

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF CHILD RAG PICKERS: A
STUDY FROM TEKU, KATHMANDU**

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Central Department of Sociology
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Submitted By

MANISHA K.C.

T.U. Regd No.: 6-3-28-190-2012

Central Department of Sociology

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

May, 2019

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work presented in this thesis has been done by myself and has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of any degree. All sources of information have been specially acknowledged by reference to the authors or institution.

.....

Manisha K.C.

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This is to certify that **Ms. Manisha K.C.** has conducted the thesis entitle “SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF CHILD RAG PICKERS: A STUDY FROM TEKU, KATHMANDU” under my guidance and supervision. I read and analyzed the thesis which is good in its quality and scope. So, I recommended it for the evaluation to the dissertation Committee.

.....
Mr. Prem Chalaune
Thesis Supervisor
Central Department of Sociology
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date: May, 2019

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU

LETTER OF APPROVAL

This thesis entitled “Socio-Economic Condition of Child Rag Pickers: A Study from Teku, Kathmandu” has been prepared and submitted by Ms. Manisha K.C. has been accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master’s Degree of arts in Sociology.

Evaluation Committee:

Prof. Dr. Tulsi Ram Pandey

Head, Central Department of Sociology

Mr. Prem Chalaune

Thesis Supervisor

Mr Sudip Singh Nakarmi

External Examiner

Date: May, 2019

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ABBREVIATIONS

CBS: Central Bureau Statistics

ICIMOD: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study:

A Rag-picker, or Chiffonnier, is term for someone who makes a living by rummaging through refuse in the streets to collect material for salvage Child labor is a burning issue of the world at present. The number of Child Labor is growing with growing population and poverty. The exploitative practice of child labor has recognized as a major socioeconomic problem. It is an effort to the principle of social justice, child right and to the protection of human rights. Children are among the most neglected, abused and exploited segment of the population exposed to such worst form of child labor as rag pickers. It can be taken as an attempt for protection of child rights. It is an effort to the principle of social justice, child right and to the protection of human rights. Children are among the most neglected, abused and exploited segment of the population exposed to such worst form of child labor as rag pickers. Child labor has emerged as a major problem in most of third world countries. Children are found working as integral part of family work force in the agricultural economy and other fields. Child labor has increased due to the increase in population and economy strength. One in six children in the world is engaged as labor in market. Millions of children are working in very worst form such as in mine, working with harmful chemical and pesticides in agriculture or working with dangerous machinery and some working as child rag picker (ILO, 2001).

Children from poor families are involved in child labor. Children living in the poorest house hold and in rural are most likely to engage in child labor. Those burdens with household chores are overwhelming girls. Millions of girls who work as domestic servants, especially in vulnerable situation are more exploited. Labor often interferes with children's education. Ensuring that all children go to school and that, their education is good quality or key to preventing child labors. Child labor remains a major economy and social phenomenon in Nepal. According to National Child Labor Survey undertaken in 1997. 1.660 million children 26.6 percent out of the total 6.225 million children aged between 5 to 14 in the country are economically active (Mishra, 2007).

To eradicate child labor has been a great challenge for a country like Nepal. The need to restrict and eradicate the most intolerable form of child labor has become an essential element of a national development strategy to achieve sustainable growth and to protect human rights. Government of Nepal repeatedly has expressed its commitment to eliminating the worst forms of

child labor and government currently is in the process of ratifying the new International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention on the worst form of child labor, No-182 (ILO, 2001)

The term rag picker currently refers to people who collect rags or recyclable materials, collecting, sorting and selling of these various waste materials that can be found at dumping sites, riverbanks, street corners or residential areas and collect primarily plastics, bottles, carbon, tins, aluminum, iron, brass and coppers. Children are engaged as rag picker in most of the town areas like Kathmandu Biratnagar, Pokhara, Butwal, Narayangarh etc. in Nepal.

1.1.1 Nepalese Contexts:

Child labor is a burning problem of Nepal at present. This problem has affected economic and social sectors badly. In Contemporary Nepalese Society, child labor has been the major economic and social problem. Due to the persistence poverty, child labor is a part of the family support for their subsistence. According to 2001 census about 29 percent of the children within the age group 10-14 are economically active and among which about 62 percent are engaged in agriculture and related activities. And children from child labor in town most of them are engaged in rag picking know as rag pickers (CBS, 2003). In Nepal, total child population below 16 years of age is 9.2 million, which is 41% of the total population (ILO/IPEC, 2013)

There are numerous theories that account for high rate of child labor in Nepal. One most important cause in the financial situation of nation. Labeled as one of the poorest and most undeveloped nation in the world, Nepal's poor economic status contributes to the highest rate of child labor and poverty. When families are faced with monetary hardship, they are often forced to send their children to work, sometimes in extremely hazardous conditions, merely to attain basic subsistence. In Nepal, child work general and child labor is common phenomenon.

Rag-pickers known as "Khate" in Nepali slang have recently become a part of the growing population. Most of the urban centers of Nepal have street children. According to report by Child Worker in Nepal there are 4,000 children engaged in rag picking in various urban centers in Nepal with highest concentration located in Kathmandu valley, Dharan and Narayanghar (CWIN, 2008). Most children who work as rag pickers come from rural areas especially from hill and mountains regions. A disproportionate number of rag pickers are from Dalit, Tamang, Magar, Chepang and Tharu ethnic groups. Diyalo bulletin estimated that more than 300 rag pickers live and work in Bharatpur Municipality. Among the rag pickers majority are found to be boys and average age has been estimated 5 to 14 years old (Dialo, 2007),

In Nepal, total child population below 16 years of age is 9.2 million which 41% of the total population is Child labor. Out of 9.2 million children, 2.6 million aged 5.14 years work as child labor (ILO/IPEC, 2013).

1.2 Statement of Problem:

Children need love, affection, good care and guidance for their all-round development. The Children who are well guided can-do programs in life. Children should be given good care about their health and education with proper rearing. They should be provided with proper attention, but the case is just reverse in Nepal. Majority of child population is leading a dreadful and fearful life under the root of illiteracy and poverty. Most people are even unable to feed their children.

Children issues were not given greater importance by Nepalese government till 1980s. Children as a development concern was only included for the first time in the seventh plan (1985-1990). But still Nepalese children are facing various difficulties due to social belief, persistence of poverty, gender discrimination and illiteracy relating to the development. According to National Planning Centre, due to the persistence of poverty, children labor form is part of the family support for their subsistence (NPC, 2005).

According to UNICEF, rag picking is one of the worst forms of child labor and falls under the street children category (UNICEF, 1997). The millions of children are working in garbage dumps and streets, as rag pickers. Most of the rag pickers are street children and they live in every hazardous condition. So, they face many problems.

The critical problems affecting child rag pickers emerge from an unhealthy environment, insecurity, illiteracy, exploitation and lack of alternative work. Especially during the rainy season most of the children were found to have poor health, some with acute or chronic tuberculosis and many had physical injuries like cuts, scratches or burns, skin disease like scabies or intestinal disease (CWIN, 1997). In fact, CWIN report found about 90 percent rag pickers to have experience arrest and detention into police custody. In detention centers, they are mixed with other criminals, are often beaten and tortured or exposed to abuse by other criminals (CWIN, 2008).

Most of the rag pickers found to be low school enrollments as well as high dropout rate. The rate of literacy increased with the age of children. Past studies indicate that rag pickers were found to be malnourished, still they have very poor health condition due to the consumption of unhygienic food and working in unhealthy, polluted environment. The risk of falling ill is very high since they operate in unhygienic, polluted areas and consume dirty or unhealthy food and

water (ibid).

