

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF CHILD LABOUR
(A CASE STUDY OF MICRO BUS HELPERS IN KATHMANDU
VALLEY)**

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Binod Khadka

Roll No. 23/064

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The definition of childhood is very complex. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a child as being under the age of eighteen unless the National laws recognized the age of majority earlier (Article 1). The Nepal Labour Act (1992) defines a child as a person below the age of fourteen years and the Children Act (1992) definition is below the age of sixteen years. In many countries a child tends to be defined in terms of age limits, which vary with different activities. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, 2009) states age limits are a formal reflection of society's judgment about the evolution of children's capacities and responsibilities.

Population census 2001 reports the total population of the country as 23.15 million. Of which children population in the age group 0-14 years is 8,948,587, which is 39.3 percent of the country's total population. The share of child population under the age of 14 years is 39.3 percent in 2001 (CBS, 2001). About 27.3 percent male and 30.4 percent female children aged 10-14 years were economically active in 2001 (Shrestha, 2003). This share of population who is economically active is considered as child labour. The ILO definition on child labour is by far the most widely accepted definition. It states "child labour includes children prematurely leading adult lives, working long hours for low wages under conditions damaging to their health and their physical and mental development, sometimes separated from their families, frequently deprived of meaningful education and training opportunities, that could open up for them as a better future.

Even at the threshold of the 21st century, child labour is a bitter reality in many parts of the world. The magnitude of the problem is largest in South Asia. Out of the total 250 million child laborers in the world as estimated by ILO and UNICEF, South Asia is habitat for half of the world's child labour population. Child labour exploitation in this part of the world is extremely inhuman and intolerable (Pradhan, 1998).

In Nepal, child labour exists as an integral part of our labour market. No sector of labour is completely free of child labour exploitation. From domestic service, agriculture to industry, construction and transport service, one can find children employed as laborers in virtually every sector. CWIN (1998) estimates that there are at

least one million children in Nepal who are engaged in various kinds of labours in about 65 different organized and unorganized labour sectors for their own survival and family subsistence. They work long hours with little or no pay, are deprived of support and comfort families, have no access to security and protection and are vulnerable to all kinds of physical, emotional and economic exploitation and abuse. Many children in Nepal work in the most intolerable condition like slavery and bondage. It is estimated that about 40,000 child workers in Nepal work as 'Kamaiya' and other kinds of bonded labours (Pradhan, 1998).

Due to these problems, Nepal signed the Amsterdam Declaration (1997) on child labour and the Oslo Declaration (1997) on child labour. Furthermore, it has ratified the ILO Convention 138, on the minimum age of employment. In June 1999, it adopted the ILO Convention 182, which seeks elimination of hazardous and worst forms of child labour. The constitution of Nepal forbids the engagement of the minors in a factory, mines or in a dangerous work place. Similarly, Nepal has already prohibited forced and compulsory labour and has also ratified the United Nations Convention on the Right of Child and expressed its commitment in the international level for the protection and promotion of child rights. In 2000, the Government introduced an act that requires an employer to provide the child workers with education, vocational training and medical treatment. Despite legal provisions, child labour is continuing and is growing day by day.

Child labour denies childhood. It is a gross violation of child rights where children are subjected to abuse and exploitative and are deprived of their rights. Child labour is both causes and consequences of poverty and it should be eliminated not only to ensure a proper childhood for every child, but also for the prosperity and development of the society and nation as a whole.

It has already been known that child labour exploitation is the reflection of the socio-economic reality of the country, which is also the consequence of feudal land holding system. The growing marginalization among the rural population, rural migrations and urbanization are also in magnitude of a labour.

Nepal is seriously facing problems such as unemployment and lack of resources. When a family is poor, every one has to work. Many children work because of lack of other opportunities. School attendance among children is found very low in poor family. In poor family, it is found that level of fertility is higher that lead family size

larger, which put higher pressure on the household resources. In such case, families adopt children as a means for supplementary household income.

When children start work in any sector they jobs are found to roam around the street as “Khate girls/helpers” to earn their living. They too stay anywhere in all season.

Children of today might be the pioneers of the nation and broad shoulders can bear heavy burden of the nation. Child labour practice in Nepal is common and is found in many (innumerable) occupations. Broadly, it can be classified into children working without wages and those working for wages.

A recent household survey of more than three thousand households by Central Bureau of Statistics revealed that the proportion of children not attending schools is 41 percent in rural areas and 21 percent in urban areas. From the poor households, almost half of the children do not go to school (CBS, 2010).

According to Children's Act (First Amendment), 1997 and Labour Act (First Amendment), 1997 of Nepal, group of people under the age of 16 years are known as children. According to this law, a child under the age of 14 year shall not be employed in any work as a labourer and engaged, as a labour against his will. But the children of age between 14-16 years can work, only when they get facilities like less working hour, 6 hours per day not more than 36 hours per week. In this way if they work 3 hours continuously they must get rest for half an hour.

Nepal is one of the least developed countries in the world, where poverty, social injustice and religious conservatism are not just a threat but also an everyday reality. Poverty is both the cause and consequence of child labour. Extreme poverty and landlessness in the rural areas are fueling child labour not only in urban areas but also in rural areas as well (CWIN, 1989; INSEC, 1996). The obvious causes of poverty include structural inequality in access to assets, educations and health services and the absence of social security systems in many developing countries (Marcus and Caroline, 2009).

Children are the source of inspiration and hope for society. Every society wishes to bring up its children in an atmosphere of love and care in peace and harmony. However, millions of children are forced to live and work in critical circumstances. Children living in least developed countries face more serious problems with regard to their survival development and protection. As part of the least developed world, Nepal has been caught in the painful socio-economic and political turmoil for many years.

On the one hand, the national economic growth is decreasing whereas on the other hand, the budget allocated for development, including in essential social areas of education, health and rural drinking water has been shifted to security. This situation directly or indirectly affects children in their social, physical, mental and emotional development (CWIN, 2009).

Children are future pillars of the nation, so their all round development is quite essential. Children are innocent, faultless and symbol of creativity. But in our society, the proper environment for them is not available in which they could grow happily rather they are illtreated and exploited by bourgeois people. In Nepal, children are facing various problems due to the backwardness. 'Poverty' and 'illiteracy' are the main causes of 'Child Labour' in Nepal.

Child labour is not only the problem of an individual or a family but also the general problem of society. Child labour may be regarded broadly as any work of children under recreation that children require. It is the working of children at unfit ages for unreasonable hours or under unhealthy conditions (Patterson, 1943). Children work to support the family to fulfilling the hungry stomach. Of course, the children are not happy to work in such a young stage but what shall they do for their hunger stomach.

Child labour in Nepal has two dimensions; one is related to the repaid growth of urbanization and the growth of industries. Children are engaged in various occupations such as manufacturing of carpet, making bricks, construction road and building and domestic services. The other dimension is the traditional area of work such as agriculture, animal husbandry, pottery, grocery shop and other family operated business and domestic work.

Microbus is the prevalent means of local transportation in urban areas of Nepal especially in Kathmandu valley. People having limited income can also afford the fare of microbus, it gives faster services. Due to which people prefer microbus than other means of transportation such as minibuses. Problem of child labour is not new for our country. But the problems of child labour in microbus, as a helper is new because microbuses were seen in Kathmandu valley just before about 5 years ago.

When the "Ministry of Population and Environment declared to displace the diesel tempo from Kathmandu, after microbuses were introduced in the street of Kathmandu. For which government gave special grant to bring such microbus.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Child labour is common and widespread phenomena in Nepal. The subsistence on the economy can hardly support to get their livelihood. The rural people who have low economic status sent their children in urban areas hoping their better future on one hand and the earning more money for the support their family on the other hand.

There are more job opportunities in urban area than village, but those opportunities are limited as the urban area of Nepal is very small still under the developing process. But the migration of the people to the urban area in search of employment is gradually growing up. Therefore, they have been compelled to survey only adapting any sort of small jobs. In this way they were poor in the village and remain poor in urban area too.

According to Child Act and Labour Act of Nepal 2048 employed children under the age of 16 years are called child labour and below the 14 years are strictly prohibited to work as labour. But the age groups of 14-16 years of people are working in many factories at 6-8 hours per day. So the child labour is not only the problem of Nepal but it is universal and one of the serious problems of the world. Child is the reflection of the socio-economic reality of the country. It is also a consequence of the feudal land holding which still prevails in many third world countries. Most of the people from rural areas are migrated in urban areas, which contribute an increase in the magnitude of child labour. The migration of child from rural to urban areas has been increasing in these days and this has led to an increase of child labour in urban areas.

Protecting and promotion of child rights is a challenging issue for a country like Nepal, whereas lack of awareness and education among general population and the traditional beliefs are not in the live of children's right in this condition, it is not possible for the state along to bring social change without active participation of the society. So, there is a need of increase in the active participation of the civil society.

It is very difficult to get actual statistics about child labour in Nepal, because every sectors of employment are not out from child exploitation. However the problems have been more sever and is very highlighted in the media. After removing the Vikram tempos from Kathmandu Valley, the microbuses are available in the roads of Kathmandu. According to the record of valley transportation office Gausala about 1550 microbuses have been recorded in running till the data of March 15th 2010 and process of entering this type of vehicle in Kathmandu valley is going on. Limited research has been conducted on the children who are working in microbus. So, the

main focus of the study is about the socio-economic condition of the child helper in microbus of Kathmandu valley. This study aims at answering the questions such as.

-) What socio-economic and socio cultural background do the helpers represent?
-) How did they become microbuses helper?
-) What are the major problems faced by them?
-) What do they think about their future?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In the light of above discussion, the study aims at analyzing some of challenging issues connected with the child labour practices in Nepal especially child labour exploitation in microbuses. The general objectives are to collect the basic demographic, social and economic information of the child labour working in microbuses in Kathmandu valley. The specific objectives of this study are as follows.

