

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Child labour has emerged as a major social problem in much of the third world countries where rapid increase in population, economic stagnation structural adjustment policy implications, draught, war, disease have decreased the ability of families to earn a decent living. Child labour is still a widespread and perhaps even growing phenomenon in much of the world today. As part of family survival strategy used to cope with financial pressures, more and more children are being pushed into the labour market.

According to the ILO, the term “child labour” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and interferes with their schooling by: depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. Child labour is the major cause of child abuse and exploitation in many parts of the world. In terms of the size of the population involved, child labour is probably the issue that involved the largest number of the children worldwide, (ILO,1995).

The problem of the child labour is re-emerging even in advanced industrial countries (CWIN,1997). Despite many laws and regulations, child labour and servitude is an alarming problem in South Asia. Over 80 million children in this region are working in the most difficult circumstances (NESAC-1998:109). The Nepal Child Labour Report 2010 estimates that children in the age group 14-17 constitute about 45 per cent of total child labourers and about 12 per cent of them are found to work in non-agriculture informal sector.

Child labour is not a new phenomenon in an agriculturally dominant country like Nepal. It is part and parcels of the feudal economy, children have played a significant role in the family subsistence: fetching water, collecting firewood, grazing cattle, caring after children and supporting parents in the field, are the most common works that children as perform. In addition,

many children of poor families also extend support as a family bread winner working as domestic servants in the homes of village merchants. Industries like carpet, garments, confectioneries, Brick Klins and stone quarries are employing many children as they are meek and uncomplaining, and a cheap source of labour (CONCERN NEPAL, 2005).

About 19.7 percent of the working children are engaged in hazardous condition which is likely to harm their health, safety and morals. Of them, majority are girls, which is a serious problem. The children working as porters, rag pickers, working in carpet and other factories, restaurants and in the transport sector are living a pathetic life. Such labour force even suffers from mental and physical tortures and sexual abuse (The Kathmandu Post, 2 December, 2010). The rising number of slums and squatter areas has also contributed to the growth of the child labour population (Pradhan, 1995:40). Actually, child labour is a severe violation of child rights because they deprive of their fundamental rights to protection, participation and development. But many children in Nepal are forced to work in difficult and hazardous condition to sustain their own lives and that of their families without schooling. As in other sectors, children from marginalized communities have the largest share in the child labour market. The NCLR 2010 estimates that 79 per cent of the total working children in Nepal are attending school and 21 per cent do not attend.

Poverty, illiteracy in fact has been at the root of child labour's exploitation. Child labour not only restricts the development prospects of the country but it also threatens the overall development, peace and justice.

The Government of Nepal has committed to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. It has ratified ILO worst forms of child labour convention (No 182) in September, 2001. Similarly, it has already ratified the UN convention on the right of the child 1989 making a command to protect children from economic exploitation and to work for their rights to physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Nepal has also ratified the ILO's minimum age convention (No 138) in May 1997. Based on this convention, child labour (prohibition and regulation) Act; 2000 has been formed for the protection of child rights. In addition, Nepal has admitted in IPEC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child labour) time bound program supported by ILO. Though the Interim Constitution guarantees safeguarding the rights and interests of children, its implementation is poor. Nepal is one of first countries to ratify ILO Convention 138 and 182, which aims at child labour elimination by 2016, but due to the lack of

its implementation, the problem is still serious in Nepal (The Kathmandu Post, 2nd December, 2010). The time bound programme aims to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labour within a defined period of time. Other various NGO and INGO are also taking steps for child rights and elimination of child labour in Nepal.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Hazardous forms of child labour, detrimental to a child's development, in time have a negative affect and the overall development of a country. Today's children are the people who will build nations in the future. Therefore, child development is vital for the development of human resources of the country. Unfortunately, the situation of the majority of Nepalese children shows the gloomy picture. It seems the bitter reflection of 21st century that there are great amount of children in Nepal who have lost their 'childhood' by working long hours in difficult and dreadful situation. They have neither opportunity to attend school nor to experience normal childhood. Furthermore, the worst forms of child labour rob children's health, their growth, their education and even their lives.

Child labour is not an isolated issue. It is interlinked with prevailing socio-economic and cultural practices of the society. We can not get rid of this problem only through the help of strict laws unless there is proper realization, mobilization and participation of people in the society for these reasons. This is a multifold and complex problem. Therefore no single answer will help to combat child labour exploitation. Family, children and community should be involved to find out the ways and means of solving these problems.

While discussing on the magnitude of the problem of child labour, there are million of children working in an extremely intolerable condition. And if no effective measures are taken in time it will be too late to protect these children. Hence, the world should be conscious. If they want better future, effective action should be taken today, can't wait till tomorrow.

Brick Kiln industry is considered as the most hazardous work place especially for children. It is also the most labour intensive industries which absorb the great amount of child labour in Nepal. Due to rapid urbanization and other economic activities in the Kathmandu valley in last couple of years, numerous Brick Kilns are operating at present; mostly under unorganized sector. Kathmandu Valley has higher percentage of child labour. Comprehensive assessment of

involvement of child labour in Brick Klin industry is hence necessary to find its extent and nature (MOL, ILO/IPEC, 1998:62). So this study focuses on the following research questions to be studied in depth.

-) Why children are working in Brick klin industries?
-) What are the threats that child workers face in Brick klin industries?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to analyze the working condition for the child labourers in brick klin industries of Kathmandu valley. The specific objectives of this study are:

-) To identify the working nature and environment of child workers of Brick Klins industries in Satungal VDC.
-) To assess causes of their involvement in brick klin industries and hazards faced by child workers in Brick klin industries in Satungal VDC.

1.4 Rational of the Study

Much has been achieved, but there is still so far to go. Statistics on child labour are elusive not only because of the special and practical difficulties involved in the design and implementation of child surveys but also because of differences in perception about what constitutes a child, or child work or child labour. The lack of good information and statistical data on child labour stood in the way of findings effective ways to tackle the problem.

A comprehensive study is required in each and every sector of child labour to cope with real situation. There have not been well documented about child labour of brick klin in Nepal. Child labour in brick klin is relatively isolated from the view of development activists whereas street children and domestic child labour have specially been focused at present. Working in brick klin is one of the worst forms of child labour. So, the reliable data based on empirical research can help to make and formulated the suitable plans and strategies. Hence, this study has attempted to give clear illustration on vulnerability of child workers in brick klins in Kathmandu district. It is a sociological study to understand the socio-economic causes of child labour in brick klin industries.

1.5 Organization of the Study

This study is organized into seven chapters. The first chapter is concerned with introduction of the study dealing with statement of the problem, objectives, rationality. The relevant literatures have been reviewed in second chapter for this study. The third chapter deals with the methodology used in this study. In the fourth chapter the situation of the child labours and general profile of children are described. The fifth chapter analyzes working condition and environments in brick kilns for children, their exploitation and perceptions towards their earning and work. The case studies of four working children are presented in the sixth chapter. And finally summarization of major findings of the research, conclusion and recommendations are in chapter seven. And at the end references and appendix are provided.

CHAPTER-II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Child labour is a serious problem and challenging issue for the future. It pinpoints the exploitative socio-economic and political structure of country. Child labour is not independent variables. There are many variables such as education, occupation, place of residence, status of family, social and economic conditions of the household etc. which are the most common affecting factors on child labour. In this chapter, the relevant literature pertaining to child labour in general and brick kiln child labour in particular have been reviewed. Over the last year, interest in the study of the child labour has increased. Among them some related literature are review here.

