

Chapter – I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses on the background of the subject of study. More particularly, the concept of informal care is discussed along with presentation of relevant data. Statement of problem incorporates the study conducted on the subject in national and international scenario along with the highlight on the existing gaps. Research questions, objectives of the study, importance of the study, limitations of the study, organization of the study and operational definitions of the key terms are also included and described in this chapter.

1.1 Background:

Alternative care is defined as care for orphans and other vulnerable children who are not under the custody of their biological parents. It includes adoption, foster families, guardianship, kinship care, residential care and other community-based arrangements to care for children in need of special protection, particularly children without primary caregivers (UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, 2006).

Denis Waitley has once said that "The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and wings of independence". The saying of Waitley itself clearly indicates how children should be grown up so as to ensure that they make contribution to the state as a responsible person. It is in the families of the children themselves that they can enjoy, and more particularly, learn about the responsibilities and independence (McArthur, 2011).

However, every child's fortune is not good enough to make their living with their families. Because of various factors, the children are bound to be deprived of their families and thus the state or the civil society organization should be responsible for upbringing such children. Among such factors that bound the children to be deprived of their families are natural calamities leading to the death of parents, conflict leading to displacement and death of parents, carelessness to children, abandonment by parents, family conflict, poverty and so on. It is because of the aforementioned causes that children got detached from the families and primary caregivers thus being prone toward the need of alternative care.

UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (2010) has specified the categories of children requiring alternative care. According to the guideline, the children who are growing without parental care need alternative care for proper growth and development. The guideline has also stated that the children, who are not taken care of by another relative or an adult who by law or custom is responsible for doing so, also require alternative care. Apart from this, the children if separated from previous legal or customary primary caregiver and is not also accompanied by another relative should be also provided with alternative care.

Informal care, according to the guideline, refers to any private arrangement provided in a family environment, whereby the child is looked after on an ongoing or in definite basis by relatives or friends (informal kinship care) or by others in their individual capacity, at the initiative of the child, his/her parents or other person without this arrangement having been ordered by an administrative or judicial authority or a duly accredited body. Similarly, the guideline refers formal care as all care provided in a family environment which has been ordered by a competent administrative body or judicial authority, and all care provided in a residential environment, including in private facilities, whether or not as a result of administrative or judicial measures.

Similarly, being based on the environment or setting of the care provided to the children in need, the guideline has categorized the forms of alternative as kinship care, foster care, residential care, supervised independent living arrangements for children and other forms of family based care. As per the guideline, kinship care is family-based care within the child's extended family or with close friends of the family known to the child, whether formal or informal in nature. Similarly, foster care refers to the situations where children are placed by a competent authority for the purpose of alternative care in the domestic environment of a family other than the children's own family that has been selected, qualified, approved and supervised for providing such care. The guideline states that care provided in any non-family-based group setting, such as places of safety for emergency care, transit centres in emergency situations, and all other short- and long-term residential care facilities including group homes.

If we have a glance on the data of Central Bureau of Statistics, the total number of children staying at child care homes in Nepal, as in 2011, was 11, 137 out of which 4, 904 were girls and 6, 233 were boys. However, the classification of children as orphan and non-orphan is really

difficult as there is no real information available (Better Care Network, 2009). The data on the same as reported in The State of Children in Nepal – 2072 B.S. (Bikram Sambat) published by Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) is 16404 out of which 7993 were boys whereas 8411 were girls. This clearly indicates the growing number of children in child care homes which has been specified to be the last resort by the Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children by UN. High numbers of children are also growing without their parents and the situation of many children is not known (CBS, 2011).

On the other hand, GoN has prioritized non-institutional alternative care to institutional care. In order to ensure that the policy is followed and is working in the real field, child care homes providing institutional care should strictly follow the policies and guidelines of the government. Not only the child care homes, the government should also work toward creating the environment that favors and promotes non-institutional alternative care. More particularly, the government should work in close coordination with child care homes, primarily, to ensure that none of the children who can be grown in other settings are being cared and grown by child care homes.

There has been and continues to be considerable debate over whether nature (heredity) or nurture (social environment) most determines human behavior. Studies of feral, isolated and institutionalized children indicate that although nature plays a role in the human equation, it is society that makes people human. People learn what it means to be and, consequently, become members of the human community through language, social interaction and other forms of human contact (Henslin et al., 2013).

Children are influenced in their individual and social development by a variety of factors. The family, peers, school, neighborhood, religion, day care centers and sports can be considered as integral part in shaping our personalities and equipping us with skills for social survival and prosperity. For adults, the workplace has also its influence upon socialization of an individual which also suggests socialization as life long process (Sesmones, 2014).

Jean Piaget discussed about four stages of child development as sensorimotor stage, preoperational stage, concrete operations stage and formal operations stage. Similarly, Sigmund Freud discusses about oral stage, anal stage, phallic stage, latency stage and genital stage. In his structural model of personal development, he discusses about id, ego and superego as the driving forces shaping the personality of an individual.

Charles Horton Cooley has elaborated the concept of "looking glass self" thus showing how the personality of an individual develops. He describes the process as an ongoing, life long process that incorporates three steps. First of all we imagine how we look to others which is followed by our interpretation to others' reactions. Based on our interpretation to others' reactions, we develop our self-concept.

George Herbert Mead has discussed about imitation, play and games as the three steps for the development of the self. According to him, children initially can mimic the gestures and words of others. In the second stage of self development, the child plays the roles of specific people. The third stage is the game stage during which children become involved in organized team games and must learn the role of each member of the team.

1.2 Statement of Problem:

Concerning human development, we showed that while cognitive skills are important in economy and in predicting economic success, the contribution of schooling to individual economic success could be explained only partly by the cognitive development fostered in schools. We advanced the position that schools prepare for adult work rules by socializing people to function well and without complaint in the hierarchal structure of modern corporation. These goals are accomplished by the school structuring social interactions and individual rewards to replicate the environment of workplace which has been termed as correspondence principle. The correspondence principle may seem to be based on the notion that schools socialize students to accept beliefs, values and forms of behavior on the basis of authority rather than students' own critical judgements of their interests (Bowles & Ginitis, 1976).

The study by Melvin Kohn suggested that working class parents tend to stress strict conformity to traditional standards, punish the consequences of unacceptable behavior and are more likely to

use physical punishment. This is really because of the occupations they are having where they are expected to follow instructions precisely. However, in middle class families the children are stressed as well as rewarded for their initiative and creative. Children in middle class families are taught the importance of self-control rather than strict obedience and are less likely to be physically disciplined (Sesmones, 2014).

Over fifty years of research by UNICEF on upbringing of children for proper socialization demonstrates that children in institutions will not develop in the same way as children living in families. Normal child development requires frequent one-to-one interactions with a parent. While a socially-rich-family environment promotes infant brain growth, an impoverished environment has the opposite effect and will suppress brain development. The child's lack of opportunity to form a specific attachment to a parent figure is a typical feature of residential care (UNICEF 2010).

Research has demonstrated that young children who are institutionalized during the first 6 months of their lives suffer long-term developmental delay, leading to a greater probability of antisocial behavior and mental health problems. Moreover, young children who have experienced residential care after the age of 6 months, as an emergency measure, have been found to be more likely to recover once they have been placed in a caring family environment. This is why it is recommended that no child under the age of three years should be placed in a residential care institution. Child placement, in any kind of institution, should be a last resort and for the shortest time possible (UNICEF, 2010).

A 2004 study based on survey results of 32 European countries and in-depth studies in nine of the countries which considered the risk of harm in terms of attachment disorder, developmental delay and neural atrophy in the developing brain reached the conclusion that....No child under three years should be placed in a residential care institution without a parent/ primary caregiver (Ijzendoorn, Marinus & Luijk, 2006).

A particular shortcoming of institutional care is that young children typically do not experience the continuity of care that they need to form a lasting attachment with an adult caregiver. Ongoing and meaningful contact between a child and an individual care provider is almost

always impossible to maintain in a residential institution because of the high ratio of children to staff, the high frequency of staff turnover and the nature of shift work. Institutions have their own culture which is often rigid and lacking in basic community and family socialization. These children have difficulty forming and maintaining relationships throughout their childhood, adolescents and adult lives. Indeed, those who have visited an orphanage are like to have been approached by young children wanting to touch them or hold their hand. Although such behavior may initially seem to be an expression of spontaneous affection, it is actually a symptom of significant attachment problem. A young child with a secure sense of attachments is more likely to be cautious, even fearful, of strangers, rather than seeking to touch them (Chrisholm, 1998).

Children growing in residential care demonstrate serious development problems. The reason, according to child development specialist is the inability of institutions to meet children's developmental needs that are related with attachment, acculturation and social integration (Williamson & Greenberg, 2010).

There is now an abundance of global evidence demonstration serious developmental problems associated with the placement in residential care. For the last half century, child development specialists have recognized that residential institutions consistently fail to meet children's developmental needs for attachment, acculturation and social reintegration (Williamson, 2004).

The institutional care has been shown detrimental in development of children and the expenses required for raising children in institutional care is also higher in relation to foster care and community based care. A study in South Africa found residential care to be up to six times more expensive than providing care for children living in vulnerable families, and four times more expensive than foster care or statutory adoption (Desmond & Gow, 2001). Similarly, a cost comparison in east and central Africa by Save the Children UK found residential care to be 10 times more expensive than community-based forms of care (Diane, Geibel, & McMillan, 2006).

Not only is residential care a much more expensive way of meeting children's needs than either supporting the child in his or her own family, or by providing family-based care in the community: residential centers tend also to act as magnets for resources because of their high visibility and donor-appeal (Tolfree, 2003).

Despite the need of upbringing of children in family or family like environment, previous studies have shown that plenty of children are growing at child care homes. Though having single parent, the children are bound to grow in institutional care. In Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, for example, over 80 percent of children living in institutions have a living parent. This suggests that family separation of children could be prevented only by providing support to the families (Kang, 2007).

A longitudinal study by the Bucharest Early Intervention Project found that young children who were shifted from an institution to supported foster care before age two made dramatic developmental gains across severe cognitive and emotional development measures compared to those who continued to live in institutional care and whose situation worsened considerably (Nelson. et al., 2007).

In context to Nepal, to ensure the process of deinstitutionalization, the government and concerned stakeholders should focus and concentrate upon few steps. The steps have been identified as family re-unification of children, kinship care, foster care, running child care centers and other necessary alternative care arrangements through formation of peer group units and supported accommodation (McArthur, 2011).

In context to Nepal, out of 98, 48, 753 children (below the age of 16), 2,38,506 children are growing in the absence of their parents i.e. either with employer or with someone else who are not related to the child. 23195 children grow in the presence of one of the step-parents whereas 47477 children are growing with their relatives. (CBS, 2011). This suggests that the action of child care homes is necessary for 2, 38,506 children who are growing in the absence of their parents.

On one hand, the Government of Nepal and the studies have prioritized informal care to institutional care. On the other hand, the data shows that child care homes are also equally necessary. Until and unless the specific programs on informal care are launched and brought into system, it seems inevitable to make proper use of institutional care for the protection of children. Prior to the launching of specific program on informal care, studies related to institutional as well as informal care should be carried out all across the country. The studies should ensure the

involvement of children, parents, child care homes, child specialists, government authorities and laws & policies related with child rights and development. However, the studies on these issues are very rare. It is therefore this study will, to some extent, play an important role in mitigating the existing gaps on the study of the issue.

Research Questions:

The study has attempted to seek the answers of the following questions:

1. How child care homes of Kaski perceive as non-institutional alternative care?
2. Are child care homes aware about the policies and guidelines of the government promoting non-institutional alternative care?
3. How is the support of government's initiation on non-institutional alternative care perceived by child care home?
4. Are there any efforts made by child care home toward non-institutional alternative care?

1.3 Objectives of the study:

-) To identify perception of child care homes on non-institutional alternative care.
-) To know about practices of child care homes in promoting non-institutional alternative care.

1.4 Importance of the study:

This study may support in identifying and assessing the practices and perceptions of residential care home i.e. child care home toward non-institutional child care in the district. The recent policies and minimum standards set by the Government of Nepal (GoN) have prioritized non-institutional care to institutional care. However, these policies could only be brought to reality only when the child care homes work in accordance to it and thus they are providing services only to those children whose possibilities for kinship care, foster care, adoption and other family based care could not be found out. Besides this, the state should also provide and create environment that promotes other forms of alternative care other than child care homes. Not only this, the child care homes should seek for possibilities of alternative care out of its home for the children who are staying in the home. Therefore, this study will help in identifying the situation, trend of alternative care and possibilities of other forms of alternative care other than residential care from the perspective of child care homes. More than this, the study may help in identifying

proper environment required for the socialization of children. More particularly, the study will support in identifying appropriate forms of non-institutional care in context to Nepal that ensures proper socialization of children.

1.5 Limitations of the Study:

Primarily, this study is an academic study. It is therefore the study is carried out within limited resource, time and budget and thus the research might not be able to gather all the information required for in-depth assessment. Besides this, assessment on perception and practices require longer period of observation which is not be done by this study.

Secondarily, the study has focused on non-institutional alternative care of children. The institutional care provided by child care homes is not taken into in-depth consideration as compared to non-institutional alternative care by the study.

