

**WORKING STATUS OF CHILD RAG-PICKERS  
(A Case Study of Kathmandu Valley)**

**A Dissertation**

**Submitted to the Central Department of Sociology  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan  
University In the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the  
Degree of Master of Arts  
in Sociology**

**By**

**Dipak Dhungel**

**Roll No. 275/065**

**Central Department of Sociology  
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur**

**April. 2016**

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Every society expects that children are the hope of future. Though many cultures regard children as the future architects and backbone of their country, the situation is different in Nepal. Children are abused and exploited and exposed to the worst forms of labour such as trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and physically exerting or dangerous work. After this event, the government has shown its strong commitments against the use of child labour (Bajracharya, 2010).

Problem of street children has been growing in urban Nepal. It is estimated that there are about 6000 street children throughout the urban areas in the country and about 1000 street children in the Kathmandu valley. The ongoing unstable political situation in the country has also contributed to the rise in street children in Kathmandu (Andrew, 2014).

In modern societies, children are seriously involved in drugs, sexual relationship and other kinds of evil conduct. In cities of Nepal like Kathmandu, such kind of situation is worsening. Most of the Nepalese children are unaware about sex and just try to imitate the sex and violence shown in the western and Indian movies. In other parts, some delinquents are using by criminal gangs. They are using children for crime and immoral activities such as stealing, gambling, pick pocketing, robbery, selling and trafficking of drugs, prostitution and so on (Dev, 2012).

The number of street children in Kathmandu and in other towns in Nepal has been growing. Some of the street children belong to squatter families who have migrated from rural areas, other are runaways driven from home by a variety of socio-psychological problems or abandoned who beg or rummage through refuse bins for discarded food for their survival. Many street children are rag pickers, who sell the recyclable waste to junkyards; girls on the streets are increasingly found to be engaged in prostitution (Thapa, 2014).

Being a child right organization against child labour exploitation, CWIN has been actively working with migrated children in Kathmandu since more than a decade CWIN runs various programmes for prevention, protection and social reintegration of migrated children and have worked with over ten thousand children in the past.

The ILO has launched the international programme for the elimination of child labour. Moreover WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF have been involved for the protection of child right directly or indirectly. WHO has carried out different studies on the health conditions of child at work especially in difficult circumstances. UNICEF has lunched a new programme focusing for the children in especially difficult circumstances, for street children. UNFPA is indirectly involved to reduce child labour through family planning programmes (ILO, 2011).

Children are pillars of our society. In near future they have to handle this society, nation and the whole world as a responsible citizen. So children have been entitled as the 'future stars' or the 'rising sun'. It is said that children are like incomplete soil vessel, their shape could be formed as per the potters' interest if we want to make our society healthy and prosperous, first of all we should think about children.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The social problem is mostly seen in the developed area rather than in underdeveloped ones. In that society if child lacks proper care from his guardian other member would try to keep him far away from loneliness feeling. But in the contrast to remote society, we never found that kind of social protection to the child in developed or urban society. Therefore this problem is mostly found in the developed city or country. In the developed counties this problem has been found long ago when they started to run toward industrialization and modernization. These days this problem is still found in serious stage in those countries that are highly developed. These days magnitude of the problem is increasing significantly also in the less developed countries where urban culture is growing up (Bajracharya, 2010).

The existence of street children is not a new phenomenon. Despite the growing number of INGOs and NGOs, it is even more difficult to get exact number of those children who are invisible: work behind closed doors, confined to factories, mines

backroom bars, kitchen quarters, in illegal activities or other more invisible occupations such as domestic workers, or sexually exploited children. And we don't even know the actual number of street children. The amount of information and data under street children is very limited.

In the context of Nepal, condition of Nepalese children is in a poor stage, which is definitely getting worse day by day. Most of the children are at different level of risk and their future is completely abyss. Children in Nepal, which is one of the poorest counties, are under developed in every division due to poverty, illiteracy and social environment. They are deprived of education and employed to work as labourers. Some of them are discarded from the family and some of them are forced to involve in prostitution.

How much a country is developed can be shown when how much of its child population has got its child rights because children are the future of nation. In the context of Nepal, most of the children are engaged as hotel boy rag picker, street hawker shoe polisher, carpet maker and domestic servants. In this situation children have to work very hard from their early stage of life to survive. Because Nepalese children are in a poor stage, they have to work from early morning to late night, from their early childhood for living (Bajracharya, 2010).

Among the different forms of child labour street children face various problems, which arise from different sectors. Their problems are related to their living and working. But these living and working problems have many others problems, such as; developmental problem, health problems; educational problem. These problems are the burning issues for all developing countries including Nepal. This growing number of street children is one of the greatest challenges for all advocates of development, human right activists and policy makers (Bajracharya, 2010).

So this study has attempted to answer those problems and assess the selected socio-economic situations that have affected the degree of street children. The main focus was made on the exploration and description of the socio-economic dimension of delinquency and consideration of the strategies for the improvement of the situation. This study aims at answering the questions such as.

- ) What economic and cultural background do the rag pickers represent?
- ) How did they become rag pickers?
- ) What are the major problems faced by them?
- ) What do they think about their future aspiration?

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

This study is intended to bring out detailed information on the problems and socio-economic background of child rag pickers. Special focus is given to family background from which rag pickers originate. The specific objectives are as follows:

- ) To identify the economic background of rag pickers.
- ) To identify the causes of child rag pickers who turned into child rag pickers.
- ) To find the general working condition and health status of rag picker.

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

Poverty is one of the main causes for children to take the street. There are few studies carried out by some organizations that deal with street children and rag pickers in Nepal. A rag picker is not a beggar, works hard and considers rag picking a profession of choice. But the numbers of rag pickers are growing in Kathmandu valley in compare to other town. They are often involved in illegal works with criminal gangs where they are used for drug, trafficking, sexual activities, pick-pocketing (Dhital et al., 2001).

This study helps to know socio-economic background of rag pickers and it is expected to be useful for other researcher. This study is important for policy maker donor agencies to support the programmes for rag pickers and be useful for NGOs and INGOs and also to the students of this field.

### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

The study has been divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals introduction of research issue, discussion about child rag pickers. This chapter also includes statement of problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, conceptual framework and organization of the study.

The second chapter deals review of literature especially theoretical review, empirical literature review related to rag pickers and conceptual framework.

The third chapter discusses the research method for the research. In this chapter, selection of the study area, data source and collection techniques, method of analysis and presentation, limitation of the study and field experience also described. The fourth chapter is the socio-demographic and working status of respondents. This chapter includes the general background of the respondents, demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. Fourth chapter also includes working condition, causes and consequence. The fifth chapter focuses on summary, conclusion and recommendation on the basis of findings of the study.

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

The problems of child labour remain a pressing problem in much of the world today. No country has been out of this problem, which is originating from social problems, educational system and poverty. But the problems of street children in particular are reviewed.

It is stated that the rag pickers are harassed by local club, local people, local hooligans and are victims of humiliation and suspicion of thief. Quite often they meet physical injury while rag picking and also in their working areas like the garbage dumping place. They are exposed to a variety of hazards, both moral and physical. For them, the future is in certain and the past in mystery. It is only the present in which they have learnt to struggle for survival (CWIN, 2013).

The categorization of the street children in three different groups as: Children who have continuous family contact but who stay with their parents on the public pavements in urban areas; working children who spend all their days and some of their nights on the streets and in public places but who have occasional family contact: children on the street and children who do not have any contact with their family: such as orphans, 'runaways', 'refugees' and 'displaced person': 'Children of the street', This is the most crucial group as the children do not have any protection from the vagaries of nature and society (UNICEF, 2013).

There are various forms of child labour in Nepal. Poverty is the main factor of child labour because if a family is very poor and is unable to afford for their food, cloth, and shelter for everyone, then all the members of family have to work for living. A large number of these working children are living under dreadful and fearful life under great uncertainty. Everywhere, they are exploited and cheated. They are also deprived from school education (UNICEF, 2014).

The three concepts in child labour are: child, work and labour – constitute a major debate in development literature. Though childhood differs from one context to

another, from one culture to another, from rural to urban areas in Nepal, The Child Labour Act, 1992 defines a childhood to those children who are under 16 years of age. It explicitly states that those children who are under 14 should not be employed at the expense of their mental, spiritual and physical status. Children under the age of 18 are also prohibited to work in the health hazardous work and work that is likely 'to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development (UNICEF, 2014).

It is found that poverty is both the cause and consequence of child worker. Extreme poverty and landlessness in rural areas are fuelling child worker not only in urban areas but also in rural areas as well. The obvious causes of poverty include structural inequality in access to assets, education and health services and the absence of social security system in many developing countries (INSEC, 2012).

The study also mentioned that lower the family per capita income is, larger the proportion of children in work and lower the school participation rate. The effect of poverty on school enrolment has been often adverse because of direct and indirect cost involved in schooling vis a vis heavy workload of children.

CWIN mentioned that child labour, an integral part of Nepalese society, is the consequence of an exploitative socio-economic and political reality. The magnitude of the problem is very high and more transparent in south Asia. Exploitation of child labour in some part of the world is so inhuman and intolerable. No sector of labour is completely free of child labour exploitation (CWIN, 2013).

CWIN stated that the magnitude of the problem of child labour is indeed high in developing countries. Though, the problem of child labour is found everywhere in the world. In developing countries like Nepal, children are working in different ways. A large number of these working children are deprived in various ways and are in risky situation. More than 5.7 million of total population in children aged between 5-14 years out of total population in 2001 national census. In 2001; the economically active children are half a million but it increased to 1 million in 2011. This is actually 10 percent of the total labour force. These economically active children are child labourers and those children who are deprived harassed and are at a risk, are the serious and challenging problems (CWIN, 2014).