The two terms: 'child labour' and 'child work' which may be very difficult to differentiate with each other. Even the Encyclopedia of social sciences has no clear demarcation between child work and child labour. It states: "When the business of wage earning or of participation in self or family support conflicts directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education, the result is child labour. The function of work in childhood is primarily developmental and not economic. Children's work then as a social good and it is the direct antithesis of child labour as a social evil." (1979 Cited CWCCD, 1997)

Child labour is no more hidden issue today. As a part of the exploitative socio-economic and cultural orders of the society, it prevails everywhere. There is growing consensus in the world that child labour should be treated through a progressive elimination process. Landlessness, poor access to resources and production, gender inequality, in-equitable distribution of land, unemployment, lack of people-centered and sustainable development programs are the underlying factors for the child labour problems. The main causes of child work/ labour as poverty, Education, family structure, Environmental change, industrialization of Nepal, low bargaining power of child labour, migration, caste system, Gender, Land Tenure/unfair economic relations. (ILO, CWCCD, 1997)

Child labour in Nepal has a long history as a regular source of income for many families across the country. Children start to work at tender ages to support economically poor families. Many

children can be found working in agriculture as Nepal is an agrarian country and for many others child labour becomes a part of skill development as children learn the skills their parents possess. However, for majority of children this has become one of the main exploitative factors.

With growing urbanization the number of children found working in different sectors of labour expands as do new areas of labour. Increased building means construction materials supplied by brick kilns and stone quarries are in greater demand than even before. As teashop and restaurant businesses multiply, more children are employed in these industries as well. Inadequate infrastructure and waste management brings another form of employment to street rag pickers in cities. Although carpentry is still predominately a traditional artwork in Nepal the new steel and iron factories or auto mechanic workshops and metal welding have all become new working areas for many more children in urban centers across the country. It is estimated at least 80 areas involving child labour in Nepal from highway hawkers to rag pickers, from domestic work to iron factories, from stone quarries to brick kilns and from selling newspaper to shoe shining and repair. (CONCERN NEPAL, 2005)

In 2008 there were 215 million children working illegally in the eyes of international law. The global total includes 115 million children under 18 engaged in hazardous work such as handling chemicals, carrying heavy loads, mining, quarrying or enduring long hours. Young labourers are especially vulnerable to the health and safety risks involved, absorbing toxic material into their bloodstream more rapidly than adults and requiring more sleep. The remaining 100 million child labourers are those aged under 15 - the international minimum age for legal employment – whose tasks are not hazardous but which might impair schooling, health or personal development. Almost 70% of child labour is unpaid work within extended family networks. Most occurs in developing countries, with about 60% of child workers engaged in agriculture and fisheries. Other occupations include domestic services, factory production and backstreet workshop. The most distressing category of child labour relates to those children caught up in criminal activities such as prostitution, military enrolment, slavery (such as bonded labour), or trafficking (which involves the removal of a child from its home, often involving deception and payment, for a wide range of exploitative purposes). These categories are beyond the reach of statistical surveys but the numbers are likely to be over 10 million. Together with hazardous work, they are described as the “worst form of child labour”.(The One World Child Labour

Guide)

According to ILO-IPEC, 1,27,000 are involved in most hazardous and worst forms of child labour. Not all work is harmful for children. “Work experience can be a meaningful exercise of acquiring the right sort of skills and responsibility for the child becomes a useful member of the community. Work is valuable socialization process of the personal development.” (UNICEF and ILO-IPEC,1994). Children’s or adolescent’s participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as being something positive; it contributed to children’s development and to the welfare of their families; it provides them with skills, attitudes and experience, and helps to prepare them to be useful and productive members of society during their adult life (Eliminating the worst forms of child labour). According to UNICEF and ILO-IPEC, child work is exploitative when children;

-) Work when they are too young thus impeding their access to education, and impairing their social and psychological development.
-) Work too many hours.
-) Work under excessive physical, social and psycho-social stress.
-) Work for too little wages or remuneration.
-) Work with too much responsibility placed on them and with no time for play and recreation.
-) Work in situations (for eg.as bonded labours).
-) Are unable to obtain an education (UNICEF and ILO-IPEC, 1994).

The 1988 Report of the UNICEF, points out that even in modern times, governments are still recruiting children to fight wars, employers are still exploiting the children of the desperately poor for works in the fields and factories, and national and international economic forces are still allowed to inflict permanent mental and physical damage on young children who, no matter what external circumstances, have a special right to protection for their growing minds and bodies.

The Child Labour Report 2010 based on NLFS 2008 survey, has estimated total child population of Nepal in the age group 5-17 years as 7.77 million in 2008, which is about 33 per cent of the total population of the country. Of the total child population in the age group 5-17 years, 1.022 million (13 per cent) live in urban areas, and 6.748 million (87 per cent) live in rural areas. In

addition, The Nepal Child Labour Report 2010 estimates that children in the age group 14-17 constitute about 45% of the total child labourers and about 12% of them are found to work in non-agriculture informal sector. It is estimated that 86.5% of the working children, aged 5 to 17 years are literate. Of which, the proportion of the working boys are found to be much higher (91.2%) as compared to the proportion of working girls (82.5%).

CDPS, TU and ILO estimates 2.6 million child labourers in Nepal, and a full one third of those do not receive any economic recompense. Brick kilns in Nepal are mainly concentrated in the Kathmandu Valley and in the Terai, the southern plains of Nepal. In a 1998 study ILO/IPEC estimated 26,650 workers were working in 96 selected brick kilns in the Kathmandu valley, of which 7.8% were minor workers (aged 14-18) and child labourers (below 14 years) [Magar2003:24]. A significant proportion of them migrated along with their parents from bordering districts. According to CWIN 59,000 children work in the brick kilns in Nepal [CWIN 2007].

In 2005 study of CONCREN-Nepal estimated that Kathmandu Valley has higher percentage of child labour that is 37% (152 working children out of 409). Whereas the percentage is lower in outside district, which is 31% only. So, CONCERN estimated in average 34% of total work force in brick klin production are working children under the age of 16 years. The total number of brick klin working children throughout the country is estimated to be 59,925 out of total labour force 176,250 involved in all brick klin.

According to the survey report of Bal Bikash Samaj (Children Development Society) more than 3,000 children are working in brick klin of Kathmandu Valley. They do not have access to basic education and childcare facilities. Children — especially of indigenous nationalities — from outside Kathmandu valley — Kavre, Ramechhap and Rolpa — dominated the brick kilns, it said, adding that of the 830 children interviewed in 27 brick kilns, 631 were Tamang, Magar, Gurung, and Tharu community. Children from Dalit communities (124) followed by 75 children from Brahmin and Chhetri communities have been recorded and they were all from remote hill districts. According to the report, children under 10 years are in majority with 51 per cent in brick kilns while only 16 per cent teenagers were involved. Among 830 children, 30 per cent are illiterate and majority of them did not have formal education due to nature of work. Brick kiln

workers spent about six months – from November to April – in Kathmandu and return their home in April-May. Girl child workers dominate the boys in brick kilns, completely reversing the trend in last one decade. Earlier studies had shown more boys than girls. About 57 per cent girls were found working in brick kilns while only 43 per cent boys were involved in the job. The report revealed that children working in brick kilns are accompanied by their parents, who are poor. About 634 children were working in brick kilns due to poverty. Children are earning Rs 5,000 per month, while 62 per cent are earning only Rs 1,000. Some five per cent children were earning above Rs 5,000 whereas seven per cent are working without payment also. (Children Development Society, 2011)

Though primary education is free in Nepal but still 110 brick kilns child workers are deprived of their right to education in Kathmandu valley because state could not launched educational programme targeting child labour in brick kilns of Kathmandu valley. Hence, in collaboration with World Education, Children Development Society has been launched the educational programme on the title “ *Nayabato Nayapaila*” targeting to run formal and informal classes for around 1000 child workers of brick kilns in Kathmandu (Satungal and TinthanaVDC), Bhaktapur (Jhaukhel and chhalinga VDC) and Lalitpur (Jharuwabasi, Harisiddhi and Imadol). We can say that this is the significant outcomes for the child workers of brick kilns in Kathmandu valley. (Children Development Society, 2011)

The most important international agreements are based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which was ratified by Nepal in 1990. Article 32 of the CRC deals specifically with child labour: “States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.” Member States also commit themselves to:

- (a) Provide for a minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment;
- (b) Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment;
- (c) Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the present article [UN 1989].

The latest child labour (prohibition and regulation) Act, 2000 also calls for the prohibition of work for children under 15 years of age and regulation of minors under prescribed condition.