1.6 Organization of the Study:

The study is categorized into six chapters. The first chapter discusses on the introduction of the issue, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, rationale of the study, limitations of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter deals with the conceptual review under which national and international laws relating to the subject will be incorporated along with review on existing studies on the issue. This chapter also discusses on sociological theories that are associated with the topic. The third chapter deals with methodology under which the research design, universe and sample of the study, nature of data and data collection techniques are specified. The fourth chapter has provided the analysis on the practices of child care homes according to the data obtained from the survey whereas the fifth chapter has focused on perception of child care homes on informal care. Similarly, the sixth chapter has highlighted on summary, conclusion and recommendation.

1.7 Operational Definitions of the key terms:

Alternative Care: The study refers to the care provided to the children by the people and institution other than biological parents as alternative care.

Institutional Alternative Care: The care provided to the children by child care homes is referred as institutional alternative care by the study. Though sociology refers family as an institution, the

development sector does not recognize it as institution. It is therefore the study has explained the care by families as non-institutional care.

Informal Care: Informal Care is referred to the care provided by the relatives, foster-family, or any other individuals other than biological parents most probably in family or family like settings. The study uses informal care as synonymous to non-institutional alternative care.

Child care homes: The study refers child care homes as the institutions / care homes that are registered in concerned offices of government as child care homes and are providing long-term services to the children in their own / hired homes.

Children: The study refers children as individuals below and equal to the age of 18 years.

CHAPTER – II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter deals with the theoretical and conceptual review of theories and studies related to the study. The first portion of the chapter highlights on the roles of family in socialization process of children. This is followed by the brief discussion on the theories on personality development. The chapter also discusses on deviance and socialization as well. Apart from these, the chapter highlights on the review of studies carried out in different parts of the world. Similarly, national and international laws and policies related to the study are also incorporated in the chapter.

Theoretical / Conceptual Overview:

2.1 Theories on Socialization:

2.1.1: "Looking Glass Self" by Charles Horton Cooley

Charles Horton Cooley describes that the human development is socially constructed. He argues that our sense of self develops as a result of interaction with others around us. He named this process as 'looking glass self'. According to Cooley, the process of looking glass self consists of three steps. The process of looking glass self begins with our imagination on how we look to others. This is followed by our interpretation on others' reactions. Consequently we develop a self concept. A favorable reflection in the "social mirror" leads to a positive self concept whereas a negative reflection causes development of a negative self concept in us. To be more precise, an individual imagines how other people see him/her, interprets their reactions to his/ her behaviors, and develops a self-concept being based on those interpretations. Even if we misjudge others' reactions, the misjudgments become part of our self-concept (Henslin. et. al., 2013).

2.1.2: "Role Taking" by George Herbert Mead

George Herbert Mead, agreeing with Cooley, emphasized on the importance of play in development of a self. In play, one learns to take the role of others because of which he/she is able to understand and anticipate how others feel and think. According to Mead, children are first able to take only the role of significant others. Gradually they internalize the expectations of other people and eventually the entire group. Besides this, each one of us is expected to fulfill the requirement of social norms and values. These social norms and values are referred as

generalized other by Mead. The development of the self goes through three stages namely imitative stage, play stage and game stage. Furthermore, his formulation of the self as subject (the "I") and object (the "me") shows how socialization is an active process. (Berger & Luckmann, 1991). If a child is socialized by parents and significant others to develop pro-social values and skills, the child will tend to "fit-in" with the demands and expectations of the larger community and society (generalized other).

2.1.3: Jean Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development:

Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development has concluded that children develop the ability to reason in four general stages. The four stages as stated by Jean Piaget are sensorimotor stage (from birth to about age two), the preoperational stage (from about age two to age seven), the concrete operational stage (from about age seven to about age twelve) and the formal operational stage (after the age of about twelve) (Baron, 2015). His work acted to reinforce and add a new dimension to the socialization theories of Cooley and Mead.

2.2 Family as Primary Agent of Socialization:

Human beings learn to think, behave and act through agents of socialization. It is those agents that have much influences upon our self-concept, attitude and behavior of our life. The major agents of socialization include the family, the neighborhood, school, peer groups, day care, neighborhood and the work place (Henslin et al., 2013).

In humans, emotional needs are met primarily through bonding, the process of forming close personal relationships with other people such as the relationship between the parent and child. There are three major types of bonded relationships namely parent-child, cross gender (such as married couple) and same gender as typified by two close friends (Grusecs & Hastings, 2015). Amongst these, the parent-child relationship is most crucial for the development of a well-adjusted child.

From his analysis of 250 societies, Murdock argues that the family performs four basic functions in all societies. These universal functions he terms the sexual, reproductive, economic and educational. They are essential for social life since without the sexual and reproductive functions

there would be no members of society, without the economic function, for example the provision and preparation of food, life would cease, and without education, a term Murdock uses for socialization, there would be no culture. Human society without culture could not function. Clearly, the family does not perform these functions exclusively. However it makes important contribution to them all and no other institutions has yet been devised to match its efficiency in this respect. Once this is realized, Murdock claims, "The immense utility of the nuclear family and the basic reason for its universality thus begin to emerge in strong relief" (Haralambos & Heald, 2010).

While a deep and lasting socialization is often assumed to occur primarily in childhood, socialization does, of course, go on throughout the life span, as individuals enter new social settings where new patterns of social behavior may be needed. Many agents are involved in the socialization of an individual, but parents have been thought to be the primary agents responsible for the broad moral socialization of the growing child (Grusecs & Hastings, 2015).

Various sociologists have explained the direct relation between family and socialization. Citing on the examples of two females, aged two and eight, who were reportedly found in wolf den and walked in four limbs, preferred diet of raw meat and howled like wolves thus lacking any form of speech, they have explained on the need of prolonged interaction of children with adults for proper socialization (Haralambos & Heald, 2010).

"The egocentrism characteristics of the very young boy, quickly gives way to desire to become a part of the social group by putting up pro-tests when they are left alone for any length of time and by trying to win the attention of others in any way they can. One of the ways in which babies show their interest in becoming a part of the social group is by attachment behavior. Because they can count on the attention and affection of their mothers or mother substitutes more than on any other family members or outsiders, they develop strong emotional with their mothers long before babyhood comes to a close. It is from the satisfaction of this attachment behavior that he desire to establish warm and lasting relationship with other develops" (Hurlock, 2009).

American sociologists, more particularly functionalists, has put forwarded his views on the basic and irreducible functions of the family. As based on his analysis on the family on modern American society, he argues that American family has two basis and irreducible functions that are common to the family in all societies which he has specified as 'primary socialization of children' and the 'stabilization of adult personalities of the population of society'. 'Primary socialization refers to socialization during the early years of childhood which takes place mainly within the family. Secondary socialization occurs during the later years when the family is less involved and other agencies such as the peer group and the school exert increasing influence (Haralambos & Heald, 2010).

People are not born with an intrinsic knowledge of themselves or others. Rather, as the theoretical insights of Charles Horton Cooley, George Herbert Mead, and Jean Piaget demonstrate, they develop reasoning skills, morality, personality, and a sense of self through *social* observation, contact, and interaction (Henslin et al., 2013).

There are two basic processes involved in primary socialization: the internalization of society's culture and the structuring of the personality. Unless culture is internalized, society would cease to exist since without shared norms and values, social life would not be possible. However, culture is not simply learned, it is 'internalized as part of the personality structure'. The child's personality is moulded in terms of the central values of the culture to the point where they become a part of him. In the case of American society, his personality is shaped in terms of independence and achievement motivation which are two of the central values of American culture. Parson argues that families 'are "factories" which produce human personalities'. He believes they are essential for this purpose since primary socialization requires a context which provides warmth, security and mutual support. He can conceive of no institution other than the family which could provide this context. Once produced, the personality must be kept stable. This is the second basic function of the family, the 'stabilization of adult personalities' (Haralambos & Heald, 2010).

2.3 Deviance and Socialization:

The fundamental theorem of primary socialization theory is that normative and deviant behaviors are learned social behaviors, products of the interaction of social, psychological, and cultural characteristics, and that norms for social behaviors, including drug use, are learned predominantly in the context of interactions with the primary socialization sources.

Robert Merton's Anomie theory suggests that the disjunction between aspirations and opportunity for realizing aspirations produces pressure toward deviance. In order to adapt with the disjunction people show non-confirming behaviors that has been described as conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism and rebellion. The level of disjunction is higher in lower class as compared with middle and upper class. The lower-class people as like that of higher and middle class people hold higher aspirations for success. However the realization of aspirations to hold success is obstructed by the socially structured lack of opportunity. It is therefore the lower-class people experience greater level of aspirations-opportunity disjunction. This is to say that lower-class people are more likely to be pressured toward deviance (Thio, 1975).

Sutherland maintained that the family was a crucial variable in understanding delinquency. Those homes with extremely rigid discipline, extremely lax discipline, or inconsistent discipline are developing many children with personalities that are socially undesirable and inclined towards delinquency. Similarly, he emphasized on the social and other surroundings contribution toward deviance. He mentioned, "It is not the physical defect itself that produces delinquency, but the social and other conditions surrounding the defective person" (Laub & Sampson, 1991).

2.4: Review on Organizational Overlook of Child Care.

The quality of child care may have important consequences for the development of young children. The child development literature does not provide clear guidance on the threshold below which child care quality becomes a serious risk to the development of children. But it seems safe to conclude that low child care quality is potentially important concern in the private child care market in the U.S. The development of children might be significantly enhanced, providing benefits to them and society at large, only if children get to enroll in care centers

providing high-quality child care. However, the children in U.S. are deprived of it as they spend long hours away from their parents in unstimulating mediocre-quality child care (Blau, 2002).

The quality of child care depends on child care regulations. Insufficient regulation is sure to create problems in the quality and the excessive regulations might also be problematic. Though regulations help in improving the quality of care, it might affect on the availability and affordability of the care as well. It is therefore the policy makers should consider eliminating some local regulations, regulating more family day care homes, upgrading teacher-training requirements, allocating more resources to regulatory enforcement and designing enforcement agencies. The best regulations can contribute for avoiding market failures and offer young children much-needed support at critical times in their lives (Gormely, 1999).

Child care is regulated by the states in order to reduce the risk of harm to children from exposure to child care. Regulations require child care providers to be licensed or registered, and to meet minimum standards of safety, hygiene and structural features. Providers that fail to meet the minimum standards can be fined and denied a license to operate. The child care regulations impose only minimum rather than optimal standards. These regulations could have significant effects on the child care and labor markets. The strict regulations in some cases are associated with higher expenditure and lower quantity of day care; in other cases with lower expenditure and higher quantity. The labor supply of mothers of young children is reduced when child care regulations are strictly enforced. It is because of increase in expenditure that ultimately reduces the supply (Blau, 2003).

2.5: Review of Previous studies:

Various studies have been carried out in the sector of alternative care of children in different settings and in different countries of the world. A brief review on some of the related studies is as briefly summarized below;

Global Context:

There is a vast array of alternative care settings throughout the world. For the purposes of the *Guidelines*, they are divided into two basic types: those where an existing family is the care

provider, and those founded on a different care arrangement. Alternative care in an existing family under which kinship care, foster care and other family based care could be taken into account. Similarly, family-like care and residential care could also avail depending upon the situation arise after need assessment (Cantwell, et. al., 2012).

The study entitled "Keeping Children out of Harmful Institutions, Why we should invest on family based care" has strongly discouraged the stay of children in institutions. Citing the examples of various countries where children were harmed while staying in the institutions, the study has explained lack of political commitment, financial challenges, misconceived good intentions and children as commodities as the factors responsible for continuation of such institutions throughout the world. Children grown in such institutions are bounded to face developmental damage, abuse and exploitation, lack of good quality care and other social consequences. In order to ensure proper alternative care of children thus avoiding unnecessary institutionalization of children guiding principles accompanied by strict and straightforward implementation, supporting of children to be cared for by their own family, broader family strengthening activities, targeted care interventions, social protection, family based care alternatives and improving the standard of care in institutions are inevitable (Csáky, 2009).

Asia (Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Myanmar):

In the study conducted by UNICEF (2006) on the topic entitled "Alternative Care of Children without primary caregivers in Tsunami-affected countries, the forms of alternative care in practice existing in four countries i.e. Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Myanmar, has been broadly categorized as family-and community-based care programmes, residential care. Adoption, foster care, kinship care and guardianship are the various forms of care under family-and community based – care programmes. Various modalities have been tested in different countries to make alternative care, other than non-institutional care, as family support program, family/cottage care, foster care and resource mobilization strategy.

Nepal:

In order to assess on the situation of child care homes and the children staying at child care home, Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare (MOWCSW) along with SOS Village

Nepal (2011) has conducted a study in 10 districts of the country. The study has given emphasis on the need of family preservations along with promotion of family-based care should be promoted by the state in order demoralize the trend of speeding institutionalization of children. Cross-learning exposure, monitoring of residential child care homes and developing a vulnerability database are important equally to ensure that the children at child care homes are growing safely.

2.6 International Instruments:

2.6.1: United Nations on the Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC) (1989A.D.):

United Nations on the Convention on the Rights of Child that was declared on 20th November, 1989 has clearly stated about the provisions of alternative care for the children in need in its Article 20. Article 20 of the convention emphasized on the responsibility of the state to provide special protection and assistance to the child who is temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment. Even if the child's best interest cannot be allowed to remain the family, the state should be accountable for protection of such children followed by necessary assistance. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure alternative care for such children according to the prevailing laws of the state. Such alternative care could be in the forms of foster care, inter alia, adoption or child care homes during which child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background should be taken into high consideration.