1. To identify the socio-economic and demographic condition of child labours in microbuses.
2. To examine the working status and employment relationship between microbus helpers and their employers.
3. To identify the health, nutrition status and causes of working as helper in microbuses.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Problems of the child labour are not new for our country. Various legislative measures have been enacted and the government is committed to eliminate the child labourers and what is the course of their problems for joining in the different kinds of the industries. Also many NGOs INGOs are actively working for the elimination the child labour and significance amount of resources have been spent.

Microbus helper is one of them who are influenced by the poverty in the urban area. Only a few studies are related to the child labour practices in microbuses. With the help of this study various social and economical aspects of microbus helpers have been brought out and these information will help to understand various aspects of child labour in microbuses and make appropriate polices for prevention and protection of child labour in microbuses.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The major limitations of the present study are as follows.

1. There was limited time and budget for the research to be undertaken. So study is limited in selected area of Kathmandu valley only
2. This study is conducted in Kathmandu Valley. So, it may not be generalized for the other parts of the country.
3. Random sampling was not possible. So, an accidental sample method is employed.
4. Due to lack of resource and time, only 75 sample size are taken into consideration

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is concerned with introduction of the study dealing with the objectives statement of the problem as well as well importance and limitations of the study. Second chapter deals with the review of literature relating child labour in the microbus. The literatures are taken from relevant books, study reports, journals and seminar papers relating to the child labour. The third chapter contains the methodology of the study. In this chapter method of data collection, sample size, research design and selection of study area have been explained. The fourth chapter consists of socio-economic and demographic condition of respondents such as socio-demographic and economic status. The fifth chapter consists of health and nutrition status and causes of working as helper in microbuses. Finally, chapter six summarizes the major findings of the study as well as conclusions and recommendations. References cited and annexes are presented in the end.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Theoretical Review

Child labour has emerged as major social problems in much of the Third World Countries where rapid increase in population; economic stagnation structural adjustment policy implications, drought, war and disease have decreased the ability of families to earn a decent living. As part of family survival strategy used to cope with financial pressure, more and more children are being pushed in the labour market. In terms of the size of the population involved, child labour is probably the issue that involves the largest number of children worldwide (UNICEF, 2009).

It is true that child work has existed through out history, but it was the employment of children in factories mines spawned by the industrial revolution in Europe which made it more conspicuous, hazardous and exploitative. Consequently, the public raised their voice against this practice, which led to legislation to raise the minimum age of employment and improve working conditions. The introduction of the system of factory inspection and compulsory primary education appeared to have ultimately led to the elimination of child labour from the organized workplace. A major factor, which contributed to the decline in child labour, was the formalization of economic activity in to registered and discrete components of the public and private sectors and the technological advance which required trained and mature workers.

In Nepal child labour exist as an integral part of our labour market. No sector of labour is completely free of child labour exploitation. From domestic service, agriculture to industry, construction and transport service, one can find children employed as labors in virtually every sector. CWIN (1999) estimated that there was at least one million children in Nepal, who were engaged in various kinds of labours in about 65 different organized and unorganized labour sectors for their own survival and family subsistence. They work long hours with little or no Pay, are deprived of support and comfort families, have no access to security and protection and or vulnerable to all kinds of physical, emotional and economic exploitation and abuse. Many children in Nepal work in the most intolerable condition like slavery and

bondage. It is estimated that about 40,000 child workers in Nepal work as 'Kamaya' and other kinds of bonded labours (Tamang, 2008).

Due to these problems, Nepal signed the Amsterdam Declaration (1997) on child labour and the Oslo Declaration (1997) on child labour. Further more, it has ratified the ILO convention 138, on the minimum age of employment. In June 1999, it adopted the ILO convention 182, which seeks elimination of hazardous and worst forms of child labour. The constitution of Nepal forbids the engagement of the minors in a factory, mines or in a dangerous workplace. Similarly, Nepal has already prohibited forced and compulsory labour and has also ratified the United Nation's Convention on the Right of child and expressed its commitment in the international level for the protection and promotion of child rights. In 2000, the Government introduced an act that requires an employer to provide the child workers with education, vocational training and medical treatment. Despite legal provisions, child labour is continuing and is growing day by day (Tamang, 2008).

Child labour has been recognized as a major social problem in Nepal. To address this problem, studies have been carried out to understand particular forms of child labour at the local level by various organizations.

Finally, the study reveals that the problem of child labour in Nepal is due to the acute poverty of the people particularly in the rural area. Exploitative social relations in the villages further have aggregated the problem. The harsh living condition and frequent natural disasters leads to seasonal or permanent migration of families and in some cases, that of children who, on their own, move from rural to the urban area (ILO, 2009).

In addition, the studies also reveal that some children even from the better families run away from the houses and enter into urban centers because of several attractions in towns. Child labour exists in this sector and abuse of children by the parents and step mothers. Scarcity and lack of facilities and opportunities in rural areas and unemployment are other reasons that compels the children to enter into towns alone with their parents and engage in labour intensive works either for their own survival or to support their family member (ILO, 2009).

2.2 Child Labour in World Today

Child labour does not refer to young people who work a few hours a week to earn pocket money or to help their families. Providing such work does not interfere with the child's education, health and development. There is nothing particularly harmful about it. It has nothing in common with problems faced by large numbers of children who have to work long hours or under detrimental conditions in order to ensure their own or their families' survival. The type of work performed by children that is referred to in this document as "child labours" is that deprives children of their childhood and their dignity, which hampers their access to education and the acquisition of skills and which is performed under deplorable conditions harmful to their health and their development (UNICEF, 2009).

2.3 History of Child Labour in World

For centuries, child labour has been recognized as normal practice by society in most parts of the country. Poverty and deprivation are obvious key factors that have contributed to the growing number of children in the exploitative labour market. However, parent's ignorance, family breakdowns and the trend of child exploitation have been multiplying the degree of child labour exploitation in the country.

The challenges of child labour being come across by most of the third world countries have many serious social, economic and political dimensions. They have any different forms of dimension and magnitude. Hence, this problem cannot be learned nor can we hope to reach a solution without understanding the background of the industrial revolution in Europe. If we go through the history of developed countries, they had faced the problem of child labour exploitation in one way or another. Many children in the developed countries used to work in the factories, mines, cotton and carpet industries, domestic service, shops etc. The developed countries, such as UK, Germany, USA, Japan, France, Sweden, Portugal, Cyprus, Belgium and Malta also had a serious child labour problem until less than fifty years ago. It has been observed that some countries are not yet free of the child labour problem because of different social problems, economic exploitation and family break-downs.

The children in many countries in Asia share the common pain and problems of child labour in their everyday life. Statistics have revealed that almost half of the world's child labour problems exist in South Asia. Because of growing poverty, famine, unfair

economic relations and social injustice, the children of this region are forced to take on a major burden for survival. Despite many national, regional and international commitments to combat child labour, the situation of children in the SAARC region is far from satisfactory (Pradhan, 2008).

The ILO adopts Convention on Minimum Age way back in 1991 followed by a number of other conventions including ILO-IPEC for the elimination of child labour from the world. However, the exploitation also re-appeared in the developed world. It is, therefore, no doubt that as long as economic inequality social injustice and ignorance exist, the cause for the emergence of the child labour problem cannot be abolished (Pradhan, 2008).

2.4 Child Labour in Nepal

Nepal is seriously facing problems such as unemployment and lack of resources. When a family is poor, every one has to work. Many children work because of lack of other opportunities. School attendance among children is found very low in poor family. In poor family it is found that level of fertility is higher that lead family size larger, which put higher pressure on the household resources. In such case families adopt child labour as a means for supplementary household income (Tamang, 2008).

ILO-IPEC (1996), study about child labour in Nepal and stated that out of all children ages 5 to 14 years; 41.7 percent (2.6 million) regularly work. 36.7 percent work and go to school, 15 percent do nothing (are idle), 15 percent do non-economic work, such as household chores. Of all working children, 55 percent are girls. Of economically active children, 94.7 percent (1.58 million) are involved in agriculture work. 0.9 million work in the non-economic sector, 1.6 percent work as service worker, 1.6 percent works in construction, transportation, and communications, 0.8 percent work as general technical workers, 0.4 percent work as sales worker, 5000 children are working and living in the streets

Of working children in Nepal, 64 percent go to school, 36 percent do not go to school, 26 percent of male children do not go to school, and 49 percent of female children do not attend school. About 1.7 million children in Nepal are economically active. 1.4 million are involved in unpaid activities and 278,000 in paid.

Girls work longer hours than boys. 88 percent of economically active girls work 14 hours or more per day, compared to 80 percent of boys. 35 percent of economically active girls work 42 hours or more per week, 22 percent of boys did the same.

More children work in the mountains than in the Terai. Work participation rate is 52.3 percent in the mountain region, 45.4 percent in the hilly region and 36.3 percent in the Terai region. 1.4 million worked 14 hours or more i.e. 83.3 percent of economically active children.

According to ILO-IPEC, some 127,000 are involved in most hazardous and worst forms of child labour. The recent rapid assessment conducted by the ILO, 2001 on worst forms of child labour estimates: 4,000 rag pickers in Nepal of which 88 percent are helpers and 12 percent are girls. The rag pickers work 6 hours on average and the average earning is NRs. 87 per day, 55,000 domestic workers, 46,029 child porters, 57,000 bonded child labours between age group 5-18 years, 12,000 girls are trafficked every year and 20 percent of the sex workers in Nepal are under age of 16.

Child labour in the context of Nepal should not be defined in terms of paid and unpaid jobs. Rather it should be defined in terms of the nature of work whether it is beneficial or harmful or intolerable.

Authoritative information with regard to the magnitude and nature of child labour in Nepal is scarce. Estimates of the number and incidence of child labour in Nepal differ widely mainly because of lack of reliable information about the overall distribution of economically active population by age, and the concentration of child workers in the informal sector. Furthermore, there is a general tendency to conceal the existence of child labour in both rural and urban areas because work by a child under 14 is legally prohibited in Nepal. Therefore, it is not quite possible to present a reliable estimate of child labour nationally. According to the population census of 1981, 4.5 million or 60 percent of the child population in the 10-14 age group was economically active in almost all sectors of rural and urban economy in Nepal, with 50 percent employed in agricultural and other allied occupation in the countryside and other 20 percent were engaged in cities in such locations as factories, constructions, hotels and restaurants (Gurung, 2009).