The Constitution of Nepal-2072, The Children Act of Nepal 1992 and the Labour Act of Nepal-1992 has reserved and described about the problem of child labour. By this fact it is known that only after the advent of democratic system children become a major issue in Nepal. In developing countries like Nepal, children work in all sectors of the economy in all types of activities. They predominate in the informal sector consisting of agriculture, small enterprises, industries, various trades and services but they may also be found in formal sectors. And the children can be easily noticed walking along roads as rag pickers, collecting wastes fit for recycling from garbage heaps and selling them to *Kawadiwalas* so as to earn a few rupees to maintain their livelihood (Thapa, 2014).

Gurung stated that child rag-pickers have been one kind of child worker, which has been one of the critical but neglected issues for a long time. It is a universal phenomenon that no country has been out of their problems. However, receiving a world wide attention in recent years is much greater, the problems have been still critical. It is due to the poverty, that compels parents to make children work for wages and the employer never hesitates to take advantage of it because of cheap labour (Gurung, 2013).

Bhetuwal stated that the phenomenon of child worker which is consequences of the exploitative systems operating at the national and international levels not only closes the future of millions of children in the third world countries, but it also drastically restricts the development prospects of these countries. The existence of child worker is a threat to overall world development and to the solidarity and peace in the world (Bhetuwal, 2012).

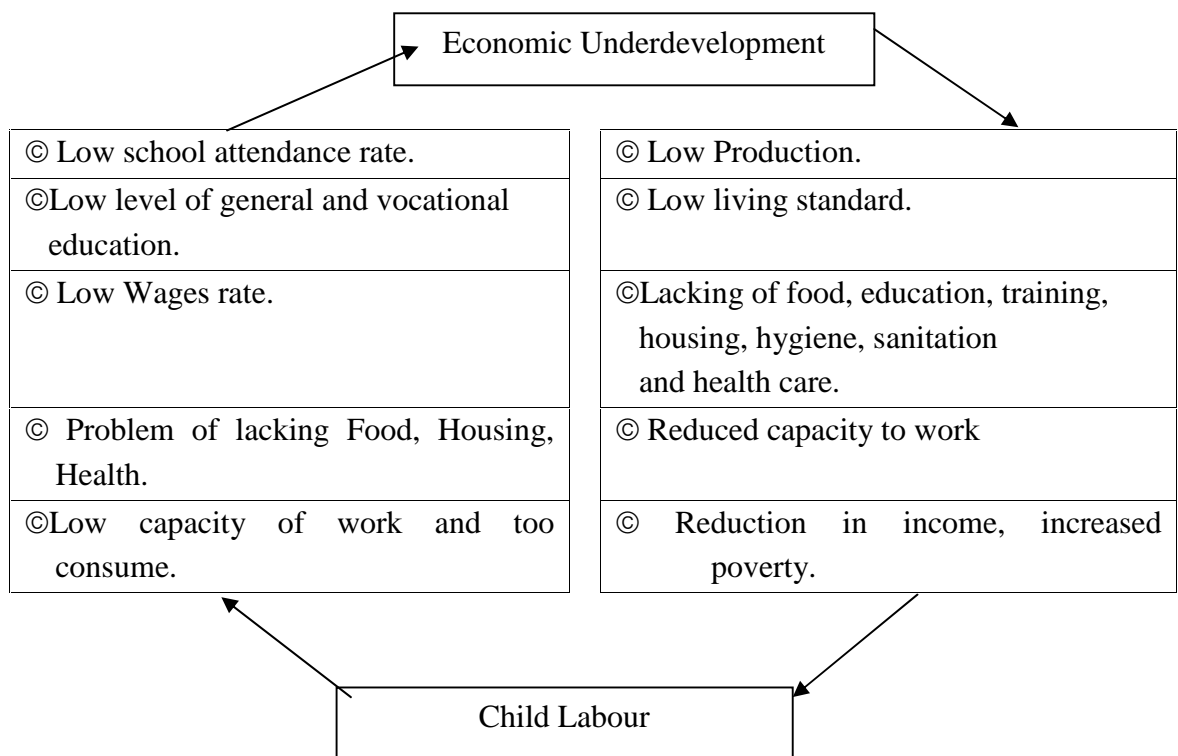
Millions of child workers in the world are exploited by greedy employers. These children are deprived of their childhood. Though national governments have taken action in different areas to help them, Bhetuwal raised the question about the policies for children.

Ennew stated that children are compelled to work with or without their desire. They are mostly exploited due to the following reasons: children are too young to perform the type of work, the working hours are too long in the work place, they are too small for the tasks to carry over and tools involved in their work, they are paid too little

was not enough to survive, the work is too hard for the growth of child's body and mind, they have too much responsibility to carry the works, the work is too dull and repetitive in nature and they work like a slave or bonded labour (Ennew, 2014).

Children from the poorest areas or belongs to the poorest families tends to work at a very early age, and they should not have the basic level of education or it can say that they are suffering from other social disadvantages. Due to which, children are forced to do work with their parents or engage in caring with their youngsters and many other domestic works in their own house or might be try to migrate which simply keep the children away from the sphere of their mental growth as well as studies. However, ILO (2014) presented the vicious circle of underdevelopment and child labour as follows:

**Figure 2.1: The Vicious Circle of Underdevelopment and Child Labour**



Sources: ILO, 2014

## 2.2 Empirical Review

Dev in his article published in voice of child workers, entitled, ‘Street Kids in Kathmandu’ stated that the habitual abode of the street kids in Kathmandu is the street

pavements, rag picking and the temple sides. The number of children working as rag picking is about 400, of which 50 percent are minors below the age of 10 (Dev, 2012).

CWIN mentioned that every year around 500 children are landed in the street of Kathmandu from different districts of Nepal. Children come mainly from neighbouring districts of Kathmandu like Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Dhading, Makawanpur and Dolkha (CWIN, 2013).

CWIN in a survey study entitled “lost childhood, survey research on street children of Kathmandu), which is based on a survey of street children of Kathmandu, whose number is estimated at about 500. In 2000, one fifth of these children were personally interviewed and asked about their personal history, current status, income origin etc. It was found that the children were of three types run away children, squatter children and orphan children. Most of those children were engaged in rag picking, pottering, betting and stealing. They suffered from illnesses like scabies, cold, fever headaches, diarrhoea, dizziness, tuberculosis and ENT infections. Because the children lacked adequate and hygienic food, they were malnourished. Some of them survived on food lying in the garbage bins. Schooling was unknown to them. Because they were indifferent about their future, they were not only indulging in gambling, smoking and pick pocketing but were also sometimes addicted to drinking and drugs (CWIN, 2010).

Pradhan wrote an article, “*KHATE*” The street survivors: Problems and prospects, published in voice of child workers. The study is the feature article on the street children of Kathmandu. The most popular group among the street children are rag-pickers called *KHATE*. They survive by collecting by bits of plastic and garbage from the litter lying in the streets. They are one of the most neglected groups of children in Nepal society (Pradhan, 2012).

Pradhan study on issue of child rights; many commitment and little action: He found that children are not only deprived of their fundamental rights to survival and protection, but also equally exploitation and discriminated against in their everyday life. In certain regions of the country, the children are still being pushed into slavery, child labour, rag picking, street children, child abuse and neglect, girl trafficking and child bandage are very common issues (Pradhan, 2012).

Manandhar study on situation of child rag pickers in Nepal, a paper presented to South Asian workshop on children, organized by Tata institute of social service, Bombay, India in collaboration with International Association of schools of social work, Vienna, Austria by establishing a correlation between poverty and growth in the number of rag picker children as those, "who spend about 5-6 hours each day in the garbage collection centre and go back every evening to their parents in slum areas." The number of such children in the Kathmandu is quoted to be 400; of which 89 percent come from outside Kathmandu. The existing legal provision failed to be effective in addressing the problems of child rag pickers (Manandhar, 2012).

ILO has stated that more than 11,000 children are working illegally as child labour. This simply emphasized that child labour is not only the problem of developing countries but developed countries too. In rural as well as in urban areas of Nepal, most people are unemployed and uneducated and willing to get job for the fulfillment of their basic needs as in other poor countries of Asia and the world (ILO, 2012).

The report from the Director General of the Asian Regional Conference of ILO in "Action For The Elimination Of Child Labour " said "Asian people are suffering from malnutrition and food supplied available to the bulk of people are insufficient for their physical well being and their diets are monotonous unbalanced and deficient in vitamins, proteins, minerals and fats. General health condition is extremely bad. Efforts should be made to expand educational facilities where half of the children of primary school age group do not attend school. In Asia, the rural people are not conscious to teach their children than urban people (ILO, 2012).

ILO mentioned that child labour reflects a true image of the socio-economic reality of undeveloped countries. It highlights the pathetic condition of humans that still prevail in most of the third world countries. Due to poverty, lack of education, regional inequality in terms of income distribution and government's negligence it has seen for two decades that migration is uncontrolled phenomenon from rural to urban in search of work for survival. The migration of children and other labors has led to immense pressure on rising unemployment scenario globally. Moreover, it is also a consequence of the feudal land holding system, which still prevails in many third

world countries and it is no exception with Nepal. The growing migration of the rural population to urban areas has also contributed to increase in the magnitude of child labour. Industries like carpet, garment, confectionery, brick kiln and stone quarry, especially in transport as a conductor employ many children, as they are less expensive in comparison to other labour and they do not complain about wages and facilities (ILO, 2013).