A study carried out by Kathmandu Youth Club (NYC) and Children and Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH) in 2013 together with association of UNICEF/Nepal, Kathmandu District Development Committee, Kathmandu Metropolitan City conducted a child labor study in Kathmandu municipality areas to develop a baseline on the number and situation of child labor. The study has estimated 2921 child laborer's in study site with 71% boys and 29% girls of which two percent of total population is of study area. 54% were identified of less than 17 years and 46% were of 14-17 years of age. 9% were Brahmin, 19% from ethnic communities, 19% from Dalit, 13% from Chhetry community. Major sectors of child labor in study area were domestic work 26% hotel work 22%, construction 12%, transport 3% and 5% street vending. 14% have arrived from India, 45% of Kathmandu and 41% were found from district like chitwan, Makawanpur, Gorkha, Dhading, Bara, Sarlahi etc.

The above intimate situation is applicable in the context of ward no. 22 and 24 of Kathmandu Municipality. It is an urban area of KMC. Many children from countryside come here in search of better life. Similarly, in migration with family is also high but poor economic growth cannot provide enough jobs for them, so many children come into the street to survive. In this situation, children are engaged in various activities. Some are engaged in criminal activities such as prostitution, drug paddling, and some are engaged in collection of rags. We can see many children in ward no. 22 and 24 of Kathmandu Municipality wandering as rag pickers. They collect rags and sell to earn money. Most of the rag pickers do their work in the morning in market site. Although there are many local agencies such as Samudayik Sewa Kendra, Educate Initiative, Nepal are running different programs for their betterment but still they are denied from their basic rights. Children are doing works in very hazardous forms. In rainy season they go to the Bus Stop area, Pashupatinath area and residential areas to pick the rags and some time they get injured. Similarly, many of the children are used by criminals and sometimes they are arrested by police.

In short, some research questions can be raised, such as what are the main problems faced by them? What type of program can be effective to improve their socioeconomic status? What efforts have been done so far to eliminate this problems? etc.

1.3 Objectives:

The general Objective of the study will be to the socioeconomic and demographic characteristic of rag pickers and the specific objectives are as follows:

1. To study daily activities of the rag pickers.
2. To study living condition of the rag pickers.
3. To find out problems faced by rag pickers and recommend some solutions.

1.4 Significance of the Study:

The worst form of child labor is increasing day by day all over the country. They are deprived of education, health food and shelter. They are even deprived from love care, protection and are spending life in very vulnerable condition. They are facing different problems. They are deprived of basic needs like food, shelter, health care, entertainment etc. Among the different kinds of worst forms of child labor, situation of rag pickers is very vulnerable, and it is very challenging to solve their problems. Effective and result oriented programs are needed to be launched to improve their condition. Although many awareness programs are being conducted and extreme mobility of the largest group in the area is going on but they don't know about their rights. Most of child rag pickers specially those who have no family contact, do not have shelter. They live in street and the population of such children is increasing day by day with vacant future. They are compelled to spend very miserable life. They have not got proper rights, care, protection and guidance from the concerned authorities. Day by day, their life has been deteriorating.

1.5 Limitation of the Study:

The study will cover only teklu area of Kathmandu Municipality. Findings will not generalize for all types of child labors. The children under age of 16 years only will be included as the respondents for the study. It may be key information to identify child labor problem of the country.

1.6 Organization of the Study:

This study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter is concerned with the introduction of the study dealing with the statement of the problem, objectives, rational of the study and limitation of the study. The relevant literatures have been reviewed in second chapter. The third chapter deals with the methodology used in this study. In the fourth chapter an analysis of this study area is presented which deals with the demographic, social and economic characteristics of sample population. The fifth chapter provides the main findings, summary, conclusion and recommendation of the study. Some case studies are also illustrated in the appendix for comprehensive information about child rag pickers. Chapter wise description and analysis of data has been done in each chapter.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review:

At present the issue of child labor has drawn worldwide attention. Receiving a worldwide attention in recent years, the concept of child labor is still emerging. Every child has an inherent right to have basic human rights and needs such as education, health, care, protection love and respect. The social commitment is important for the overall spiritual, physical, emotional development as well as promotion of the coming generations.

According to the report by New York, 1990, "If you are to plan for one year, you plant rice, if you are planning for five years, you plant trees. If you are planning for future, you educate your children" (Mishra, 2007).

According to the report by Youth Club, 1995, "Illiteracy amongst parent is one of the main reasons behind child work. Parents who have to educate or provide skill training do not see the point for life for adult" (Dharel, 2009).

In an interview Kailash Satyarthi a leader who is fighting to end child labor in south Asia, said " Children work in export, industries where profit margins are highest, in agriculture, construction materials, stone quarries, and in cottage industries such as carpet weaving and glass industries, there has been tremendous growth in child services. In the export-oriented Industries of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka" (ILO, 2001).

According to UNICEF, rag picking is one of the worst forms of child labor and falls under the category of the street children (UNICEF, 1979). Initially rag pickers were considered those children who worked and lived in street, known as children on the street. Today the denotation of the rag pickers has been extended to include those working in the street by living with families in homes, slums etc. and known as children of the street (ILO, 2001).

In Nepal, total child population below 16 years of age is 9.2 million, which is 41% of total population (ILO/IPEC, 2013).

This study included both cases whether they belong to the "of the street" or "On the street" category. According to CWIN, rag pickers also known as "garbage pickers" and he/she makes living from sorting, collecting and selling waste metal, plastics and varieties of rags to the local junkyard or garbage collection centers (CWIN, 1998).

Receiving a worldwide attention in recent years, the concept of rag picker is still burning

issue. Every child has an inherent right to basic human needs such as education, health, care, protection, love and respect. The social commitment is thus an essential for the overall spiritual, physical, emotional, development as well as promotion of the coming generations.

2.1.1 Definition:

The definition of child varies from place to place. It is defined according to culture, tradition, law of the countries etc. The definition of child is somewhat complicated. The definition of child or childhood depends on culture and it is observed differently from place to place even in the same culture. So, the childhood is very difficult to define universally. According to Enew, there are different stages in children and that are affected by the age of a child who starts to work and the types of work that they do. Childhood may be defined by age, but different societies fix different threshold for demarcation of childhood (New Era 2005).

If we look at modern standards, the conventional on right of child (CRC), defines a child to be one who is below the age 18 years old under the law applicable to child maturity is attained (CRC, 1989). According to ILO, minimum age convention, 1978 defines child who is under 15 years old but these criterion differ with respect to nature of work (ILO, 1998).

Child work has been considered a potential learning experience or apprenticeship for the child and therefore not harmful. But child labor is defined by differentiating it from child work as being exploitative by nature and detrimental to the child 'growing process, depriving the child rights to survival, development, protection and participation.

Child labor can be defined as any productive or survival activity, paid or unpaid within the family or outside, evolving employment or self-employment. All forms of work are injuries to children and some may have beneficial impact, such as developing learning skill, improving nutrition or self-esteem or developing a sense of unity with family. Because of these important qualities' differences, child work is treated as distinct form of child labor (Boyden, 1994).

Child labor is defined as work which is exploitative or dangerous which is harmful to physical, intellectual and psychosocial health or development and deprives a child from education (ibid). However, there is no difference between child work and child labor in Nepal.

According to ILO, convention on the worst form of child labor 1990, following are worst forms of child labor:

- Children in factory/industry
- Children in mine and quarry

- Children in forestry
- Children in domestic services
- Children in shop/restaurant
- Children in street
- Children in construction work
- Children in commercial sexual exploitation
- Children as bonded child labor
- Refugee children
- Migrant children
- Children as porter
- Children used in publicity and advertising
- Children in circuses/music industries (ILO, 1990, K.C. et.al, 2001)

2.1.1.1 Rag Picker:

Generally, rag pickers are those persons who collect and sell waste materials, rags, containers, plastic etc. from the local junkyards or garbage collecting center. According to UNICEF, rag picking is worst form of child labor and falls under the category of street children. The rag pickers also known as "garbage pickers" live on the streets, in slums, or shanty areas and he/she make a living from sorting, collecting and selling waste materials, rags, containers to the local junkyards or garbage collection centers (CWIN, 1998),

The concept of street children and the definition of the term rag pickers appear to have undergone modification over time, initially, rag pickers were considered those children who literally work and live in the street, known as children on the street.