The UNCRC has highlighted on the need of growth of children within his/her family. The preamble of the convention has stated that, "Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community." Similarly, for the children who are deprived of parental care, the grow-up of children should be done in a family environment.

2.6.2: United Nations (UN) Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (2010 A.D.):

UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children could be considered as the major guiding instruments for the implementation of Alternative Care of Children. The guideline has categorized the principles and perspective into two categories as the child & the family and Alternative Care. Under the section the child and the family, the guideline has discussed on how

important the family is to the child. The guidelines states that the family being the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth, well-being and protection of children, efforts should be made to ensure the stay of children with their parents and with closest family members wherever needed. In case of the situation of the family for not being capable of providing appropriate support to provide adequate care of the child, the state should take the responsibility for providing protection and ensuring the rights of child through providing proper form of alternative care. In doing so, the state could take the support of competent local authorities or authorized civil society organizations. In order to prevent the separation of children from their parents, state should support families whose care-giving environments are limited by various sectors such as disability, drug and alcohol misuse, discrimination against families with indigenous or minority backgrounds, and living in armed conflict regions or under foreign occupation. The state should also provide appropriate care and protection for the children who are at risks or prone to risks, such as abused and exploited children, abandoned, street, illegitimate, unaccompanied, internally displace and refugee and separated children. The children of migrant's workers, asylum seekers, children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and other serious illness should also be provided with appropriate care and protection by the state.

2.7 National Instruments:

2.7.1: The Constitution of Nepal 2072 B.S.

The Constitution of Nepal 2072 has guaranteed various rights to children. The various rights of children as guaranteed by the constitution have been listed under Article 39 of the constitution. The constitution has ensured the right to name and birth registration along with his/her identity. The children of the state have right to education, health, maintenance, proper care, sports, entertainment and overall personality development from the families and the state. Similarly, the constitution has ensured the right to elementary child development and child participation.

The constitution has considered employment of any children in any factory, mine or any other hazardous work as punishable act. Not only this, child marriage, illegal transportation, abduction, kidnapping, recruitment in army, police or any armed group are mentioned as illegal acts. The children are not to be subjected to physical, mental or any other form of torture in home, school or other place and situation according to the constitution. More importantly, clause 9 of article 39 of the Constitution of Nepal – 2072 has mentioned that the state is responsible for

taking care of helpless, orphan, with disabilities, conflict victim, displaced or vulnerable children.

2.7.2: Children's Act 2048 B.S.

Section 4 of National Children's Act 2048 B.S. (1992 A.D.) has emphasized on the need of parents' role and responsibilities as primary ones for upbringing of children. The act has specified that the parents are primary responsible for making arrangements to bring up their children thus providing education, health care, sports and recreation facilities as per the financial condition of the family. Not only this, the act has assigned the responsibility of administering vaccinations to their children thus saving from the different diseases they might suffer from. The state is specified as assisting body for the same.

For the children who are growing in the absence of their parents, the act has set up various provisions of alternative care. While setting such provisions, the act has been sensitive to the non-institutional alternative care thus prioritizing the kinship care at child welfare home. Sub-section 1 of the section 21 of the Act has described the responsibilities regarding taking care of orphaned children as;

If the Children Welfare Officer (CWO) or the Chief District Officer (CDO) is informed of the fact that a child does not have any relative of the same home to look after the child, the CWO or the CDO, as the case may be, shall make necessary arrangement for upbringing and maintenance of the child. In doing so, the child shall be, as far as practicable, given to the custody of nearest relative of the child. In case of non-availability of such a relative, the child may be given to any person or organization willing to take the custody for his maintenance and upbringing. In cases of non-availability of any relative, person or organization willing to take the child for his maintenance and upbringing, the child shall be referred to the nearest child welfare home.

2.7.3: National Child Policy 2069 B.S.

National Child Policy has been brought into action in 2069 B.S. by GoN. The policy is also found to be incorporating the issues associated with alternative care thus being concerned with the various forms of care under alternative care.

Paragraph 8.14 of the policy has mentioned that the children without parents or single parent who are not capable of ensuring right to life or abandoned children will be identified thus

maintain their records. The policy has also mentioned that in order to promote the care of children by their parents or relatives through conduction of family support (sponsorship), foster care, vocational training, income generation support and incentives for upbringing. Similarly, Paragraph 8.15 of the policy has stated that Institutional care through child care home will be promoted as the last resort and the existing minimum standards of operation of child care home will be improved as per time for effective implementation. Beside this, Paragraph 8.16 of the policy mentions that the families of abandoned and neglected children will be sought out through local government and other government and non-government organization. In case if the families of the children are found, the care of children within their families will be adopted as the way of caring children.

2.7.4: Standards for Operation and Management of Residential Child Care Homes 2069 B.S.

Within its rationale, the standard has prioritized the importance of family mentioning that the best place for upbringing of children is the family itself. The standard within its first standard under the chapter 2, entitled Entry Process and Admission Procedure, has described institutional care i.e. care at child care home as the last resort. The standard has specified that the children who are going to be admitted at child care home should be confirmed as those who are in the condition with need of special care and protection and there should be no possibilities of care and upbringing of those children in their family or joint family or relatives, to ensure which the child care home should receive/ gather concerned documents from District Administration Office (DAO), Village Development Committee and Municipality.

To sum up with, various national and international instruments have been formulated and implemented to ensure the proper alternative care of children. The data of CBS (2011) also shows that the high numbers of children of the country are in need of alternative care. Various studies on the alternative care have shown that there are practices where non-institutional care has worked well when promoted. The studies has also shown that the children growing at child care homes can encounter various problems ranging from being abused and tortured to improper socialization that has immense impact upon the lives of children growing in child care homes. In the situation where institutional care i.e. care at child care homes has been considered as the last option, the study will make attempts in finding the perception and practices of child care homes and the way child care homes are prepared or capacitated by the government so that the

government could receive support from institutions providing alternative care on promoting non-institutional alternative care.

2.8 Conceptual Framework:

The GoN has already emphasized on the non-institutional alternative care in its various policies and standards. It is therefore the responsibility of every related stakeholder to promote non-institutional alternative wherever applicable. In order to do so, the child care home could play important role in promoting non-institutional alternative care for which the child care home should be well acquainted with the concept of non-institutional alternative care accompanied by their practice for the promotion of the same. Prior admitting the children in their child care homes, the child care homes should seek for the possible areas of non-institutional alternative care.

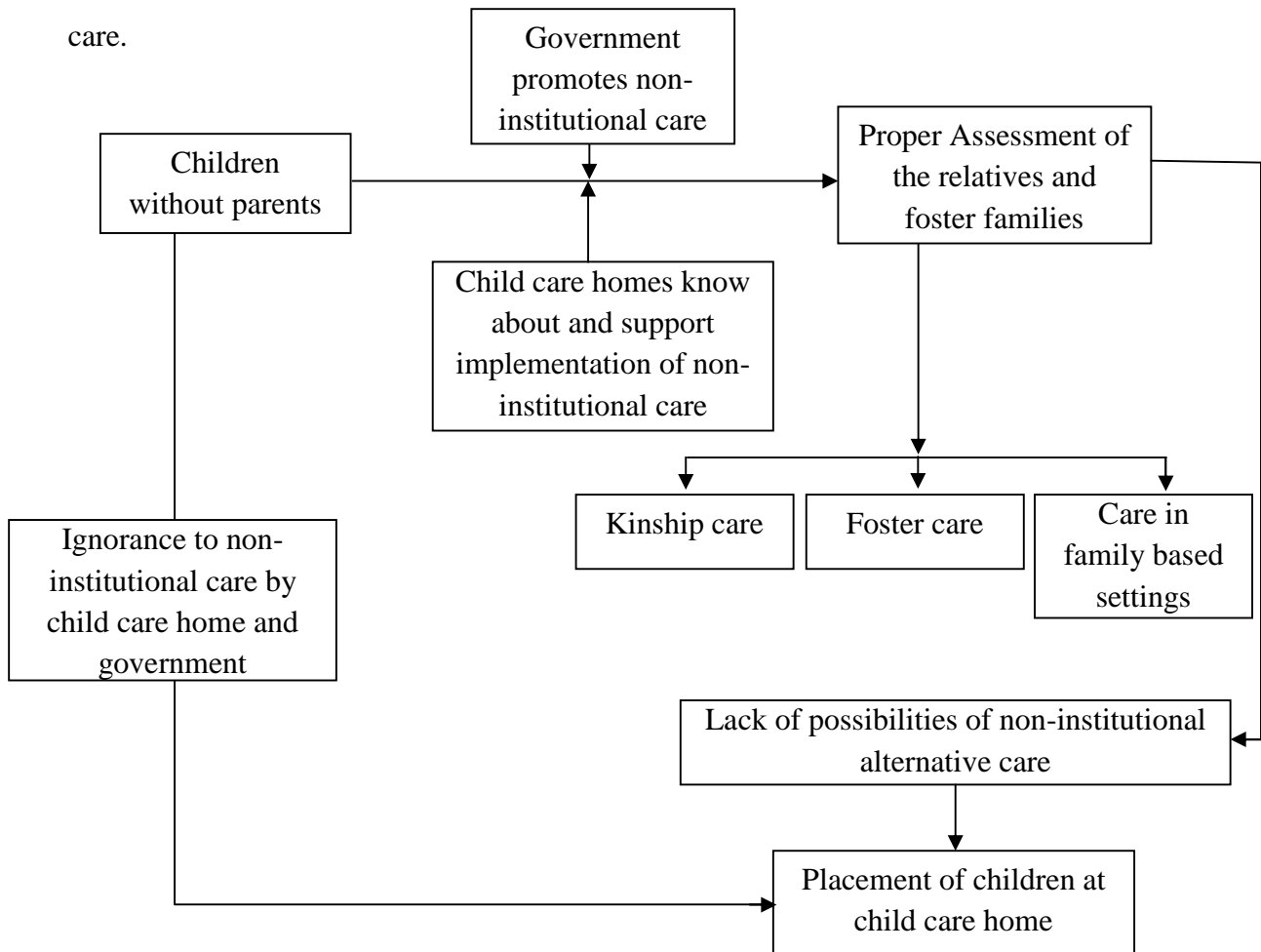


Fig: 2.1 Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER – III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses on the methodology followed in carrying out the study. More particularly, this chapter provides brief information on the reason for selection of the site for conducting the study. Similarly, the design of the study along with nature & source of data used and sampling method used are also discussed under this chapter. Nevertheless, data collection techniques and data analysis and presentation are also dealt with in this chapter.

3.1 Rationale of site selection:

According to CCWB (2072), there were 59 child care homes in Kaski out of 77 child care homes of Western Development Region. Similarly, around 70 percent of children staying at child care homes in W.D.R. are staying in child care homes of Kaski. However, there are 39 child care homes working in Kaski as per the data provided by Women and Children Office Kaski during the period of this study. It is therefore Kaski district was selected for the study because of having good number of child care homes in the district as compared to other districts of Western Development Region.

3.2 Research Design:

This study is descriptive as the research will make attempt to study the existing international and national instruments being formulated and implemented on alternative care. Being based on the international and national instruments apart from past studies on the issue of alternative care, the study will try to describe the practices and perceptions of child care homes of Kaski on alternative care other than non-institutional care. The information for description on the practices and perceptions of child care homes toward alternative care other than non-institutional care has been obtained from the data collected with the use of interview schedule developed for the study. Similarly, the study has made attempts to describe the sociological theories on socialization under which the agents of socialization and their roles are briefly explained. Not only this, the study has also discussed upon the personality development theories thus making attempts to describe the socialization process of and individual.

3.3: Nature and Source of Data:

The study has consulted with two kinds of data – Primary data and secondary data. The primary data was collected through the interview schedule developed for the collection of information on the perspective and perception of child care homes. Similarly, secondary data was collected from the studies conducted on the issues of informal care.

3.4: Sampling

The universe of the study was the child care homes of Kaski that are in operation in the district. A total of 39 child care homes was the universe of the study. The study has been done using availability sampling method under non-probability sampling. It was planned to include all the child care homes during the initiation of the study. All of the child care homes were approached for the study. However, some of the child care homes were not ready to participate in the study because of their internal policies. It is therefore information from the child care homes that were ready to contribute for the study were approached and consulted for the completion of the study. The study has consulted with 30 child care homes out of 39 child care homes in the district.

3.5: Data Collection techniques:

Interview: Interview was the technique used by the study to collect required information from the child care homes. A semi-structured interview schedule was developed with which various types of questions were used. Prior to the development of the interview schedule, sociological theories on socialization and personality development were studied apart from review of studies on national and global context in the area of institutional and non-institutional care. Open ended questions, close ended questions and multiple choice questions were included in the schedule to gather necessary information for the study. One of the key persons, especially either coordinator or president or founder member, of the child care homes were interviewed during the study.

3.6: Data Analysis and Presentation:

The collected data was processed and analyzed using computer application - Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS, version 16) for further analysis. The information extracted with the use of SPSS was then presented in tables, pie-charts and bar graphs for further analysis.

Similarly, the information collected with the use of interview was also used for qualitative analysis of the issue within the study.