ILO stated that in developing countries, some 250 million children between ages of 5 and 14 are working. Of this total some 120 million children are working full time and rest of them are employed being part time where sixty one percent belongs to an Asian continent, thirty two percent or 80 million in Africa and seven percent or 1205 million in Latin America. UN estimated that there are 5 to 6 million Child laborers in Bangladesh, about 5 million in Brazil, 1.4 million in Egypt, 1 million in Guatemala, about 40 million in India, over 2 million in Indonesia, about 8 million in Mexico, 2 million in Nepal, 12 million in Nigeria, over 2 million in Pakistan, 5 million in the Philippines and 4 million in Thailand. It estimates that by 2000 there will be 375-million child laborers worldwide. In Nepal the latest Nepal Labour Force Survey 2008 reported that about 2.5 million children are employed in various kinds of works. This constitutes 41 percent of the total population between ages 5-14 years. Furthermore, more than 70 percent of total population depends on subsistence sector like agriculture where over 30.5 percent lie below poverty line. Therefore Nepalese economy has been facing a serious threat to sustain in the present scenario. Thus migration is obviously concentrated in urban area in order to maintain livelihood, security and have better opportunities. Meanwhile, due to rampant poverty and with subsistence agricultural practice child labor constitute an integral part of the family work force in both formal and informal sectors.

UNICEF stated that the street for many of these children is not only their home but also their working place. These children are engaged in activities like pottering begging, guiding tourists, picking money in temples, peddling rickshaws petty vending vehicle clearing rag picking, construction work temp conductor etc. These children earn an amount varying between Rs. 25 and Rs. 120 per day. The human stories of the street children move one's heart. The recommendations given in the

book for the improvement of the situation of the children are pragmatic (UNICEF, 2014).

Child hope Asia, presents an account in Asia describing the street children in Delhi of whom some are Nepali of the 1,000 street children in Kathmandu 46 percent are refugees from Tibet and Bhutan.

UNICEF stated that in children and women of Nepal stated that child labour in Nepal is often directly linked to the poverty of the family. It has been also mentioned that the necessity of having food and shelter, and factors such as unemployment or under employment of adult family members, or the death of the bread winner have been brought to notice that these common factors push children to work from an early age. Many children have migrated to cities in search of better living conditions and have few choices are left regarding the type, conditions or quality of their employment. Most reliable estimations revealed in UK that children between 15/ 26 percent of 11-14 years old and between 36/66 percent of 15 years old still working. This shows that the developed countries have also facing with the prevalence of child labour problem that means theses countries are also confronted the same problem and the same situation, which has been facing by the third world countries (World Bank, 2014).

CWIN study on young rag pickers in Kathmandu published in voice of child workers is based on a survey of the rag pickers or garbage pickers in Kathmandu. Rag-picking, in fact, is a terribly unhygienic dangerous and destructive occupation for the growth and development of children. They poverty stricken rag picking children find it difficult to give up this occupation because there is virtually no alternative option to them (CWIN, 2014).

CWIN report recommends that rag-picking children should be provided not only with shelter but also with opportunities for the development of their health, education and skills. They should also be provided alternative employment opportunities voice should also be raised against the exploitation of these children.

CWIN studied on child labour in Nepal. The study tried to understand the attitudinal aspects of owner about giving employment and also the attitude of the children towards work. There are various factors governing the demand and supply of child

workers. Low wages, lack of rules in regard to the termination of job and labour intensive production in most of the units are the major factors are the demand of child labour. On the other hand, low level of family education, larger family size, poor financial status of family and the lack of care, love and affection to the children increased the supply of child labour in the labour market. Enforcement of minimum working conditions, compulsory education, skill development and income generating programmes targeting the parents / families and legal measures are the major recommendations for the improvement in the condition of the child labour (CWIN, 2014).

CWIN studied on urban child labour in Nepal, its realities and challenges is a compilation of several study reports which shows how children younger than 16 years have to labour in order to support themselves and their families. The numbers of working children are growing with every passing day, which is mainly due to an increase in migration from the rural to the urban areas (CWIN, 2014).

Thapa in the publication entitled “Child rag pickers in Nepal” explores the actual condition of street children. This book presents an account of the situation analysis of two kinds of street children in Nepal (a) those that live and work in the street and (b) he others who live with their families but spend most of their time playing and working in street. It goes into details in analyzing the factors that compel the children to leave their homes and pass their hard life on the street. Many of those children desert their homes because of their abusive and alcoholic parents, maltreatment by step parents and also due to the attractions in the towns. Most of these children fall in the age group of fourteen and sixteen years in the central development region, 86 percent of those children are males while the remaining 14 percent females. A little less than half (40 percent) of the children in this region were illiterate (Thapa (2011).

ILO stated that the recent Rapid Assessment conducted by the ILO on worst form of child labour estimates that 4000 rag pickers in Nepal which 88 percent boys and 12 percent girls. The rag pickers work 6 hours on average and the average earnings is Rs. 87 per day. ILO found that the main aim was to gathered information on the hazardous condition taking children who work as rag pickers known as ‘KHETE’ in Nepalese slang and the manner in which these children are exploited. This study was intended to proved details on the nature, process and problems of child rag picking

including the perceptions and behaviour of these children towards education, work and society (ILO, 2011).

CWIN studied on alcohol and drug use among street children in Nepal”: The research is based on six urban centres of Nepal. The main aim of this study was to identify the impact of alcohol drugs and tobacco use on children’s likes, poverty is both cause and consequences of children leaving home although the family and social circumstance emerge as important reasons. The use of alcohol has become common among different caste/ethnic groups among gender and among all age groups in Nepal. Four types of alcohol were initiated; *Jand* or *Chhang*, home made alcohol (*Raski*) local alcohol and beer. The consequences of alcohol use can have a long lasting effect on children’s drinking behaviour. Besides access to alcohol market to the children has become major threats in combating against substance abuse in Nepal (CWIN, 2012).

Redd Barna-Nepal mentioned the State of the rights of the child in Nepal published in cooperation with Redd Barna-Nepal is divided into five chapters, which gives an authoritative account of the conditions of children in Nepal. It is stated that the employment of children under the age of 19 is declared illegal. Yet most of the laws have not been implemented and child rights violations have been taking place in the country. Rampant cases of child abuse, sexual exploitation, sexual violation and rape, trafficking, servitude and child migration are matters of concern. However, there has been progressive change in socio-cultural, political and economic attitudes of the people towards the problems of the children. As a result, Nepal has ratified the convention on the Rights of the child and ILO Minimum age of employment convention. The country adopted the labour Act 1991 and children’s Act 1992. Efforts made by certain NGOs and INGOs have brought about certain awareness in the society against the exploitation of children (Redd Barna-Nepal, 2012).

CWIN studied on glue sniffing among rag pickers in the Kathmandu valley. The main aim of this study was determining the prevalence of glue sniffing among rag pickers. The problem of rag picker is universal and is comparatively very high in those countries where there is rapid growth of urbanization. Although new to Nepali society, glue sniffing is fast becoming an addiction among rag pickers and street children in Kathmandu. It has been seen as a ‘debut’ drug for rag pickers and street children. Rag pickers often those who do not even smoke or drink alcohol are using



glue. This survey recommends that the business community and the manufacturer of such adhesives should also be made aware of its ill effects on children and of the high chances of its abuse due to its availability (CWIN, 2012).

UNDP stated that child labourers are among the world's most exploited workers. The million of children works in fields, factories, on street corners and in garbage dumps all over the world. Most of them do some form of work from their earliest years, helping around the home or running errands. They are exploited in various ways either physically or mentally and reports indicates that one million children are sexually exploited only in Asia constitutes 61 percent of child labour exist. About 80 million children are working in dangerous, difficult and hazardous situation where it has been found that poverty is one of the main fundamental reasons to be a child labour. Most of the children leave their home when they do not get basic means of livelihood such as educational facilities, proper food, clothes etc. They enter into opportunities areas in search of jobs, and better living. They are compelled to start to do any type of job whenever, whatever they get first to do. But due to over work burden they have to work even in most severe conditions to survive. Especially Kathmandu Valley has become the Mecca of migrant child labour due to abundant opportunities such as small hotels, restaurants and bhatties, teashops, house servants, ticket collectors in private van, microbus, Tempu etc thus it attracts many children to migrate to Kathmandu (UNDP, 2013).

Ennew also described how international legislation is developed around a version of childhood that is based on middle class children is the north (and the south) who do go to school, play, live in increasing private family and assumed to help less and not able to carry out adults tasks. Due to this there is a marked difference between international rights legislation and the socio-economic realities of many children (Ennew, 2014).

National Planning Commission stated the problem relating to children in Nepal, as the implementation of the current laws related with the protection of the children, social security, sexual exploitation and abuse has been weak. Juvenile justice and administration is ineffective. There have not been improvements as expected in the access of the children of Dalits, Adibasi Janjatis, Madhesis, Muslims, people with disability, and poverty stricken families to services and in the status of social security.

Likewise, child labor, conflict affected and children at risk and their social security and rehabilitation have not been adequate. There is a lack of institutional provision for the rehabilitation of children suffering from conflict, HIV/AIDS and trafficking (Manandhar, 2012).