According to Nepalese law child labour is prohibited. The emergence of democratic government in Nepal has undoubtedly brought with it a more positive climate for the promotion of children's rights, evidence of this new direction can be seen in Nepal's ratification of the United Nations convention on the rights of the child in September 1990. The Interim Constitution 2007, under article 22 clause (3), provisions that every child shall have the right not to be subjected to physical, mental or any other form of exploitation. Any such act of exploitation shall be punishable by law and any child so treated shall be compensated as determined by law. The Government has ratified the ILO Convention No.29 concerning forced labour in 2007. In addition, the Government has ratified ILO Convention No.138 and 182 in 1997 and 2002 respectively. The Three Year plan (2010-2013) and National Plan of Action on Children (2005) has prioritized child labour issue. Although child labour in formal sector has decreased, there is rapid increase in invisible and informal sector. The MoLTM, in collaboration with ILO, has reviewed and updated the Master Plan on Child Labour in 2010 and has set a new target to eliminate worst forms of child labour by 2016 and other forms by 2020.

The Government and NGOs, in collaboration with UN and international agencies, have been working to minimize child labour in the country through preventive, curative as well as rehabilitative measures targeting worst forms and hazardous child labour.

According to A practical guide to ILO convention No.182, the people of all sectors have central role to play in action against child labour. The Government, the Employers and their organization, Trade Unions, Teachers, Parents and Children themselves should motivate and fully involved in the process. Children themselves need to understand their rights and to be motivated to seek their right to education and to a childhood free of exploitation.

Several studies in child labour have been conducted in Nepal. However a bit studies done in the child labour in Brick Klins. Hence, this study aimed to identify and understand the magnitude of

problem related to child labour in Brick Klins in Satungal VDC which will be of greater value to those who are interviewed do something for the child welfare.

CHAPTER-III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research in sociology is where the real action takes place. The research needs to be equipped as a set of methods that has to be followed as a guiding principle in scientific study. It gives guidance to researches. Exploratory as well as descriptive research design has been adopted in this study. In this study all the information was gathered from quantitative and qualitative field study technique.

3.1 Selection of the Study Area

Kathmandu district is selected to carry out the research; this is mainly because most of the factories and industrial estates are concentrated on the Kathmandu valley. And also it has extremely been urbanized in recent years.

Within Kathmandu district Satungal VDC is selected for the study, which is located in the southwestern part of Kathmandu Valley. There has been established some Brick Klin Industries. Hence, Kathmandu valley is specially chosen as the research site to observe the prevalence and situation of child labour in Brick Klin industries. I have personally visited many brick factories of Satungal many times and have seen children working in the factories. Since, this study, field survey has been conducted selecting two brick klin industries in Umamaheswor Brick Klin and Shree Chandra Binayak Brick Klin Industry in Satungal VDC, Kirtipur within three days on 20, 21 and 22 April, 2011. In addition, time and economic constraints are responsible for selecting Satungal VDC for study. Because Kirtipur is my home town place and selected place is well known for me. So, it is easily accessible and not too much expensive to conduct field work.

3.2 Research Design

According to Kerlinger (1986) “Research design is the plan, structure and strategy of investigations conceived as to obtain answers to research questions and to control variance.” The study was exploratory as well as descriptive research in nature. An exploratory study discovers the idea and insight of a fact. Case study and Observation have been applied as an explorative

research design in this study to show the situation and condition of the child labour in brick klin. Whereas descriptive research mostly deals with accuracy, minimizing biases and maximizing reliabilities on research problems. Interview has applied as a descriptive research design is essential for those studies because all the objectives of this study are descriptive in nature and need the collection of information. Data have been obtained from structured interview schedule, case studies, key informants interview and secondary sources have used for analysis and interpretation.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

According to Kerlinger “Survey research studies are large and small population (or Universes) by selecting and studying samples chosen from the population to discover the relative incidence, distribution, and interrelations of sociological and psychological variables.” The study has been consisted of both quantitative and qualitative data. To fulfill the objective of the study both primary and secondary sources of information has been used. According to H.K Wolff/P.R. Pant “Primary data is original data collected for meeting the specific objectives of the study.” The primary information was taken from field survey through interview, observation and case studies of the working children, which play vital role to find out the necessary information in terms of personal identification ethnicity/castes, sex, age, economic background of their family, educational background and working condition of child workers as well. Likewise secondary data refers to those for already gathered by others. Secondary data was taken from published and unpublished literature such as books, articles, journals, research reports, newspaper, website etc.

3.4 Sampling Design

According to Kerlinger “Purposive sampling is non-probability sampling which is characterized by the use of judgment and deliberate effort to obtain representative samples by including presumably typical areas or groups in the sample.” For this study, purposive sampling technique have been applied that below 18 years of child workers of two Brick Klins in Satungal VDC have included. Then, every child worker in selected Brick Klins was considered as relevant respondent for interview. Altogether 50 child workers (25 boys and 25 girls) were included in this study as the target people.

3.5 Methods of Data Collection

The study was performed using both sorts of information sources: primary and secondary. The study has give priority to primary sources of data. Secondary data was used for making the study more realistic and informative.

3.5.1 Interview Schedule

Interview was conducted with the child labourers of the brick klins to collect some of the primary information in terms of personal identification ethnicity/castes, sex, age, economic background of their family, educational background. According to Kerlinger “The interview is a face to face interpersonal role situation in which one person, the interviewer, asks a person being interviewer, the respondent, questions designed to obtain answers pertinent to the purpose of the research problem.” Two sets of questionnaire were used, one for children working in brick klin and other for the factory owners. The questionnaire schedule designed to child workers was prepared to obtain working condition of child workers in brick klins and socio-economic as well as demographic background of the working children. So, the questionnaire was filled through interview with child worker at the study area. The reason behind adopting this method was to get direct knowledge personally, and therefore, the information is reliable from child workers. Similarly the questionnaire aimed to factory owners was prepared to get information on the legal status of the factory, reason for employing children, and sources of recruitment, knowledge of employers on child rights and their attitudes.

3.5.2 Observation

The working environment, living conditions food habits, behavior of the employers, physical appearances of child labour was observed, during interviewing the working children. The observation method applied further helped to see the clothes of the working children they wearing, their interest/not interest at work, their facial expression, etc.

3.5.3 Case Study

According to P.V. Young “Case study is a method of exposing and analyzing the life of social unit.” A four selected case studies as regarding gender friendly respondents two boys and 2 girls have been conducted to collect detail information of past and present situation of child workers

and their future plan was observed by interviewing individually with them. Case of Gore B.K represents that most of the child workers have compel to work in brick klin for their survival and have expectation towards organizations for their help. Whereas, case of Tara Bahadur Rana was selected as he looks young he knows about his work burden and does not want to express problem about his family. Similarly, case of Hira Maya Budha is only one case of sexual abuse in my study that most of girls child worker have been facing this kind of problem in brick klin. And case of Manisha Pun Magar was selected as she have never been admitted to school, she might have other reason of her illiteracy but she opined that she does not want to study.

This case study also helps to find out or realize their feelings of life and their situations. Interviewing children including their life experiences, feelings and aspirations, prepared the case studies.

3.6 Methods of Data Analysis

All the collected data have been coded, entered and tabulated using SPSS. Data was interpreted on the basis of percentage distribution simple statistical tools like frequency, percentage have used to analyze data. In addition, four case studies have been presented where the cases are appropriate to enhance clarity and interpretability.

3.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study focuses to children who are under 18 years age working in brick klin factory of Satungal VDC in Kirtipur.

-) This study is completely based on purposive sampling which might contain the biased results.
-) The study covers only a limited portion of child labour in brick klins of Santungal VDC in Kirtipur. So, the results of the study cannot be generalized for national level.

CHAPTER-IV

Social-Demographic Characteristics of Child Labour working in Brick Klin

This chapter provides general profile of child workers in Brick Klins. Specially, the analysis presented here helps to identify age, gender, caste/ethnicity, migration, educational status of child workers as well as their family background.

4.1 Age and Gender Distribution of Child Workers

Though the national Children's Act 1992 restricted employment based on a minimum age of 14 years, this continues to be one of the most pervasive areas of child labour despite these protective legal instruments, with even 5 years old children working in brick klins.