According to CRC, rag pickers as it targets those forms of children's work considered to be the most exploitative and intolerable under all circumstances of child labor forms, child rag pickers differ from other forms of child labor, belonging to street children (CRC, 1989).

Rag Pickers belong to the "of the street" or "on the street" category. Children "of the street" refer to those who live in the street, junkyard, temple, public place etc. and children on the street refers to those children who only use the street as their working place or social hangout but live with their families in home, slum, squad or any other places (K.C. et. al, 2001).

The term rag picker is now more specifically applied to that person who collects rags or recyclable materials that can be sold for money. These materials are usually gathered from

dumpsites, riverbank, and street corners or from residential areas are mainly plastics, bottles, cardboards and other which can be collected easily. Rag pickers get price for their rags according to the quality of materials. Tins, bottles and papers are not worth more. So, they prefer not to collect these materials. However, higher price materials such as copper, brass and aluminum are hard to find and be assumed to the products of theft. The work rag picker is either seasonal occupation, winter being more productive, and summer is slacker. In the rainy season, materials are wet and dirty and collecting is very difficult because of the rain and mud. The rag picker who works seasonally, lives at home and works as rag picker, prefers in the winter while they do other work in summer, but all the rag pickers prefer in the morning or evening, when people normally dispose of their garbage. However, some prefer to work in the afternoon. In the evening, some go to their houses and some stay in the street. Some of them have relatives where they take shelter at night. Those who go to their houses, they help their parents at home. During day time, they come to street to collect rags. In the morning and in the evening also they collect rags from the places where garbage is piled up.

2.2 Empirical Literature:

Child labor is a burning issue of the world at present. It is great problem in the least developed and developing countries. There is problem of child labor in every countries of the world. Receiving a worldwide attention in recent years, the concept of rag picker is still burning issue. Every child has an inherent right to have basic human needs such as education, health care, protection, love and respect. The social commitment is thus an essential for the overall spiritual, physical emotional, development as well as promotion of the coming generation. Previous research also determines that the critical problems affecting child rag pickers emerge from an unhealthy environment, insecurity, illiteracy, exploitation and lack of alternative work, especially during the rainy season. (CWIN, 1998)

2.2.1 Child labor in the World:

Child labor prevails in all countries of the word. It is greater in least developed and developing countries in comparison to developed countries. The International labor Organization (ILO) estimates that there are 246 million child labors worldwide. In Sub-Saharan Africa one in three children are engaged in child labor, representing 69 million children. And child labors in south Asia, another 44 million are engaged in child labor (UNICEF, 2009).

In 2000, there were 245,500,000 (16%) of total population of the world were child laborers.

In 2008, 215,209,000 (13.6%) were child labors in the world. In 2012, 167,956,000 (10.6%) of total population of the world were child labor (ILO/IPEC, 2013).

2.2.2 Child labor in Nepal :

Child labor has been a major problem in Nepal. Child labor is found in major cities of Nepal in large number. Exploitative child labor is serious problem in Nepal. According to the National Child labor Report 2005, 2.6 million children between ages 5 to 14 are working in Nepal. Of this, nearly, 5 percent are involved in what the International Labor Organization defines as the Worst forms of child labor. According to report by CWIN, there are 4000 street children in Nepal with major concentration in Kathmandu valley, Dharan, Biratnagar, Bharatpur (CWIN, 2008). Despite the commitments of government child labor faces many challenges. Though the numbers have been decreased in the part years still 40.04% or 3.14 million of children between 5-16 years are working (ILO-C.B.S.-2011) these half (1.60) million are in child labor.

2.2.3.1 Forms of Child Labor in Nepal:

According to the ILO Convention, No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child labor, the worst forms of child labor in Nepal are following:

- Domestic child labor
- Child porter
- Carpet child labor
- Bonded child labor
- Children in mine and quarry
- Child rag picker
- Child trafficking

In Nepal, labor Act 1992 defines a child as a person below the age of 14 years but the Children Act 1992 broadens age limited up to 16 years old.

Table 2: Minimum age according with ILO Convention

General minimum age	Light Work	Dangerous Work
15 years or more	13 years	18 years (16 years dispersion)
14 years or more	# 12 years	18 or 16 years

For developing countries only (ILO, 2001)

2.3 Rag Picker and Education:

Education is the backbone for the development of the nation. Without education all round

development of children is not possible. Education is the basic need that consists of the combination of the knowledge, values and skills that serve as the foundation for an individual's lifelong learning. The foundation of basic education consists of learning and life skills that enable one to function in one's physical and social environment, including basic communication, critical thinking problem solving and analysis.

Achievement of the universal primary education goals depend on reaching out of school children, most of whom are unable to attend school because of their work commitment (UNICEF/ILO, 1998).

In Nepal, studies reveal that many school going age children are still out of school. The situation is worst in rural areas where school dropout rate is very high. Studies show that it is due to the engaging of children in work.

Most of the rag pickers are literate, they dropout school due to different reasons, such as work at home, distance of school, food, admission fee, parents' unawareness etc. are major causes.

The rate of literacy increases with the age of children which is considered as natural trend. The education of children varies based on caste, ethnicity and geographical areas. The work of rag picking hinders the children's education and psychological development. Municipalities are also running non-formal education for those, who are not able to attend school due to various reasons. However, municipal authorities themselves realize that the coverage of their programs failed to reach the real target by other local NGOs.

Though most of the rag pickers do not attend any type of school. The child rag pickers are found to be positive towards the education. Many of them are aware of the benefits of education and would like to go to school for better future. There are some examples that some organizations, clubs and foreigners have supported children for schooling. These activities have really contributed to children at least being aware of their education rights (Pradhan, 2005).

When looking at the situation in Nepal, the reality is that though education is free with providing books for some level by government, many children do not go to the school or dropout from there. This is mainly caused by social-cultural issues, such as the parent's ignorance of children's right, mistreatment by teachers in school and on over all poor education system in rural areas.

Vocational education and training seem to be a better approach for children of disadvantaged families, since it will allow them to get a job in shorter period. Different NGOs and organization

provide vocational education for grown up street children including rag pickers for their better future. The education ministry must emphasize on non-formal education for them who are deprived of education.

2.4 Rag Picker and Health:

Health is great wealth of life. Only healthy children can do work properly. Healthy children are wealth of nation. Healthy Children represent a healthy nation: reducing child mortality has been goal of the policy. The health of children in Nepal is closely and integrally linked to several factors from geographically location, climate. The socio-cultural practices and attitudes to economic changes that are taking place in the country.

As it has been stated earlier, the population census 2001 reports that population in the age group 1-14 comprised 39 percent of the total population. Over 85 percent of the country' population is rural and more than 40 percent children in this area suffer from malnutrition and various diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, cholera, dysentery etc. Continuous diarrhea is a major cause of death among Nepalese children. The use of oral re-hydration therapy is still low. Basic health facilities still aren't available in remote areas of the country. Lack of awareness, balanced diet and polluted environment are some of the causes of high mortality rate.

Working in extremely poor condition, children are injuring themselves in the hazardous industries. A large portion of the child population involved working in mines and quarry, agriculture, domestic services, transportation, porters and street work etc., where children have faced many health problems. During the work, child in hunger is common for various reasons. Dirty food, dirty drinking water, involvement in drugs and alcohol taking are some after causes of poor health.

The children of the street, who have no home or guardians taking care of them usually. Spend all their earning in day. The rag pickers working in various hazardous conditions have high risk of health problems. They are potentially highly vulnerable situation among of another child labor (CBS 2003).