3.7: Challenges of Data Collection:

Initially, it was planned to include all of the 39 child care homes for the study. Accordingly, all of the child care homes were approached with request for their contributions to the study. However, some of the child care homes were not ready to participate in the study because of their internal policies.

CHAPTER – IV

KNOWLEDGE & PERCEPTION OF CHILD CARE HOMES ON INFORMAL CARE

This chapter deals with the analysis on the findings and knowledge and perception of child care homes of informal care. As knowledge and perception of child care homes determines the practices of child care homes toward informal, the chapter focuses on analysis of findings on the knowledge and perception of child care homes. The scenario on child care homes in Kaski is also included in the first section of this chapter.

Scenario on Child Care Homes in Kaski

Kaski is one of the 77 districts of Nepal and lies on latitude of 28° 6' to 28° 36' and longitude of 83° 40' to 84° 12'. The altitude of the district ranges from 450 meter to 8591 meter above the sea level. Pokhara, the headquarter of the district, is one of the famous tourist areas of the country. Pokhara has been declared as headquarter of the state 4 of the country as well.

The population census of 2011 has recorded the total population of the country as 2, 64, 94, 504 and the average age of the population has found to be 24. This clearly shows that majority of the population of the nation is covered by children and youth. So far as the population of Kaski is concerned, the census of 2011 has shown 4, 92, 098 as the total population of the district. Out of this total population, 2, 01, 498 are children belonging to various age groups. Out of this total population, 37, 106 children are of the age group 0- 4 years, 47, 056 of age group 5-9 years, 58, 043 children of 10 – 14 years and 59, 293 children of the age group 15 – 19 years. Thus, the population of children is 40.94% in Kaski according to the census of 2011 which was 46.68% as per the census of 2001.

The total number of children staying in 77 child care homes of WDR as per the district, according to The State of Children in Nepal – 2072 by CCWB could be depicted in the table as shown below;

Districts	No. of CCHs.	Boy	Girl	Total
Lamjung	2	13	18	31
Palpa	1	15	14	29
Kapilvastu	1	22	0	22

Districts	No. of CCHs.	Boy	Girl	Total
Myagdi	1	4	6	10
Tanahun	2	12	12	24
Kaski	59	687	769	1456
Nawalparasi	3	122	93	215
Rupandehi	8	170	122	292
Total	77	1045	1034	2079

It is from the above given table, we can easily calculate the high percentage of children residing at child care homes of Kaski as compared to the other districts of W.D.R. Out of the total children staying at child care homes of W.D.R, 70 percent of children are staying at child care homes in Kaski. The scenario on increasing number of children at child care homes of Kaski could be depicted through the following table;

No. of Children \ Year	Year				
	2067	2068	2070	2071	2072
Girl	631	642	747	769	764
Boy	635	625	655	687	678
Total	1266	1267	1402	1456	1442

Source: The State of Children of Kaski – DCWB: 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072

Since there are many child care homes in Kaski as compared to other districts of western development region, children from other districts are also referred to child care homes of Kaski.

Knowledge and perception toward informal care:

In this chapter, analysis of data on perception of child cares homes on informal care has been done with the use of bar-graphs, pie-charts and tables. Primarily, the way child care homes understand the meaning of alternative care is analyzed in this chapter. This is accompanied by the analysis on the ways child care homes have perceived the informal care in context to Nepal. This chapter also comprises analysis about the awareness of child care homes regarding laws and

policies of the Government of Nepal on informal care. The views of child care homes on the status of implementation of existing laws and policies of the government on informal care are also analyzed in this chapter.

Analysis of the views on relevant informal care along with the reasons for relevance has been done in the chapter. Being based on their experiences, the child care homes have put forwarded their views about the relevant informal care in context to Nepal along with the reasons of their relevance. Similarly, the understanding of child care homes regarding most practiced form of informal care is also briefly analyzed. Apart from this, the interventions of the Government of Nepal to promote such widely practiced informal care are also discussed. Not only this, other interventions that should be brought about by the government are also discussed from the perspective of child care homes.

This chapter also deals with analysis of role of child care homes to promote informal care apart from brief analysis on the opportunities received by child care homes to enhance their knowledge and capacities so as to contribute for the promotion of informal care. Similarly, the views of child care homes on the aspects most supported when the children are grown up in family settings and institutional settings are also compared in this chapter.

4.1: Views on Informal Care:

Informal Care generally refers to the care of children who are without their parents, abandoned by the parents and are in immediate need of protection through kinship care, foster care and family based care. Prior to the decision for placement of children at child care home, the possibilities of stay of children primarily with parents should be taken into consideration. In case if stay of children with parents or relatives is not possible, the possibilities on stay of children with relatives of child should be taken into account. This should be accompanied by consideration on the possibilities of foster care, community based care and other forms of informal care that are available to the context. The views of child care home toward informal care should be crystal clear which will in turn ensure their contribution toward informal care.

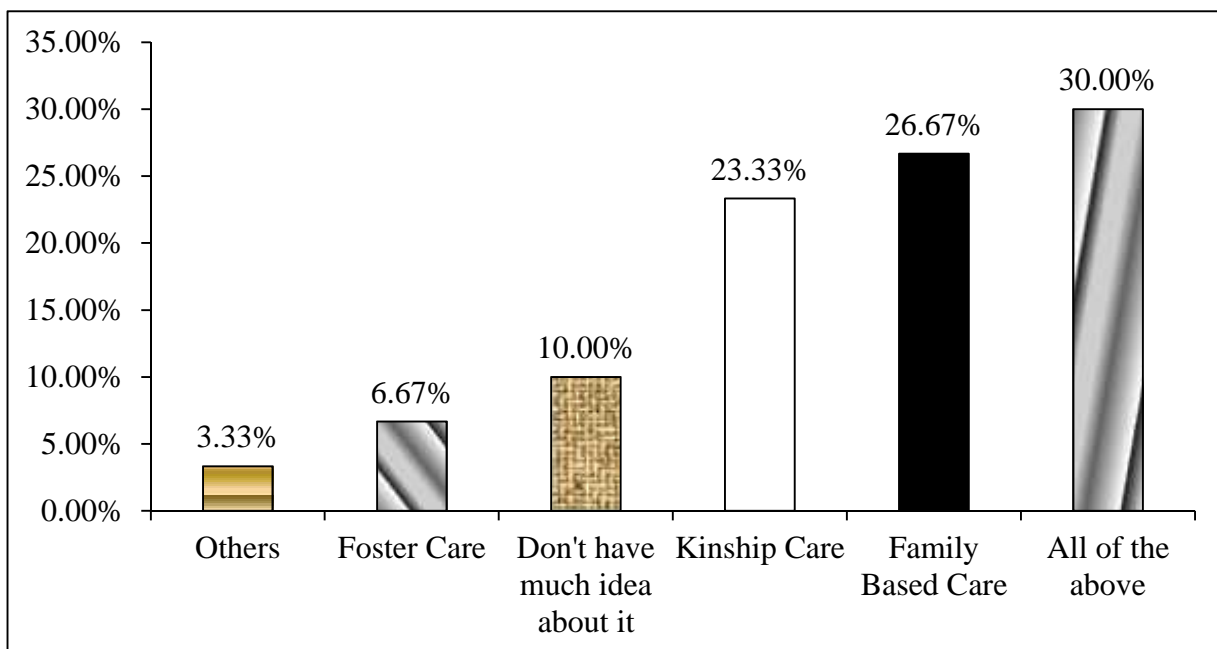


Fig 4.1: Views on Informal Care

Source: Field Survey, 2017

As depicted in the figure 4.1, 30 percent of the respondents mentioned that informal care means kinship care, foster care and family based care to them but 23.33 percent of the respondents said kinship care, 26.67 percent mentioned family based care, 6.67 percent of the respondents and 3.33 percent mentioned others (humanitarian assistance) as informal care. Only 10 percent said that they don't have much idea on informal care. This indicates that significantly high numbers of child care homes are partly or completely aware of informal care. But there are still a few child care homes that are not yet aware about the informal care.

4.2: Situation of Informal Care in Nepalese Context:

In context to Nepal, out of various forms of informal care, especially, kinship care, family based care and foster care, kinship care is widely practiced. The data of latest census show that around 50,000 children of Nepal are staying with their relatives. Foster care has also been initiated to practice in which there is maximum involvement and decisions of concerned government authority. This type of care is also in existence at community level about which the government authorities might not always be aware of. Family based care is also initiated by some organizations who are working on the promotion of informal care in the Nepalese communities.

Table 4.1: Views on situation of informal Care in Nepal

Situation	Number	Percentage
Conceptualized but not in action	23	76.67
Bad	4	13.33
Good	3	10.00
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table 4.1, it is clear that majority of the respondents with 76.67 percent reported that the informal care in Nepal has been conceptualized but has not been into action. Very few respondents have mentioned that the situation of informal care is bad and the least percentage (10 percent) of respondents have mentioned the situation as good. It is therefore can be concluded that informal care is in concept but not in action. Negligible numbers of child care homes have stated that the situation of informal care is good and similar is the case for the respondents mentioning that the situation of informal care is bad.

4.3: Existence of policies and laws on informal care:

Nepal ratified the Convention on Rights of the Children (CRC) on 14th September, 1990 and United Nations formulated a guideline on alternative care. As Nepal has ratified the convention on CRC, the guideline developed in line should also be followed by the Government of Nepal. This is to say that Nepal should work in accordance with the provisions as stated in guideline. Though there is not separate policy of the government regarding alternative care, the issues of alternative care are addressed in Child Policy of the Government that was formulated and put it into action in 2012 A.D. The concerns of guideline are hugely reflected in the Minimum Standards for Operation of Child Care Homes that also came into action since 2012 A.D.

Table 4.2: Views on Existence of laws and policies

Existence of Laws and Policies	Number	Percentage
Yes	26	86.67
No	2	6.67
Don't know	2	6.67
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The table 4.2 shows most of the respondents (86.67 percent) mentioning that Government of Nepal have formulated laws and legislations related to informal care. Only very few (6.67 percent) respondents have mentioned that there are not any laws and policies on informal care. As significantly high numbers of respondents have mentioned that the GoN has formulated laws and policies on informal care, it can be analyzed that the child care homes are aware of the informal care and the government's priority toward informal care.

4.4: Implementation of existing laws and policies:

As stated earlier, GoN has ratified CRC and UN has developed guideline on alternative care. As Nepal has ratified the CRC, it becomes obligation to Nepal to follow the guideline. This is to say that Nepal should work in accordance with the provisions as stated in guideline. Though there is not separate policy of the government regarding alternative care, the issues of alternative care are addressed in Child Policy of the Government that was formulated and put it into action in 2012 A.D. The concerns of guideline are hugely reflected in the Minimum Standards for Operation of Child Care Homes that also came into action since 2012 A.D.

Table 4.3: Views on Situation of Implementation of existing laws and policies

Situation regarding Implementation of Policy	Number	Percentage
Formulated policy is gradually reaching to the working area	14	53.85
Exists in policy level (document) but has not reached in the working area	6	23.08
Policies are formulated but not implemented	5	19.23
Others	1	3.85
Total	26	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Out of the respondents who mentioned that Government of Nepal has formulated laws and policies on informal care, significant percentage (53.85) of them mentioned that the formulated policy is gradually reaching to the working area. Similarly, 23.08 percent mentioned that the policy exists in the document only, 19.23 percent mentioned that the policies are formulated but not implemented and 3.85 percent mentioned others.

From this, it can be analyzed that the formulated policy is not well implemented as significantly high percentage of the respondents mentioned that the formulated policy is gradually reaching to the working area, exists in policy level but has not reached and policies are formulated and not implemented.

4.5: Capacity Building of Child Care Homes on Informal Care:

In order to make sure that the child care homes also contribute for proper implementation of informal care in their contexts, it is inevitable that Government of Nepal provides platform for discussion, training and orientation on informal care. Such training, discussion and orientation could help the child care homes learn about the existing policies on informal care, context of such care and the ways they can contribute in promoting informal care. The opportunity to participate in training, orientation and discussion programs on informal care will shape better understanding of child care homes toward informal care which in turn will ensure their contribution for the promotion of informal care.

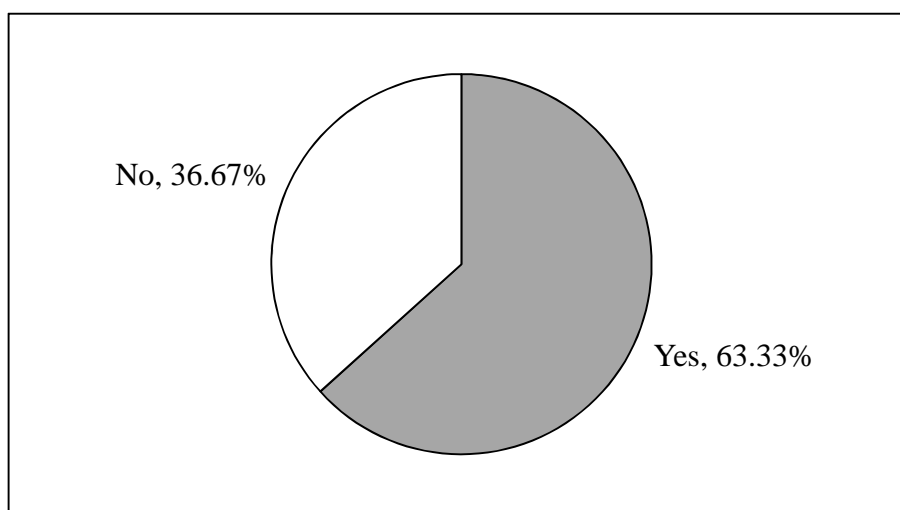


Fig 4.2: Participation on Programs on Informal Care

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the figure 4.2, it is clear that significantly high percentage of the respondents mentioned that they have been provided with opportunities to participate in programs (training, orientation and discussion session) on informal care. However, the percent of the respondents mentioning that they have not got any opportunities to participate in any programs related to informal care is not negligible enough. Of the participants who mentioned that they have participated in program related to informal care, majority of them said that they participated in the programs organized by District Child Welfare Board. A few of the participants also mentioned that Child Central Welfare Board and Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Center organized such programs targeting the child care homes. This indicates that government authorities need to provide training or orientation to all of the child care homes.