Table No. 1

Child Labourers in Brick Klin of Satungal VDC by Age and Gender

Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
6	0	1	1	2.0
7	1	0	1	2.0
8	0	2	2	4.0
9	2	3	5	10.0
10	2	2	4	8.0
11	2	1	3	6.0
12	4	1	5	10.0
13	4	3	7	14.0
14	1	1	2	4.0
15	1	9	10	20.0
16	3	1	4	8.0
17	4	1	5	10.0
18	1	0	1	2.0
Total	25	25	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Numerous children work in brick kiln industry which is plainly dangerous and hazardous. In this situation whether children (less than 15 years age) or minor (15-18 years age) are engaged in greater extent that differ the degree of vulnerability of children because they suffer significant growth deficit due to the heavy work burden. Actually, the proportion of children involved in brick kiln industries varied with age of children (Table-1).

As pointed out in Table-1, a significant proportion of children were found to be below 10 years of age (18.0%) and majority of child labourers age of 10-15 (62.0%) and age of 16-18 (20.0%). Between the ages of 6 and 15 the number of child workers, both male and female, tend to show a general increase with advancing age. It is notable that younger children, the more easily and likely they are to be exploited. In terms of gender, both male and female children are found in brick kiln sector. The sample obtained equal number 25(50%) of male children and 25(50%) of female children working in these factories.

4.2 Caste/Ethnic composition of Child Workers

Due to the largely physical labour aspect and dangerous nature of working in brick kilns, the prevalence of child labour varies greatly by caste/ethnicity.

Table No.2

Caste/Ethnic Variation for Child Labour in Brick Kiln by Gender

Caste/Ethnic	Gender		Total No.	Percentage
	Boys	Girls		
Brahmin	1	2	3	6.0
Chhetri	2	4	6	12.0
Tamang	5	7	12	24.0
Rai	5	1	6	12.0
Magar	2	7	9	18.0
Dalits	6	4	10	20.0
Others(Muslim)	4	0	4	8.0
Total	25	25	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Most of the children working in these factories surveyed have been found to be engaged who belongs to Tamang 12(24)%, Rai 6(12)% and Magar 9(18%) ethnic groups followed by Brahmin 3(6%), Chhetri 6(12%), Dalit 10(20%) and on the other caste/ethnic group Muslim constitutes a significant proportion of child labour 5(10%) (Table No.2).

Because of most brick kilns are generally located in the Kathmandu valley, Terai and inner-Terai plains, all consisting of migratory populations and various ethnic groups. In terms of gender, there have been found equal number of girls and boys working in brick kilns among each and every caste/ethnic group except Muslim.

4.3 Migratory Trends

Of the two types of child workers in brick kilns local and migrant. The vast majority have migrated from other areas primarily in search of seasonal employment. Migrant child workers, categorized as Nepali or Indian, tend to arrive with family or friends or Thekedar and plan to return home when brick production season ends. Most Nepali child workers come from the outskirts of Kathmandu Valley and rural hilly regions around the southern Terai plains.

Total numbers (100%) of the children working in these factories surveyed have been found to be migrant child workers come from outside of the valley. Majority(22%) of child workers are from Dang, 18% of them from Rolpa, 16% of them from Kavre whereas minor child workers are from Banke, Dhanusha, Dhading, Khotang, Rautahat, Salyan, Sindhuli, Sunsari. And zero number (Nil) of locally based child workers might be due to a higher level of awareness on education coupled with availability of alternative economic opportunities.

4.4 Reason for Migration

Generally, Parents and family are responsible to provide the basic needs of children such as food, shelter, clothing, schooling and affection. When children are deprived of these basic needs, they are bound to leave home and are more likely to be engaged in the most hazardous and the worst forms of child labour. In this regard, study attempt has been made to find out the major reasons which forced children for leaving home from outside of Kathmandu Valley and joining in brick kilns. As indicated in Table poverty/no food at home is the prevalent reason for migration of children and joining these industries. Among the migrant child workers 32(64%) reported

poverty as the reason for migration. While significant proportion of children, 7(14%) stated to be unemployment. Among the minor workers, on the other side, 1(2%) of them arrival of parents for working in brick klins; 2(4%) of them influence of friends; 4(8%) of them came to visit Kathmandu; 1(2%) of them political crisis; 1(2%) of them family conflict and 2(4%) of them came for multiple reason for migration (Table No.3).

Table No.3

Reasons for Migration and Joining to Brick Klins of Kathmandu Valley

Reasons for Migration	Total No.	Percentage
Poverty	32	64.0
Unemployment	7	14.0
Come with Parents	1	2.0
Influence of Friends	2	4.0
To visit Kathmandu	4	8.0
Political Crisis	1	2.0
Family Conflict	1	2.0
Multiple reason	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

4.5 Literacy And Educational Attainment Of Child Workers

A fundamental right of the child, child labourers are often denied education that plays an instrumental role in intellectual, moral and economic development. Though ILO, minimum age of convention (1973) specified that the minimum age for admission to employment shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, shall not be less than 15 years. Most of the children involve even in hazardous sector depriving of the ray of education and dropping out of schooling.

Table No.4

Child Workers by Educational Status and Gender

Educational Status	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Illiterate	5	10.0	4	8.0	9	18.0
Literate	20	40.0	21	42.0	41	82.0
Total	25	50.0	25	50.0	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

For children in brick kilns of Satungal VDC, Table-4 also shows that significant proportion of child labour only 9(18%) are illiterate though majority of children 41(82%) are literate. It reflects people are higher level of awareness on education. Among the literate children, the percentage of girls (42%) are literate and (8%) are illiterate whereas among the boys (40%) are literate and (10%) are illiterate. It shows that literate percentage of girl is higher than that of boys.

Table No.5

Child Workers by Schooling on the Basis of Gender

Status of schooling	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Never attended	5	10.0	4	8.0	9	18.0
Dropped out	9	18.0	11	22.0	20	40.0
School going	11	22.0	10	20	21	42.0
Total	25	50.0	25	50.0	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

According to educational status, working children can be classified into 3 groups: those who have never attended school, those who dropped out school and those who currently school going. Actually, number of school going children working in brick kilns seems greater than that of dropped out and never attended school. It is evident that number of dropped out girl children are

higher than boys where as number of school going girls are lower than boys. For girls children, household work is reported as the main obstacle in non schooling/dropping out of school.

4.6 Reason behind Never Attending School/Dropped Out

A great number of Nepalese children don't have access to educational facilities. Poverty is the single greatest issue in lack of education. Except it, there are actually various socio-economic and other factors which determine the schooling of children. For children working in brick kilns surveyed, major reasons for never attending school and dropped out has been revealed in Table-6.

Table No.6

Reasons behind never been to School/Dropped out Schooling by Gender

Reasons	Gender		Total No.	Percentage
	Boys	Girls		
Poverty	6	5	11	22.0
Parents' Negligence	2	0	2	4.0
Parents' Illiteracy	1	0	1	2.0
Helped to Parents	1	3	4	8.0
Weak in Studies	1	0	1	2.0
No School Around	0	0	0	0.0
Multiple reasons	2	2	4	8.0
Others	1	5	6	12.0
Total	14	15	29	58.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

In spite of interest of children they had to drop school, because of poor economic condition of the family. The survey obtained that poverty is the higher percentage 22% of children as the main reason of non schooling/dropping out school. But most of the minor workers 2% reported parents' illiteracy, helped to parents in household work 8%, parents' negligence 4%, weak in studies 2% and 8% of them multiple reason whereas 8% of them reported to have deprived of schooling being their own interest. Similarly, 2% of them being married, 2% of them getting punishment by teacher.

Among (29) of children who have never been to school/dropped out of schooling, (17) of them want to continue their study where as (12) of them don't want to join school.

4.7 Family Background

Most child workers in brick kilns come from poor families who survive by working as manual labourers on farms, in factories and industrial sectors. Uneducated, unskilled and unaware of the possibilities of choice or change, these children usually follow in their parents' footsteps. Most of children work together with their parents in the same brick kilns while some children work independently and the majority of children 92% report that both of their parents are alive where as 6% of only mother alive and 2% of only father alive.

