like to thank to the department of political Science, for granting me the permission to carry out my present Thesis. Equally I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Girdhari Dahal, Dr, Umantha Baral and former associate Professor head of department of political science P.N. campus Agnidhar paudel for his supervision, guidance and suggestions in furnishing this study. This is a revised copy submitted to the department of Political Science along with fully consideration to the suggestions and comments that received during the viva voce held in 2069/12/30 at the Department of Political Science, P.N. campus. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the entire team of viva voce for their valuable and fruitful comments and suggestions for this revision of this dissertation.

I am also thankful to all the respondents of Shaktikhor Chitwan and member of Constitutional Assembly, local intellectuals, politicians and activists who co-operated kindly and with patience to respond all the queries without any hesitation.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all my colleagues, friends, family members and all those people who have directly/indirectly helped & co-operated me in preparing this thesis.

Indra Bahadur Shah

Date: 14 / 03 / 2070 B.S.
28 / 06 / 2013 A.D.

ABSTRACT

This research study on the impact of conflict on children in Shaktikhor VDC of Chitwan district explores causes of armed conflict and its consequences on the local people. The study has been primarily targeted for the study of children living in the turmoil of conflict. The specific objectives of the study are following: (i) to analyze the causes conflict into Shaktikhor VDC, (ii) to assess consequences of conflict in the study area and (iii) to find out the impact of conflict on children.

Data have been collected through primary and secondary sources. The primary data have been collected through field visit and secondary data have been collected from official sources and publication. The research design to this study has both descriptive and analytic. Data have been collected through questionnaire, key informants, focus group discussion and interview. The collected data have been analyzed through tabulation, percentage and pie-chart. The limitation of this study has focused in specific areas that are Shaktikhor VDC with limited time framework.

It has been found in Chitwan district that children have been suffered more or less in area due to conflict. There have been prevailing different problems as social, educational and conflict. Due to conflict, they are psychological disturbed?

Different types of threats, social isolation, sleep disturbance, shouting after seeing the crowd are the psychological factors, which have been faced. They have not got the rights of health educational and survival right properly. There have been hampered due to conflict. They have not been escaped from physical torture also. Their families have been compelled to donate subscription to Maoist in the name of 'People's war'. Children have faced different types of risks as separate from parents, orphaned, abducted, sign of trauma, physical exploitation, forced to laborer and out of school. They have been afraid to speak out about the armed conflict and compelled to tolerate it silently.

Finally, most of the children have suggested to safe land the conflict. After the ceasefire and solved through negotiation, still they are suppressed. From this we can say that they were observed the conflict with near. Because we all civilian human right activist, politicians, socialists, have viewed on the favor of ceasefire, negotiation are peace talk, without negotiation, peace talk, there is no safe land of armed conflict.

This research study has presented findings with a set of recommendations, in addition, suggested issues for further research.

CONTENTS

Page No.

Letter of Recommendation	
Letter of Acceptance	
Acknowledgement	
Abstract	
List of Tables	
List of Abbreviations	
Operational Definitions of Key Terms used in the Study	

CHAPTER: I

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH STUDY

1.1	Background of the Study	1
1.2	Statement of the Problem	4
1.3	Objectives of the Study	5
1.4.	Research methodology	5
1.4.1	Selection of the Study Area	6
1.4.2	Research Design	6
1.4.3	Nature and Sources of Data	6
1.4.4	Universe and Sampling Procedure	7
1.4.5	Tool and Techniques of Data Collection	7
1.4.6	Methods of Data Analysis	8
1.5	Review of Literature	8
1.6	Significance of the Study	11
1.7	Limitations of the Study	11
1.8	Organization of the Study	12

CHAPTER: II
CONCEPTUAL AND THEORITICAL PERSPECTIVE ON
CONFLICT

2.1	Concept of Conflict	13
2.2	Causes of Armed Conflict	15
2.3	Empirical Studies on Armed Conflict Focused on Children	17
2.3.1	International Level	18
2.3.2	National Level	19
2.4	Children and Armed Conflict	24
2.5	Use of Children in Armed Conflict	26
2.5.1	Recruitment and Use of Children	26
2.5.2	Children in Armed Conflict an Alarming Issue	29
2.5.3	Use of Children from the Side of Government	30
2.5.4	Use of Children from the Side of Maoists	31
2.6	Impacts in Various Sectors of Children due to Armed Conflict	33
2.6.1	Education	33
2.6.2	Attacks and Others Stress on Teachers	34
2.6.3	The Threat to the Children	35
2.6	Approaches of Analysis and Interpretations of Conflict	36
2.7	Conceptual Framework/ Theoretical Framework	40

CHAPTER: III
DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA AND PEOPLE

4.1	Description of the Study Area	42
4.2	Description of the Respondents	44
4.2.1	Population Distribution of Respondent by Age	44
4.2.2	Educational Status	45
4.2.3	Economic Aspect	46