4.6: Informal Care in Practice:

The data of latest census show that around 50,000 children of Nepal are staying with their relatives. This clearly depicts that kinship care exists in Nepal and is widely practiced all across the country. Apart from kinship care, other forms of informal care especially foster care, community based cares are also in existence. Foster care has also been initiated to practice in which there is maximum involvement and decisions of concerned government authority. This type of care is also in existence at community level about whom the government authorities might not always be aware of.

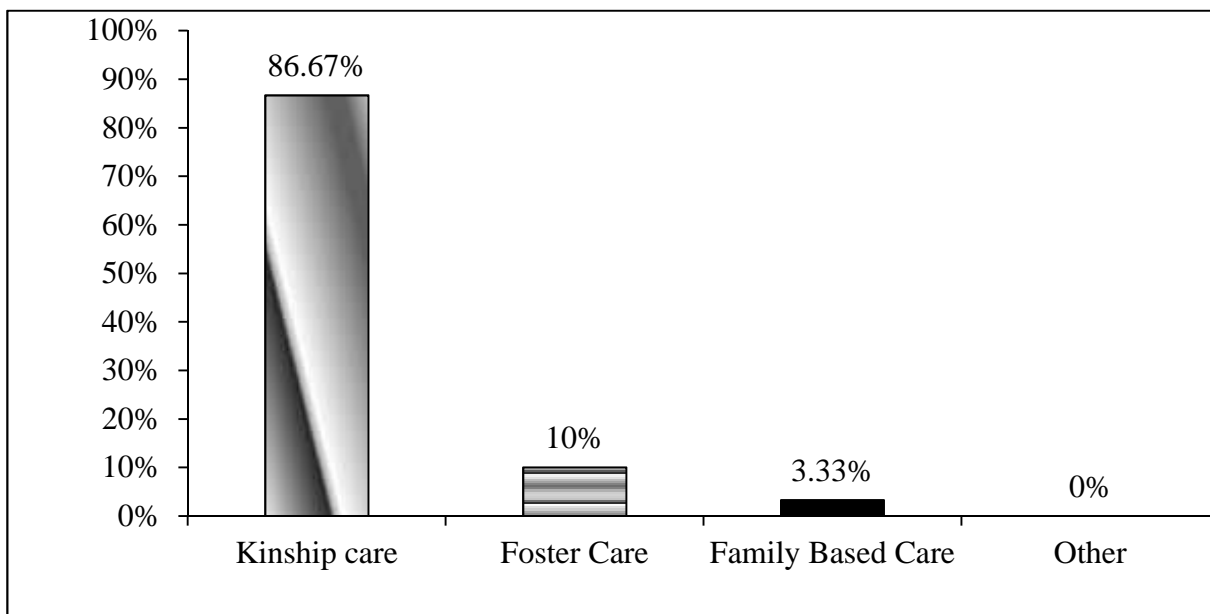


Fig 4.3: Views on types of informal care in practice in Nepal

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Regarding the types of informal care in practice in context to Nepal, the figure 4.3 shows that kinship care is widely practiced in context to Nepal as compared to foster care, family based care and other forms of informal care because most of the respondents (86.67 percent) have mentioned kinship care as the widely practiced care in context to Nepal.

4.7: Government's effort on promotion of informal care in practice:

As mentioned earlier, various forms of informal care exists in Nepal for the care of children who are without parents are in need of immediate protection. Among the various forms of informal care, kinship care, foster care and community based care are more noticed and widely discussed. Though foster care requires involvement of concerned authority of the government for assessment of the family and provides legality to the family to take care of child to be kept into foster care, the role of government has not been clear in terms of kinship care and also in community based care. It is necessary that the involvement of government is ensured in all forms of informal care and the most relevant care is more promoted by the government through various ways.

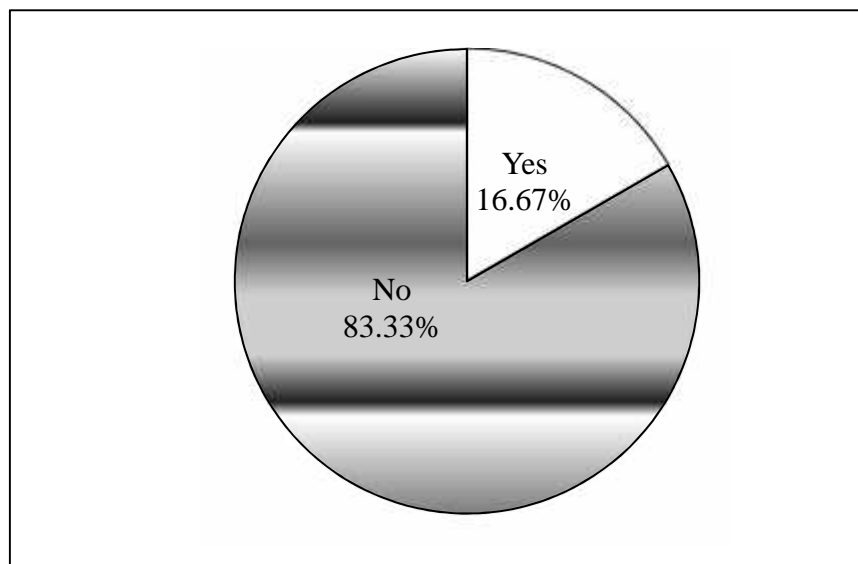


Fig 4.4: Views on Government's effort on promotion of Informal Care in Practice

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The figure 4.4 suggests that the effort of Government of Nepal for the promotion of various forms of informal care in practice is negligible. It is therefore much more needs to be done from the side of the government as majority of respondents mentioned that the GoN has not done any effort to promote various forms of existing informal care.

The respondents also stated that Government of Nepal has formulated policy on informal care which should be considered as the effort of the Government toward promoting informal care. Felicitations to the people providing kinship care or foster care, awareness and capacity building of concerned groups and programs conducted targeting mothers are the efforts made by the government to promote informal care as said by the respondents.

4.8: Various government interventions to promote informal care:

The Government of Nepal could come up with various interventions to promote informal care. The promotion of informal care will ultimately reduce the number of children to be placed at child care homes. In another word, the promotion of informal care by the government could be understood as one of the attempts toward making institutional care as last resort.

Table 4.4: Interventions of Government to promote informal care

Role of Government	Number	Percentage
Formulated policy should be well implemented with resource allocation and structure development	15	60.00
Awareness and make relatives accountable	2	8.00
Community targeted program should be launched	2	8.00
Social Mobilization	2	8.00
Free education and priority in employment	1	4.00
Local Government should be made active on this aspect	1	4.00
Support for education support and basic needs	1	4.00
Those who cannot be rehabilitated in society should be brought to child care home	1	4.00
Total	25	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table 4.4 it is clear that 60 percent of the respondents mentioned that formulated policy should be well implemented with resource and structure. 8 percent said Government should raise awareness and make relatives accountable, another 8 percent said community targeted program should be launched and another 8 percent mentioned about social mobilization. Similarly, 4 percent of the respondents said that free education and priority in employment to the children grown up in institutional care and informal care and 4 percent said local government should be made active on informal care. 4 percent of the respondents said that the government should support for education support and basic needs and 4 percent said only needy children should be brought into child care homes. From this, it can be analyzed that government should focus more on implementation of the formulated policies along with allocation of resources and development of necessary structures.

4.9: Most Relevant Informal Care:

Considering the economic, social, cultural, religious and diversities of the communities of Nepal, the most relevant informal care for Nepal should be identified. The best informal care that suits Nepalese context should be identified and promoted accordingly.

Table 4.5: Relevant Informal Care in Nepal and reasons for relevance

Reasons	Kinship Care		Foster Care		Family Based Care		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Ownership, similar culture, safety, real care, concerned about future and social responsibility	24	80.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	24	80.00
Cost effective and grow-up in own environment	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.33	1	3.33
Family Environment	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.33	1	3.33
Foster care is practiced only after the study of families	0	0.00	1	3.33	0	0.00	1	3.33
Not all the relatives are sensible	0	0.00	1	3.33	0	0.00	1	3.33
As relatives have their own children proper care could not be done by the relatives	0	0.00	1	3.33	0	0.00	1	3.33
To avoid lack of parents	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.33	1	3.33
Total	24	80.00	3	9.99	3	9.99	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The table 4.5 shows that Kinship care as most relevant in context to Nepal because Kinship Care ensures ownership, real care, safety and child can get similar culture to grow up. Not only this, relatives are much more concerned about the family of child and it becomes the social responsibility of relatives, after the family, to take care of the children.

9.99 Percent of the respondents mentioned that foster care is more relevant in Nepalese context because family is studied in details prior finalizing foster care. Similarly, some respondents mentioned that kinship care is not good as the all of the relatives are not sensible and the relatives have their own children to look after. 9.99 percent of the respondents mentioned that family based care is more relevant in Nepalese context because this type of care ensures family environment, don't let children feel lack of parents and is also cost effective. It is therefore it could be analyzed that kinship care is the most relevant informal care in context to Nepal.

4.10: Role of Child Care Homes in promotion of Informal Care:

Of course, the role of government plays major role in promoting various forms of informal cares in the country. However, the role of child care homes cannot also be underestimated regarding promotion of informal cares of children. The most important role of child care homes could be while deciding for the placement of child care homes. Beside this, the child care homes could also support the government in raising awareness in the communities, support in social mobilization and also provide direct support to the families or relatives rather than providing services by keeping the children at child care homes.

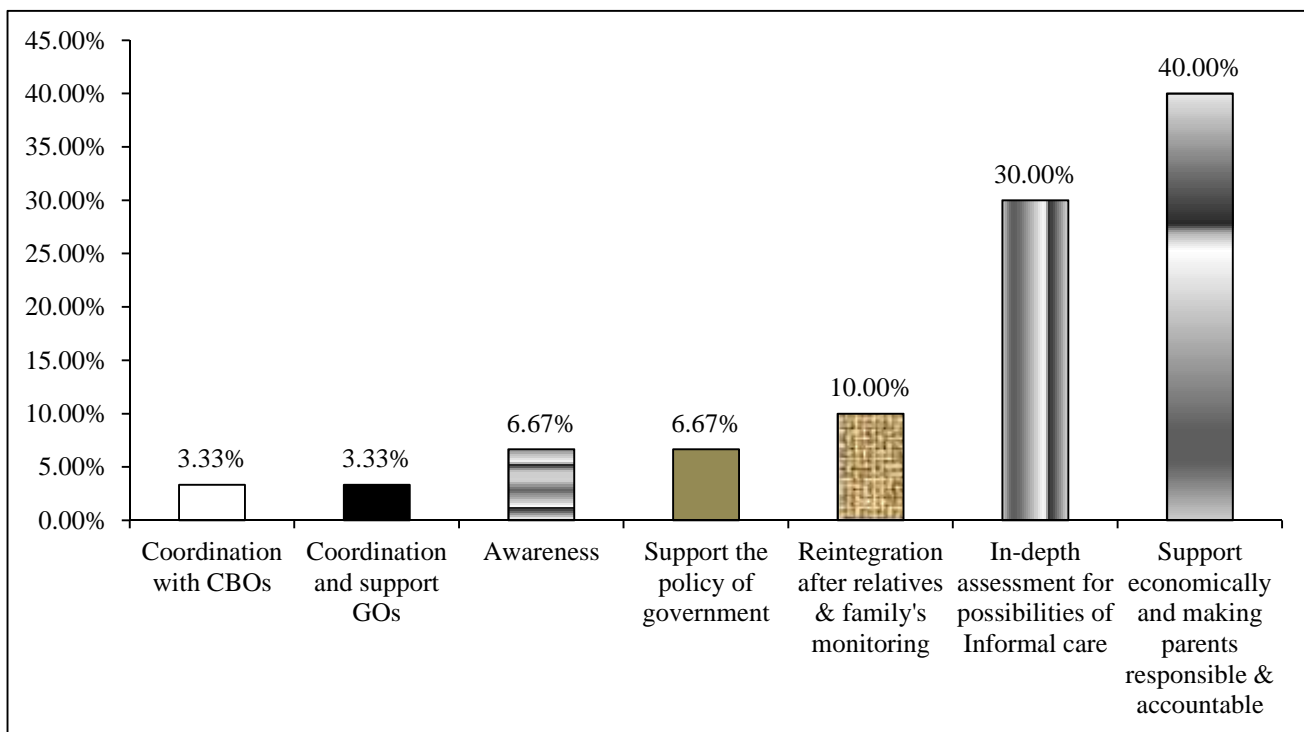


Fig 4.5: Role of Child Care Homes in Promotion of Informal Care

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The figure 4.5 shows that child care homes could contribute for the promotion of informal care in many ways. Significant percentage of respondents (40 percent) mentioned that they should support economically and make parents responsible to toward their children. Similarly, remarkable percent of respondents i.e. 30 percent said that CCHs should carry out in-depth assessment of families and relatives of children who are recommended for the placement at child care homes. Besides this, they can promote informal care by supporting the policy of government, raising awareness, coordinating and supporting GOs and coordinating with CBOs.