Table No.7

Occupation of Child Workers Family

Occupation of Family	Total No.	Percentage
Agriculture as Tenant Cultivate	8	16.0
Agriculture as Owner Cultivate	19	38.0
Bonded Labour (wage bases labour)	20	40.0
Unemployed	1	2.0
Foreign Employ	1	2.0
Service	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

In survey, it was found that most of the parents of working children are farmers . 38% of family have agriculture as owner cultivate where as 16% of them have agriculture as tenant cultivate. Similarly, greatest percentage 40% of them are working as bonded labour(daily wage bases labour) and less number 2% of them working as foreign employ, 2% of them in service and 2% of them unemployed. The family who has large size of members is unable to support themselves

from produced cultivated on them. Hence, they migrate along with their children should go for other alternative works in other to survive.

CHAPTER-5

Working Lives, Health and Perception of Child Labourers in Brick Klin

This chapter is set in 3 parts. The first part deals with working condition and environment in brick kilns focusing types of work done by children, working hours, earning status and controlling over their income. The second part provides the information about living condition and health of children dealing with housing and basic amenities, personal hygiene, illness and injuries/accidents of child workers in brick kiln industries. The third part deals with the perception and aspiration of child labourers on their earning and current work preference to study as well as aspects of harassment and future ambition of child workers in brick kiln industries.

5.1 Working Condition and Environment

5.1.1 Employment Source

There is no set and uniform rule for recruitment in brick kilns. Workers are hired on a need basis and fired when the need is over. There is no written agreement between brick kiln employers and brick kiln employees, and no legal organized documentation system exist, which often makes it difficult to ascertain exact numbers of workers including child labourers.

Table No.8

Employment Source of Child Workers by Age

Sources of Recruitment	Age		Total No.	Percentage
	Below 14	15-18		
Through Friends	3	2	5	10.0
Through Relatives	0	2	2	4.0
Through Parents	22	3	25	50.0
Through Thekedar	4	11	15	30.0
Ownself	1	2	3	6.0
Total	30	20	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

When brick klin employers require labour, they recruit through different means but mainly through middleman or Thekedar and contractors. In Table No.8 indicated that 50% of child workers in brick klins have joined this sector with their parents, as many as 30% came into contact with Thekedar in their home villages who bring these child workers to the brick klins with or without parental consent. Relatives and friends persuade 4% and 10% of these children to work in brick klins while only 6% came on their own initiative. In terms of Age study shows that majority of child workers below 14 years came to work in brick klin with their parent. For their survival parent have compel to take their younger children with them in brick klin and children are involved in minor work to help their parent.

5.1.2 Reason for Employment Choice

Children work in brick kilns for various reasons, some by compulsion, others by choice, and overall prefer brick klin work to other areas of unskilled manual types of employment. Child workers in brick klin do not possess any particular skills necessary for work in other fields and most of children have taken this labour because it is easy for them to find work as jobs in other sectors are scarce.

Table No.9

Reason for Employment Choice

Reason for Employment Choice	Total No.	Percentage
Easy work	1	2.0
Easy to find work	17	34.0
Good income	0	0.0
Parental Involvement	26	52.0
Others	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table No.9 clearly indicated that majority of child workers 52% are in brick klin due to their parent work in brick klin where as 34% of them have choose this work because work in brick

factories is relatively easy compared to other areas that do not require skilled labour so easy to find this work. Similarly, it has been found only 1 child of them opined easy to do this work and 12% of them choose this work because of others reasons.

5.1.3 Working Duration

Brick kilns are not generally considered a long-term employment source as the work is largely seasonal. Production normally takes place during months following soon after the monsoon season from November to April and does not occur during periods of rain. Although children work for shorter durations, this is an extraordinarily labour intensive sector requiring far more hours in a day.

Table No.10

Working Duration of Child Workers

Working Duration	Total No.	Percentage
Less than 6 months	12	24.0
Less than 1 year	25	50.0
1-2 years	9	18.0
More than 2 years	4	8.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The survey have found that most of child workers 50% spend around 1 year or less annually in brick kilns followed by 24% who have worked for 6 months or less. Nearly 18% have been working 1-2 years and only 8% spend 2 years or more.

5.1.4 Types of Work

Brick Klin work is labour intensive and primarily manual so unskilled child workers easily find employment opportunities in this sector. Of the three main phases in brick production, children work mostly in the first category: brick preparation. This type of work includes excavating clay from depths of 1.5 meters, cleaning it and removing foreign objects, softening and mixing the clay with water and packing wooden frame moulds. After the sun dried bricks are complete the

second category involves hauling them to the furnace to be fired, arranging bricks in the klin, controlling klin temperature and finally removing the baked bricks and stacking them in storage areas. The final phase of brick work is loading purchased bricks into trucks for delivery. All transporting of bricks in all phases is done by basket on a child's back or on the child's head.

Table No.11

Child Workers on the Basis of Types of Work

Types of Work	Total No.	Percentage
Making Bricks	7	14.0
Preparing Mud	2	4.0
Carrying Bricks	16	32.0
Pilling Bricks	8	16.0
Taking out Bricks from Klin	1	2.0
Loading Bricks into Truck	4	8.0
Multiple Work	12	24.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

While children are involved in all categories of brick production, majority 32% of children are involved in carrying raw bricks from field to klin followed by brick moulding and baked bricks from klin to outward. Where as minority of child workers 14% involved in making bricks, 4% of them in preparing mud, 16% of them in pilling bricks, 8% of them in loading brick into truck, 24% of them in multiple work and only 2% of them in taking out bricks from klin. Except these works the survey found that some children also engaged in household work such as cooking, fetching water, to take care of their younger brother /sister.

The key informants (employers/adult workers/middleman) pointed out that Indian workers including children are engaged in klins for firing bricks and carrying them up direct from the hot klins as well as loading in vehicle. Whereas Nepali workers involving great number of children work for brick moulding and carrying raw bricks from field to klin and from klin to outward.

5.1.5 Working Hours

According to Child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2000, Nepal, the working hours for children are limited to 6 hours a day and 36 hours a week but this provision is not applicable for the children and minor workers in brick klin because they can not get minimum livelihood due to piece rate system in wage if they work less than 6 hours a day. Specially, most of the children engaged in brick klin work for long hours per day. Some minor workers and adult workers involved in brick moulding stated that they wake up as early as 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning to dig and knead mud sufficient for the day. Then they continue working till 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening. In this study, it is tried to capture the average working hours of child workers involved in brick klins which is presented in Table-12.

Table No. 12

Their Average Working Hours by Age

Average Working Hours	Age Group			Total No.	Percentage
	Below 10	10-14	15-18		
Less than 8 hours	7	9	1	18	36.0
9-10 hours	1	7	7	15	30.0
11-12 hours	1	5	11	17	34.0
Total	9	21	19	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

As revealed in table, majority of child workers 36% surveyed in brick klins work less than 8 hours (in average) per day, either they are very young usually below 12 years or say that an education is more important and their interest focus on earning income sufficient to support school fee and other necessities to persue their studies. A significant proportion of children 34% reported having 11-12 working hours per day and 30% child workers revealed that their average working hours is 9-10 hours per day. In terms of age also determine children working hours that age of 15-18 years children can work long hours (11-12 hours) than age of 10-14 years and below 10 years of child workers in brick klin.

5.1.6 Earning Status

Actually, working in brick kilns is very strenuous for children. They cannot perform as much as adults. Though, they have very low earning status, most of the children are bound to work in this sector for livelihood. Usually, workers in brick kilns receive wage in piece rate basis i.e payment is made on the basis of work done. They are not paid monthly only certain amount of money are given to expend for their fooding per week. A 56% majority of brick kiln child workers are paid in piece rate followed by 14% paid monthly where as 12% paid daily and 18% of them don't know about their wage payment because they help parent work in brick kiln. But a rough estimation of average earning (NRS) per month for child workers has been done in this study as shown in Table-13.