CBS stated that today's buds are the blooming flowers of tomorrow; hence the children are the potential energy of the nation on whom the fate of nation depends. The tender body and mind are nothing more than the mud in the hands of the potter so if we create proper environment for hidden development and prosperity, they will become what we want them to. The life of a human being to a far extent depends upon the development and exposure one has got. The best period for such development is the childhood as children are the future of the nation. The development of a child includes good education, proper training timely orientation, nourishing food etc. In Nepal, 19 percent of the total children are not even getting the primary education 10 percent drop out rate in the primary level education. This shows the every poor situation of education and task of nourishing food. This is not the only situation of children but adult literacy rate is also very low, i.e. 54.1 percent describing the wider gender disparity.

It is common to see children at the age of 6 or 7 years working along side their parents and other family members, helping around the home, running errands, working in the fields and farms, tending livestock, hard setting crops, taking care of younger siblings, fetching water, collecting firewood or helping to cook family meals. Girls are expected to be shared more of the household chores with their mothers and other female relatives remaining in sense very much on the 'inside' of the family economy.

As Kathmandu valley has been considered as a most migrant receiving area in the country, the study is focused in the area where the overwhelming majority of the migrant street children are working. This study may be a significant guideline in implementing action program for making children aware of their rights and protection for their future lives study may explore the hazardous and risk conditions of children working in various sectors (CBS, 2014).

Generally child labours are those who are below 14 years of age deprived from minimum level of facilities, working long hours and getting low wage and damage

their physical and mental development; children who are prematurely living adult lives and training opportunity that could help to make their bright future, are the general but serious form of child labour. So if the work is not harmful as child work not child labour.

Thapa studied child rag pickers in Nepal and gave an account of different types of child rag pickers in Nepal. It discusses why children become rag pickers. Relevant regulation against child worker in Nepal, are also mentioned. The author also suggested specific areas that government, NGOs international organizations, lawyers, trade unions, media and international funding bodies should look into. For example the government should fully implement its policy of free primary education, government should introduce priority programme for child labourers and the media and NGOs should raise more awareness on the issue (Thapa, 2014).

Amatya studied on socio-economic condition of rag pickers children in Kathmandu. According to study, the existence of child rag picker is a reflection of under development. Rag picking children are facing multi-varied problems within the socio-economic condition. Agriculture is the main occupation of the rag pickers family. More than 70 percent of people are still illiterate. The majority of children leave school because of the poor economic conditions. Generally children leave their homes without any plan for their work. It is easy to start without investing money. According to this study nationwide campaign should be launched on both government and non-government level in order to draw the attention of the society as a whole do the miserable condition of rag picking children as research curve for the Nepalese society (Amatya, 2014).

Andrew study on the margins street children in Asia and the Pacific. According to study the circumstance and experiences of street children overlap with several other categories of children such as trafficking children, migrant children and working children. There is also overlap with a range of problems and difficulties controlling many children, including endemic poverty domestic or sexual abuse and other violence, hazardous working conditions, exploitative labour substance abuse, conflict with law and juvenile justice and the HIV/AIDS pandemic (Andrew, 2014).

Voll mentioned that child labour in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century was practical in Germany in Orphanages and workhouses as early as in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. However, Kostol and Baklurd child labour in Norway claimed that the new quality of life including technological and economic changes better organized society for the working class contributed to education of the child labour system from Norway. They outlined the possible reasons or the disappearance of child labour as laws of public education more machineries where the industrial process improves in the household activities on the technical equipment front and food production better wages and social securities less children per family and social awareness in the society against child labour. Some street children are highly visible and the subject of public concern because they are out of place. In many countries in Asia and Pacific provision for street children has been developed mostly by non-government organization (Voll, 2014).

## **2.3 Policy Review**

### **2.3.1 The Child Rights**

According to the UN convention on the Rights of the Child there are four major rights of the child. They are: right of Living: It has been defined as the inborn right of the child. This right refers to the right for nutrition food and hygienic residence, clean environment, clean drinking water inoculation and first aid services etc; right of Protection: Every child deserves protection against discrimination, exploitation misbehave and insulting behavior, hazardous works and separation from the parents. There should be special arrangements for handicapped and disabled children; right of Development: This right has to do with the factors co-operative to personality development. According to this, every child has a right to attain education, entertainment, sporting activities, and health care facilities etc. which are indispensable to maintain reasonable quality of life and right of Participation: Every child has the right to participate in the decision makings which may affect them, engage in creative activities, participating in social and cultural activities without interruption and discrimination.

### **2.3.2 The Government Initiatives**

After the restoration of multiparty democracy in 1990, the issue of child rights gained momentum and has been at the top of the government's agenda. This fact has been reflected by the government's ratification of UN convention on the rights of the child on 19 August 1990, which was in action since 2 September of the same year. After this event, the government has shown its strong commitments against the use of child labour.

CWIN stated that the government has accepted the dual goal of ILO, the protection of child labour and the abolition of child labour. To ensure this, the government signed a memorandum of understanding with ILO for launching the international program on the elimination of child labour (IPEC) in Nepal. CWIN stated that the promulgation of the New constitution of the kingdom of Nepal in November 1990, which contains clauses of special benefit to children, such as rights to citizenship, equality, education including in the mother tongue, right against exploitation and special protection for the disadvantage, such as disabled children and orphans are some another noteworthy steps towards the well-being and protection of children. CWIN stated the declaration of the world summit for children contains a plan of action to improve the live of children and comprises the goals for children and development for the 1990. Nepal was represented at the world summit for children and signed the summit declaration and plan of Action on 12 December 1990 and expressed government of Nepal intent to developed and implement a ten-year National Programme of Action for the Children and Development for the 1990. The signing of the summit declaration and Plan of Action made Nepal more committed to providing children a special focus in the national agenda, also committed to providing children a special focus in the national agenda, and a National programme of Action for children and development for the 1990 was finalized by NPC (CWIN, 2012).

It is a fact that legislation alone can not bring desired result to child labour. A National policy on child was therefore formulated in conjunction with legal measures to address the socio-economic issues bearing on the child labour and to provide a frame-work for a concrete programme of action in the fields of education, health, nutrition and integrated child development.

CWIN stated that after the ratification of the convention on the rights of the child by Nepal government, the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary affairs, the Nepal Law Reform Commission and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare produced a more comprehensive children's act, 1992. This act is for the establishment of central and district child welfare committees, i.e., each district is to have at least one child welfare officer orphanages and child care centres to provide assistant for street children and orphaned or abandoned children. CWIN stated the promulgation of Labour Act, 1992 is the culmination of Nepal government thinking on the prohibiting the employment of children in any establishment who have not completed their 14th year. The Act also regulates the condition of work of minors and women engaged in permitted activities. It outlines penalties for those violating the provision of this Act.

The government of Nepal endorsement of the Colombo resolution on children in September 1992 is geared to accelerate progress in the broad areas of education, health and sanitation and seeks to speed up the elimination of child labour. Nepal has already ratified the ILO minimum age convention and recommendation.

### **2.3.3 International Norms and Standards**

CWIN stated the single most important and common approach to the problem of child worker has been the adoption of legislation. Regulations or legislation prohibiting the employment of children below a certain age and specifying the condition of works for minors have been introduced worldwide. For the abolition of child worker and protection of child rights, the UN General Assembly and the ILO have set several norms and standards. For instance, the rights of the child, which stressed that mankind owes to the child the best it has to give. It also stated that the child should not be admitted to employment before an appropriate minimum age in 1966, the General Assembly again reaffirmed these principles in the international convention on Economic Social and cultural rights. Again in 1989 the UN convention on the rights of children has been further widely defined (CWIN, 2014).

CWIN mentioned that since 1919, the ILO has brought out over 20 conventions and recommendations on the abolition of children. The minimum age convention 1973 (No. 138) and minimum age recommendations 1973 (No. 146) are general in scope

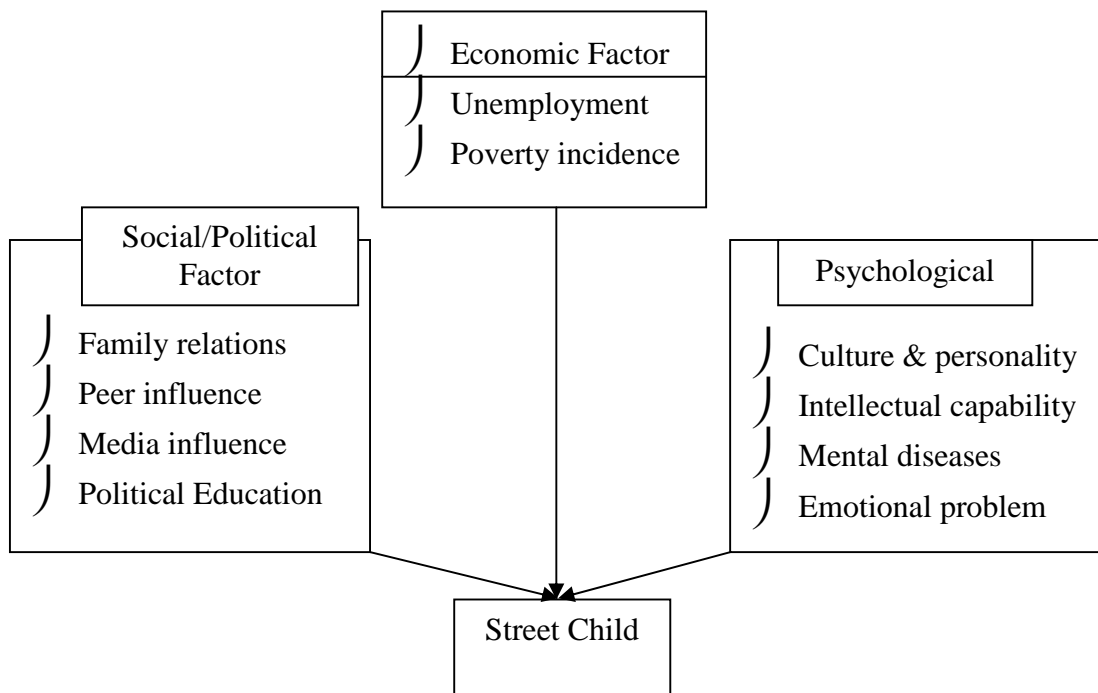
and principally over all economic sectors and employment. For example, the minimum age set out in convention No. 138.