4.11: Settings and Grow up of Children:

The grow-up of children and the environment in which they are grown have much more influences upon their lives. It is obvious that the children learn many things from the individuals around them and from the environment or settings in which they are grown up. Various aspects such as education, socialization, health, discipline, moral behavior and many other aspects are influenced and shaped by the environment in which they are grown up.

Table 4.6: Views on Aspects most supported in institutional and family settings

Aspects	Institutional Care		Family or Family like Environment	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Education	24	80.00	1	3.33
Socialization	2	6.67	29	96.67
Discipline	4	13.33	0	0.00
Health	0	0.00	0	0.00
Others	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Majority of the respondents mentioned that the growth up of children in institutional care supports more to the educational aspect of the child. 13.33 percent of the respondents mentioned that discipline of the child is much more supported whereas 6.67 percent of the respondents mentioned that socialization is much supported.

Similarly, vast majority of the respondents (96.67 percent) mentioned that the socialization of child is supported more than any other aspect when the children are grown up in family or family like environment. Similarly, 3.33 percent of the respondents mentioned that the educational (academic) aspect of the child is much supported.

Studies of feral, isolated and institutionalized children indicate that although nature plays a role in the human equation, it is society that makes people human. People learn what it means to be and, consequently, become members of the human community through language, social interaction and other forms of human contact (Henslin et. al. 2013). It is therefore the study has come up with the findings in line with sociological theories on socialization.

CHAPTER – V

PRACTICES OF CHILD CARE HOMES ON INFORMAL CARE

This chapter deals with the practices of child care homes on informal care. Beginning with the duration on the services provided by the child care homes to the children in need along with the nature of children with regard to the situation of presence and absence of parents or relatives, the chapter is basically concerned on the practices of delivering services to the children in need which are in one way or other related with informal care of children.

This chapter deals with the ways the child care home receive children in recent days thus comparing the trend in the past days, especially before the minimum standards of operation came into action. The comparison is done to identify if the child care homes have brought changes on the ways of receiving children at child care homes. The source through whom the children are received influence the informal care in many ways. Similarly, the chapter also shows concern on the nature of children received by child care home from the perspective of presence or absence of parents or relatives thus making attempts to identify whether the practices are friendly toward informal care or not. Similarly, the aspects, especially age of the children, absence or presence of parents, economic situation and other related aspects, which are considered by child care homes while admitting the children in their child care homes, are also described in this chapter.

Other factors such as minimum age of admission and maximum age of admission of children set by child care homes is also a portion of this chapter. The frequency of visits by relatives or guardian of children at child care homes along with the number of days are also briefly discussed in this chapter. This chapter also consists of analysis on the attempts toward informal care made by child care homes along with the discussion on the results of their attempts. Not only this, an attempt has been made to identify the reasons of failures of the attempts apart from the challenges encountered by child care homes in promoting various forms of informal care. A brief analysis on whether the child care homes carry out assessment of the family or relatives of children or not prior to admitting the children has been also done in this chapter.

5.1: Period of Service by Child Care Homes

The duration of service provided by child care home might determine the effectiveness of the services provided to the children staying at child care homes. As they are much more acquainted to the nature of children and more familiar with the behavior of many children arriving to them during their long period of service, they can prepare themselves for better and proper services as compared to the newly established ones. Not only this, the child care homes working for longer period of time can also be more familiar with the laws and policies of the government as compared to the new ones.

Table 5.1: Years of Operation of Child Care Homes

Years of Operation	Number of Respondents	Percentage
0-5	2	6.67
6-10	16	53.33
11-15	6	20.00
16-20	4	13.33
20-25	1	3.33
Above 26	1	3.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

More than fifty percent of the respondents (53.33 percent) mentioned that they are in operation within the period of 6 to 10 years. But 20 percent of the respondents said that they are in existence since 11 to 15 years whereas 13.33 percent respondents informed that they are working for the long term residential care to children in need within period of 16 to 20 years.

The table 5.1 indicates that only 6.67 percent of child care homes were formed after the Government of Nepal formulated child policy and minimum standards for operations of child care homes in 2012. From this, it can be analyzed that majority of child care homes were established prior to the formulation of national child policy and minimum standards for the operation of child care homes. It is therefore could be analyzed that majority of child care homes are well-experienced in terms of their service as they receive trainings and participate in discussion sessions organized by government and non-government organization. They are monitored more, at least a year by the government officials, thus giving more spaces for improvement. However, as they were established prior to the formulation of related policies, it is necessary to inform, train and support in the way that the policies are followed and standards are met.

5.2: Trend of Receiving Children at Child Care Home

Children might arrive to child care home through various sources. Prior to formulation of child policy and minimum standards for operation of child care homes, the monitoring system of child care homes was not as it is nowadays. It is because the minimum standard has set out the criteria of monitoring and compulsion to monitor at least once a year by the concerned authority of the Government. The sources through whom children came to child care home is one of the most important aspects to be taken into consideration as not all the sources are accountable and responsible to children. Besides this, not all sources could be aware of child rights to the level to distinguish the children requiring residential care.

Table 5.2: Sources of receiving children before 5 years and at recent times

Sources (Ways of receiving children)	Before 5 years		Within last 5 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Referral by community along with VDC recommendation	20	66.66	0	0.00
Referral through organization	3	10.00	0	0.00
Identification of children through community visits	3	10.00	0	0.00
Along with recommendation of VDC received through organizational and personal connections	2	6.67	0	0.00
All children used to come through DCWB	2	6.67	30	100.00
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The table 5.2 shows that 100 percent of the respondents reported that all of the children coming to them are referred through District Child Welfare Board within the last 5 years. However, the scenario seemed different before 5 years.

One third of the respondents mentioned that they used to receive children through communities along with recommendation letter of VDC whereas very few through various organization, organization and personal connection and community visits each This clearly indicates the changing trend of receiving children by child care homes in the recent years as all of the children come through DCWB within last 5 years. The influence of minimum standards for operation of child care homes, which was implemented from 2012 onwards, could easily be noticed through this finding.

5.3: Existence of family members/ relatives:

The placement of children at child care home should be considered as the last option as specified in guideline of UN on alternative care. Prior to the initiation of placement process of any children, the concerned individual or authority should seek for the placement of children with relatives, foster families or support the family in case if the cause of withdrawal of the child from the family is poverty.

Table 5.3: Situation on existence of family/relatives of children

Situation	Before 5 years		Within last 5 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Children without both parents	9	30.00	8	26.66
Children with single parents	6	20.00	6	20.00
Abandoned Children	3	10.00	5	16.67
Neglected Children	3	10.00	5	16.67
Poor	4	13.33	1	3.33
Sexually abused or at risk of being abused	3	10.00	3	10.00
Others	2	6.67	2	6.67
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The table 5.3 shows that the children without both parents account highest percentage in the past and recent time as well which is followed by the children with single parents. Abandonment and negligence toward children has been observed to slightly increasing in the recent years. Sexual abuse and risk of being abused account same percentage as the situation that drives children to child care homes.

Decrease in the percentage under poverty is appreciable. This suggests that poverty is less prioritized by child care homes in the recent days while bringing children to child care homes. This is to say that the children are not withdrawn from their families because of poverty which should be continued in the days to come as well. Slight increase in the abandonment and negligence of children suggest on the immediate need of interventions on family thus making them accountable and responsible. However, there has not been any change in the number under sexual abuse which is because of the fact that there are 3 child care homes that have been providing services to the sexually abused children.

5.4: Reason for Placement of Children at Child Care Home

There might be various reasons of departure of children from their families but the withdrawal of children from family or family like environment for their placement at child care home should be taken seriously. All possible measures should be taken toward the stay of children with their families, nearest relatives and community based care. In case if the above conditions could not be met, the placement of children at child care home should be taken into account as the last resort and to the shortest duration possible.

Table 5.4: Reasons for Arrival of Children at Child Care Homes

Reasons	Before 5 years		Within last 5 years	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Death of parents	7	23.33	8	26.67
Abandoned by parents	5	16.67	5	16.67
Having single parents	4	13.33	5	16.67
Poor	4	13.33	4	13.33
Having step parents	3	10.00	1	3.33
Neglect by parents	3	10.00	3	10.00
Sexual Abuse	1	3.33	1	3.33
Others	3	10.00	3	10.00
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The table 5.4 suggests that the major reason for arriving children at child care homes is the death of the parents. Abandoned by parents is the second major reason which is followed by having single parents. Poverty accounts fourth reason for bringing children into child care homes. Besides having step parents, neglect by parents and sexual abuse, there are few other reasons that led to the admission of children into child care homes.

According to the minimum standards set by the government, death of parents and sexual abuse could be the acceptable reasons for bringing children to child care homes. Abandonment, having single parent and poverty should not be accepted as such as reason for arrival of children at child care homes. It is therefore child care homes should keep on refusing admission of children who

are abandoned, have single parent or are poor. Similarly, the state should concentrate on making families accountable and responsible toward their children.

5.5: Criteria for Admitting Children at Child Care Homes

Prior admitting children at child care homes, it is important that the child care homes set criteria for admission of children in their care homes. Not all child care homes could be well equipped and managed with human resources to handle children with disabilities, abused children and infants.

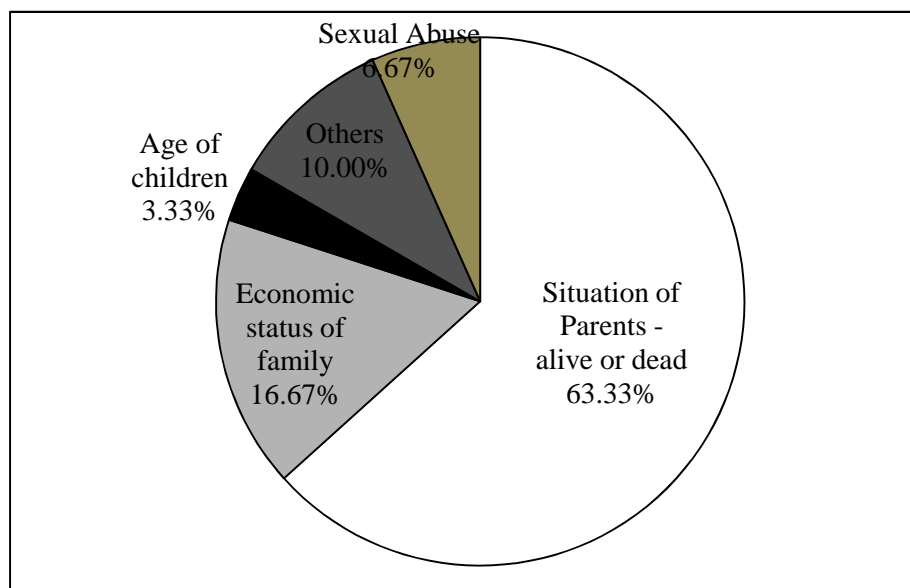


Fig 5.1: Aspects considered first prior admitting children at child care home

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Majority of respondents with 63.33 percent mentioned that situation of parents – alive or dead is the most important criterion for them while admitting children in their child care homes. They give priority for the children whose both parents are not alive. Economic status of the family is given priority by 16.67 percent of child care homes. 6.67 percent consider sexually abuse or risk of being abused children whereas 3.33 percent of respondents mentioned about age of children as first criterion looked after during admission of children. 10 percent of the respondents reported that they consider other factors (especially absence of parents and relatives and situation of risks to which child is subjected to) with priority during admission of children in their child care home.

5.6: Age as an important factor:

Research (UNICEF, 2010) has demonstrated that young children who are institutionalized during the first 6 months of their lives suffer long-term developmental delay, leading to a greater probability of antisocial behavior and mental health problems. It is therefore age is one of the most important factors to be taken into consideration while making decisions for the placement of children at child care homes.

Table 5.5: Minimum and Maximum Age for Admission of children

Minimum Age for Admission			Maximum Age for Admission		
Age Group	Number	Percentage	Age Group	Number	Percentage
0-3	12	40.00	7-10	17	56.67
4-6	16	53.33	11-13	2	6.66
7-10	2	6.67	14-16	6	20.00
			17-18	5	16.67
Total	30	100.00		30	100.00
Mean = 3.90, Mode= 5, S.D. = 1.95			Mean = 12.17, Mode= 10, S.D.= 3.72		

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the table 4.5 it is clear that remarkable percent i.e. 40 percent of the respondents reported that the minimum age of admission in their child care home is in between 0 to 3 years and more than fifty percent reported as 4 to 6 years. The mean for minimum age for admission has been reported to be 3.90 with mode 5 and standard deviation 1.95. Similarly, more than fifty percent of the respondents reported that the maximum age of children for admission in their child care home is in between 7 years and 10 years, only 6.67 percent of the respondents have reported 11 to 13 years, 20 percent have reported 14 to 16 years and 16.67 percent have reported 17 to 18 years as the maximum age. The mean for maximum age for admission has been 12.17 with mode 10 and standard deviation 3.72.