2.5 Causes of Child Labor:

Nepal's backwardness in access to education lack of awareness, family, Structure and poor economic status contribute to child labor. Inequalities between groups in society often lead to poverty, which in turns forces parents to send their children to become a part of work force. Social inequalities causing child labor can be seen with bonded child labor, porters, street children,

workers in carpet, industries and factories, with such disparity of wealth in Nepal, poor families are in great debt and in turn, must become bonded labors. Discrimination against minority groups also contributes to Nepalese children entering in work force. Lack of proper guidance, counseling and care of parents also has contributed to child labor. Ineffective enforcement of child labor law is another cause. Land ownership and rural migration have further contributed to child labor in Nepal. Most of the child labor occurs away from the centers of the power and low enforcement. With the power and money in the hands of few privileged, the bulk of the Nepali population remains in poverty. With such immense in rural poverty, families are often caught in common cycle of rural to urban migration in hope to find employment. Factory owners and other employers in urban areas receive a steady flow of rural labor. Therefore, children constitute a huge part of this workforce. Political instability, lack of access to education, negligence of concerned authorities and lack of enforcement of child law have contributed to child labor in Nepal.

2.5.1 Poverty:

Poverty is main cause of child labor. Almost one half of population in Nepal falls under absolute poverty. This is mainly due to the high depending on agriculture, decline productivity, increase landless and increased unemployment; children are forced to find work to serve their families. Child labor exists largely due to lack of access to resource and low level of literacy, poverty affects proportionally more girls than boy. (K.C. et. al.) Children from the poorest areas and families tend to work very early age typically have the lowest level of education and suffer other social disadvantages (Boyden, 1994). In such case, children are forced to do work with their parents or engage in caring their young and other domestic works in their own houses, which highly become the obstacles of their studies. Another major factor is lack of ability of their parents to join them in school. Study showed that in child work often directly linked the poverty of family. It has been also mentioned that the necessity of having food, shelter and factors such as unemployed or under employment of adult family members or the death of the bread winner compel children to work from early age. Many children have migrated to cities in search of work and have few choices regarding the conditions of quality of other employment (UNICEF, 1998).

In Nepal children are badly suffering from malnutrition. Food supplies available to bulk of children are insufficient for their physical and mental growth diets are in monotonous, unbalanced and deficient in vitamin, Protein, minerals and fats. General health condition is extremely bad. In case of education, primary level education has been increasing rapidly in relation to population

growth.

2.5.2 Family Structure:

Family structure is also an important cause of child labor. Large family size contributes to child labor as many parents may face financial difficulties and are compelled to send at least one child out of work (NPC, 2005).

Due to increasing rate of family breakup and consequent remarriage, nearly children face exploitation, beating, regret and verbal abuse from their parents (ILO, 1998).

The family setting is often regarded as a basic social institution within which a child is taught the fundamental values of society and life. However, various factors may hinder the health development of children within the family circle. The loss of parents or the intervention of stepparents can have a significant impact in the child, Nepalese culture doesn't favor adoption of step children, and many step parents may see these fruits of a previous marriage hindrance or threat. In this light, understanding the family background of rag pickers may help clarify reasons for leaving home and education for life on the street. Step parents pay less attention to their step children. So, the step children don't get love, affection, guidance from such parents and prefer to leave their homes.

The number of street children in Kathmandu and in another town like Narayangarh Janakpur, Birgunj in Nepal has growing. Some of the street children belong to squatter families who have migrated from rural areas. Other runaway from home by a variety of social and psychological as well as domestic problems and being are abandoned on the street by members of their family. Some children leave their homes as they are tempted to small amount of money that they can earn in the cities.

The average family size of child rag picker is 5.4 members, which is slightly higher than the national average of 5.1. However, girl rag pickers usually come from larger families with 6.3 members (CBS, 2003). These may indicate that family size is a factor in the incidence of girls compelled to work as rag picker. Although previous studies indicate that most of rag pickers or street children came from single or no parent family. Some previous studies also have indicated that some children from homeless and landless families were compelled to move to the street for living.

2.5.3 Migration:

Migration is also one of the causes of child labor. According to Informal Sector Service

Center (INSEC), there is an association between child work, child education and migration. Migration itself is caused by many factors such as poverty, low literacy rate of village, lack of school, natural calamities, political conflict and negative treatment by step mothers or by step fathers. Poor teaching in rural areas also a major cause of migration (INSEC. 1996).

2.5.4 Caste System:

According to International Program from the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC, 1995), traditional caste system has led to exploitation of children expectable from untouchable caste. Families are often compelled to work only as street cleaners, blacksmith, and cobbler are trapped in vicious circle of poverty and social injustices. Most of their families are in financial crises, so they are bonded as child labor in land holders, to escape from this situation children come to the street (Mishra, 2007).

2.5.5 Poor Enforcement of Legislation:

Regarding the labor Act 1992 and children' Act 1992 claims that authorities have neither effectively implemented the law nor formulated any plans of action for the children welfare. There is no welfare provision for the children or effective program within child community, therefore under aged child may be forced into the invisible sectors where their condition may be worse. The laws related to child labor elimination have not been implemented effectively.

2.5.6 Poor Coordination among Government, INGOs and NGOs:

Pradhan said, "among the government bureaucracies and funding agencies, the lack of co-ordination and effective networks is causing major problems to the progress of the child right movement" (Pradhan, 2005).

Although different organizations are ready for providing humanitarian help and socialization support to enhance the rights of street children and other children at risk. They also want to work for the reintegration of children into their families. Many organizations are running different programs for child labor, but all these are urban centered, so the programs are not still beneficial for child labor, due to lack of coordination between state, parties and organizations.

2.6 Law of Child Labor:

The United Nation Convention on Child Right 1989 strongly recognized "the right of the child to be product from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development".

The constitution of Nepal 1990 seeks to protect the interest of children by conferring on them in certain fundamental rights and imposing for their benefit, certain directive principles and policies of state. The state shall make necessary arrangement to safeguard the rights and interest of children, ensure that they are not exploited and make gradual arrangement for free education (Dharel, 2009).

2.6.1 The Labor Act 2048 B.S. (1992) and Labor Rule 2050 B.S. (1993)

Some initiatives have been taken in Nepal to formulate legal provisions to protect the rights of children. Several laws and acts have been enacted for protecting child rights. There are several laws in Nepal that protect the right of children. The labor Act 1992 provides for the rights, interest, facilities and safety of workers, employers working in enterprises of various sectors. It defines a child as a person who has not attained the age 0-14 years, and a minor as a person who has attained the age of 14 years but not completed the age of 18 years (Mishra, 2007).

In clause 43, it provides the right of minors who have not attained the age of 16 years. They shall not be employed on hydraulic and other machine operated cases, milling machines used in metal industries, circular saw, other dangerous machines or operations are hazardous for health. Similarly, clause 3 (1) prescribes no minor between the age of 14 and 16 years shall be employed in any establishment for more than six hours in a day or thirty-six hours in a week (Mishra 2007).

The children's Act defines a child to be human beings below the age of sixteen years. Section seventeen of the children Act says that a child who has not attained the age of fourteen years shall not be employed in any works as labor. Further, a child shall not be engaged as a labor against his/her will. It states that a child who may be employed as a labor is entitled to equal remuneration for irrespective of the child's sex, religious, race, color, caste and community.

The increasing child work and education trend has resulted into proliferation of child employment in various sectors. This is happening despite the existence of several conventions and laws to protect children's right. However, there is a debate whether legislation can only eliminate child labor.

Rodgers and Standing, have mentioned that legislation may help to control the more obvious forms of exploitation. Legislation designed to eliminate the child employment is itself not so enough. They claim that child labor is that where it prohibits by laws is likely to child workers unprotected, since legally they do not exist. However, two situation should be distinguished those where the law exists but is not enforced and other where activity is not covered by existing laws

(ibid).

2.7 National Policy on Child Work:

Nepal government and some NGOS/INGOS are doing some efforts for betterment of children. There are several governmental and Non-governmental organizations working to improve the situation of children in Nepal. National plan and programs have been focused in this direction. The issue of child work has been for the first time addressed in the seventh five-year development plan in Nepal. However, it is eighth plan that provided specific policies to improve the children's condition.