CWIN stated that the minimum age limit of 15 does not apply for every country and for all types of works. Economically or educationally less developed countries can specify a minimum age of 14 which is applicable to Nepal (CWIN, 2014).

## 2.4 Conceptual Framework

The aim of the present study is to provide a systematic and empirical examination of socio-economic factors for increasing the street children in Kathmandu city. So the conceptual framework adopted for this study is as follows:

**Figure 2.2: Conceptual Framework**



**Social Factors:** A child does only those things that he learns from the society. Family is the primary institution where a child starts to be socialized, so the family should have good and strong relationship with each of its member if family is itself suffering from bad condition like turmoil or broken home and loose family ties, in this situation a child always feels insecure and cannot learn well. Parental care determines the nature of child. Like family, a child also learns from his friends or peer groups. If he

meets bad companion we cannot expect good behavior from him. Likewise education and media are also influencing on the personality of a child.

**Economic Factors:** Economic theory, basically Marxist one suggests that deviant behaviour is the result of inequalities of social and economic order in which an acquisitive society encourages aggression and discourages altruism. Children are forced to commit offences due to the lack of very basic requirements of life, are forced to run away from their rural homes to urban areas due to the lack of food security. So, unemployment and poverty incidence are that kind of economic factor that challenges their survival and creates tension in the family.

**Psychological Factors:** Individuals have different personality because certain universal traits link all humans; these common characteristics are not necessarily biologically based. They may also result from universal or nearly universal psychic experiences viz. birth itself, stage of psychological development; interaction with parent, siblings and others and experiences with other objects. The psychological factors viz. culture and personality, intellectual capability, emotional problem and mental diseases affect the degree/extent of rag-pickers children.



## **CHAPTER – III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The fundamental objective of this study is to investigate the hidden facts and nature of child rag pickers in Kathmandu. So, both explanatory and descriptive research designs are used. This design has been helpful in throwing light on their present situation. It also helps to analyze the aims of the main causes, offending behaviour and the socio-economic determinants.

#### **3.2 Rationale of Selection of the Study Area**

Teku-Sanepa link road is the garbage collection center in Kathmandu. The numbers of street child available in this area are larger than other area of Nepal. So Teku-Sanepa link road is selected for the study. This study has concentrated in the main Junkyards and garbage collection areas of Kathmandu. There is garbage collection center of Kathmandu Metropolitan city in Teku area, where many children are collecting garbage and selling them for their livelihood. Therefore this area has been chosen for the study. Since, child rag pickers are the most risky workers in our society, so it is chosen for this study.

#### **3.3 Universe and Sampling**

There are 250 child rag pickers involved in garbage collection in study area which are considered as universe. Depending upon the availability of children, purposive sampling is used based in study area. Since, child rag pickers are of mobile nature every child is not interviewed in each cluster. Instead, convenient sampling has been employed in study area. The sample units are purposively drawn in Teku-Sanepa Bagmati road corridor. In this study 50 child rag pickers were interviewed in Teku and Sanepa area of Kathmandu by employing purposive sampling techniques. However, especial efforts are made to obtain the children aged below 18 years old. Samples were taken on the morning at 7-10 a.m. because this time is suitable for rag pickers as garbage is brought at that time every day in these areas.

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

In this study, both primary and secondary data have been used for required information. Primary data are collected by interviewing child rag pickers during field visit.

The secondary data are obtained from different sources. Published books, journals, periodicals publication etc are the main sources of secondary data.

- ) Publications and reports of CWIN, CBS, UNICEF and INSEC.
- ) Journals, research reports, newspaper and magazine of national level.

### **3.5 Methods of Data Collection**

The following three approaches have been attempted to collect data.

#### **3.5.1 Interview**

Structured interview schedule with both open and close ended questions has been used to get the detail information about child rag pickers. Since, child rag pickers do not have fix living place; they are interviewed in selected area. The interview mainly focused on personal and family characteristics, caste, education, personal details, income, expenditure, health and hygiene, attitude towards work, future aspirations etc.

#### **3.5.2 Non-participant Observation**

Observing the child rag pickers' behavior, physical conditions etc. data are collected. In this approach more emphasis was mainly concentrated in the following aspects

- (a) Working and living conditions
- (b) Health physique, cloth etc.
- (c) Attitude and behaviour.

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

In this study both quantitative and qualitative analysis is done. Existing rules and regulations, available documents related to child worker and child rag pickers are

reviewed. Similarly, studies on economic condition of child rag pickers, reasons to be child rag pickers and socio-economic changes are analyzed. Discussions are made on the existing policy and programme to protect and promote children.

The quantitative data obtained from structured questionnaires are first processed through validation, editing and coding. Secondly, this processed data has been presented in tabular form. Finally, the data are interpreted with additional information.

### **3.7 Limitations of the Study**

This study includes the following limitations:

- ) This study covers only street children in Teku-Sanepa Bagmati road corridor. So it can't be generalized to national level and all kind of child labour.
- ) This study does not reveal the complete picture of the rag pickers due to the lack of proper response from them.
- ) The respondents did not want to disclose their internal affairs regarding detail answers and they have queries that if they reply questions, what benefits they received and the government fulfil their desire as they wish, therefore complete picture of their socio-economic background and causes of becoming rag-picker could not became possible.

## **CHAPTER – IV**

### **SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC AND WORKING STATUS OF RESPONDENTS**

Most parents in the rural and urban areas who send their children to work not only for an additional income, but also to reduce the number of hungry stomachs to be fed. This miserable condition of our country has affected each and every sector of society and the children are its main victims. So, there is no other way to these children except to run away from their home to city areas in search of betterment of life. The migration of children to the urban areas has been increasing tremendously that is the main factor of a child to be rag picker.

#### **4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics**

This section describes characteristics of the 50 child rag-pickers that were interviewed for the purpose of this study. The description presented below helps to understand child rag-pickers' backgrounds and the effects of child rag-pickers have been increasing, with every passing day. Many children have left home due to poverty, too much of work at home, maltreatment by step father/mother before finding out the life styles of child rag-picking. It is necessary to know, the place of the origin, age group, ethnicity, family status, educational status, daily earning of the child rag-pickers.

##### **4.1.1 Origin of the Child Rag-Pickers**

Total rag-pickers are categorized into two groups in terms of migration and their residential status. The first category consists of child rag-pickers who have left their home in the villages and are living in town. They migrated to these places in search of job opportunity with close relatives or friends. These children came from poor families, their personal earnings meant fewer burdens for their families to feed them and hence they were encouraged by their families to work and earn. These groups are 26 in number.

The second category is the ones who are from squatter, whose family live in near by towns. They had eventually left their homes because their parents punished them as

they did not bring home a certain amount of money everyday. These groups are 24 in number. These categories are given in table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Category of Child Rag-Pickers**

Area	Number	Percent
Squatter of Kathmandu	24	48.0
Out side Kathmandu	26	52.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

In Nepal, many children are found to migrate on their own will, some also migrate towards the towns with their parents while some are escorted by middleman or brokers for employment in the cities. Generally, the respondents said reasons for leaving home like expectation of better life, too much work at home, and maltreatment by the guardians, influence of friends and no schooling around are some of the reported reasons for their driving away from their home and families.

**Table 4.2: Origin Place of the Child Rag-Pickers**

Area	Number	Percent
Periphery of Kathmandu	24	48.0
Bhojpur	6	12.0
Dhanusa	7	14.0
Gorkha	7	14.0
Rupandehi	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

Table 4.2 reveals that the place of origin of the child rag-pickers has the great majority from the periphery of Kathmandu like Sindhupalchowk, Kabrepalanchowk, Nuwakot, and Dhading represent, which is less developed and not far from the Kathmandu. In this way 14.0 percent child rag-pickers came from Dhanusa and Gorkha, which is second great majority of child rag-pickers. 12.0 percent child rag-pickers came from the Rupandehi and Bhojpur, which are the least percentages of the total respondents.

### 4.1.2 Age Structure

Child age is the most effective stage of human development. The age 10-18 is a critical period for child socialization and for the formation of the self identity and if one is deprived of the various opportunities, they will not be able to attain proper development and can not lead best human life. As shown in Table 4.3, out of the 50 child rag-pickers, 25 children (50.0) percent children are in the age limit of 5-14 years. During the survey, it was found that there was no child respondent below the age of 8. Above the 14 age group, 25 child rag-pickers were found which covers the 50.0 percent out of total 50 child rag-pickers.

It is clear to see that, respondents are divided into three groups based on their age structure i.e. 5-9, 10-14, and 15-18. Out of the total 26.0 percent child rag-pickers are 5-9 age group, 24.0 percent are in 10-14 age groups, and 50.0 percent are in 15-18 age groups. In terms of gender only 36 percent respondents are girls, 8 percent are 5-9 age groups, 10 percent are 10-14, and 18 percent are 15-18 age-groups.