From the data given above, it could be analyzed that the child care homes are not aware of the fact that placement of children below age of 3 years in child care homes is detrimental as 40 percent of the child care homes have stated 0 – 3 years as minimum age of admission. It is therefore that the concerned government authority should sensitize child care homes on this aspect.

5.7: Continuous meet-ups between children and guardian/ relatives:

Continuous communication and contact between the guardian and relatives of the children who are staying at child care homes can contribute in strengthening the relationship of the children with their parents or guardian even though they stay at child care homes. Not only this, this will ease the reunification process of children with their families and relatives after they need to come out of child care homes as the continuous visit of parents/ relatives helps to maintain the attachment of children with their parents/ relatives.

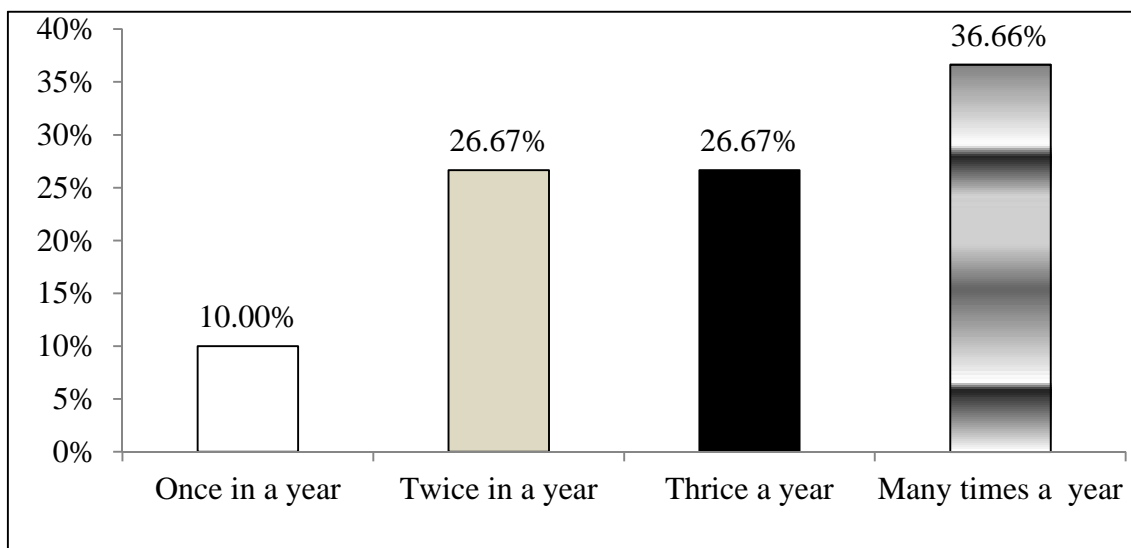


Fig 5.2: Frequency of visits to children by guardian or relatives

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The table 5.2 shows that many of the respondents informed that the parents or relatives of children staying at their child care homes visit children many times a year. Only a few respondents mentioned that the children are visited only once in a year by their families or relatives. The respondents also mentioned that the frequency of visit could increase when the child is sick, hospitalized or there are any other related reasons. The respondents also informed that the children from distant places are least visited by the parents. Almost all of the respondents also said that the parents, guardians or relatives who are available to communicate through telephone have weekly conversation with children.

From this data, it could be analyzed that the practices of child care homes are in favor of promoting informal care as they are trying their best to maintain regular communication with their parents and relatives. This will help them to reintegrate children with their families or relatives.

5.8: Stay of Children with their families and relatives:

Though the children stay at child care homes because of various reasons, the necessity of their stay with their families and relatives can contribute in various ways. It is therefore the child care homes should try their best to make sure that the children stay with their guardians or relatives during festival vacations and academic vacations. Such step will not only help in increasing the attachment of children with their families but also help in making them aware about the families and communities they belong to. The more children stay with their families, the more is the support they receive in their socialization process. It is because that family plays an important role and is the primary agent of socialization. This step could be understood as a preparation toward reunification of children with their families and relatives in a long run.

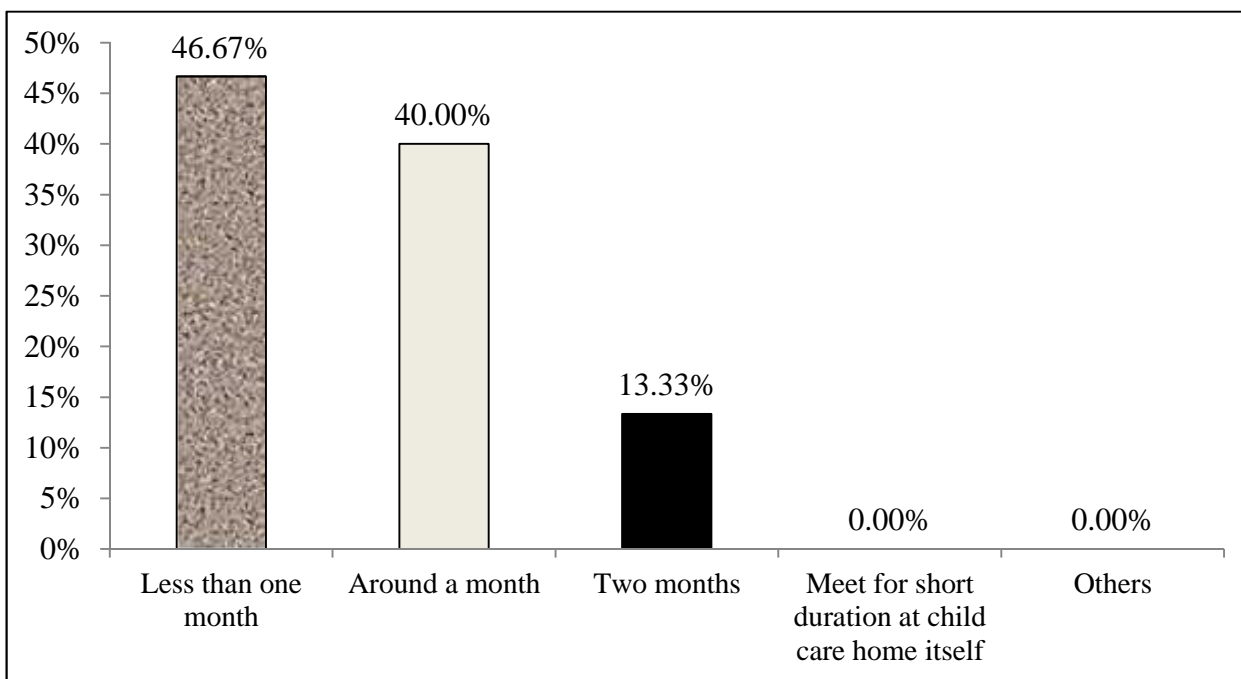


Fig 5.3: Duration of Stay of Children with their families or relatives

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Significant percentage of respondent i.e.46.67 percent said that the children staying at their child care homes spent less than one month with their parents or relatives in one year. Similarly, 40 percent of the respondents informed that their children stay around a month with their families and relatives whereas 13.33 percent of the respondents mentioned that the children staying at their child care homes spent around two months with families or relatives in a year.

This indicates that majority of children does not spend more than a month with their families and relatives. The child care homes should try to extend the duration of stay to the maximum level possible which in turn might contribute in making reintegration process easier. Apart from easing the integration process easier, this will contribute to bring about the role of family into action for socializing the children.

5.9: Assessment of Presence of Family or Relatives of Child:

Prior to the admission of children at child care homes, it becomes the responsibility of child care home and the concerned authority of the government, more particularly District Child Welfare Board, to make sure about the presence of family or relatives of child. In case of presence of families/ family members, attempts should be made to create environment where child stays with the family. In case of absence of parents, the relatives of children should be sought out thus seeking possibilities of grow-up of children with their relatives. In case if all of the options are not available to the child, the child should be placed at child care home as a last resort. The placement of child at child care home should be made as short as possible.

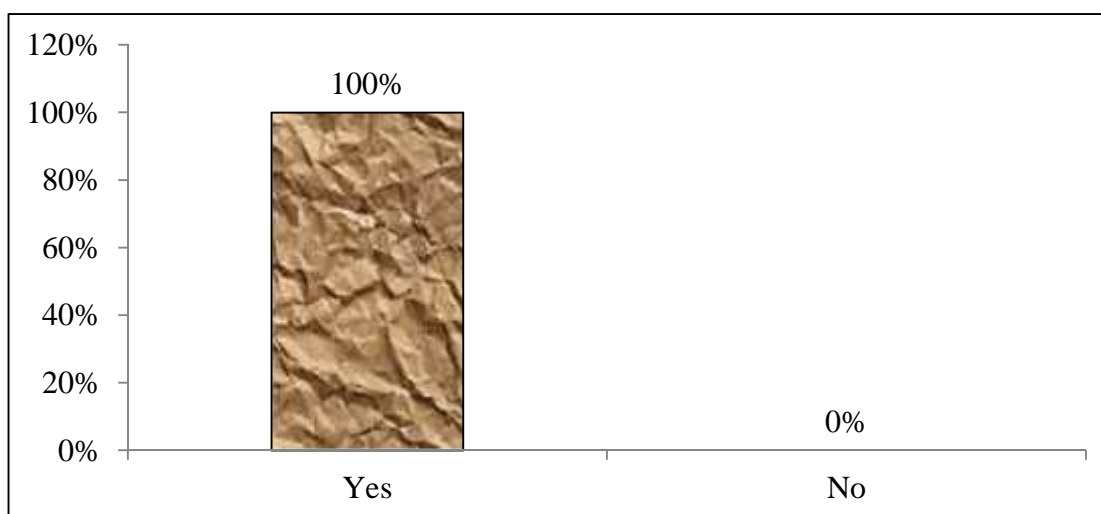


Fig 5.4: Assessment of presence of family/relatives by child care home prior to admission

Source: Field Survey, 2017

All of the respondents mentioned that they carry out assessment on the presence of family or relatives before admitting children. The assessment is done by carrying out field visits in the village or community of the child who is about to be placed at child care home. From this data, it

could be analyzed that the practice of child care homes is in favor of informal care as they bring the neediest ones, children without parents or relatives, to child care homes after assessment.

5.10: Attempts on practicing Informal Care:

The role of child care home is very much important in order to put the concept of informal care into practice. It is because they can prevent unnecessary placement of children into child care homes thus making kinship care, foster care and other forms of informal care active. Not only for the cases of children who are about to be admitted in child care homes but also for the children who have been staying at child care homes, the role of child care homes is pivotal to make various forms of informal care happen. For the cases of children who are planned to be placed at child care homes, they can make detail assessment of families, relatives and community based care. In case of possibilities of grow up of children with families, relatives, foster family or in a community based care, the child care home could show the available option to the concerned authority thus rejecting the placement of the child in the home.

Table 5.6: Attempts to seek possibilities of informal care by Child Care Homes

	Seek Possibilities of informal care		Success on attempts	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Yes	23	76.67	19	82.61
No	7	23.33	4	17.39
Total	30	100.00	23	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Majority of respondents (i.e.76.67) percent mentioned that they have tried for possibilities of informal care for the children who are staying at their child care homes. Similarly, 23.33 percent of the respondents reported that they did not try to seek possibilities of informal care to the children staying at their child care homes.

Out of the total respondents who have tried for seeking possibilities of informal care, significantly high percentage of respondents that they have been successful in implementing informal care successfully. Only 17.39 percent of the respondents mentioned that they were not successful in their action. They could not be successful as the parents and relatives were not accountable to the children and in one case the child got married before arriving to the age of getting married. From this data, it could be analyzed that child care homes can contribute in the

promotion of informal care as majority of respondents i.e. 82.61 percent, who have tried for possibilities of informal care to the children of their homes are successful on their attempts.

5.11: Challenges on Informal Care:

It is only in 2009 that UN formulated guideline on alternative care under which the need and importance of informal care are broadly discussed. Though kinship care, foster care, community based care and other similar forms of informal care were in practice, they were not recognized in the way they are being in the recent days. Child care homes are being blamed with various accusations despite seeking possibilities of their involvement in promotion of informal care. Of course there are various challenges for child care home to promote informal care but their involvement could contribute in long run. The child care homes have limited financial and human resources in promoting the informal care. Not only this, the ways of social mobilization of CCHs to promote informal care are rarely discussed.

Table 5.7: Challenges encountered in practicing informal care

Challenges	Number	Percentage
Government has not mobilized CCH properly	12	40.00
Management problem	9	30.00
Family / Relatives are not ready to receive child	4	13.33
Donor related problem	2	6.67
Lack of sufficient human resource	2	6.67
No problem has not been observed	1	3.33
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The table 5.7 shows that around remarkable percentage of the respondents mentioned that government has not mobilized CCHs properly. Around one third respondents mentioned that there is management problem to promote informal care by child care homes. Considerable number of respondents mentioned denial to receive children by family/relatives as a challenge encountered. Very few considered donor related problem and lack of sufficient human resource as a challenge in practicing informal care.