4.2.4 Occupation	46
4.2.5 Landholding Size	47
4.2.6 Food Sufficiency	47
4.2.7 Situation of Migration	48

CHAPTER: IV

IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

5.1 Psychological Impact of Children	51
5.2 Different Sectors Affected from Conflict	52
5.3 Causes of Closing Schools	53
5.4 Situation of Survival Right of Children	54
5.5 Situation of Victimizer	55
5.6 Problem Tackling System to Children	56
5.7 Conflict and its Impact on Child Survival	57
5.8 Children Deprivation in Basic Needs	57
5.9 Conflict and Quality Education Deprivation in Children	58
5.10 Conflict and Apportioning Security of Children	59
5.11 Courses of Child Involvement in Conflict	60
5.12 Causes of Child Displacement	61

CHAPTER: V

SUMMARY AND FINDINGS / RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary	64
6.2 Findings	65
6.3 Recommendations	67
Bibliography	70

Appendices :	73
Appendix A: Nepal and Chitwan District Map	73
Appendix B: Chitwan and Shaktikhor V.D.C. map	74
Appendix C: Shaktikhor V.D.C. map	75
Appendix D: Shaktikhor V.D.C. with School Map	76
Appendix E: Shaktikhor V.D.C. with Natural Resources Map	77
Appendix F: Population Distribution of Shaktikhor VDC	78
Appendix G: Population Distribution on The Basis Of Gender	79
Appendix H: Population Distribution on The Basis Of Cast	80
Appendix I: Population Distribution on The Basis Of Language	81
Appendix J: Population Distribution on The Basis Of Religion	82
Appendix K: Population Growth Rate	83
Appendix L: Photos of area of study	84
Appendix M: Questionnaire	86

LIST OF TABLES

Chapter III

Table 1 :	Population Distribution of Respondent by Age
Table 2 :	Educational Status of Respondent
Table 3 :	Occupational Distribution of Respondent
Table 4 :	Distribution of Sample of Respondent by Landholding
Table 5 :	Distribution Sample of Respondent by Food Sufficiency
Table 6 :	Distribution of Respondent by Residence

Chapter IV

Table 1 :	Impact of Armed Conflict on Children
Table 2 :	Distribution of Respondents by Psychological Impact
Table 3 :	Distribution of Psychological Impact on Respondent,
Table 4 :	Distribution of Respondent by Different Sector Affected from Conflict
Table 5 :	Distribution of Respondent by Different Cause of Closing Schools.
Table 6 :	Situation of Survival Right of Children
Table 7 :	Distribution of Respondent by Source of Victimized.
Table 8 :	Distribution of Respondents by Tackling System
Table 9 :	Distribution of Respondents by Effect of Child Survival
Table 10 :	Distribution of Respondents Deprivation in Basic Needs
Table 11 :	Distribution of Respondents by Quality Education Deprivation on Children

Table 12 : Distribution of Respondents by Different Activities
Security of Children

Table 13 : Distribution of Respondents by Involvement in Conflict
on Children

Table 14 : Distribution of Respondents by Causes of Child
Displacement

List of Abbreviations

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CPN	:	Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
CRC	:	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CWIN	:	Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Center
CZOP	:	Children as Zone of Peace
et. al.	:	And other
GO	:	Government Organization
HRC	:	Human Right Commission
ICRC	:	International Committee of Red Cross
IHRCON	:	Institute of Human Rights Communications Nepal
ILO	:	International Labor Organization
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organization
INPED	:	Institute of Peace and Developmetn
INSEC	:	Informal Sector Service Sector
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
T.U.	:	Tribhuvan University
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	Unite Nation Development Program
UNICEF	:	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WHO	:	World Health Organization
RNA	:	Rapid Rural Appraisal

Operational Definitions of Key Terms used in the Study

A few words bearing a particular meaning in the context of the topic are used in this study. The words and their particular meaning are as follow:

- **Authority:** The recognized right of an individual to command another act in a particular way.
- **Cause:** Cause is that which produces an effect; thing, event, person, etc. that makes something happen. It is the factor forcing people to be internally effect from the armed conflict.
- **Children:** A young human being below the age of puberty.
- **Conflict:** A state of opposition or hostilities.
- **Consequence:** Consequence is as result or an effect of something else e.g. conflict internal displacement. It is a result or an effect of internal displacement to the IDPS.
- **Impact:** The action of one body coming forcibly into contact with another.
- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPS):** People who are forced to leave their villages due to direct threat to their lives from the Maoists or from the government security forces; due to the fear and terror of armed conflict in the place and the people who have lost confidence in the possibilities of survival and left their place of origin.
- **'People's war':** A political armed struggle CPN (Maoist) has adopted to over throw the current regime and establish a republic can state.
- **Place of Origin:** The place from where people have been affected by armed conflict.