**Table 4.3: Distribution of Child Rag-Pickers by Age-group**

Age-group	Boys	Percent	Girls	Percent	Total	Total percent
5-9	9	18.0	4	8.0	13	26.0
10-14	7	14.0	5	10.0	12	24.0
15-18	16	32.0	9	18.0	25	50.0
Total	32	64	18	36	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

### 4.1.3 Caste/Ethnic Composition

Child rag-pickers have come from many caste/ethnic groups such as Brahmin, Chhetri, Janajati, and Dalit etc which are presenting in the table 4.4. It is reported that child rag-pickers belonging Tamang caste represent 20.0 percent, which is the great majority: followed by Majhi 18 percent, Kami 16 percent and Chhetri 14 percent. The other caste are; Brahmin 10 percent, Magar 12 percent, Sarki 6 percent and Damai 4 percent respectively.

**Table 4.4: Distribution of Child Rag-Pickers by Ethnicity**

Caste/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Brahmin	5	10.0
Chhetri	7	14.0
Magar	6	12.0
Kami	8	16.0
Tamang	10	20.0
Majhi	9	18.0
Sarki	3	6.0
Damai	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

#### 4.1.4 Educational Status

Though, Nepal had announced for the basic education to all by 2015 A.D., it has attained only a 63.9 percent literacy rate. At present, about 3.4 million children have enrolled in public and private primary school across the nation, which is 68 percent of the total population of the school aged children (CBS, 2014). Only 50 percent of children has up to class five, at least 15 percent of children in class one are under age 5 and 24 percent of children of age group 6-10 years repeat at least one grade. From the study of the 50 child rag-pickers, near about 76.0 percent children among those interviewed are illiterate. Many children are attending non formal education programs provided by organization in Kathmandu. Most of them had studied only primary level i.e. 8.0 percent.

**Table 4.5: Educational Status of Child Rag-Pickers**

Level of education	Boys	Percent	Girls	Percent	Total	Percent
Illiterate	24	48.0	14	28.0	38	76.0
Literate	4	8.0	2	4.0	6	12.0
Up to primary	3	6.0	1	2.0	4	8.0
Up to lower secondary	1	2.0	1	2.0	2	4.0
Total	32	64.0	18	36.0	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

As shown in Table 4.5, 76.0 percent (48 percent boys and 28 percent girls) child rag-pickers of the total respondents are illiterate. They have not attended any school. 8.0 percent child rag-pickers have studied in primary school and 4.0 percent have acquired lower secondary level. During the survey period of this study, no one is enrolled in.

#### 4.1.5 Causes for Not Joining / Continuing School

During the survey it was revealed that the level of education among child rag-pickers and their parents was very low. Although primary level education is free in Nepal, other types of expenditures associated with schooling such as uniform school supplies etc, are beyond the reach of poor families. Regardless, the reasons for not joining and not continuing school, respondents gave different reasons. Broadly they are family related and personal causes.

It is found that due unable to afford 50.0 percent of the total respondents could not join/continue their study and 12.0 percent do not attain because of work and parents did not send them school. Table 4.6 also showed that because of too far school 14.0 percent could not join and 12.0 percent child rag-pickers are not joining school because of failure in lower grade.

**Table 4.6: Distribution of Children by Causes of not Joining / Continuing to School**

Causes	Number	Percent
Could't afford	25	50.0
Because of work	6	12.0
Parents didn't send	6	12.0
School too far	7	14.0
Because of failure in lower grade	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey 2016.*

#### 4.1.6 Family Status

Most child rag-pickers have come from poverty stricken villages where poor parents have few opportunities for employment. The situation of landlessness, indebtedness and poverty at home is forcefully pushing the rural poor to the cities with the hope to escape from growing tragedies. One of the reasons for children coming for work is family problems including violence at home and broken families.

Child rag-pickers' family status is affected by various factors such as family structure, parent's education level and economic condition. Nepalese society is male dominant



society. On the other hand when one of the parents of a child especially mother dies then father will do second marriage. And discrepancy between own children and stepchildren arises. These children are badly treated by their stepmothers.

So, to understand the family status, this section tries to attempt the family milieu, such as parental status (alive or dead), education and overall awareness as well as their economic condition.

#### 4.1.7 Family Livelihood and Occupation

Over 86 percent of the total population in Nepal live in rural areas and more than 80 percent of them are solely dependent on agriculture for their survival. So that, the major sources of income is agriculture followed by labour. The study supports the general assumptions that the child labour is a result of poverty of the family. It is often a response to the basic requirement of the family (Thapa, 2014).

Parental occupations of the child rag-pickers are not always same. It is apparent from table 4.7 that the largest number of child rag-pickers' parents are farmer or dependent on cultivations, out of total 24.0 percent are engaged in agriculture, 14 percent are in non agriculture wage labour and small business and rag picking (same job) are 48.0 percent.

**Table 4.7: Status of Parents Occupation**

Occupation	Number	Percent
Farming	12	24.0
Non agriculture wage labour	7	14.0
Small business	7	14.0
Other (rag picking)	24	48.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

From the above table, it had been clear that most of the parents are involved in rag picking and less prestigious jobs only few parents are involved in wage labour and small business.

#### 4.1.8 Family Income Sufficiency

This study supports to the general assumption that child rag-pickers are directly related to the poverty of the family. Most children came from the agriculture households. The children of under employed or self employed poor parents therefore must work for survival. Children are sent to work rather than school because the family needs the child's income. It is also true that the family income is not regular and is not sufficient to pay the cost of schooling their kids, sometimes the children are the only earners in the family.

**Table 4.8: Family Income Sufficiency for Livelihood**

Family income sufficient	Number	Percent
Yes	20	40.0
No	30	60.0
Total	50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

It is evident from above table that 40.0 percent of the child rag-pickers' family income is sufficient enough. As reported, 60 percent children's family income is not sufficient for survival.

#### 4.1.9 Family Income

In Nepal, an average poor farming family produces food grain only enough for three to six months of the year. Because of the dual ownership system of the land and unfair land distribution, almost half of the crop will go in payment of rent to the landlord and for the substantial part of the year they live either on debt or are forced to leave the native village to become migrant workers in the urban centre or across the border.

From the Table 4.9, it is found that 14 percent child rag-pickers's family income is below Rs. 3000 per month, 34 percent reported that their family's income lies between Rs. 3000 to 5000 per month another 30 percent reported that their monthly family income is Rs. 5000 to 7000 and 20.0 percent respondents family income is Rs. 7000-10000. This finding is surprising, 2 percent child rag-pickers' family income is above Rs. 10000 per month. It is concluded that most of the respondents' family income is below Rs. 7000 per month.

**Table 4.9: Income Distribution of Child Rag-Pickers Family**

Income Level Rs.	Number	Percent
Below 3000	7	14.0
3000-5000	17	34.0
5000-7000	15	30.0
7000-10000	10	20.0
Above 10000	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

## **4.2 WORKING CONDITION, CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES**

Children in Nepal start working at a very young stage in and around their own homes. In the rural economy, children have played a significant role in the family subsistence, fetching water, collecting firewood, grazing cattle; caring for children and supporting parents in the field is the most common works that children perform in the rural areas. The child rag-pickers are increasing day by day. The increasement of the child rag-pickers in slum and squatter areas have also been contributing factor for their growth in the urban areas.

There is no need to repeat that the existing Nepali society is one of the most poverty stricken and backward societies in the world. Increasing poverty, illiteracy and ignorance are leading our society into more and more misery. The living standards of the people have gone down every passing day like the setting sun. This miserable condition of our country has affected each and every sector of society and the children are its main victims. We all desire our children to grow up into good citizens, but there is a lack of proper opportunities for their overall development. Not only have they been deprived of basic necessities like nutrition, shelter clothing, education and health care but they also suffer from humiliation negligence, abuse exploitation and disease. In other words they are missing their entire childhood. There are many problems and obstacles in their path that prevent them from leading a normal childhood.

### **4.2.1 Causes of Leaving Home**

The magnitude of the problem of child rag-pickers has been rising over the years. There are many causes to increase the child labour. The main factor of increasing

child labour is because of poor and unable to provide basic needs like food, cloth and shelter for every one. Therefore all the members of family have to work for living due to lack of others opportunities, like education, playground, good health and other facilities. And many children also work because their step mother or father do not accept them easily and they can not tolerate their domestic violence, so they have to run away from their home. It is the main factor of a child to be child rag-pickers. The three causal factors, poverty at home, problematic family relationship and the attraction of the city are the main causes of a children's leaving home.

Table 4.10, shows that 48.0 percent respondent leave their home due to the poverty/hunger, 28 percent of respondents have left their home because of step mother/father. In this way 12 percent of child rag-pickers have left their home due to no one to look after them and mother/father come here.

**Table 4.10: Distribution of Child Rag-Pickers Caused for Leaving Home**

Causes	Number	Percent
Poverty/hunger	24	48.0
Because of step mother/father	14	28.0
No one to look after me	6	12.0
Father/mother come here	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

Table 4.11, shows that 38.0 percent respondent live in rented room, 50 percent of respondents live in public place like temple/stupa. In this way 12 percent of child rag-pickers have lived in street or they have no fixed place.

**Table 4.11: Distribution of Child Rag -Picker Living in Kathmandu**

Place	Number	Percent
Rented room	19	38.0
Public place	25	50.0
No fixed place/street	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

Similarly table 4.12, shows the reason for choosing the place for rag-picking and which shows that 24.0 percent respondent chose this place as their parents/relatives and friend live in this place, 38.0 percent of respondents live in this place because of Better opportunity. In this way 14 percent of child rag-pickers have chosen because of near to relatives.