It states that children are future leaders of the country. They will be physically, mentally and intellectually capable citizens in the future, if they are provided with facilities for all around development from their childhood. It focused on:

- Factors responsible for the school dropout at primary level will be surveyed and remedial steps will be taken to discourage such tendencies.
- Special emphasis will be laid on activity involving nongovernmental, social organization in the children's -welfare programs.

The ninth plan provided following measures to improve the life of children:

- Special measure will be taken to reduce the rate of school dropout, to improve the quality of education, and to improve the enrollment of girl's children of school going age will be provided free primary education.
- Measure will be taken to encourage and help to locals to set goals related children and child development when devising local plan (NPC, 2005)

To implement the policies addressed by plan documents, several line ministries are providing are providing programs to children in Nepal. Among such ministries, ministry of women, welfare and children, ministry of education and health have major aims.

The ministry of Education, Culture and Welfare has different division and directors which help to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate education policies. The council for technical education and vocational training, the council for non-formal education and the sport council work under the Ministry and provide appropriate education and training to children. The social welfare council under the Ministry formulates, implements the programs for children. The functions of all these bodies have an important bearing on the progress to regulate and eliminate children.

Under the leadership of Ministry of Women Social welfare and Children Central Child

welfare board and District Child Welfare Board have been established. The Central Child Welfare Board includes the following functions:

- To submit the government a long-term policy and plan for the protection of the children rights and for their physical and mental development.
- To find out the major problems faced by children and recommend necessary measures to solve them.
- To submit the government some immediate programs to be lunched for improving the condition of children.
- To recommend the government to formulate child friendly law.
- To recommend the government some effective programs to increase awareness against child labor.

2.8 Nepal's Commitments on Children Issues:

The world summit for children convention by six Head of State and government was held at the United Nations in New York on 29-30 September 1990. Main objective of the convention was to focus its attention and commitments at the highest political level on children issues, formulating goals and strategies to ensure survival, protection and development of the children for the social-economic development of all countries. This historic gathering of presidents and prime ministers endorsed a summit declaration and a plan of action to implement the declaration for the survival, protection and development of children, to follow up the summit some 60 heads of states and government gathered in New York for the United Nations special session on children from May 8-10, 2002. The special session had concluded with global agreement on the proposed outcome "A World Fit for Children", which contains series of goals on child health, education and a plan of action to attain them in coming decade. Nepal had a high-level participation in both the summit and special session and expressed its commitments to fulfill their goals (Pradhan, 2005).

The 11th summit of the South Asia Associations for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held in Kathmandu from 5-7 January 2002 proved to be very significant for the protection of the rights of the children of the children of the region. The SAARC leaders including Nepal had expressed their strong commitment for the regional arrangements for the promotion of welfare of children. The summit was also believed to be instruments in improving the social-economic and education condition of children of the region. Similarly, Nepal has participated different regional and international conferences held in different countries and signed the agreements related to child

rights child labor, and different issues on children. Nepal has signed the un declaration of child rights 1989. Nepal has committed to implement the provision mentioned in the declaration. Nepal is also committed to provide free education to the children. Nepal has formulated child Act 2048 (1992) and labor Act 2049 (1993) for eradicating child labor from the country. Nepal has been providing totally free education up to grade 5.

In view of above commitments and policies of the state as it's children it would be highly useful and interesting to examine the existing and social and economic condition of the children as revealed by Census 2001 (Acharya 2010).

2.9 Convention on the right of the child (CRC, 1989) :

The CRC emphasizes that children are holders of rights. It covers all aspect of children lives. It is legally beginning and has been ratified most of the countries of the world the CRC incorporates the whole spectrum of human rights.

According to the CRC (1989) the basic rights of the children are

1. Right to survival , Right to development ,Right to participation, Right to protection, Right to entertainment, Right to identity, Right to care, affection etc.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Rationale of the Site Selection:

The study was conducted in Teku area of Kathmandu Metropolitan Municipality of Kathmandu district because it is an urbanized area with the high population density. Here many children are found to be engaged in different jobs and majority of them are street children. From many parts of the Kathmandu district, children are found working as child laborers. Not only this, from Bara, Parsa, Makwanpur, Sarlahi as well as India, children have come here who are working as child labors. It is municipality, so children can survive by doing different work. Children can earn a little money by doing different works here. They are often found doing different works in different places of this municipality.

3.2 Research Design:

The study was conducted by using cross-sectional descriptive research design. The purpose of the study was to describe the status of the rag pickers. Both qualitative and quantitative method was used for the study.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data:

This study utilizes both qualitative and quantitative technique for data collection. Information was collected from the respondents or child rag pickers under the age of 16 years. In this study, data was collected using primary sources like semi-structured questionnaire, KII guideline and FGDs guidelines.

3.4. Data collection techniques and tools

Interview and observation was the techniques used to collect data for this study. Among those 70 sampled child rag pickers a set of question was asked to them and in accordance to their answer the questionnaire was filled. Questionnaire was the tool that was used during the data collection.

3.5. Data Collection and Analysis:

Various Sources and methods was implemented for data collection and analysis. Required data was collected by interview method using notes, pre-coded questionnaire, and quantitative information was analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 21 and qualitative data was analyzed manually dividing into different themes.

3.6 Reliability and Validity of Data

Questionnaire and checklist was developed after expert consultation and based on extensive

literature review. Pre-testing was done prior to data collection and necessary modification was made before finalization of tools for data collection.

3.6 Sampling Technique and Sample Size:

Purposive sampling was carried out for collecting data for the study. A total of 70 sample was included in the study. Children available in Teku area during the time of data collection was included in the study. As child rag picking is emerging problem in today's date. Most of the under marginalized group of people are involved in such jobs like rag picking to fulfill their daily requirement. Children are most vulnerable group who are more prone to be involved in these sorts of activities so 70 sample child rag pickers were choose as the sample size for the study as the children under 16 was intended to be questioned as the study purpose the purposive sampling techniques was used to collect the data and information needed for the study.

3.7 Ethical Consideration:

Objective of the study was shared with the respondents before data collection. Verbal consent was taken with the respondents and coding of data was done to ensure the confidentiality throughout the study.

3.8 Limitation of Study:

The study was conducted with limited sample in short period of time, so the result may not generalize to large group of population and other geographical area that have different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.

CHAPTER- IV

ANALYSIS OF DATA

This chapter deals with the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of selected sample populations who were involved in sampling. Here, demographic characteristics describes different categories like age-sex and migrant status of sample population social-economic characteristics describes different categories like caste/ethnicity, religions, family size and composition, working place, collection of rags, living place, daily income and food habit of sample population.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics:

4.1.1 Sex Distribution of Respondents:

There is involvement of male and female in work of rag picking. Like most of works, involvement of male is higher than female.

Table : 4.1.1 Sex Distribution of Respondents

Sex	Number	Percent
Male	50	71.42
Female	20	28.58
Total	70	100

Source: Field survey, 2015

The total sample populations of study are 70, among of them about 71.42 percent constitutes the boys and 28.58 percent are girls. The table shows that majority of rag pickers are boys. Sex distribution shows male and female respondents

4.1.2 Age Distribution of Respondents:

Age distribution of respondents are classified as single age group from under age 10 to below age of 16 years old. Of the total population about 37.14 percent are below 10 years old, followed by 11 years old with 21.42 percent. Similarly, 17.14 percent are 12 years old, 14.28 percent are 13 years old, 7.14 percent are 14 years old and about 2.85 percent are 15 years old. Among of them less than 10 years about 38 percent are boys and 37.14 percent are girls.

Table: 4.1.2 Age Distribution of Respondents

Age group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under age 10	19	38	7	35	26	37.14
11	10	20	5	25	15	21.42
12	8	16	4	20	12	17.14
13	6	12			10	14.28
14	5	10			5	7.14
15	2	4	-		2	2.85
Total	50		20		70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Above table shows that about 90% rag pickers are below than 14 years old and it also indicates that when age is increased number is decreased. The situation is more vulnerable below the age of 10 years old in this work.