The issue of child labour cannot be viewed in isolation, because this is a consequence of the country's exploitative socio-economic and political reality. Major factors which contribute being child labour have been identified as: (a) Social customs, values and attitudes, (b) illiteracy of parents, (c) inequitable land distribution, (d) lack of people centered and sustainable development programs, (e) poor access to resources for the underprivileged sections, (f) lack of access to education for the children, (g) agrarian relations, (h) migration from rural to urban areas, (i) family disharmony and diminishing family support, (j) trafficking of girls within the country and across the border and (k) inadequate enforcement of labour and criminal laws (ILO/IPECL, 2009).

The most popular field among the child labour to be engaged in Nepal is hotels, restaurants and teashops industry. There are more than 20,000 registered and non-registered teashops/restaurants in Nepal, employing more than 71,000 child workers throughout the country. All of these working children have been living in bleak and deplorable conditions, suffering unhygienic working environments and long working hours at low pay.

Most families make their children work as soon as they are 6-7 years old. Most working children are engaged in various kinds of agricultural labour such as farming operations, collection of fodder, operations ng rice and assist their parents in farming (Regmi, 2009).

The brick kiln industry is the fast growing industries in Nepal on account of urbanization process and has become one of the most labour intensive industries. A study done by CWIN in 1991 estimated that there are about 25,00 children working in the brick kilns in Kathmandu valley alone. (CWIN, 1991), so far as ten industries are concerned, according to CWIN (which conducted a survey in 13 estates in 1990) there are 30,05 workers, of which 451 (15percent) are children under 16 years of age.

In cottage and small-scale industries, such as, candle making rug weaving, wood polishing and carrying, child labour has been noticed but no authentic data are available. However, carpet industry has got the rational and international attention so far as the child labour is concerned. And it is believed that there are about 20,10

carpet industries in Nepal of which 16,00 (80percent) are in Kathmandu valley. Out of estimated 300,000 workers 150,000 are children (Pradhan, 2008).

2.5 Causes and Consequences of Child Labour

There are several factors responsible for the problem of child labour. Socio-cultural background and land distribution pattern are important roots of the child labour. In Nepal, legacy of the feudal rule is still apparent and that the influence of village elite, large landowners and moneylenders over the poor has still been continued through historical trends.

2.5.1 Causes for Becoming a Child Labour

There is continues to oppress mass poverty in Nepal. Debt bondage labour under the “Kamaiya” system and the domestic servants are important examples of this system. Social in difference is also an important root of the child labour .The poor parents exploits their children’s labour because they do not have an alternative economic scheme (Pradhan, 2008).

Nepal is a rural agrarian country with persistent poverty, which is the most important reason for child labour. Poor households need money, which their children can earn and children generally contribute around 20-25 percent of the family income (ILO, 2009).

Major causes of child labour in Nepal are identified as abject poverty and financial pressure, unemployment/underemployment, family disruption, lack of alternatives, inadequacy of education of education system, inadequate enforcement of legislation, abduction/deception and values which tolerate and sometimes condemn child labour (ILO, 1995). Major causes of child labour are food insufficiency and unemployment because of the lack of land owned.

INSEC (2009) found that in search of work (12.5 percent) and insufficient food (7.0 percent) are important reasons for leaving home though most of the children came to Kathmandu due to parent’s suggestion (43.0 percent), advice of friends (12.5 percent) and dislike of village life (7.5 percent), education (6.5 percent) is also important cause for child labour.

2.5.2 Consequences of Child Labour

Poverty has been reported as the leading reason for working outside for non-domestic work (CD/CCD, 1997). The second main reason was parent who has been blamed for enforcing child labour. Many parents cannot afford money for their children to study. advantages and the value of education. Children are weighted from the economic prospective. Even if some children realize that education is advantageous for their future life, either they do not have access to school or they cannot afford to busy stationary and pay the fees. So children leave home with the hope of acquiring both income and education.

Chetteri (2009) study and indicated that, in Nepal, district with a high child labour status tends to have a high child labour rate. He concludes that poverty compels children to participate in the labour force, in turn deprives them of the right to education.

Urbanization process is increasing in Nepal, where people have to face busy life. This situation creates high demand of domestic child labour in urban. In one hand, they are deprived of minimum requirements and on the other hand violence against them is increasing. Domestic child labourer feels insecure in their working place.

Nangia (2009) in the study of causes and consequences of child labour suggests that the employment of children determines and in turn, is determined by poverty in the form of adult unemployment and underemployment, lack of schooling and higher mortality. The lower wages to children also bring down the bargaining power of adults, thus lowering the overall wage rate of the labour force. This way the overall earnings of the family are reduced giving rise to poverty. The lower family income reduces the nutritional intake of family members, which reduce their physical strength and boosts the morbidity rate amongst them. On one hand, this leads adults to their unemployment an underemployment, which in turn, compels the children to participate in the labour force for the survival of their families. The working and living conditions and the occupational risks put a lot of strain on the tender bodies of the children, which cannot cope with it for every long period and hence give raise to high morbidity rate. The higher mortality among the adults also leads to higher fertility as the parents want, at least, a couple of children to survive till their old age, so that they do not have to look at some one else for their social security. These large

families results in lower nutritional intake and in extreme cases to lack of schooling. A child who does not go to school is sent to the labour force to work for the family income. Due to lack of schooling, the child remains at the lower strata in the labour market even in his adult, keeping his own and that of his family's income very low. In Nepal, major causes of child labours are enumerated as mass poverty, illiteracy, Kamaiya system, feudal rule, influence of village elite, money lenders, unemployment and underemployment, family disruption, food scarcity, urban attribution and violence in the family among many others as the new research may reveal in the future.

The consequences of different forms of child labour are attributed to sexual abuse, girl trafficking, sex tourism, AIDS, early pregnancy, infant and maternal mortality, Serious health problems illiteracy and more exploitation.

2.6 Major Areas of Child Labour

In spite of legal prohibition, child labour exist every where in our country. No areas of the labour market is completely free of child labour exploitation. At present, there are many sector identified as absorbing the major portion of child labor (CWIN, 2009), within these economic sectors, the types of occupations children are engaged are as below.

- 1) Agriculture:- Collecting fodder, collecting fire wood, tending livestock, cutting grass, weeding Harvesting related work, picking tea in tea estates, planting, Harvesting, fishing.
- 2) Manufacturing/Industries:- Carpet weaving working in brick kiln factory, working in Garment and textiles, working in leather factory, working in Match factory, working in confectionery candle and soap making, working in plastic factory working in tobacco factory.
- 3) Trade:- Ragpicking, street vending, Newspaper delivery, working in petrol pumps.
- 4) Services:- Domestic services, Hotels and restaurants Tempos/SAFA Tempos bus/bus helpers, carrying a burden as a porter, shoe shining, sex work, helping in shops.

The following areas can be taken as main areas of child labour employment in Nepal (CWIN/UNICEF, 2009).

- 1) Factory/Industry:- Carpet, Garment, Handicrafts, printing, press, welding, confectionary, bread, loaf, match, pottery, brick kilns).
- 2) Planting:- Sugarcane, tea, tobacco, rice, maize, millet.
- 3) Domestic Service:- water, collecting fuels and fodder, taking care of child, kitchen work, cleaning utensils, house keeping.
- 4) Shop:- (Sweets, Tea shops, Restaurants and bar)
- 5) Transportation works:- (helper, helper, Ticket collector)
- 6) Porter:- (Street porter; loader, porter of businessmen, Porters of treks/Tourists)
- 7) Street:- (Street vendors, Rag/Garbage pickers, Beggars street, signers, shoe shiners/makers, Newspaper sellers, Rickshaw driving)
- 8) Construction work:- (Building roads, Houses, Bridge, Sewerage)
- 9) Sex work:- (Child prostitutes/contractor, massage parlors, Child trafficking)
- 10) Bounded labour:- (Kamaya tradition, Debt bounded labours)
- 11) Refugee Children:- (Child of Tibetan Refugee in carpet factories, Bhutanese in eastern Nepal)
- 12) Migrant child labour (migrate child labour from India, Migrant Nepali child labour in India, Rural migrant Children).
- 13) Circus/Music:- (Children in Circus, children in puppet show/magic, children in commercial musical programme)
- 14) Commercial advertisement (Children in T.V./Radio advertisement, Children in print media)

2.7 Review of Previous Studies

Aryal (2008) conducted by study on “*Child Labour and Carpet Industry*” published in Rising Nepal, states that the carpet industry is the second largest employment generator in Nepal. Out of the total workforce in the carpet industry, 50 percent of children who have migrated from the village due to poverty'. There is a performance for children in the carpet industry because; their 'small hands' are most suitable for making 'strong carpets'. 'Actual poverty' and 'inadequate resources' force children to work and it is difficult to relieve children from labour. Not only this, he had argued that it is unjustified to prevent the children from working so long as alternative arrangements are not made for them.

Neupane (2009) conducted study on “*Child Labour Situation in SAFA Tempo*” dissertation submitted to Central Department of Economics, concludes that age of SAFA Tempo helper was found in between 11 years to 14 years. From the study it was also found that majority percentages of the SAFA Tempos helpers were found from Brahmin family rest were from lower caste family out of 100 helpers taken as sample. It was found that majority of the children don’t go home as they are badly treated by the step parents and they also have to work hard at home though majority 56 percent of the children were found having their both father and mother. The middleman, relatives, master and parents were the major source of recruitment. 41.3 percent helpers had come in Kathmandu valley in search of better life and 14.7 came due to heavy workload at home and rest came due to poverty, maltreatment at home. Most of the SAFA Tempos helpers’ parents’ occupation is agriculture. 56 percent of the SAFA Tempos helpers have found food sufficiency at home and 44 percent of them do not have food sufficiency at home so just to support their family they need to work.