Table No.13

Average Earning (NRS) Per Month by Gender

Average earning(in NRS) Per Month	Gender		Total No.	Percentage
	Boys	Girls		
Less than 1000	3	3	6	12.0
1000-2000	8	9	17	34.0
2000-3000	7	6	13	26.0
More than 3000	7	6	13	26.0
No response	0	1	1	2.0
Total	25	25	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The Table-13 clearly indicates that majority of child workers 34% have only Rs.1000-2000 earning on average in a month. Of the children engaged in brick kilns surveyed, 26% have Rs.2000-3000 whereas, equal percentage 26% get more than Rs.3000 and some minor workers 12% of them get even less than Rs.1000.

5.1.7 Controlling Over Income

Generally, Child labourer are taken in brick kilns by Broker Naike/ Thekedar children also come to work in brick kilns with their parents, brother/sister and friends. It is found that children who come to work in these factories and live with their parents as well as brother and sister, does not get their wage in their own hands. Whatever they earn, is almost controlled by parents and broker. Other, who has control over their income, also has to provide their income to their parents in the home. Thus, 86% majority of children working in brick kilns directly support their family but 14% children opined that they do not support their family due to the low wage payment and their earning is only sufficient for themselves and no saving at all.

Table No.14

Controlling Over Their Earnings by Age

Persons who keeps theirs earning	Age Group			Total No.	Percentage
	Below 10	10-14	15-18		
Self	0	4	14	18	36.0
Parents	9	13	5	27	54.0
Relatives	0	0	1	1	2.0
Broker	0	4	0	4	8.0
Total	9	21	20	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The survey found that majority 54% of working children have their earnings is taken by their parents whereas 36% of them have control over their earnings. The rest of the children only 2% of them have their earnings is taken by relatives whereas 8% of them have their earnings is taken by broker. Since working children do not keep any sort of personal record they are easily exploited and cheated by broker. But they honestly said they don't know how they have been cheated by broker and also said somehow they might be cheated in their wage payment.

5.2 Living Condition and Health

5.2.1 Housing and Basic Amenities

Usually, workers, in brick klins live in thatched hut and small attached huts (Chhapra) made off raw or baked bricks, straw and tin sheet along the premise of the klins. The floor of the hut is wet and damp having been paddy field. They put baked bricks on the floor and sleep on straw mat although some do not even have that little bit of protection. A few have thin cushions to put on top of their mats but have no quilt, blanket, or sheet to cover themselves with in winter.

Table-15

Child Workers by Their Housing

Housing	Total No.	Percentage
Temporary Hut	45	90.0
Rented House	4	8.0
Others(Own Home)	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Among the children surveyed in brick klins, majority 90% are reported to have lived in these small huts. Only 2% children reported living in their own home whereas 8% of them living in rented house (Table-15).

Actually, with whom children are living in work site is the serious matter of concern. Separation from parents/families creates many problems related to child's development. Children who are deprived of their parent's care and affection in work site might be exploited and harassed from their employer as well as co-worker.

Table No.16

Persons with Whom They Live

Persons with whom they live	Total No.	Percentage
Parents	24	48.0
Brother/Sister	1	2.0
Relatives	8	16.0
Friends	11	22.0
Broker	2	4.0
Alone	2	4.0
Others(with Husband)	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table-16 indicates that 48% children work in brick klin surveyed living with their parents and 22% children stated living with friends. Similarly, 16% of children reported to living with their relatives whereas only 2% of them living with brother/sister. Only 4% child workers reported to living with broker whereas equal percentage of children living alone as well as living with husband (Table-16).

5.2.2 Personal Hygiene

Sanitation facilities in the brick klins are also not satisfactory. Brick Klins do not have adequate toilets let alone the bathing space and toilets are most unhygienic. Children work in such a dirty and unhygienic places, as their job is to play and struggle with the mud and slush. So they need daily bath. But none of child workers were not found to have been bathing daily. Majority 56% of children said they bath only once a week whereas 44% of them said they bath twice a week. Some child workers said they do not bath daily due to the shortage of water and they were so busy in their work as well.

In terms of nutritious value, the food they eat is generally adequate, if they, at all, eat in a balanced and regular way. But they do not eat in a balanced way, which means their calorie

intake has not been sufficient enough for food the natural physical and mental growth and development. The only purpose of eating appears to be filling the hungry stomach and quench their hunger. Most child workers suffer from malnutrition, as they are physically weak and thin. It was found that they mostly eat two meals a day-lunch in the early morning and dinner late night. In the afternoon some of them take light snack. On the survey, it has been found that 78% most of the child workers commonly eaten food is '*Daal Bhat Tarkari*' and 18% of child workers eat only '*Daal Bhat*'. Where as minor of child workers sometimes take meat for their meals when they get wages for their weekly expenses.

Moreover, the place and environment in which they cook food and eat is not up to the standard in terms of health and hygiene.

5.2.3 Illness and Injuries/Accidents

The workers, in brick kilns serious health hazards due to heavy work burden as well as suffocating working environment. The whole area of brick kilns is full of dust, smokes comes out from kilns. All the workers including children work in these polluted sites without any mask which deteriorates their health. Besides it, they are always exposed from the risk of falling in injuries/accidents working in brick kilns. On the survey study, 36(72%) among 50 of child workers began to suffer illnesses after they started working in brick kilns. On the other hand, 19(38%) among 50 of child workers are reported to be fallen in injuries/accidents working in brick kilns.

Mostly, child workers involved in brick kilns fall sick due to poor living condition, inadequate and lack of nutritious food and ignorance about medical treatment. Children suffer from various kinds of illness and injuries such as respiratory problems, fever, headache, backaches and more. The Table-17 indicates that the majority of children 32% are reported to have suffered from fever followed by Dysentery 16% prior to survey. Similarly, the significant proportion of children 10% are suffered from Headache, 8% of them have joint pain, 4% of them have respiratory problem like flu,cough, throat problems. Where as only 2% of children are suffered from chest pain. Similarly, out of 38% children who have ever fallen in injuries/accidents, 18% children stated to have fell down and 14% have wounded. Whereas minor children 2% of them

have burnt and equal percentage 2% of them have leg fracture and also accident by Donkey's kick (Table-17).

Table No.17

Type of Sickness and Types of Injuries/Accidents

Types of Sickness and Injuries/Accidents	Total No.	Percentage
Relating to Respiration	2	4.0
Fever	16	32.0
Headache	5	10.0
Chest pain	1	2.0
Joint pain	4	8.0
Dysentery	8	16.0
Burnt	1	2.0
Fell down	9	18.0
Wounds	7	14.0
Leg fracture	1	2.0
Donkey's kick	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

There is no special facility for health care provided to children working in brick kilns. Some of do not get proper medication and only 8% have visited a hospital, 74% child workers reported taking medicine while 6% of them used some sort of natural treatment when they have accident and sick. Some key informants (Adult workers) and children themselves argued that sometimes only citamol and other general medicine is provided when they are ill. Most of child workers opined that they are take care by their parents and some of them by friends and employers when they are sick and injuries. But, they have to cure themselves on extreme illness and injuries. If they are provided some money for treatment, that is cut up from their wage. So, there is no provision of compensation in extreme illness and injuries/accidents.

5.3 Perceptions and Aspirations of Child Workers

5.3.1 Perceptions on Earning and Current Work

In fact, the whole future of the country depends on the present condition of today's children. But most of the children seem to be deprived of their basic rights. They are bound to engage in the most hazardous work like brick klin. Actually, what they perceive towards their earning and current work is shown in Table-18.

Table No.18

Attitude towards Their Current Work by Gender

Attitude Towards their Current Work	Gender		Total No.	Percentage
	Boys	Girls		
Satisfied	15	12	27	54.0
Not Satisfied	10	13	23	46.0
Total	25	25	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The Table 18 indicates that 46% of child workers are not satisfied whereas 54% of them are satisfied with their current work in brick klin because of poverty they have compelled to do for their livelihood and brick klin work is seasonal work that they can join in brick klin in off farm season. In terms of gender more girl children (13) compared to boy (10) opined to have not satisfied with their current work.