4.1.3 Migrant Status of Respondents:

Sample population is migration and non-migrant.

Table: 4.1.3 Migrant Status of Respondents

Migrant Status	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Migrant	43	86	7	35	50	71.42
Non-Migrant	7	14	13	65	20	28.58
Total	50	100	20	100	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Among of the respondents most of them are migrated. About 71.42 percent boys and percent girls are migrants.

Above table shows, among the rag pickers most of the boys are migrant and girl's rag picker is not migrant who are living with their family.

4.2 Social Characteristics:

4.2.1 Literacy Status of Respondents:

Of the total number of respondent's 68.57 percent are literate and 31.43 percent are illiterate.

Among of them majority of boys (86%) are literate and where 14 percent of girls are literate and 75 percent girls are illiterate.

Table: 4.2.1 Literacy Status of Respondents

Literacy Status	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Literate	43	86	5	25	48	68.57
Illiterate	7	14	15	75	22	31.43
Total	50	100	20	100	70	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2015

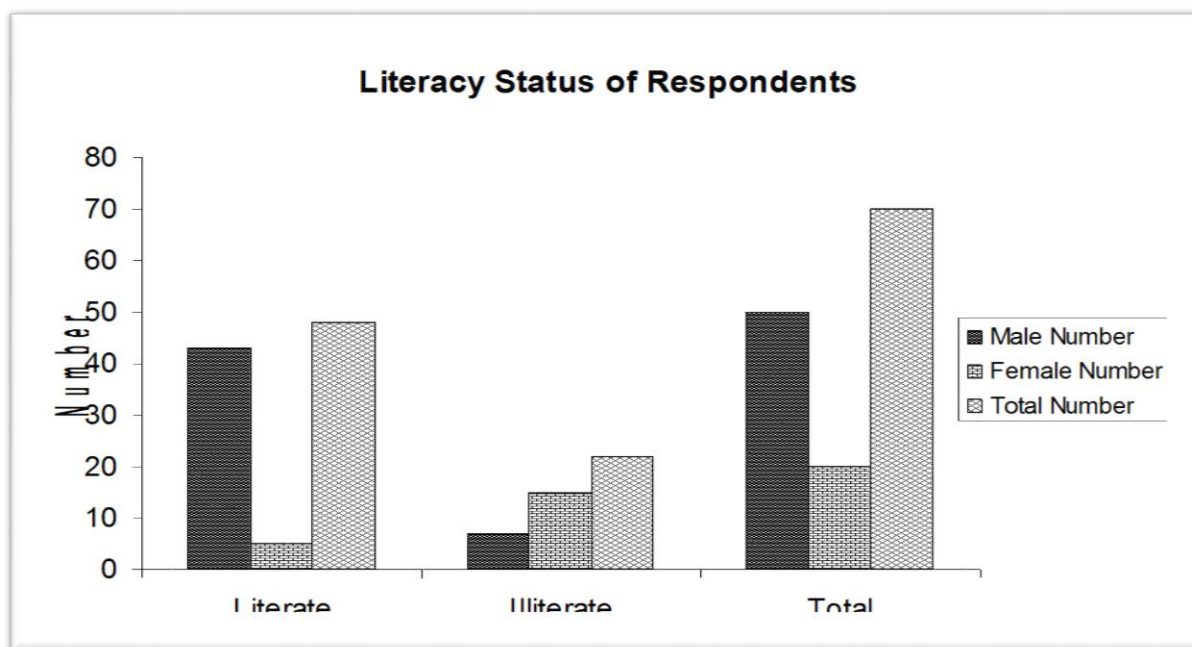


Fig 4.2.1. Literacy status of Respondents.

Literacy rate shows the difference of literacy rate between girls and boys. The table shows gender discrimination in literacy status of respondents. More boys are literate than girls. Most of girls are illiterate.

4.2.2 Education Attainment of Respondents:

The education attainment is different with gender. Education attainment is measured as primary, L. Secondary and Secondary Level of education.

Table: 4.2.2 Education Attainment of Respondents

Level	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Primary	36	72	5	25	41	58.57
L. Secondary	8	16	-	-	8	11.42
Illiterate	6	12	15	75	21	30
Total	50	100	20	100	70	100

Source: Field Survey 2015

Among boy's 58.57 percent appeared primary levels, 11.42 percent appeared lower secondary level but among the literate girls 25 appeared primary level and remaining are illiterate.

Table shows that education attainment is very poor in rag pickers, majority of them appeared primary level and girl's rag pickers did not appear upper level than primary. Some boys have attained lower secondary level education.

4.2.3 Caste Ethnicity Status of Respondents:

There are 9 castes identified and majority of them are from indigenous group followed by Dalit and few are from upper caste.

Table: 4.2.3 Caste/ethnicity status of respondent

Caste/ethnicity	Number	Percent
Chepang	20	28.57
B.K.	9	12.85
Sharki	8	11.42
Botes	8	11.42
Tamang	7	10
Magar	7	10
Tharu	7	10
Chhetri	2	2.85
Yadav	3	4.28
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Among of the respondent about 28.57 percent are from Chepang community followed by

Sharki (11.42), B.K. (12.85), Tamang (10), Botes (11.42), Magar (10), Tharu (10), Chhetri (2.85), Yadav (4.28).

4.2.4 Family Size of Respondents:

Family size of respondents is also a cause of child rag picker. The family size is classified as number of members up to 3 to more than 5.

Table: 4.2.4 Family Size of Respondents

Family Size	Number	Percent
Up to 3	6	8.57
3-5	58	82.85
5+	6	8.57
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Of the total respondents about 82.85 percent belonged to family with members (3-5), 8.57 percent came from family with members more than 5 and 8.57 percent belonged to family with members less or equal to 3.

This table shows that large family size is also a cause of child rage picker. Majority of respondents are from large family size.

4.2.5 Family Composition of Respondents:

Respondent are from different family background. Their family composition measured in terms of parent less, single parent, both parent, step mother, step farther.

Table: 4.2.5 Family Composition of Respondents

Family composition	Number	Total
Parentless	30	42.82
Single Parent	20	28.57
Both Parent	12	17.14
Step Mother	5	7.14
Step Father	3	4.28
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Of the total sample population about children 42.82 percent are parent less followed by 28.57 percent with single parent, 17.14 percent has both parent, 7.14 percent has step mother, 4.28

percent has step farther.

Above table shows that family destructions are also a main cause of child rag pickers. Majority of respondents are parent less followed by single parents.

4.2.6 Food Habits of Respondents:

Food habit of the respondents is not similar. They eat cooked and junk food to full their appetite. They prefer different foods to eat.

Table: 4.2.6 Food Habits of Respondents

Kind of food	Number	Percent
Cooked food	57	81.42
Junk food	13	18.57
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Of the total respondents, about 81.42 percent eat cooked food and 18.57 percent eat junk food, but nobody spends night with hunger. Above table shows that most of the respondents prefer cooked food to eat.

4.2.7 Shelter of Respondents:

Child rag pickers work in different Places; they use certain place for living where they spend their night to sleep. This Study shows they use street, Junkyard, bridge, temples as their shelter.

Table: 4.2.7 Shelter of Respondents

Place of living	Number	Percentage
On the street	26	37.14
On Junkyard	19	27.14
At home	15	21.43
Over the bridge	10	14.29
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

This table shows most of the respondent about 37.14 percentage live on the street, 27.14 percentage live on junkyard, and 21.43 live at home and 14.29 percentage live over the bridge.

4.2.8 Consumption of Drugs and Alcohol:

Beside food, most respondents spend their money for smoking, taking alcohol and drugs. Smoking is quite common among the child rag pickers, but trend is negligible among the girls.

Table: 4.2.8 Consumption of Drugs and Alcohol

Substances	Number	Percentage
Smoke	50	71.43
Alcohol	17	24.29
Drugs	3	4.29
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Above table shows that 71.43 percentage respondents smoke, 24.29 percentage use alcohol and 4.29 percentage use drugs.