**Table 4.12: Distribution of Child Rag -Picker Reason for Choosing this Place**

Reason	Number	Percent
Parents/relatives	12	24.0
Friend	12	24.0
Better opportunity	19	38.0
Near to relatives	7	14.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

Likewise table 4.13 shows the person whom rag-pickers are living and which shows that 24.0 percent respondent is living with alone, 74.0 percent of respondents are living with family member and 12 percent respondents are living with other relatives.

**Table 4.13: Distribution of Child Rag -Picker Person Whom They Living with**

Person	Number	Percent
None	7	14.0
Family member	37	74.0
Other relatives	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

Similarly table 4.14, shows the child rag-picker by whom they migrated in the city and which shows that 38.0 percent respondent migrated with parents, 12 percent respondents migrated with siblings, other relatives and run away alone. In this way 14 percent of child rag-pickers have migrated with brokers.

**Table 4.14: Distribution of Child Rag –Picker with Whom They Migrated in the City**

Person	Number	Percent
Parents	19	38.0
Siblings	6	12.0
Other relatives	6	12.0
Brokers	7	14.0
Run away alone	6	12.0
Run away with friends	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

#### **4.2.2 Working Area**

Regarding the working area of child rag-pickers in order to collect different materials as their livelihood, they have no fixed place. They used to go different place. They select specific place in order to get better opportunity. Table 4.15, shows times of visiting respondents in order to collect materials and which shows that 62.0 percent respondent follow same route daily in order to collect materials. 14 percent follow specific period and 12 percent follow randomly/everyday & no fix place. They also told that they have no specific boundary rule where they can't go for rag picking.

**Table 4.15: Distribution of Child Rag –Picker Visiting Place in order to collect Material**

Person	Number	Percent
Daily same route	31	62.0
Specific period	7	14.0
Randomly/everyday	6	12.0
No fix	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

#### **4.2.3 Working Hours**

Most children in our country do work. Many children over five or six may help around the home. During the survey period, it is found that children are compelled to work on a regular or continuous basis to earn a living for themselves or for their

families and as a result are deprived educationally and socially working hour of the child rag-pickers, to a far extent, depends upon the work they do. It was found that a beggar longer hours job than a rag-picker. Furthermore, children's rag picking hour varies depending upon the area where they live for example, rag picking near garbage collection centre collect from early morning until nigh but rag picking at the house, does his job at morning. So the working hour of child rag-pickers depends up on many other factors. However, in this study it is tried to present the relation between working hour and number of children.

**Table 4.16: Distribution of Child Rag –Picker Period of Staying Here**

Period	Number	Percent
Less than one year	24	48.0
1-2 years	6	12.0
More than 2 years	20	40.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

The table 4.16 shows that, 48.0 percent are found to be working less than one year, 12 percent are working 1-2 years and 40 percent are working for more than 2 years.

**Table 4.17: Distribution of Child Rag –Picker by whom they are put into this Work**

Person	Number	Percent
Parents	18	36.0
Relatives	6	12.0
Self	13	26.0
Friends	7	14.0
Other	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

Similarly from table 4.17 regarding by whom they are put into rag-picking work, it was found that 36 percent were put into by parents, 12 percent were put into by

relatives & other (brokers), 26 percent were put into by ownself, and 14 percent were put into by friends.

**Table 18: Distribution of Child Rag –Picker Picking Major Things Mostly**

Material	Number	Percent
Bottles	24	48.0
Plastics	13	26.0
Clothes	6	12.0
Others	7	14.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

Similarly regarding major things which child rag-picker picking mostly, table 4.18 shows that, 48.0 percent are found to collect bottle, 26 percent told they are picking plastics, 12 percent are picking clothes and 14 percent collect other (iron , leather shoes etc.), Regarding the kind of job, 50 percent told regular and 50 percent told occasional as they were adopting job.

**Table 4.19: Distribution of Working Hours of the Child Rag-Pickers (Per-day)**

Working hours	Number	Percent
4-5 hours	24	48.0
5-7 hours	19	38.0
More than 7 hours	7	14.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

From above table 4.19, it has seen that, 48.0 percent are found to be working 4 to 5 hours per day. About 38.0 percent worked 5 to 7 hour per day and 14.0 percent worked more than 7 hours per day. Similarly table 4.20 shows the quantity of material they used to collect per day. From table it was found that 14 percent collect 10 kgs, 24 percent collect 10-15 kgs, 50 percent collect 15-20 kgs and 12 percent collect more than 20 kgs per day.



**Table 4.20: Distribution of Quantity of Material they Used to Collect Per-day**

Quantity	Number	Percent
10 kgs	7	14.0
10-15 kgs	12	24.0
15-20 Kgs	25	50.0
More than 20 Kgs	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

#### 4.2.4 Income Profile

Income level of child rag-pickers depends up on their types of work. Rag picking is of hard and risk type. The child rag-pickers earn sufficient income for their daily food but they spend huge amount of their income in watching cinema, alcohol, smoking etc.

**Table 4.21: Distribution Status of Child Rag-Picker of Their Cash Income  
(Daily)**

Income	Number	Percent
50-100 rupees	7	14.0
100-150 rupees	18	36.0
150-200 rupees	19	38.0
More than 200 rupees	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

Table 4.21 shows that, 14.0 percent earn Rs. 50 to 100 per day. 36.0 percent earn Rs. 100 to 150 per day. 38.0 percent earn Rs. 150 to 200 per day and 12.0 percent earn more than 200 rupees out of the total respondents per day. Child rag-pickers earn average Rs. 100 per day which is spent on food and clothing. They have to send some amount of money for their family. It is seen that child rag-pickers are getting poorer and poorer because of their little income.

### 4.3.5 Health Status

**Table 4.22: Distribution of Respondents at Particular Age They Started Work**

Age	Number	Percent
5-10	12	24.0
10-15	13	26.0
15+	25	50.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

Table 4.22 shows that 24.0 percent of the child rag-pickers are starting this work at the 5-10 age, 26 percent told they were starting at age of 10-15, 50 percent told that they were starting at age of more than 15 years.

#### 4.3.5.1 Health Condition

A question, “Have you ever been sick during the work?” was asked to “know about the health condition of the child rag-pickers. Out of total respondents child rag-pickers, about 76.0 percent are found suffering from diseases and 24.0 percent are found having no sick.

**Table 4.23: Distribution of Rag-Pickers by Suffering from Diseases**

Have you ever been sick during the work?	Number	Percent
Yes	38	76.0
No	12	24.0

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

From the table 4.24, it is found that out of 38 child rag-pickers, who are suffering from diseases, were asked the name of diseases they are suffering. 36 percent told that they are suffering from chest problem and head problem, 18 percent told that they are suffering from body pain & stomachache and 22 percent told others like cough, cold, wounds.

**Table 4.24: Distribution of Rag-Pickers by Health Problems**

Health Problem in	Number	Percentage
Chest pain	12	24.0
Headache	6	12.0
Stomachache	9	18.0
Others(cough, cold, wounds etc)	11	22.0
Total Others	38	100.0

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

Again the question was asked about the consultation for illness or injury. Out of 38 respondents, 32 (84.21 percent) replied that they are consulting and 6 (15.79 percent) replied that they are not consulting for illness or injury.

**Table 4.25: Distribution of Rag-Pickers By Whom They are Consulted**

Consulted with	Number	Percentage
Doctor	6	18.75
Paramedic	15	46.87
Homeopath	6	18.75
Non paramedic	3	9.38
Traditional healer	2	6.25
Total	32	100

*Source: Field Survey 2016*

From the table 4.25, it is found that 46.87 percent are consulting through paramedic when they are suffering from health problem. Similarly, 18.75 percent of them are consulting through doctor and homeopath whereas 9.38 percent are consulting through non paramedic when they are suffering from the health problem and 6.25 percent are consulting through traditional healer. Regarding their ability to afford medical expenses, 84.37 percent can afford medical expenses and 15.63 percent cannot afford medical expenses when they were suffering from health problem.

**Table 4.26: Distribution of Respondents Facing Problem While Rag- Picking**

Do you face any problem?	Number	Percent
Yes	19	38.0
No	31	62.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

Table 4.26 shows that 38.0 percent of the child rag-pickers are facing the problem while rag picking. That means they are being made different kinds of harassment and bothered by police through blaming as thief. Out of the total 50 respondents 62.0 percent do not face any problem while rag picking.

#### 4.3.6 Future Aspirations

Every body should have aims in life to achieve the goals. Thinking that child rag-pickers also may have some aims in their life, a question was asked to them what is your future aim?

**Table 4.27: Future Plans of Rag-Pickers Children**

Aims of life is to become	Number	Percent
Driver	23	46.0
Auto mechanics	13	26.0
Police man/army	8	16.0
Not thought	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2016*

From the respondent's opinion, it is fairly clear that rag picking work was considered to be attractive. Although, some children's dream of going to school and becoming an auto mechanics and the policeman/army and driver etc. Out of 50 child rag-pickers, 23 (46.0 percent) of them replied that they want to be a driver, 13 (26.0 percent) of them replied that their aim is to be auto mechanics, 8 (16.0 percent) of them replied that their aim of life is to become a policemen or army and 6 (12.0 percent) replied that they have not thought about their future.

## **CHAPTER - V**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Summary**

This study is based on a survey of 50 street child rag-pickers who were interviewed at Teku and Sanepa Bagmati corridor area of Kathmandu valley. In this study, an attempt is made to identify the major factors of children to be in rag-picking and the conditions under which they are surviving and steps taken by governmental and non governmental agencies. There is a lack of information on child rag-pickers in Nepal. The study utilizing both quantitative and qualitative information data has attempted to provide some important aspects of the child labour situations especially of the child rag-pickers of Kathmandu.