Table No.19

Reasons for Not Satisfying with Current work

Reasons for not satisfying with Current Work	Total No.	Percentage
Low Wage	8	16.0
Hard and Hazardous work	12	24.0
Not good Job	3	6.0
Total	23	46.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Overwhelming majority of children 24% reported that they are not satisfied with their work due to very hard and hazardous work. The significant proportion 16% of children stated to have dissatisfied being low wage for their work whereas 6% of them reported that regarding not a good job (Table-19).

Another aspect of child perception on work has been observed on the course of survey study whether they want to work again in brick klin for next season or not what they want to prefer.

Table No.20

Preference of Child Workers

Preference	Gender		Total No.	Percentage
	Boys	Girls		
Continue current work	11	14	25	50.0
Go back Home	9	9	18	36.0
Join alternate work	5	2	7	14.0
Total	25	25	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table-20 clearly indicates that 50% of children want to continue current work because their parents are involved in this work whereas 36% of children want to go back home and 14% of them want to join alternate work.

5.3.2 Incidence of Harassment/Abusive Behavior

Mostly, working children are deprived of their basic rights like rights to parental love and care, rights to education and entertainment and so on. In addition, these children are facing numerous problems ranging from poor working and living conditions to exploitations, cheating and harassment. They become even victim of harassment/abusive behavior of their employer as well as co-workers. The children working in brick kilns have been observed to be badly treated by their middleman (Thekedar), managers of brick kilns and adult workers as they opined to be scolded, insulted and sometimes slapped in the work site.

Table No.21

Child Workers Experienced Harassment/Abusive behavior at Brick Kilns by Gender

Particular	Gender		Total No.	Percentage
	Boys	Girls		
Physical	1	0	1	2.0
Mental	14	14	28	56.0
Sexual Abuse	0	1	1	2.0
No Responses	10	10	20	40.0
Total	25	25	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Majority 30(60%) of children out of 50 interviewed child workers reported that they have face abusive behavior whereas, 20(40%) of them said don't know about that because of their earlier age. Overwhelming majority 28 of children among 30 reported to have faced mentally harassment behavior whereas only 1 of them has faced physically torture (beaten by employer) and another only one girl reported to has face sexually abusive behavior.

Table No.22

Child Workers Experienced Harassment/Abusive behavior by Person at Brick Klins

By Whom	Gender		Total No.	Percentage
	Boys	Girls		
Thekedar	10	8	18	36.0
Colleagues	3	1	4	8.0
Employer	2	5	7	14.0
Local Boy	0	1	1	2.0
Total	15	15	30	60.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table-22 indicates that 36% of children out of 60% are reported to have mentally, physically harassed by Thekedar, manager of brick klins and adult worker. Among those, a significant proportion 14% of children have faced mentally harassed (scolded) by employers whereas minor children 8% are reported to have fighting with their colleagues and only 2% of them have faced sexually harassment by local boy.

5.3.3 Future Aspiration of Child labour

In course of the study, the child workers were asked about their future ambition. Majority 38% of children indicated that they have either 'no ambition or no idea' regarding their future life and job. A significant proportion of children have some plans and they seem to be very curious and sensitive towards their future. Table-20 represents children's preferences of their jobs.

Table No.23

Future Ambition of Child Workers by Gender

Future Ambition	Gender		Total No.	Percentage
	Boys	Girls		
To Study	8	10	18	36.0
Driver	3	0	3	6.0
Nurse	0	1	1	2.0
Artist	1	0	1	2.0
Foreign employment	1	0	1	2.0
Want to study but impossible	1	4	5	10.0
Work hard in current work	2	0	2	4.0
Don't know	9	10	19	38.0
Total	25	25	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Out of 50 respondents, 36% of children want to study, whereas minor child workers 6% of them want to be driver, 2% of them want to be nurse, 2% of them want to be an artist and 2% of them also want to join foreign employment. Similarly, 10% of children reported that they want to study but that is impossible due to their poverty and among them 4% of children want to work hard in their current work. But majority of children didn't have future plan and they simply said that don't know anything.

CHAPTER- VI

CASE STUDY

Case study views a social unit as a whole. A four selected case studies as regarding gender friendly respondents two boys and two girls, one boy and one girl from Uma Maheshwor Brick Klin and another boy and girl from Shree Chandra Binayak Brick Factory and have been conducted to collect detail information of past and present situation of child workers and their future plan was observed by interviewing individually with them.

Case-1

Kathmandu Valley is a primary destination for migrant child labourers. Poverty, landlessness, unemployment, hardship of life and lack of opportunities push them towards urban areas in search of a better life.

Case one is about Hira Maya Budha works in Shree Chandra Binayak Brick Factory. 13 year old Hira Maya Buda is from Dang in the Midwestern part of Nepal where illiterate, socially unaware people suffer a hand to mouth existence. Both of her parent works in the same brick klin where she works and she previously worked in agriculture, as her parents are tenant farmers. A school drops out left her studies in class two, as her parents could no longer afford the fees.

Her job includes preparing mud, making and stacking bricks. Despite all the hard labour, she makes only about Rs.1000 monthly, which is paid in a daily basis. She works 11 hours daily and her parents take all of her earnings. She lives with her parents in muddy hut provided by her employer, which is very uncomfortable so she sleeps on straw mat.

She says she does not want stay here and would prefer to return home because of sexual harassment from local boys. Though, a problem common to working girls but victimized girls have no idea where to file a complaint or who will rescue them and they are hesitate to open their problem so, they often keep it secret. An angry Hira Maya says, “Action should be taken against those people who harass working girl children like me”. She wishes, if possible, to carry on her studies and become a nurse in future.

Case-2

A person's life is built upon the foundation of childhood. The qualities and habits acquired in childhood last throughout a person's life. To acquire good qualities a child needs a good environment, where he gets basic child rights. He should have a chance to lead a cheerful and peaceful for healthy and proper development without any kind of tension.

Case two is about Gore B.K works in Shree Chandra Binayak Brick Factory. Gore B.K represents those unlucky children who are deprived from child rights. He is migrated from Bagale in Kavre district. Instead of attending school, he is spending his precious childhood in a brick klin. Both of his parents are own cultivate farmers. He dropped out of school in class five. Although he is interested in continuing his studies, difficult economic circumstances compel him to work. His reason for leaving school is not only his family's poverty but also their illiteracy, and negligence he admits.

He is twelve years old. Usually he works 10 hours per day. He carries bricks to the kiln and klin to outwards. Despite the hard physical labour he hardly earns Rs.2000-3000 per month but that money keep Thekedar and all his expenses cut from that money. He opined that Thekedar cheat him in his wage payment. It is very difficult for him to save as his income is low and he has to buy food and clothes for himself with this money but he minimizes his expenditures.

When asked about problems in the workplace he is hesitant. According to him manager of brick klin sometime scold him otherwise, his employer provides lodging and first aid health facilities. He has very good friends at the site. They help each other whenever they get injured or become ill.

He doesn't know about his future ambition but he seems so frustrate in his life. Even he has expectation with me to support his good future thinking that I am from NGO/INGO.

Case-3

Case three is about Manisha Pun Magar works in Uma Maheshwor Brick Klin. Manisha Pun Magar, born into a poor family. As her own interest to visit Kathmandu she is migrated from Saigha in Dang district. She was never admitted to school, may be has other reason of her illiteracy but she opined that she does not want to study.

This fifteen year old girl grew up without experiencing what childhood I really about. The burden of her family made her an adult at a young age. Though brick klin is hazardous for children she chooses this work as her own interest. She works almost 10 hours per day without rest or leisure and her living standard is low. She carries bricks on her back from klin to outwards. Her wages are paid on piece basis and can be above Rs.2000 per month. She keeps her income herself but she does not support her family due to low wage payment, she honestly said “No money to send for my parents”.

She is living with her friends in brick klin. She says her problem is she has faced a lack of proper housing and heavy workload. But she does not know about her future plan because of her illiteracy.

Case-4

Case four is about Tara Bahadur Sunuwar, child labourer working at Uma Maheshwor Brick Klin in Kirtipur, a 16 year old boy migrated from Sindhuli with friends just to visit Kathmandu and join this work as his own interest. He dropped out of school in class 7, as he is weak in study. As he looks young he knows about his work burden and does not express problem about his family.