4.2.9 Habits of Spending Leisure Time:

Most of their time, the respondents get involved them in collecting rags. Beside their works of rag picking, respondents spend their leisure time by doing different activities like playing cards, smoking, wandering along the road and bus station and some sleep during the day.

Table: 4.2.9 Habits of Spending Leisure time

Activities	Number	Percentage
Playing Cards	36	51.43
Smoking	15	21.43
Wandering	11	15.71
Sleeping	8	11.43
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

According to above table about 51.43 percent respondents spend their leisure time by playing cards with their friends, 21.43 percent smoking 15.71 percent wandering at market area, 11.43 percent by sleeping.

4.3 Economic Characteristics:

It includes the family occupation ,working site of the respondents, rag picking season and time, daily collection of rags, place of selling if materials and their daily income.

4.3.1. Respondents' Family Occupation:

All the respondents have not similar family occupations. They are from different family occupations.

Table: 4.3.1. Respondents' Family Occupation

Occupation	Number	Percent
Daily wageworkers	40	57.14
Farmer	10	14.29
Wood cutter	8	11.43
Carpenter	5	7.14
Painter	5	7.14
Beggar	2	2.86
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Majority of respondents, about 57.14 percent have come from family with occupation of daily wage workers, 14.29 percent have come from farmer. 11.43 percent are wood cutter family, 7.14 percent are from carpentry, 7.14 percent are from painter, and 2.86 percent are from beggar family.

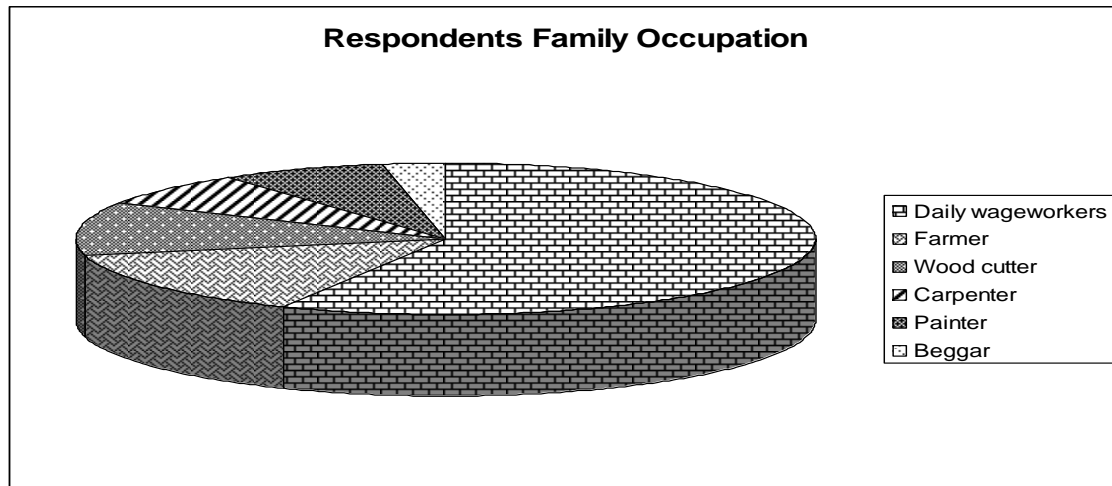


Figure 4.3.1. Respondents' Family Occupation.

This table shows that poor economic background is another cause of rag pickers. Majority of respondents are from poor economic status. Most of their family occupation is labor or daily wage workers.

4.3.2 Working site of Respondents:

This study identified various working site where rag pickers have frequently gone to collect

rags.

Rag pickers collect rags from different area such as from market area, dumping site, and street, riverside and from various religion places.

Table : 4.3.2 Working Site of Respondents

Site (Working area)	Number	Percent
Market area	26	37.14
Dumping Site	23	32.86
Street	13	18.57
Riverside	8	11.43
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Among the total respondents, about 37.14 percent pick rags from market area, followed by 32.86 percent from dumping site, 18.57 percent pick rags from street and 11.43 percent pick rags from river side.

This table shows that respondents go to many places for collecting rags. Among of them most of go to market area followed by respondents going on dumping site to collect, rags, where they find enough rags.

4.3.3 Rag picking Season of Respondents:

This study shows that all seasons are not suitable for collection of rags. Winter season is most fruitful, whenever collection is high.

Table: 4.3.3 Rag Picking Season of Respondents

Season	Number	Percent
Winter	58	82.86
All Season	8	11.43
Summer (Rainy)	4	5.71
Total	70	99.99

Source: Field survey, 2015

Majority of the respondent 82.86 percent work in winter season, 11.43 percent collect rags in all season and very few 5.71 percent collect rags in summer or in rainy season.

Above table shows that, work in winter is favorable. So, most respondents collect rags in

winter.

4.3.4 Rag picking time of Respondents:

This study identified morning and evening time is suitable for rag collection.

Table: 4.3.4 Rag picking Time of Respondents

Time	Number	Percent
Evening	58	82.86
Morning	12	17.14
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Majority of respondent 82.86 percent pick rags in evening and 17.14 percent pick rags in the morning.

This table shows that morning and evening are peak hours for picking rags.

4.3.5 Daily rags Collection of Respondents:

Quantity of daily collection is different among of the respondents. This study identified they collect rags up to 6 kg. to more than 9 kg daily.

Table: 4.3.5. Daily Picking Time of Respondents

Rags (kg.)	Number	Percent
Up to 5	54	77.14
7-8	10	14.29
9+	6	8.57
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Of the total about 77.14 percent collect less or equal to 5 kg. Rags per day followed by 11.29 percent collect 7 to 8 kg. And 8-57 percent collects 9 kg. Or more rags in daily.

This table shows inequality in collection of rags. Most of respondents are collecting rags up to 6 kg. Per day.

4.3.6 Collection Materials by Respondents:

This study identified various types of rags collected by child rag pickers such as plastics, others metallic things as tins, glass.

This study identified various types of rags collected by child rag pickers such as plastics, other metallic things as tins, glass.

Table: 4.3.6. Collection Materials by Respondents

Materials	Number	Percent
Plastics (bottles)	30	42.86
Others	28	40
Tins (Metallic objects)	9	12.85
Glass	3	4.28
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2015

4.3.7 Places of Selling rags by Respondents:

They sell their rags in different places to different persons. Among of total sample population about 14.86 percent sell to shopkeepers and 4.28 percent sell to their friends.

Above table shows that respondents sell their materials in different places. But most of them sell their rags to junkyard owners.

4.3.8 Other Jobs:

Child rag pickers do not earn enough money by selling the rags. So sometimes they do other jobs to collect money for their food. They do works like selling water bottles, junk food at bus station; washing dishes at restaurants, ticket black mailing in cinema halls.

Table: 4.3.8 Other jobs

Jobs	Number	Percent
Selling water bottles	30	42.85
Selling junk food	20	28.57
Washing dishes	14	20
Ticket blackmailing	6	8.57
Total	70	99.99

Source: Filed survey, 2015

Rag pickers sometimes do other jobs in their off time. Among of respondents about 42.85 percent sell water bottles, 28.57 percent sells junk food, 20 percent washes dishes and about 8.57 percent engages in ticket black mailing.

4.3.9 Daily Income of Respondents:

This study shows that although all respondents sell their rags, but their income depend on quality and quantity of rags. They earn Up to Rs. 50 to 70.

Table: 4.3.9 Daily Income of Respondents

Income (Rs.)	Number	Percent
Up to 50	54	77.14
55-60	10	14.28
60-70	6	8.57
Total	70	99.99

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Of the total respondents about 77.14 percent earns less or equal to Rs. 50, 14.28 percent earn Rs. 55 to 60 and 8.57 percent earn Rs. 60 to 70 daily. Above table shows that many of respondents earn more than Rs. 50 per day

CHAPTER-V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary:

The work of Rag picker is a worst form of child labor. It has several bad impacts on rag pickers. It has many complicated and challenging issues that always hinder the children's basic rights. The work usually consists of collection various used materials from street corners, riverside and from dumping sites to sell them in very low price to junkyards and earn money.