Most of the working children were between over 15 years of age and there were children as young as 5-10 years old also working and living as child rag-picker. A majority of the child workers were from Janajati and Dalit. Almost all children were migrant workers coming from periphery of Kathmandu. And 76.0 percent of the total child rag-pickers were illiterate and 24.0 percent child rag-pickers are literate. Educational attainments of the literate children are up to lower secondary level. There is no relationship between the cast and extent of child rag-pickers. Child rag-pickers are associated with different types of ethnic group. Different factors are associated with illiteracy such as distortion by parents, and negligence by parents. Abusive steps taken by the family may be one of the reasons to run away from home. However urban attractions and pull factors of urban facilities are also the reason to be a child as rag-pickers in Kathmandu valley.

As for the respondents, most of the children came from the agricultural households 24.0 percent, wage workers 14.0 percent, small business 14.0 percent and others 48.0 percent. The families of 52.0 percent children were generating sufficient income for family survival where as the families of 48.0 percent were earning insufficient income.

Most of the children's job was rag-picking of bottles and plastics. Income level of child rag-pickers depends upon their period of work. Rag-picking is of hard and risky type of work. But rag-pickers earn higher amount income in comparison of other types of work. Health status of the child rag-picker was very poor. Children as well as adults had the same simple food mostly low quantity rice and lentil. Most working children had their meals two times a day and some of them three times a day. Fever, cough, headache, stomach-ache and chest problem were major forms of sickness.

From the case studies of the total rag-pickers children, it was found that all the children came to work because of the poverty at home. Illiteracy, large family size and landlessness were other factors, which had pushed them to come to work. Children were willing to go to school. But they could not go to school because they were needed by their family as they were the source of income which supplements their family's survival. Regarding the territory of child rag-pickers in order to collect different materials as their livelihood, they have no fixed place. They used to go different place. Study shows that 62.0 percent respondent follow same route daily in order to collect materials. 14 percent follow specific period and 12 percent follow randomly/everyday & no fix place. They also told that they have no specific boundary rule where they can't go for rag picking. Regarding the period staying in the study area of child rag-pickers, 48.0 percent were found to be working less than one year, 12 percent were working 1-2 years and 40 percent were working for more than 2 years. Similarly regarding working hour of child rag-picker, it was found that, 48.0 percent were found to be working 4 to 5 hours per day. About 38.0 percent worked 5 to 7 hour per day and 14.0 percent worked more than 7 hours per day. Similarly regarding the quantity of material they used to collect per day, it was found that 14 percent collect 10 kgs, 24 percent collect 10-15 kgs, 50 percent collect 15-20 kgs and 12 percent collect more than 20 kgs per day.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Today, street child is a burning issue in the world. Many NGOs and INGOs are putting their effort to enhance the world. Socio-economic status of children in developed countries have already declared the child right and started to extend it in developing countries by giving technical and financial support. NGOs are engaged to uplift the socio-economic status of children. In recent year these organizations have

started to participate into different seminars and conferences at international level as well as the launched many awareness programmes.

This research shows that 48.0 percent of rag-pickers children left their home due to the cause of poverty/hunger, 28.0 percent by stepfather/mother and 12.0 percent by lack of look after them and father/mother involve in same job each. It means that children from poor rural families with little or no land left home for better opportunity. Size of family was influenced in general by sociological reasons besides economic reasons. The national average of family size is 5.1. Poor families have normally high fertility rates and hence bigger family size. The father of bigger family is unable to feed their food, cloth and shelter for every one then all the family members have to work for living. Such children lack other opportunities like education, good health, sanitation. So they have to run away from home. There are the main factors to prompt a child to be joining the group of rag-pickers children.

Overall discussions led to the conclusion that poverty and illiteracy of parents are the major factors to develop the child rag-pickers in Nepal. In this context, maltreatment cum abuse, which is trusted open the children by parents or family, cannot be denied to encourage the child rag-pickers in Nepal.

The overall working conditions of the rag-pickers children were far from satisfactory specially the working and living conditions. Hygiene and sanitation had no meaning. The working places were found full of dust and smoke therefore, the situation of living conditions were hazardous to all the workers and especially dangerous for child workers as they were more venerable than adults.

In Nepal, there are several laws, which can be implemented to protect children from child labour exploitation, they are not implemented effectively. Most directly relevant are the labour and the children's Act. The former leaves it too much to the discretion of child labour inspectors to decide whether to raid illegal factories. Their role is passive rather than proactive, they are not obliged to inspect premises regularly, but await complaints.

## REFERENCES

- Amatya S. (2014). *A study on socio-economic condition of rag pickers children in Kathmandu*. An unpublished Master degree thesis submitted to Central Department of Population Studies, Tribhuvan University.
- Andrew, R. (2014). *At the margins street children in Asia and the pacific*, Geneva: ILO.
- Bajracharya, H. R. (2010). *Child labour in informal sector*. Kathmandu: Informal Sector Workers in Nepal.
- Bhetuwal, A. P. (2012). *Socio economic situation of street children in Kathmandu metropolitan city*. An unpublished Master degree dissertation submitted to Central Department of Economics. Tribhuvan University.
- Central Bureau of Statistics, (2014). *Statistical Pocket Book, Nepal*. Kathmandu: CBS.
- Concern for Children and Environment, Nepal (CONCERN-Nepal), (1997). *Burden on childhood: A survey/study on child porters in Kathmandu Valley*. Kathmandu: CONCERN-Nepal
- CWIN, (2013). *Street kids in Kathmandu*. Voice of child workers. Kathmandu: CWIN.
- CWIN, (2010). *Lost childhood: survey research on the street children of Kathmandu*. Kathmandu: CWIN.
- CWIN, (2014a). *State of the rights of the child in Nepal; A country report*. Kathmandu: CWIN.
- CWIN, (2014b). *Young Rag-pickers in Kathmandu*. Voice of children workers. Kathmandu: CWIN.
- CWIN, (2000). *Survey study on child migrant workers in the Kathmandu valley*. Kathmandu: CWIN.
- CWIN, (2001). *Child Labour in Bidi Industries in Nepal*. Kathmandu: CWIN.
- CWIN, (2001). *Child sexual abuse in the Kathmandu valley: Children's perspectives*, Kathmandu: CWIN.
- CWIN, (2012). *The state of the right of the child in Nepal*. (Kathmandu: CWIN Gauri Pradhan/Sumnima Tuladhar).
- Dev, J. (2012). *Street kids in Kathmandu*. Kathmandu: CWIN.



- Dhital, R. Grurung, Y. B. Subedi, G. and Hamal, P. (2001). *Alcohol and drug use among street children*. Kathmandu: Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre.
- Ennew, J. (2014). *Nepal situation of child Rag pickers*. Geneva: International Labor Organization
- Gurung, Y.B. (2013). *Child migration to Kathmandu valley city: family and other factor in context and process*. A Research paper submitted to the Institute of Social Studies, Hague: the Netherlands.
- ILO, (2012). *Child Labour in Asia*. Geneva: ILO
- ILO, (2013). *Child labour in Nepal*. ILO/Nepal, volume 1 and volume 2 August 22 – 25, Kathmandu: ILO/IPEC.
- ILO, (2011). *Nepal situation of child porters*. A Rapid Assessment, Geneva: ILO.
- ILO, (2014). *Action for the elimination of child labour*. Geneva: ILO
- ILO/IPEC (2001). *Nepal situation of child Rag pickers*. A rapid Assessment. Geneva: ILO
- INSEC, (2012). *Nepal Human Development Report 1998*. Kathmandu: Nepal South Asia Centre.
- K.C. B. K. Adhikari, K.P. Subedi, G. and Grurung, Y.B. (2001). *Child porters in Nepal, a rapid assessment*. A report submitted to ILO/IPEC; Nepal, Kathmandu: CDPS.
- Manandhar, N. (2012). *A situation of street children in Nepal*. Paper presented to South Asian workshop on street children. Vienna: IITS.
- Pradhan, G. (1992). *KHATE*. Kathmandu: CWIN.
- Pradhan, G. (2012). *The issue of child rights: many commitment and little action*, Kathmandu: CWIN.
- Redd Barna-Nepal (2012). *State of the rights of the child in Nepal*. Kathmandu: Redd Barna-Nepal
- Research and Study Centre, (2008). *A study on child labour in Nepal*. Kathmandu: Federation or Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Suwal B.R., K.C, B. K. and Adhikari, K.P. (1997). *Child labour situation analysis in Nepal*. Kathmandu: CDPS.

- Thapa, S. (2014). *Child rag pickers in Kathmandu valley*. Kathmandu: An unpublished Master degree dissertation submitted to Central Department of Economics. Tribhuvan University.
- Thapa, A. (2011). *Child rag pickers in Nepal*. Kathmandu: An unpublished Master degree dissertation submitted to Central Department of Central Department of Population Studies Tribhuvan University.
- UNDP, (2013). *Human Development Report 2012*. New York: UNDP.
- UNICEF, (2013). *Children at Work*. A Report on the UNICEF and ILO/IPEC workshop on child labour and street children Bangkok: Thailand November.
- UNICEF, (2014). *State of the world's children report*. New York: UNICEF.
- World Bank, (2014). *World development report*. New York: Oxford University.
- Voll, R. (2014). *Street children in Asia and the pacific*. Geneva: ILO