The SAFA Tempos boys were found to work 11 to 15 hours in a day and daily earning is only in between Rs. 30 to Rs. 40. 42.7 percent of the SAFA Tempos helpers were found exploiting by driver/master, fellow conductor, local boys, police even from passenger too. Out of 100 children 65.3 percent were found satisfy with their job because they are getting food, shelter clothes traveling facility and facility of driving. And rest 34.7 percent were found dissatisfy with the job due to not getting free time, low wages and heavy work. About health problem, 30.7 percent helpers were found suffering from different health problem such as chest problem, headache and stomachache problem.

Thapa (2008) in his study entitled “*Child rag pickers in Nepal*”, gives 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.

Amatya (2009) study on “A study on socio-economic condition of rag pickers children in Kathmandu”. According to him, the existence of child rag picker is a reflection of under development. Rag picking children are facing multi-varied 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.

Andrew (2009) study on “At the margins street children in Asia and the pacific”. According to him 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 rang 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 low and juvenile justice and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Some 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 (NGOs).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals about the procedure adopted for the present study. It describes research design, selection of the study area, nature and sources of data, sample size, tools of data collection and method of data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

This study is based on both exploratory cum descriptive research design. Due to the lack of available researches about microbus helpers of small vehicle exploratory research design is made to investigate the minimum acquaintance about these helpers. It is exploratory because attempts are made to investigate the minimum acquaintance about microbus child labours as well as to explore the hidden facts and realities. On the other hand, descriptive research design is made to describe the socio-economic condition of microbus child labours and major problems associated with them, which enables to present a clean picture of the phenomenon under investigation. By this descriptive research design the causes pertaining to the recent situation or problems were brought out.

3.2 Rational of the Selection of the Study Area

This study is based on child labour employed in microbus of Kathmandu valley. Kathmandu is the capital city of country. It is located in the central developmental region of the country. Kathmandu Valley consists of three different districts namely Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur. Out of these three districts, Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts were main study area for collecting primary data. Kathmanduers are interviewed from different parts of Kathmandu Valley. Majority are from Sundhara (in front of Nepal Airlines); Baluwatar, Kalanki, Kathmandu and Lagankhel. It was observed that more children are involved as helper in these routes than the others. Therefore, this site has been chosen as study area.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

This study is based on both primary and secondary data. All primary data are derived from field survey with the help of structural questionnaire, which is the main component of the study. And secondary data are obtained from various sources such as books, journals, research reports, magazines, newspapers and other reliable source.

3.4 Universe and Sampling

The microbus helpers have no specified time of work. They do not know when they will be back to home. They have to go here and there in the microbus. So it was very difficult to make definite time and place to meet them. Therefore, accidental sampling procedure was chosen to find the quick reaction of respondents because of their mobile nature and uncertainty.

The study covers the microbus helper of Kathmandu valley who are working as helper in microbus. There are 750 helpers working in microbus below age 18. Than the others. It is found that about 1550 microbuses were recorded in running till last March 15th 2011 on the record of valley transportation office, Gausala. 75 children working as a helper in microbuses under the age of 18 were interviewed through using accidental sampling method.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques

Different types of tools and techniques were used to collect the data.

3.5.1 Interview

For the collection of data and information for the children working in the microbuses, interview method was applied to know the child's view and their interest at morning to evening time. The interview was conducted taking permission with driver. The interview method helped to carry out to collect primary data and information. Targeted child workers were inquired about the socio-economic condition and demographic background of the working children, condition of work, working environment including health, hygiene, children's right, etc.

3.5.2 Observation

To know more detail about their attitudes, behaviour, physical, working, living conditions, dressing and language the non-participation observation method has been conducted.

3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

For the analysis of data simple statistical tools, such as numbers, percentage and tabulation are used. The quantitative data, which are obtained from structured questionnaire, are first process through editing and coding. After this, the processed data are presented in tabular form and interpreted and analyzed.

3.7 Operational Definition and Measurement of Selected Concepts/Variables

For this study, there are some terms, which are newly used. These used terms are followings.

Microbus:- Newly entered four wheeler small size passenger vehicle after removal of the Vikram tempo from Kathmandu valley. There are two types of microbus. In first type of microbus, L.P gas is used as fuel, which contains 14 passengers and in the second type of microbus diesel is use as fuel, which contains 18 passengers at a time.

Microbus Helper:- The term “*Helper*” implies personal assistant of driver who is employed for helping the driver, collecting fares, calling passengers, checking the fuel level, washing the vehicles who is popularly known as “Helper”

Child Labour: - Child labour means the labour or worker the age of 17 or less then 17 who works for his survivable.

Village: - Village means the collection of houses and other buildings in a country area, smaller than a town. Nepal has 3913 designated village areas.

City: - City means the large and important group of houses, building, e.t.c. especially with a center where amusements can be found and business go on. Nepal has 58 designated urban areas.

CHAPTER FOUR

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF RESPONDENTS

4.1 Socio-Demographic Status

The analysis presented below help to understand the background of microbus helper and effect of their work on socio-economic condition of their lives. Before finding out the life styles of microbuses helpers, it is necessary to know their cultural, demographic, ethnic and their educational status.

4.1.1 Place of Origin

In this study an attempt has been made to know the place of origin on the basis of their birthplace. In this regards, it is found that 12 (16percent) were born in the city and 63 (84percent) percent microbus helpers were born out of the city. The distribution of respondents according to their birthplace is presented in the Table 4.1

Table 4.1 Distribution of Microbus Helpers According to Their Place of Birth

Place of Birth	Number	Percent
Village	63	84.0
City	12	16.0
Total	75	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

The above data shows that a larger number of the microbus helpers originated from village i.e. 63 (84percent) and 12 (16percent) are from the city. Microbus helpers originated main districts are Nuwakot, Sindhupalchok, Kabrepalanchok, Rasuwa, Dhading, Bhaktapur e.t.c.

4.1.2 Age Composition

From the child development perspective, childhood is a very important period for child. This study covers children under 18 years of age. In this regard, an attempt has been made to know the age structure of the microbus helpers under study (Table 4.2)

Table 4.2 shows that 42.7 percent children working as helper in microbuses are of 16-17 years. The percentage of 14-16 years microbus helpers is found to be 38.7 percent

and the percentage of 12-14 years, 12 years and less than 12 years is 13.3 percent and 5.3 percent respectively.

Table 4.2 Distribution of Microbus Helpers According to Their Age Composition

Age Group	Number	Percentage
10-12 years	4	5.3
12-14 Years	10	13.3
14-16 Years	29	38.7
16-17 Years	32	42.7
Total	75	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.1.3 Caste/Ethnic Composition

Respondents belong to various caste/ethnic groups are as shown in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Caste/Ethnicity

Caste/Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage
Brahmins and Kshetri	33	44.0
Tamang, Magar, Gurung, Lama, Rai, Sherpa and Limbu	32	42.7
Newar	8	10.7
Kami and Damai	2	2.6
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Among the 75 children interviewed of microbuses helper in Kathmandu valley, there are 33 (44 percent) Brahmins and Kshetri child; 32(42.7 percent) Tamang, jority of the microbus helpers are from upper caste community like Brahmin and Kshetri.

4.1.4 Parental Status

Family is the most effective and important institution in the process of child socialization that is why, it is necessary to know about their family background and parental status.

Table 4.4 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Parental Status

Parents	Number	Percentage
Only Father alive	18	24.0
Only Mother alive	9	12.0
Both Father/Mother alive	42	56.0
No Father/Mother alive	6	8.0
Total	75	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

It is found that most of the child workers have their parents and they are still alive. Out of 75 children interviewed, 18 (24percent) have their father only alive, 9 (12percent) have their mother only alive, 42 (56percent) have both father and mother alive and 6 (8percent) have no father and mother alive. They are orphan.

Family Contact

Respondents having family contact are as shown in Table 4.5. In the survey, it is found their family but majority of the micro buses helpers i.e. 48 (64percent) used to go home to meet their (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Family Contact

Go to home	Number	Percentage
Daily	4	5.3
Weekly	2	2.7
Half monthly	2	2.7
Monthly	5	6.7
Half yearly	7	9.3
Yearly	10	13.3
Some times	18	24.0
Do not go home	27	36.0
Total	75	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Above table also shows that, only 4 (5.3percent) microbuses helpers use to go home daily wcent) microbuses helpers use to go home weekly, and half monthly, 5 (6.7) microbuses helpers use to go home monthly, 7 (9.3percent) micro buses helpers use to

go home half yearly, 10 (13.3percent) microbuses helpers use to go home yearly and 18 (24percent) microbuses helpers use to go home sometimes only.

4.1.6 Means of Arrival in Kathmandu

No body wants to leave their hometown and wants to go far from their parents/family. But due to different reasons like pover children migrated to Kathmandu and started working in different sectors. Means of arrival in Kathmandu to work as microbus helpers are also different, some of them come with parents, relative, friends, employer where as some of them ran away from their house them self (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Means of Arrival in Kathmandu Valley

Means of arrival	Number	Percentage
With parents	4	5.3
With relatives	2	2.7
With friends	2	2.7
With master	5	6.7
Runaway from home	7	9.3
From Kath valley	10	13.3
Total	75	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

There is no formal channel of recruiting workers in microbuses, although children are migrated from their native place to the Kathmandu valley. Above table shows that majority of the microbuses helpers, 30 (40percent) run away from the home and arrived in Kathmandu alone, whereas 27 (36percent) arrived with their relatives, 9 (12percent) arrived with their parents, 5 (6.6percent) arrived with their friends, 2 (2.7percent) arrived with employer and 2 (2.7percent) are of Kathmandu valley.

4.1.7 Causes of Leaving Native Land

Various causes of leaving native place by the children have been identified.