This clearly indicates that the government needs to mobilize child care homes properly for promotion of informal care. Besides this, government could play supportive role in the management of informal care for the children who are residing in child care homes. The government should also come up with policy and programs related to after care of children.

CHAPTER – VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Summary:

After the collection of information through interview schedule, developed for the study, the data were analyzed accordingly. Being based on the analysis of the data, this chapter discusses on the summary of the findings. Similarly, the chapter also discusses on the conclusion of the study being based on key findings of the study.

Key Findings:

The study entitled "Perception and Practices towards Informal Care of Children: A Study of Child Care Homes in Kaski" intended to identify the perception of child care homes toward informal care of children. To assess the influence of their perception on their practices, the study also attempted the trend of receiving, providing care and protection and reintegrating children residing in child care homes.

The study consulted with 30 child care homes out of 39 child care homes operating in the district. Despite the planning to meet and interview either program coordinator or chairperson of all the child care homes, all of the child care homes could not be met as they were not ready to support academic thesis. Some of them could not manage time despite regular communication for a period of around 3 months. Despite all this, 30 child care homes have provided information according to the issues prepared for the interview. The key findings of the study are as summarized in the following points;

Knowledge and Perception of Child Care Homes toward Informal Care:

-) A remarkable percent of child care homes (i.e. 30 percent) are completely aware of informal care. Similarly, significantly high percent i.e. 56.67 percent are partially aware of informal care as they responded one of the forms of informal care.
-) From the perspective of child care homes, informal care exists in concept rather than in action as more than two third respondents mentioned that informal care is conceptualized but not put into action.

- J Majority of the respondents (i.e. 86.67 percent) mentioned that there are laws and policies related to informal care.
- J More than fifty percent of the respondents mentioned the formulated policy is gradually reaching to the working area. 23.08 percent of them mentioned laws and policies exist in policy level but have not reached working area and 19.23 percent of them mentioned that formulated policies are not implemented.
- J Most of the respondents (63.33 percent) said that they got opportunities to participate and learn about informal care in trainings and orientation programs.
- J Significantly high percent (86.67 percent) of respondents mentioned kinship care as widely practiced forms of informal care in context to Nepal.
- J Majority of respondents (83.33 percent) mentioned that government has not put efforts for the promotion of widely practiced kinship care.
- J Most (60 percent) of the respondents identified implementation of formulated policy along with resource allocation and structure development as necessary effort from the side of government.
- J Majority (80 percent) of the respondents mentioned kinship care as most relevant in context to Nepal because kinship care ensures ownership, real care, safety and child can get similar culture to grow up. 9.99 percent suggested foster care and 9.99 percent suggested family based care as relevant informal care.
- J Significant percent of respondents (40 percent) mentioned that they should support economically and make parents responsible to toward their children. Remarkable percent of respondents i.e. 30 percent said that CCHs should carry out in-depth assessment of families and relatives of children who are recommended for the placement at child care homes.
- J Similarly, support to the policy of the government, raising awareness, coordination with GOs and monitoring of relatives and family for reintegration are other identified roles of CCHs in promotion of informal care.
- J Majority of the respondents (80 percent) mentioned that the growth up of children in institutional care supports more to the educational aspect of the child. However, vast majority of the respondents (96.67 percent) mentioned that the socialization of child is

supported more than any other aspect when the children are grown up in family or family like environment.

Practices of Child Care Homes on Informal Care:

- J Majority of child care homes (i.e. 53.33) are in operation for a period of more than 5 years. Only 6.67 percent of child care homes are in operation within last five years.
- J In the past, around two third of CCHs used to receive children from community with recommendation letter provided that they used to complete the process required to be done with DCWB and other government offices. However, all of the child care homes are receiving children through DCWB in last 5 years.
- J Death of parents has been and was the major cause of placement of children at child care homes. Abandoned by parents, having single parents, poverty, neglect by parents, sexual abuse and having alcoholic parents are other causes of placement of children at child care homes.
- J Around two third of the respondents (i.e. 63.33 percent) mentioned that situation of parents – alive or dead is the most important criterion for them while admitting children in their child care homes.
- J Maximum percent (53.33 percent) reported as 4 to 6 years, remarkable percent (40 percent) of the respondents reported as 0 to 3 years and very few (6.67 percent) of the respondents reported 7 to 10 years as the minimum age of admission of children in their child care home.
- J One third (36.66 percent) of the respondents informed that the parents or relatives of children staying at their child care homes visit children many times a year. Few respondents (26.67 percent) mentioned thrice a year and twice a year each and very few respondents (10 percent) once a year as the frequency of visits by guardian or relatives with children.
- J Around half of the respondent (46.67 percent) said that the children staying at their child care homes spent less than one month with their parents or relatives in one year. Remarkable percent (40 percent) of the respondents mentioned around a month and few of them (13.33 percent) mentioned around two months as duration spent by children with their parents or relatives.

- J All of the respondents mentioned that they carry out assessment of the presence of family or family members or relatives of the child prior admitting children in their child care homes.
- J Majority of respondent (i.e. 76.67 percent) mentioned that they have tried for possibilities of informal care for the children who are staying at their child care homes.
- J Out of the total respondents who have tried for seeking possibilities of informal care, majority of the respondents (82.61) percent reported that they have been successful in implementing informal care successfully.
- J Remarkable number (40 percent) of the respondents mentioned that government has not mobilized CCHs properly whereas 30 percent of the respondents mentioned that there is management problem to promote informal care by child care homes.

Conclusion:

To start with, the understanding of all of the child care homes is not clear enough regarding informal care. Though majority of child care homes have got opportunities to participate in the training, orientation and discussion on informal care, not all of them could be counted as being completely aware of informal care. However, the child care homes are familiar about existing policies of the government though the study has shown that the implementation of the policies is poor. It can also be concluded that kinship care is the most widely practiced forms of informal care amongst various forms of informal care in context to Nepal. Not only it is widely practiced, this type of care is most relevant in context to Nepal. It is because of the fact that kinship care ensures ownership, real care, safety and child can get similar culture to grow up. But foster care and family based care could not ensure ownership, real care, safety and similar culture for grow up of children as like that of kinship care. However, the government has not done much to promote this kind of care in the country. Despite this fact, the child care homes are contributing for the promotion of informal care including kinship care on their own ways.

The study has shown that the grow-up of children in institutions support the academic growth of the children. However, raising of children in families support for better socialization than in institutions. More particularly, this study has supported, in many ways, to reach to the conclusion that the child care homes can contribute in the promotion of informal care. The child care homes

are making sure that the children at child care homes meet their parents or relatives at child care homes and have communication regularly. They are also sending the children to families and relatives during vacation. Not only this, majority of them tried for seeking possibilities of informal care to the children residing at their home upon which most of them have succeeded. Therefore, it can be concluded that the child care homes are positive toward informal care and they are prioritizing informal care to institutional care.

Government of Nepal is primarily responsible to look after and manage for livelihood, education, protection and betterment of children of its country. The latest policies of the government have completely changed the ways of receiving children at child care homes. The Government of Nepal has implement National Child Policy and Mimimum Standards for Operation of Child Care Homes in 2012. The policies and standards has made the involvement of government mandatory during admission process of children at child care homes. More particularly, DCWB is made responsible to refer and recommend children for admission at child care homes. It is because of the latest policies that the children who used to come through various sources are now referred to child care home only through DCWB. However, the cause of arrival of children has remained the same. This is to say that children having single parents, neglected, abandoned poor and of alcoholic parents are still getting admitted at child care homes. Therefore, the government should be accountable toward admitting children with single parents, neglected, abandoned, poor and alcoholic parents in child care homes.

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ANNEX I : Sample of INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

**Perception and Practices toward Informal Care of Children: A Study of Child Care Homes
in Kaski
Section - I**

Establishment Date: _____

1. How many children are staying at your child care homes?

Boy _____ Girl _____ Total

2. Existence of family members/relatives of the children of your home:

	Girl	Boy	Total
Children having both parents			
Children having only mother			
Children having only father			
Children having mother & stepfather			
Children having stepmother & father			
Children without parents but having siblings			
Children without family members but having relatives			
Children without family and relatives			

3. How you used to receive children before 5 years?

- a. Communities referred us with recommendation letter of VDC.
- b. We received children through organization and individual connection along with recommendation letter.
- c. Organization used to refer us.
- d. We used to go to the communities to search children in need of care.
- e. All the children used to come through DCWB.
- f. Others

4. In recent scenario, how is a child received in your child care home?

- a. Communities refer us with recommendation letter of VDC.
 - b. We receive children through organization and individual connection along with recommendation letter.
 - c. Organization refer us.
 - d. We go to the communities to search children in need of care.
 - e. All the children come through DCWB.
 - f. Others
5. Which cases of children used to come in child care home with request for protection?
- a. Orphan
 - b. Children with single parent
 - c. Abandoned children
 - d. Neglected children
 - e. Others
6. Which cases of children come in child care home with request for shelter in recent days?
- a. Orphan
 - b. Children with single parent
 - c. Abandoned children
 - d. Neglected children
 - e. Others
7. What used to be the major cause of coming children into child care home?
- a. Orphan
 - b. Having single parent
 - c. Poverty
 - d. Children having step parents
 - e. Negligence by parent
 - f. Abandoned by parent
 - h. Others
8. What is the major cause of coming children into child care home?
- a. Orphan
 - b. Having single parent
 - c. Poverty

- d. Children having step parents
 - e. Negligence by parent
 - f. Abandoned by parent
 - h. Others
9. When a child is about to admit in your child care home, what is the first thing that is taken into consideration?
- a. Age of children
 - b. Status of parents of children (Alive/Dead)
 - c. Financial situation of family of children
 - d. Others (specify)
10. What is the minimum age of children who could be admitted at your child care home?
- a. Below 1 year b. Below 3 years c. Below 5 years
 - d. Below 10 years e. others (specify)
11. What is the maximum age of children who could be admitted at your child care home?
- a. Above 1 year b. Above 3 years c. Above 5 years
 - d. Above 10 years e. others (specify)
12. How often do the children of child care home meet their guardians or relatives a year?
- a. Once a year b. Twice a year c. Three times a year
 - d. Many times a year e. Others (specify)....
13. How long do they spend with their guardians or relatives in a year?
- a. around 1 month b. less than 1 month c. 2 months
 - d. they meet at child care home for short period only e. other (specify).....
14. Before admitting the children at child care home, do you assess the existence of parents and relatives of child care home?
- a. Yes b. No
15. If not, why?
-
-

Section – II

16. What is non-institutional alternative care for you?
- a. care of children in relative's house

- b. care of children in foster family's house
 - c. care of children in family based settings
 - d. all of the above
 - e. Don't have much information on this
 - f. Others
17. Have you or your child care home ever tried the possibilities of non-institutional care for children of your child care home?
- a. Yes b. No
 - c. That is not under our criteria.
18. If yes, did it work?
- a. Yes b.No
19. If your attempt did not work, why did not it work?
-
-
20. If you did not try for the possibilities, why did not you opt to try for the possibilities?
- a. Because we are more concerned with providing care to children at care home.
 - b. Financially we do not have such provision.
 - c. We do not have much idea on such care.
 - d. That is not our primary responsibility.
 - e. Others:
21. What are the challenges for child care home to support non-institutional alternative care?
- a. Management problem
 - b. Donor problem
 - c. Problem of sufficient manpower
 - d. Problem of proper mobilization of child care home by government
 - e. Lack of willpower
 - f. Others
22. What is the situation of non-institutional care in Nepal?
- a. Good b. Bad
 - c. Only in concept but not practiced
 - d. Others (specify)

23. Does Government of Nepal has brought about policies on non-institutional alternative care?
- a. Yes b. No
24. If yes, what is the scenario on the implementation of the policies?
- a. Only policies are formulated but not implemented well
- b. It is in the policy level but has not reached grassroot level
- c. Formulated policy is slowly reaching grassroot level.
- d. Others (Specify)
25. Have you or your child care home ever participated in the program related to non-institutional care?
- a. Yes b. No
26. If yes, by whom was the program organized ?
- a. Government authorities (Name:)
- b. Non-Government Organization (Name:)
27. Which type of non-institutional is more practiced in Nepal ?
- a. Kinship care b. Foster care
- c. Family based settings care
- d. other (specify)
28. Has Government of Nepal promoted prevailing non-institutional alternative care?
- a. Yes b. No
29. If yes, what has government done?
-
-
30. If not, what government should do?
-
-
31. Which type of non-institutional care might be more relevant in context to Nepal, why?
- a. Kinship care b. Foster care
- c. Family based settings care
- d. other (specify)
32. Why?

.....
.....
33. What should be the role of government in promoting non-institutional alternative care?

- a. Implementation of the polices at grassroot level through support and sensitization
- b. Promote kinship and family based care through financial support
- c. Family based settings should be developed and promoted.
- d. Others (Specify)

34. What should be the role of child care home in promoting non-institutional alternative care?

.....
.....

35. What do you expect from the government to make services of you child care home more better?

.....
.....

36. Which of the following aspect of child is most supported when grown up in institutional care?

- a. Education
- b. Socialization
- c. Health
- d. Discipline
- e. Others (Specify).....

37. Which of the following aspect of child is most supported when grown up in family?

- a. Education
- b. Socialization
- c. Health
- d. Discipline
- e. Others (Specify).....