Several researches and studies were conducted focusing on street children or rag pickers in various urban areas but still the situation is vulnerable, so this study is expected to be great importance in the context of the study area selected.

A structured questionnaire was used in the survey. The specific object of the study is to examine the daily activities of the rag pickers. This study mainly focuses on the relation of rag pickers and their socio-economic status. The study was based on teklu area of Kathmandu metropolitan city and the respondents were under the of age 16 years old.

5.2 Findings of the Study:

- Majority of the rag pickers are poor families.
- Majority of rag pickers are boys and less are girls. And most of them are below the age of 12 years old.
- Majority of boy's rag pickers have migrated from different places of country side.
- Gender discrimination in rag pickers is prevalent. Majority of boys are literate, but girls are illiterate.
- Majority of rag pickers are from indigenous group followed by Dalit.
- The average family size of child rag pickers is 3-5 members.
- Child rag pickers usually originate from families whose main occupation is not agricultural labor.
- Child rag pickers usually originate due to family destructions.
- Although they live in out of the house, but they eat cooked food than junk food.
- The child rag pickers collect mainly plastics and plastics made materials, bottles tins and other metals.
- The price rag pickers get for their rags varies according to quality of collected materials.

- Child rag pickers collect rags from market site and dumping site.
- Many children are enjoying rag picking though it is dirty work.
- Majority of children work in winter season.
- They collect rags in morning and evening and they do other jobs in their leisure time.
- Many NGO and local clubs have been working to provide informal education to street children, but their impact is not effective.
- Majority of rag pickers sell their rags to the junkyard owners, some sell to shopkeeper and some to their friends.
- Child rag pickers earn more than Rs. 50 per day.
- Majority of child rag pickers do not want to leave this job.
- Beside homes, rag pickers select street for their sleep and some use junkyard and bridge.
- Smoking and using alcohol is common among of child rag pickers.
- Most of child rag pickers enjoy playing cards with their friends.

5.3 Conclusion:

The phenomenon of rag picking by children to street life is due to survive in their life condition. This phenomenon creates problems for the children and making their life vulnerable. Most of the children engaged in rag picking are from poor, disadvantaged and illiterate families. The main causes of the children rag pickers are poverty, family adversity and lack of awareness. About 93 percent of boy's rag pickers are migrant and but 60 percent girls are non-migrant and living with their family members.

The study reveals that out of the children rag pickers boy are more and girls are very less in number. Children rag pickers spend more their time on the street. They enjoy doing this job, so boys do not want to leave this job. Boys feel freedom in this work because of self-dependence. But girls want to leave this work due to insecurity. The study further shows that most of rag picker left home within 12-14 years old when they feel sense of freedom.

Rag picking is seasonal works; winter season is favorable for rag picking. Most of them collect rags in evening and morning. In leisure time, some rag pickers do another job like selling of water bottles and junk food in bus parks and some time they wash pots in hotels and restaurants to manage their food.

Although NGOs/ INGOs and locals clubs are conducting programmers to address the issues

of street children but very less number get benefited from such programs. But most of them have negative attitude towards such organization. This may be due to poor monitoring mechanism and lack of proper co-ordination among the concerned authorities.

The study shows that most of the boys' rag pickers are literate, but girls are illiterate. Most the boys work and live in group with their friends, but girls work and live with their family members. Majority of boy's rag pickers use smoke, alcohol, drugs but girls are not using these.

Boy's rag pickers do not show their interest towards education, but girls want to rejoin the school if they get chance. Rag pickers collect variety of rags like plastics, bottles, tins, glasses and they sell those things to junkyards owners, shopkeepers of some time to their friends. They collect the money daily and spend same day, so they have not collection for future.

5.4 Area of Further Research:

This study is based on the socio-economic status and daily activities of child rag pickers under age 16 years old in tekun area of Kathmandu metropolitan city.

This study does not cover their health status, knowledge about their rights, sex relation and future aim of the rag pickers. Similarly, this study does not cover about all age's rag picker of tekun area. So, further study should focus on these issues.

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ANNEXES

Interview and Questionnaire for the survey

i

“SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF CHILD RAG PICKERS: A STUDY FROM TEKU TEKU, KATHMANDU”.

Section: Personal Identification:

1. General Information:

- a) Name
- b) Age
- c) Sex: Male () Female ()
- d) Mother tongue
- e) Religion
- g) Family type - Joint () Nuclear ()

2. Can you read?

Yes [] No []

3. Have you ever attended school?

Yes [] No []

4. In which class do you study?

Grade []

5. Why did you leave school?

- a) Parents/ step parent's behavior []
- b) Caste discrimination in the school []
- c) Economic poverty []
- d) But not unsuitable environment []
- e) Due to distance of the school []
- f) Because of failing []
- g) Other specify..... []

6. Do you want to go to school again in the future?

Yes [] No []

Section : Origin and family background

1. Where were you born?

District	VDC/Municipality	Ward No.

2. If non-Nepalese, what is your nationality?

.....

3. Do you have a home?

Yes [] No []

4. How many members are there in your family?

.....

5. Who are they?

a. Father []

b. Mother []

c. Step mother []

d. Step mother []

e. Spouse []

f. Brother []

g. Sister []

h. Uncle []

i. Aunt []

j. Others (Specify).....

6. Among the children of your parents, which children are you?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

7. What is your parent's occupation?

.....

8. Are they literate/illiterate?

.....

9. Where do you live?

- a) Own house []
- b) Rented house []
- c) Temple/Stupa []
- d) No fixed place (street) []
- e) Others (Specify) []

10. Are you living in group?

Yes [] No []

Note : For migrant

11. Why did you leave your house? Tick out.

- a) Poverty/Hunger
- b) Family behavior
- c) Other (Specify)

12. With whom do you live? Tick out.

- a) With Parents
- b) With relatives
- c) With friends
- d) Alone

Selection: Work History

1. What is your frequently going site? Tick out.

- a) Street
- b) Riverside
- c) Market area
- d) Damping site
- e) Other (Specify)

2. What type of thing do you mostly pick up? Tick out.

- a) Plastics
- b) Papers
- c) Glasses
- d) Tins
- e) Others (Specify)

3. Do you do the job regularly or occasionally?

.....
4. At what time mostly do you go to collect the rags? Tick out .

- a. Morning
- b. Mid-day
- c. Evening

If occasionally, go for question no. 5

5. At what season do you come to work as rag pickers?
.....

6. How much rag do you collect in a day? In kg/
.....

7. Who buys your rags? Tick out.

- a) Junkyard owner
- b) Broker
- c) Relatives
- d) Others (Specify)

8. How much do you earn in a day? In Rs.
.....

9. Are you working alone or in group?
.....

10. Besides rag picking what do you do?
.....

11. How do you spend your leisure time?
.....

12. Do you like this job?

Yes [] No []

13. Do you want to leave this work?

Yes [] No []

14. Have you NGOs/INGOS and Clubs approached you?

Yes [] No []

Section: Personal behavior and health care

1. **Who arranges your food? Tick out**
 - a) Own self
 - b) Other (Specify)
2. **What kind of food do you take most of time? Tick out**
 - a) Junk food
 - b) Cooked food
3. **How often do you spend days and night in hunger? Tick out**

a) Quite often	b) Some time
c) Care	d) Never
4. **Do you smoke?**
Yes [] No []
5. **Have you ever tried drugs?**
Yes [] No []
6. **If yes, how many times in a week do you take drugs?**
.....
7. **Where do you sleep? Tick out**
 - a) At home
 - b) On the street
 - c) Over the bridge
 - d) Other places (Specify)
8. **Do you sleep alone or in group?**
.....