Table 4.7 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Causes of Leaving Native Land

Cause of Leaving Native Land	Number	Percentage
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For better life	31	41.3
Heavy Work at Home	11	14.7
Poverty	11	14.7
Guardian/parents maltreatment	7	9.3
Fail in Examination	6	8.0
No chance of study	7	9.3
From Kathmandu valley	2	2.7
Total	75	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Among them their hope for better life (43.3percent), heavy work at home and poverty being 14.7percent each are the major reasons cited by the children. The other reasons are: maltreatment at home and no chance of study (9.3percent) each and fail in examination (8.0percent).

4.1.8 Literacy Status

Education is an important instrument to develop personality and society. Without education nobody can achieve success in own lives. Literacy status of respondents is given below (Table 4.8).

Table 4.8 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Literacy Status

Read and Write	Number	Percentage
Can read and write	32	42.7
Can not read and write	43	57.3
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Among the 75 microbuses helpers, 32 (42.7percent) children are found literate (can read and write) and 43 (57.3percent) are found illiterate (can not read and write). This shows that majority of the microbuses helpers are illiterate.

4.1.9 Educational Attainment

Previous table 4.8 shows that out of 75 microbuses helpers, 32 (42.7percent) microbuses helpers are able to read and write. Above table 4.9 reveals that, out of 32 microbuses helpers who are able to read and write, 12 (37.5percent) microbus helpers have completed up to grade 3, 18 (56.2percent) microbus helpers have completed up

to grade 7 and very less i.e. 2 (6.30percent) microbus helpers have completed grade 7 and above.

Table 4.9 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Educational Attainment

Completed Grade	Number	Percentage
1 to 3 grade	12	37.5
4 to 7 grade	18	56.2
Above 7 grade	2	6.3
Total	32	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Out of 32 microbuses helpers who are able to read and write were asked the reason of dropping out, which is given below. Table 4.10 shows that 14 (43.8percent) microbus helpers left the school due to poverty, 8 (25.0percent) left school due to very heavy work at home, 5 (15.6percent) due to fail in exam, and 5 (15.6percent) microbus helpers left the school due to lack of interest in studies.

Table 4.10- Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Reason of dropping out from School

Causes	Number	Percentage
Family poverty	14	43.8
Workload at home	8	25.0
Fail in exam	5	15.6
Lack of interest	5	15.6
Total	32	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.1.10 Interest of Further Education

Table 4.11 shows distribution of their interest for re-schooling. Of the 75 children interviewed, it is found that majority 39 (52percent) of the microbus helpers are not interested to go to school again and the rest 36(48percent) are interested to go to school.

Table 4.11 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Interest for Re-schooling

Interested for further education	Number	Percentage
Yes	36	48
No	39	52
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

When the question about the reason of unwillingness for further education is asked to those respondents, the response is as follows (Table 4.12).

Table 4.12 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Cause of Unwillingness for Further Study

Caused of not Interesting	Number	Percentage
Lack of interest (Dislike)	13	33.3
Family poverty	7	17.9
Age over	9	23.1
Not find job in future	6	15.4
No any specific reasons	4	10.3
Total	39	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Among the 39 children who are not interested for re-schooling, the highest 13 (33.3percent) said that they have no interest to study, 7 (17.9percent) said that due to family poverty, they have to support their family so they are not interested for further education. 9 (23.1percent) micro buses helpers mentioned that due to over age they are do not like to join the school again, 6 (15.4percent) microbus helpers mentioned that no fixed job after school education and 4 (10.3percent) microbus helpers didn't give any specific reasons.

4.2 Economic Status

Family is the first school for the child, which determines the nature of the child from where children learn social norms and values. Same way the economic condition of parents is also responsible for the career development of the children. Most of the child workers are from poverty stricken villages where poor parents have few opportunities for employment.

4.2.1 Parental Occupation

According to Table 4.13, it is seen that most of the children's parents are dependent on agriculture.

Table 4.13 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Parental Occupation

Occupations	Number	Percentage
Agriculture	4	5.3
Business/Shopkeeper	2	2.7
Domestic Servant/Worker	2	2.7
Security guard carpenter, rag picker Hotel service/potter/driver	5	6.7
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

It is found that highest 43 (57.3percent) of the parents are farmer, 9 (12percent) parents have their own business, 11 (14.7percent) parents are depended on domestic service/worker and rest 12 (16percent) are working in different filed like security guard, carpenter, rag picker, hotel service, potter, driver etc.

4.2.2 Family House and Land

House and land are the main factors to measure the economic status, so the question was asked either they have family house and land or not. Among the surveyed children 62, (82.7percent) said that their families have own house and some land. 13 (17.3percent) are found homeless and landless families.

Table 4.14 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Family House and Land

Own housed land	Number	Percentage
Yes	62	82.7
No	13	17.3
Total	75	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.3 Food Sufficiency at Home

Nepal is agricultural country. Most of the people are engaged in farming. Food sufficiency at home is directly related to the child labour. To fulfill the hand to mouth problem children must have to work.

Among the 75 minibuses helpers interviewed, it is found that most 42 (56percent) have food sufficiency at home and 33 (44percent) do not have food sufficiency.

Table 4.15 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Food Sufficiency at Home

Food sufficiency	Number	Percentage
Yes	4	5.3
No	2	2.7
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.4 Other Sources of Income

Among the minibuses helpers who said that their family has no food sufficiency was with their further asked the question about other sources of income. Various secondary sources of income have been identified (Table 4.16).

Table 4.16 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Other Sources of Income at Home

Sources	Number	Percentage
Agricultural labour/worker	16	48.5
Small business/shopkeeper	3	9.1
Support by him	6	18.2
Others: (Porter, Driver, Hotel Service, Carpenter, etc by their parents	8	24.2
Total	33	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Among the respondents, 16 (48.5percent) said that their family do agricultural labour to sustain family, 3 (9.1percent) have small business/small sh that their parents work in different sectors like pottering, driving, carpentering etc.

4.2.5 Previous Job

Some of the microbus helpers are new and some of them had worked in different sectors before coming to this job. Table 4.17 indicates that 48 (64percent) of the microbus helpers were involved in different job previously and 27 (36percent) microbus helpers started their employment career working as a Khalashi in minibuses. Data also shows that most of the minibuses helpers did not come in this

occupation directly. They adopted in this occupation because previous jobs needed more physical power, skill and knowledge.

Table 4.17 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Previous Work

Worked previous job	Number	Percentage
Yes	48	64
No	27	36
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.6 Types of Previous Job

Among the microbus helpers who were in different jobs before joining in this field were asked about the previous job. The result presented in hotel, 5 (10.5percent) were in brick kiln and 8 (16.7percent) were in other sector like begging, scavenging, mechanical worker, tempo helper etc.

Table 4.18 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Types of Previous Job

Previous Job	Number	Percentage
Domestic service	4	5.3
Carpet/garment	2	2.7
Hotel	2	2.7
Brick kiln	5	6.7
Other (Begging, scavenging, mechanic tempo helpers	7	9.3
Total	48	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.7 Reasons for Leaving Previous Job

Microbus helpers were engaged in different other jobs previously were asked about the reasons for leaving previous job. Various reasons for leaving previous job have been reported (Table 4.19). Among the 48 micro buses helpers who were engaged in different jobs, 15 (31.3percent) of the microbus helpers left the

previous job due to very low wages, 11 (22.9percent) left the previous job because of hard work, 13 (27.1percent) of the microbus helpers left their previous job because of not getting salary, 3 (6.2percent) said that they were kicked out from their job and 6 (12.5percent) left the job in search of other good job.

Table 4.19 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Reasons for Leaving Previous Job

Causes	Number	Percentage
Low wages	4	5.3
Hard Work	2	2.7
Not getting salary	2	2.7
Kicked out by master	5	6.7
In search of other good job	7	9.3
Total	10	13.3

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.8 Job Tenure

It is newly created job. Some of the microbus helpers were working from the very beginning of the introduction of the microbus in Kathmandu valley and some of them are newly involved. The microbus helpers who are working in this field were asked since how long they are working in this field. Table 4.20 shows that, 13 (17.3percent) of the microbus helpers have worked 1 to 6 months, some 30 (40percent) have worked more than 6 months to 12 months, 27 (36percent) have worked for one to two years, and 5(6.7percent) microbus helpers have worked more than two years.

Table 4.20 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Job Tenure

Period	Number	Percentage
1 to 6 months	13	17.3
6 to 12 months	30	40.0
1 to 2 years	27	36.0
More than 2 years	5	6.7
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.9 Working Hour

According to the Article of “Children Act – 2048” children should not be employed for more than 6 hours per day and 36 hour per week. Table 4.21 shows that, more than 12 hours daily, 15 (20percent) of them have to work 6 to 12 hours daily and 3 (4percent) of them work 1 to 6 hours daily.

The microbus helpers are found to be working 15 hours in a day on average, with 45 minute to 1 hour break for lunch. Some of them said they get Saturday off. They also get break during emergencies such as damage of microbuses and strikes.

Table 4.21 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Working Hour

Working Hour (Daily)	Number	Percentage
1 to 6 hour	3	4
6 to 12 hour	15	20
More than 12 hour	57	76
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.10 Income

Rupees 100 is the minimum wage of minor workers set by the government at present and for 6 hours of work. It is about Rs. 3000 per month. But very less microbus helpers earn in between Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 daily, 38 (50.7percent) of them earn in between Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 daily, 11 (14.7percent) of them earn in between Rs. 200 to 250 daily and 2 (2.66percent) earn in between Rs. 250 and above daily. From the table, it can be concluded that very less microbus helpers are getting wages according to the government rule and regulation.

Table 4.22 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Income

Daily Income	Number	Percentage
Rs. 100 to 150	24	32.0
Rs. 150 to 200	38	50.7
Rs. 200 to 250	11	14.7
Rs. 250 and above	2	2.6
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.11 Saving of Micro buses helpers

Most of the children view that their income is very low and not sufficient for them. They were asked about do you save money? The findings are given in Table 4.23. According to Table 4.23, 41 (54.7percent) of the respondents do not save money due to different reasons and 34 (45.3percent) of them save money.

Table 4.23 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Saving

Do you save money?	Number	Percentage
Yes	34	45.3
No	41	54.7
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.12 Saving Amount

Table 4.24 shows that saving amount per month of the respondents. It is found that, 9 (26.5percent) microbus helpers save less than Rs. 1000 per month, 14 (14.2percent) of them save in between Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500, 6 (17.6percent) save in between Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 and 5 (14.7percent) of them save more than Rs. 2000.

Table 4.24 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Saving Amount (Monthly)

Saving in Rs. (Per Month)	Number	Percentage
Less than Rs. 1000	4	5.3
Rs. 1000 Rs. 1500	2	2.7
Rs. 1500 Rs. 2000	2	2.7
More then 2000	5	6.7
Total	34	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.13 Reasons for Not Saving Money

Those microbus helpers who did not save money were asked the reasons of not saving money. Table 4.25 shows the distribution of the respondents according to reasons of not saving money. It is found that 12 (29.3percent) of the microbus helpers are not getting salary on time, 19 (46.3percent) of them are getting very low salary so they don't save money and 10 (24.4percent) of them spend their salary for entertainment mostly on watching film and having cold/soft drinks.

Table 4.25 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Reasons for not Saving Money

Reasons of not Saving Money	Numbers	Percentage
Not getting salary on time	12	29.3
Less money	19	46.3
Spend all money for entertainment cloths etc.	10	24.4
Total	41	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.14 Financial Support to the Family

It is found that most of the microbus helpers are from the poor family, so they need to support their family to solve hand to mouth problems. Table 4.26 shows whether they are financially supporting their family. From the Table 4.26, it is found that 26 (34.7percent) of the microbus helpers support to their family and 49 (65.3percent) of them do not support their family.

Table 4.26 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Financial Support to the Family

Support to Family	Numbers	Percentage
Yes	26	34.7
No	49	65.3
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.2.15 Amount of Support (Monthly)

It is observed that very less number of microbus helpers are able to save money and out of the saved amount, some amount they need to send for the family support. The Table 4.27 shows that, 2 (7.7percent) microbus helpers support their family less than Rs. 2000, 11 (42.3percent) of them support their family in the range of Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000, 8 (30.8percent) of them support their family in between Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000 and 5 (19.2percent) of them support their family more than Rs. 4000.

Table 4.27 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Support Amount (Monthly) to Family

Amount in Rs. (monthly)	Numbers	Percentage
Less than 2000	4	5.3
Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000	2	2.7
Rs. 3000 to Rs.4000	2	2.7
More than Rs.4000	5	6.7
Total	26	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.3 Working Status and Employment Relationship of Respondents

Most of the microbus helpers are migrants from village to Kathmandu valley. Many of them do not have proper place to sleep.

4.3.1 Shelter (Sleeping Place)

Table 4.28 shows the place where the microbus helpers usually sleep.

Table 4.28 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by (Shelter) Sleeping Place

Sleeping	Numbers	Percentage
Inside Micro buses	20	26.6
Rented room (With Friends)	18	24
With Relatives	13	17.3
Master house/Driver family	14	18.7
With own family	5	6.7
Streets	5	6.7
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

It is found that, 20 (26.6percent) of the microbus helpers usually sleep inside the microbuses, 18 (24percent) sleep in rented room with their friends, 13 (17.3percent) are sleeping relatives' houses, 14 (18.7percent) are found sleeping master's house or with driver's family, 5 (6.7percent) are found sleeping with their own family and 5 (6.7percent) are found sleeping in the streets.

4.3.2 Accident Faced by the Respondents

In Kathmandu valley number of vehicles are increasing but streets and roads are very narrower and bad in condition and traffic system is not systematized. So there is maximum chance to get an accident. Respondents were asked about whether they had

to face any the accidents? From the Table 4.29, it is clear that 18 (24percent) of the respondents have faced accident and 57 (76percent) do not have faced any accident

Table 4.29 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Accident

Have you got an accident?	Number	Percentage
Yes	18	24
No	57	76
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.3.3 Nature of Injuries

Respondents who said that they got accidents were asked about nature of injuries and the results are summarized in Table 4.30.

Table 4.30 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Nature of the Injuries

Nature of Injuries	Number	Percentage
Scratch/bruise	7	38.9
Cut	4	22.2
Fracture	3	16.7
None	4	22.2
Total	18	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

It is observed that 7 (38.9percent) have got scratch or bruise or very slight injury, 4 (22.2percent) have cut, 3 (16.7percent) got fractured legs or hands or fingers. 4 (22.2percent) of them have had no injuries.

4.3.4 Ways of Medical Treatments

The question was asked to them who faced the accident about the ways of treatments. and the results are summarized in Table 4.31.

Table 4.31 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Ways of Treatments After the Accident

Ways of treatment	Number	Percentage
At hospital	5	35.7
Simple treatment at home	4	28.6
Doing nothing	5	35.7
Total	14	100.00

Source: Field Survey 2011.

It is found that 5 (35.7percent) of the microbus helpers got relive by admitting to hospital, 4 (28.6percent) got relive by the simple treatment at home by themselves and 5 (35.7percent) of them did not require medical treatment.

4.3.5 Help for the Treatment

After the accident faced by the microbuses helpers got relive after the treatmentsn. 3 (33.4percent) got help from driver/master, 2 (22.2percent) got help from parents. A few of them got help from friends and relatives.

Table 4.32 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Help got After Accident Faced by them

Help got from	Number	Percentage
Driver/master	3	33.4
Parents	2	22.2
Friends	1	11.1
Relatives	1	11.1
Own self	2	22.2
Total	9	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.3.6 Love by the Master/Driver

Respondents who said that they got love by Master/Driver were asked and the results are summarized in Table 4.33.

Table 4.33 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Love by Master/Driver

Love by master/driver	Number	Percentage
Yes	53	70.7
No	22	29.3
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

According to Table 4.33, 53 (70.7percent) of the microbus helpers feel that their employers love them. They are getting good behaviour from the master/employer and 22 (29.3percent) of them do not feel that their master and driver love them.

4.3.7 Behaviour of Master/Driver

Out of 22 microbus helpers who said that master/driver's behaviour with them is not good were asked about the treatments of master with them.

Table 4.34 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Behaviour of the Master/Driver

Behavior	Numbers	Percentage
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Beating	3	13.6
Shouting	12	54.6
Give more work load	7	31.8
Total	22	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Table 4.34 shows that 3 (13.6percent) of the microbus helpers got beating in case of even in simple mistakes, 12 (54.6percent) of them said that their master always shout with them, and 7 (31.8percent) said that they got more work load in case of even minor mistakes.

4.3.8 Behavior of Passenger with Micro buses helpers

Microbuses bus is a public means of transportation. So microbuses helpers have to come in contact with the different kinds of people to take the fair and for pick up and drop. Table 4.35 presents the behaviour shown by the passenger with microbus helpers.

Table 4.35- Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Behaviour with Passenger

Behaviour of passenger	Number	Percentage
Love	27	36.00
Shout	19	25.3
Hate	17	22.7
Dominate	12	16.0
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

The Table shows that, 27 (36percent) have told that passenger love with them, 19 (25.3percent) told that passenger shout with them, 17 (22.7percent) told that they hate the microbus helpers and 12 (16percent) of the microbus helpers told that passenger always dominate them. Looking smaller, some of the passenger use wrong word and do not pay bus fare.

4.3.9 Exploitation of Microbuses Helpers

The question was asked to the microbus helpers to know whether they have to face abuse. Table 4.36 shows that, 32 (42.7percent) of the microbus helper feel they are exploited from the different persons and in different ways and 43 (57.3percent) do not feel so.

Table 4.36 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Exploitation

Are you abused?	Numbers	Percentage
Yes	32	42.7
No	43	57.3
Total	75	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.3.10 Exploited by Whom

Out of 32 microbus helpers who replied that they are exploited by others was asked about the person by whom they are exploited, the responses are presented in Table 4.37. Out of 32 microbus helpers, 6 (18.7percent) replied that they are exploited by local people, 10 (31.3percent) of the microbus helpers replied that they are exploited by passenger and 2 (6.2percent) of the microbus helpers replied that they are exploited by the police.

Table 4.37 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Whom Exploited

Exploited by whom	Number	Percentage
Driver/master	6	18.7
Fellow helper	4	12.5
Local helpers	10	31.3
Passenger	10	31.3
Police	2	6.2
Total	32	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

4.3.11 Work at Master/Driver House

The question was asked either they have to do the work at master's/driver's house or not. Out of 75 respondents,19 (25.3percent) said that they have to work at master/driver's house and 56 (74.7percent) of the microbus helpers told that they do not have to work in masters house.

19 (25.33percent) of the microbus helpers who said they have to work at master/driver's house was again asked about the types of work which they are doing in master's house is given in Table 4.38.

Table 4.38 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Work Type which they Have to do in Master's House

Work type	Number	Percentage
Cleaning house	6	18.7
Washing cloths	4	12.5
Washing dishes	10	31.3
Care of children	10	31.3
Shopping vegetables	2	6.2
Total	19	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

According to above data, it is found that 4 (21.1percent) of the microbus helpers have to clean master's house/rooms, 2 (10.5percent) of the microbus helpers have to wash the cloths, 5 (26.3percent) of them have to wash dishes daily, 3 (15.8percent) have to care of master's children and 5 (26.3percent) of the microbus helpers have to do shopping the vegetables mainly in the morning and evening time.

4.3.12 Facilities Except Daily Wages/Salary

The question was asked about the facilities they get except the salary. Out of 75 microbus helpers, 49 (65.3percent) of them told that they are getting facilities except salary and 26 (34.7percent) of them are not getting other facilities except salary or daily wages. And the question was again asked to them who are getting facilities except daily wages/salary about the types of other facilities they are getting.

Table 4.39 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Other Facilities Except Daily Wages/Salary

Types of facilities	Number	Percentage
Food	31	63.3
Cloths	8	16.3
Resident	10	20.4
Total	49	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

From the above table, it is clear that 31 (63.3) are getting food as a facility except salary, 8 (16.3percent) of them are getting cloths. Some of them also told that they are getting second hand cloths and 10 (20.4percent) of them are getting residential facility.

4.3.13 Job Satisfaction/Dissatisfaction

Here the question was asked with the microbus helpers about the job satisfaction and dis-satisfaction with the reasons. The results are present in Table 4.40.

Table 4.40 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Job Satisfaction/Dissatisfaction

Are you satisfy?	Number	Percentage
Yes	49	65.3
No	26	34.7
Total	75	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Out of 75 respondents, 49 (65.3) of the microbus helpers are satisfied with the job and 26 (34.7percent) are found not satisfied with the job.

Also the reasons were ask to the respondents who are satisfied with the job. Out of 26 microbus helpers, who are not satisfied with their work were asked the reasons of dissatisfactions. Out of them 6 (23.1percent) of the respondents said the reason of dissatisfaction is heavy work, 8 (30.8percent) of them are dissatisfied because of not getting salary, 7 (26.9percent) of them are getting very less salary and 5 (19.2percent) of them are not satisfied because they are not getting free time for enjoy and entertainment.

Table 4.41 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Reason for Dissatisfaction

Reasons	Number	Percentage
Heavy work	6	23.1
Not getting salary	8	30.8
Low wages	7	26.9
No free time	5	19.2
Total	26	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Microbus helpers who are satisfied with the work were asked the reason for being satisfied.

Table 4.42 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Reasons of Satisfaction

Reasons	Number	Percentage
Available food, Shelter and cloths	6	18.7
Not getting other job	4	12.5
Facilitates of driving	10	31.3
Easy work	10	31.3
Traveling facilities	2	6.2
Total	49	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Table 4.42 shows that 24 (48.9percent) of them are satisfied as some of them are getting food, or shelter or cloths, 5 (10.2percent) are satisfied because they are not getting other jobs, 8 (16.3percent) are satisfied as they are getting driving training facility, 6 (12.3percent) of them are satisfied because they take it as a easy work with respect to other physical work and 6 (12.3percent) of them are satisfied because they are getting traveling facility.

CHAPTER FIVE

HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS OF MICROBUS HELPERS

5.1 Health and Nutrition Status

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined health as “a state of physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” This definition emphasizes that a healthy person must be physically fit, mentally alert and socially adaptable which help to maintain his/her quality of life in the society.

5.1.1 Health Condition

A question, “Do you have any disease?” was asked to know about the health condition of the microbus helpers. Out of 75 microbus helpers, 23 (30.7percent) are found suffering from diseases and 52 (69.3percent) are found having no diseases. Out of 75 microbus helpers, 23 microbuses helpers who are suffering from diseases were asked the name of diseases they are suffering.

Table 5.1 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Health Problems

Health Problem in	Number	Percentage
Chest	6	18.7
Head	4	12.5
Stomach	10	31.3
Others (fever, cough and cold wounds etc)	10	31.3
Total	2	6.2

Source: Field Survey 2011.

From the above table, it is found that 12 (52.2percent) are suffering from the chest problem, 3 (13.0percent) of them are facing the health problem related with the head, 4 (17.4percent) are suffering from the stomach problem and 4 (17.4percent) of them are suffering from the diseases like fever, cough and cold wounds etc.

Again the question was asked about the duration of the problems. Out of 23 microbus helpers, 10 (43.5percent) microbus helpers replied that they are suffering before working as microbus helpers and 13 (56.5percent) replied that they are suffering after joining this job.

5.1.2 Fooding

Food is directly related to the health of human being. It is the basic need of all. The microbus helpers who get busy all the time in microbuses were asked the question that how many times do they eat daily? The respondent's answer is summarized in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Fooding

Food per day	Number	Percentage
2 times	49	65.3
3 times	18	24.0
More than 3 times	8	10.7
Total	75	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

From the above Table it is found the 49 (65.3percent) of them are taking food twice a day, 18 (24.0percent) of them are taking food thrice a day and 8 (10.7percent) of them are taking food more than three times a day including lunch, dinner, break fast and tiffin.

5.1.3 Nutrition

Again question, "Do you eat meat?" was asked to know about what the microbus helpers are taking with food for nutrition. Out of 75 of the microbus helpers, 4 of them are found vegetarian. They also told that they take seasonal fruits and r

Table 5.3 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Having Meat/Fish as Nutrition

Having meat/fish	Number	Percentage
Once a week	44	62
Twice a week	18	25.3
Half monthly	9	12.7
Total	71	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Of the 71 non-vegetarian respondents, 44 (62percent) of them take meat/fish once a week, 18 (25.3percent) of them take meat/fish twice a week and 9 (12.7percent) of them take meat by half monthly.

5.1.4 Bad Habits

Due to lack of proper guidance and lack of education micro buses helpers are going in wrong track having tobacco, alcohol and smoking. A question was asked to know the bad habit. Out of them, 62 (82.7percent) microbus helpers replied that they

Table 5.4 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Type of Bad Habits

Types of bad habits	Number	Percentage
Smoking	6	18.7
Tobacco	4	12.5
Alcohol	10	31.3
All three	10	31.3
Total	62	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

It is found that 62 respondents have bad habit. Out of them 24 (38.7percent) have bad habit to smoke, 23 (37.1percent) have bad habit of taking tobacco, 8 (12.9percent) have bad habit of drinking alcohol and 7 (11.3percent) of them have got bad habit of taking all three types.

5.1.5 Reasons for Working as Helper in Microbus

Children need love of parents and family and good guidance. Children also do not want to leave their parents, family and birth place but due to many reasons they need to leave their birth place. Table 5.5 shows the reasons for working as helper in microbus.

Table 5.5 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Reasons for Working as Helper in Microbus

Cause of working as helper in microbus	Number	Percentage
For better life	31	41.3
Heavy work at Home	11	14.7
Poverty	11	14.7
Guardian/parents maltreatment	7	9.3
Fail in examination	6	8.0
No chance of study	9	12.0
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

The Table shows that 31 (41.3percent) of the children left their native place to get for better life, some 11 (14.7percent) of children left their home due to heavy work at home and poverty, some at home, 9 (12percent) children left the native place due to no chance of study and 6 (8percent) children left the native place due to fail in examination.

5.1.5.1 Relationship Between Cause of Working as Helper in Microbus and Age Group

As age is increased cause of working as helper will be decreased. Table 5.6 provides distribution of respondents according to cause of working as helper in microbus and age group.

Table 5.6 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Causes Working as Helper in Microbus and Age Group

Reasons	Age Group					
	10-14	percent	14-18	percent	Total	percent
For better life	6	18.7	6	18.7	6	18.7
Heavy work at Home	4	12.5	4	12.5	4	12.5
Poverty	10	31.3	10	31.3	10	31.3
Guardian/parents maltreatment	10	31.3	10	31.3	10	31.3
Fail in examination	2	6.2	2	6.2	2	6.2
No chance of study	6	18.7	6	18.7	6	18.7
Total	14	100	61	100	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

From above table it is clear that in age group 10-14, 3(21.4percent) of the children worked for expecting better life, some 2 (14.3percent) of children worked due to heavy work at home, fail in examination and having no chance of study, some e children worked for expecting better life, some 9 (14.7percent) of children worked due to heavy work at home, 4(6.5percent) worked due to fail in examination, some 7(11.5percent) of children worked due to poverty and having no chance of study and 6 (9.8percent) children worked due to maltreatment at home.

5.1.5.2 Relationship Between Cause of Working as Helper in Microbus and Birth Place

Table 5.7 shows the relationship between cause of working helper in microbus and birth place.

Table 5.7 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Cause of Working as Helper in Microbus and Birth Place

Cause of working as helper in microbus	Birth place					
	Village	percent	Town	percent	Total	percent
For better life	6	18.7	6	18.7	6	18.7
Heavy work at Home	4	12.5	4	12.5	4	12.5
Poverty	10	31.3	10	31.3	10	31.3
Guardian/parents maltreatment	10	31.3	10	31.3	10	31.3
Fail in examination	2	6.2	2	6.2	2	6.2
No chance of study	6	18.7	6	18.7	6	18.7
Total	63	100	12	100	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

From above table it was found that microbus helper who came from urban areas, 1(8.3percent) of the microbus helpers worked for expecting better life, heavy work at home and maltreatment, some r 5(41.7percent) of children worked due to poverty, 2(16.7percent) worked due to fail in examination and having no chance of study. Similarly, microbus helpers who came from rural areas, 30(47.6percent) of the microbus rcent) worked due to fail in examination and 7(11.1percent) worked due to having no chance of study.

5.1.5.3 Relationship Between Cause of Working as Helper in Microbus and Caste/Ethnicity

Table 5.8 shows the relationship between cause of working helper in microbus and caste/ethnicity. From table 5.8 it was found that in Brahmin caste group, 3(16.7percent) of the children worked for expecting better life and fail in examination, some number 2 (11.1percent) of children worked due to heavy work at home, maltreatment at home and having no chance of study and some 6 (33.3percent) of children worked due to poverty. Similarly, in Kshetri caste group, 3(20percent) of the

children ent) of children worked due to heavy work at home and maltreatment at home and having no chance of study, some 4 (26.7percent) of children worked due to poverty and 1(6.7percent) worked due to having no chance of study.

Table 5.8 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Cause of Working and Caste/Ethnicity

Cause of working as helper in microbus	Caste/Ethnicity							
	Brahmin	perce nt	Kshetri	percen t	Lower Caste	perce nt	Total	perce nt
For better life	6	18.7	6	18.7	6	18.7	6	18.7
Heavy work at Home	4	12.5	4	12.5	4	12.5	4	12.5
Poverty	10	31.3	10	31.3	10	31.3	10	31.3
Guardian/parents maltreatment	10	31.3	10	31.3	10	31.3	10	31.3
Fail in examination	2	6.2	2	6.2	2	6.2	2	6.2
No chance of study	6	18.7	6	18.7	6	18.7	6	18.7
Total	18	100	15	100	42	100	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Where as in lower caste group, 25(59.5percent) of the children worked for expecting better life, some 7 (16.7 worked due to maltreatment at home, 1 (2.4percent) of children worked due to poverty and 6(14.3percent) worked due to having no chance of study.

5.1.5.4 Relationship Between Cause of Working as Helper in Microbus and Literacy

Table 5.9 shows the relationship between cause of working helper in microbus and literacy .From table 5.9 it was found that in microbus helper who can read and write, 10(31.3percent) of the ch worked due to poverty and 6 (18.7percent) children worked due to fail in examination and no chance of study.

Table 5.9 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Cause of Working and Literacy

Cause of working as helper in microbus	Literacy					
	Can read and write	percent	Cannot read and write	percent	Total	percent

For better life	10	31.3	21	48.8	31	41.3
Heavy work at Home	3	9.4	8	18.6	11	14.7
Poverty	4	12.5	7	16.3	11	14.7
Guardian/parents maltreatment	3	9.4	4	9.3	7	9.3
Fail in examination	6	18.7	0	0	6	8.0
No chance of study	6	18.7	3	7.0	9	12
Total	32	100	43	100	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Similarly, among those who cannot read and write, 21(48.8percent) worked for children worked due to poverty and 3 (7.0percent) children worked due to no chance of study.

5.1.6 Future Ambitions

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

Table 5.10 Distribution of Microbus Helpers by Future Ambitious

Aims of life is to become	Number	Percentage
Driver	46	61.3
Auto mechanics	13	17.3
Police man/army	8	10.7
Not thought	8	10.7
Total	75	100

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Out of 75 microbus helpers, 46 (61.3percent) of them replied that they want to be a driver, 13 (17.3percent) of them replied that their aim is to be microbus mechanics, 8 (10.7percent) of them replied that their aim of life is to become a policemen or army and 8 (10.7percent) replied that they have not thought about their future.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary

This filed study is based on Kathmandu valley basically Baluwatar, Sundhara, Lagankhel and Kalanki route of capital city of Nepal. This study tries to bring out socio-economic condition of microbus helpers of Kathmandu valley. 75 respondents were interviewed through accidental sampling methods. In this study exploratory and descriptive research design have been used. Both primary and secondary data were used in this study. Secondary data was acquired from books, paper and magazine and primary data were collected with the help of field survey of children below 18 years of age. Non-participatory observations also were used.

From the filed study it was found that 84 percent of the microbus helpers were born in village and 16 percent of them born the city out of which 57.3 percent were of 14-16 years and 42.7 percent were of 16-18 years. Some 44 percent were from the Brahmins and Kshetri, 42.7 percent from Tamang, Magar, Gurung, Lama, Rai, Sherpa and limbu, 10.7 percent from Newar and some 2.6 percent were Kami, and Damai caste group. It was found that 24 percent of the microbus helpers have only father, 12 percent of them have only mother, 56 percent of them have both father and mother. From the survey it was also found that more children 36 percent of the microbus helpers do not go home, 18 percent of them go home occasionally, 13.3 percent of them go once a year, 9.3 percent of them go half yearly, 6.7 percent of them go home by monthly, 2.7 percent of them go home half monthly, 2.7 percent of them go home weekly and 5.3 percent of them go home daily. Among 75 children, 12 percent of the microbus helpers had come with parents to the Kathmandu valley, 36 percent came with relatives, 6.7 percent came ers came by running from home and 2.7 percent of them were found from Kathmandu valley. Majority of the microbus helpers had come thinking that they would have better life in city, 14.7 percent of them came due to heavy work at home, 14.7 percent left the home due to poverty, 9.33 percent of them left the home due to guardian/parents maltreatment, 8 percent of them came due to

failure in exam, 9.3 percent of them came city as they failed in exam and 2.7 percent of them were from Kathmandu valley.

The condition of education is extremely unsatisfactory among the microbuses helper. Only 42.7 percent were found literate means can read and write and 57.3 percent were found illiterate means unable to read and write. Out of literate microbus helpers 37.5 percent of the microbus helpers were found attaining up to class 3, 56.2 percent were found in between class 4 to class 7 and only 6.2 percent of them were found attaining above class 7. Out of illiterate microbus helpers 43.7 percent were found due to family poverty, they could not continue their study, 25 percent were found due to workload, 15.6 percent were found due to lack of interest and 15.6 percent were found due to lack of interest and 15.6 percent were found due to fail in exam in different classes so they could not continue very poor. To support their family they must work, 23.1 percent were found their age over to study in small grade, 15.4 percent of them told that there are not fixed job after further education and 10.3 percent of them were found without any reasons, they do not want to continue their further education.

Working in the microbus is not easy task. It is also risky task, though some of the microbus helpers come in this occupation directly. Only 36 percent of the microbus helpers come directly but rest 64 percent of the microbus helpers were involved in other occupation.

After the accident faced by them, 33.3 percent got help from master/driver 22.2 percent got help from parents 11.1 percent got help from friends and relative and 22.2 percent did treatment themselves. Majority 70.7 percent of the children are getting love by master/driver, rest are no more work load even in case of simple mistake. Out of 75 microbus helpers 36 percent of them told that they get love from the passenger, 25.3 percent told that passenger shout with them, 22.7 percent told that they hate with them and 16 percent of the microbus helpers told that passenger dominate with them.

From the study it is also found that 30.7 percent were found unhealthy having chest, head, stomach and other problems and 52 percent of them found healthy. Food is directly related to health. Out of 75 microbus helpers 65.3 percent told that they are taking food 2 times a day, 24 percent replied that they are taking 3 times a day and 10.7 percent are taking more than three times a day including tiffin and break fast. Out of 75 microbus helpers 71 were found non-vegetarian. Out of which 62 percent were found taking meat once a week, 25.3 percent found taking met twice a week and 12.7 percent were found taking meat by half monthly. About the bad habits 82.7

percent told that they have bad habits. Out of which 38.7 percent have habit of smoking, 37.1 percent have habit of taking tobacco, 12.9 percent have habit of drinking alcohol and 11.3 percent have habit of taking all three types.

At last the question was raised about their aims in life, 61.3 percent replied that they want to become a driver, 17.3 percent replied that they want to become auto-mechanics, 10.7 percent told that they want to become police man/army and 10.7 percent of the microbus helpers told that they have not thought any things for the future.

6.2 Conclusion

Problem of child labour is not new for our country. But the problems of child labour in microbuses as a helper is new because microbuses were seen in Kathmandu valley just about five years ago.

Child labour is a widespread phenomenon in Nepal. Accurate information is lacking, but scattered information and educated estimates indicate that the incidence of child labour has been rising, mainly on account of migration from rural areas on the basis of findings, it was found that majority of the respondents migrated from village and only 16 percent are from city. The age of respondents was found in between 11 years to 18 years. From the observation it was also found that majority of the microbus helpers were found from Brahmin and K are badly treated by the step parents and they also have to work hard at home though majority 56 percent of the children were found having their both father and mother. Major source of recruitment of child workers were through informal arrangement like middleman, relatives, master and parents. 41.3 percent had come in Kathmandu valley in search of better life and 14.7 percent came due to heavy workload at home and rest came due to poverty, maltreatment at home.

Most of the microbus helpers have found their own house and land and their parents' occupation is agriculture. Some of the children parent's occupation was found domestic servant, some of them were found security guard, driver or hotel service. Most of the microbus helpers have found food sufficiency at home and Majority of them do not have food sufficiency at home. So just to support their family they need to work.

Although children are getting better facilities where they work as microbus helpers, they want to leave that work and become independent. Most of the microbus helpers

want to have skill training rather than to study. Parents who are illiterate sent their child to work as microbus helpers. Most of the microbus helpers belong to backward caste/ethnic groups. And poverty has been seen as the main cause to become a child as microbus helpers, there are also other factors that is influencing for child to work as microbus helpers like neglect of step-parents.

It is found that majority of the child labour are working in an extremely miserable and critical situation in terms of health, nutrition, economic status and which ultimately hinders their physical, mental and psychological development in future. It is not the problem of themselves but also thTheir balance development and growth of physical, mental and psychological determines the ways of progress of a society. So this issue is to be undertaken seriously by all the concerned authority on time including civil society, government and policy makers.

6.3 Recommendations

Based on the overall scenario of child workers in minibuses, the following recommendations are drawn, applicable to both policy/advocacy and action levels to improve and protect child labours from exploitative and hazardous condition.

-) Since poverty and child labourers are highly correlated with each other. The government as well as NGOs, INGOs should formulate and implement poverty alleviation, income-generating system, skill development programmes in rural areas specially targeting to poor families.
-) Public awareness should be created about the exploitative nature and hazardous condition of child labour. NGOs and social workers could offer family counseling including children's rights, education and in particular supporting the emotional development of child workers, providing stability and security.
-) Strict laws, policies and social mobilization should be directed for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.
-) A compulsory education system is required to minimize school dropouts and educational and financial supports need to be provided.
-) Free vocational and skill development training programmes should be launched in rural areas.
-) The trend of migration to cities from the villages is increasing. So, employment opportunities should be created in the rural areas, which discourage the migration.

) The present study shows majority of the child labours come from the illiterate parents. Thus, it needs an urgent awareness programme targeting to both parents and employers to protect the right of child.

6.4 Future Area of Research

The results of this study do not cover the situation of minibuses child labours in all urban centres in Nepal. The study therefore should be conducted in additional urban centres with different characteristics to help understand overall attributes and incidents of minibuses child labours in urban Nepal.

Even in the study area, the information from the side of the parents of minibuses child labours has not been explored. Detailed information like attitudes and perceptions of parents and employers are necessary to invoke the reality behind the cause of being child labours.

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