He keeps himself busy in preparing mud to make brick, 11-12 hours as a daily routine. He earns above Rs.3000 monthly as he got wage payment monthly basis and keeps himself. With his earnings he buys food and clothes. He does not waste his income needlessly because he has to send some of his earnings to his family who are partly dependent on him. His monthly expenditure is above Rs.1000 per month.

Even though his employer provides lodging, it is not well equipped. He sleeps on a foam in thatched hut that he buys himself. Due to the poor living condition he has been fever so he feels that is the major problem he has faced since coming to work here but over work load is another. When he becomes ill his friends take care of him. There is good unity between workers at this side. Due to the hard and hazardous work in brick klin he is not satisfy with this current work and wants to be driver in future.

This four case study shows that poverty is main cause of child labour in brick klin and drop out/never been to schooling. And brick klin industry is one of the most exploitative and hazardous sector for child labour. It deprives of children for minimum childhood. They work long hours in brick klin living in a stuffy thatched huts along the premise of the klin. But, they earn little money in piece rate system. Due to lack of nutritious food intake as well as injurious and poor working condition, almost all children become the victim of injuries and illness in brick klin. But, they are not provided compensation and expenses for treatment. In addition, they are abuse/harrassed and treated unkindly working in brick klin. Case of Hira Maya Budha is only one case of sexual abuse that I have found in my study. Though, a problem common to working girls but victimized girls have no idea where to file a complaint or who will rescue them but in my analysis they are hesitate to open their problem so, they often keep it secret.

These four case studies also help to find out or realize their feelings of life and their situations. Interviewing children including their life experiences, feelings and aspirations, prepared the case studies.

CHAPTER-VII

Summary and Conclusion

7.1 Summary

Child labour is a big and ever increasing socio-economic problem in Nepal. Due to existing socio-economic inequality, child labour is interlinked with poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. There is virtually no sector in which children are not employed. Many children are forced to work even in abusive and exploitative conditions for their own and family survival. In this situation, they are not only deprived of their basic child rights but also suffered from abuse, exploitation, neglect and humiliation. Ultimately, they miss their normal childhood.

Brick Klin is one of the major area which exploit a large proportion of child labour. But, there is little research and studies in this field for child labour problem. In many sectors children are engaged as they are cheap source of employment. But in this study, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data has attempted to analyze the situation of child labour in Brick Klin of Satungal VDC, Kirtipur. In fact, the present study is based on the interview of 50 child labourers below 18 years of age working in two selected brick klin industries of Satungal VDC. Structured questionnaire, case study, observation was the main methods used for collection of information. Factory owners were also interviewed to get more information.

In the survey, most of the working children were between 10-15 years of age. Where as young children of age 6-8 years old were also working with their parent. Among 50 child workers selected equal number 25 were boys and 25 were girls. The proportion of child involved in brick klin industries differ by caste/ethnicity, their schooling, district of origin as well as their family background.

A majority of the child workers are Tamang(12), Magar(9) and Rai(6) ethnic group followed by dalit(10), other caste/ethnic group particularly Muslim (4) and Brahmin(3), Chettri(6). The survey found that sampled all total children working in selected brick klin of Satungal VDC come from outside of the valley and majority of child workers are from Dang where as none of child workers have not been found to be engaged locally.

In terms of schooling, out of the total children working in brick klin who never attended school only 18% and majority 82% of children are literate. Among them 42% children are attending school currently whereas 40% stated to be dropping out school. Poverty seemed as the main reason for never attending/dropping out school and should engage at work.

Most of the children (19) reported to have own farming as the prime means of living whereas (8) of them have tenant farming. Among the children surveyed, a significant proportion (20) of the children reported to their family have bonded labour.

Though child workers are transferred and recruited for working brick klins by middleman (Naike/Thekedar), a significant proportion of children reported to have come with their parents (25), friends (5) and relatives only (2) from outside of the valley. Being a seasonal off farm work in brick klin most of the child workers are seasonal migrants. Actually brick klin industries are operated in October/November to May/June in a season. And majority of children are engaged in brick klin for less than 6 months. Poverty/No food at home is the main reason of children for leaving home and joining to brick klins. Of the children surveyed in brick klins, Majority of children (16) are found to be involved in carrying raw bricks from field to klin followed by piling bricks (8). Whereas (7) of children engaged in making brick, loading bricks into Truck (4) followed by multiple work (12). Though it is hard work working in brick klins, the working hours seems to be too much long compared to legal provision. Majority 36% child workers are reported to be engaged in brick klin for less than 8 hours per day and rest of the children surveyed work in brick klins till more than 8 hours. But they get little money mostly by piece rate basis. Actually they are paid some money every week for their food and other expenses and final payment is made at the end of the season.

Being risky and hazardous work for children, they are likely to fall in injuries/accidents inflicted by spades, bricks, hot klin and Donkey's kicks also. Brick klin sites are enveloped in dust and smoke come out from klins. So, the prolonged exposure to dust and smokes affect the health of the children. In addition, poor living condition, hard work, inadequate and lack of nutritious food and lack of medical attention of child workers in these industries enforce to be ill themselves. Specially, relating to respiratory problems, fever, headache, joint pain and backache are identified as the major forms of sickness to children working in brick klins. There is no medical facility in any of the factories surveyed except providing minor medicine for sometimes.

Basically, children working in brick kilns are harassed/abused by middleman, managers of factory and other adult workers. Almost all child workers are seemed to be working be force. Due to poverty, and their parents arguments they are forced to do work hard and hazardous work though they dislike doing such work. So, most of all children are dissatisfied with their earning and current work. They don't get time for playing; they do not get time for study. From the early age they have to support family. So, in this condition how can they seem to be happy? And most of children are uncertain about their future plan.

From the case studies of four children, all the four children are engaged in work to support their family. Poverty is the main publishing factor for them to do hard work. Besides this insufficient income, less land, illiteracy or lack of awareness is also factors, which pushed them to search work in urban areas. Most of all children want to go back home, and they want to continue their study. But their family doesn't have such access for their children needs.

7.2 Conclusion

Child labour is simply the single most important source of child exploitation and child abuse in the world today. At the heart of development, today's children are tomorrow's adults. So the ultimate objective must be to eliminate all forms of child labour. However, many countries are as long as our country Nepal also already taking important steps to end child labour and provide basic education to all child workers. Perhaps most important fact that child labour has now shot to the top of the global agenda specially in industrialized countries.

Despite the legal provision lays down not to employ children under 14 years of age and working hours for minor workers not more than 6 hours a day, it does not seem applicable in Brick Kilns surveyed in Satungal VDC. In addition, children working in these industries work long hours and are underpaid mostly on the piece rate basis. Actually, working hours and wages for children is niether fixed nor fair.

The positive impact of globalization seen on education that most of children working in brick kilns seems literate and significant proportion of children are illiterate also reported to have never attending school and dropped out of school. Even they have no any future aspiration and desire. They are concertrated only how to survive and for their survival they are doing hard and hazardous work.

There has been no mechanism for monitoring child labour in brick kilns and their condition. Children in these factories work under hazardous and exploitative condition as well as unhealthy working environment. Their living and working conditions easily qualify for a worst form of child labour. They have to face various kinds of injuries/accidents inflicted by spades, bricks and hot kilns. In addition, most of the child workers suffer from different kinds of illness like fever, respiratory problems, headache, joint pain. But, there is no facility for health care provided to children in brick kilns.

Most of the children are migrating from rural to urban areas in search of better living condition, and have few choices regarding the types, condition, or quality of their employment. In urban areas or cities owners of different factories want to hire children than adults for their economic efficiency. Though the owner know that to engage children below 14 years is illegal. But there is great lack of awareness about child rights to the owners and working children too. So, there is a need of child rights awareness rising among the workers and society through publicity, posters, campaign, workshop, street drama and educational events and so on.

In conclusion, it is observed that extreme household poverty is the root cause for migration of children and engaging in brick kiln. The cause of child labour may be inherent in social environment, e.g. social norms and values, religious belief, lack of love and care of parents etc. In addition, lack of work opportunities in off farm season, arrival of parents also contributing factors for the children to be engaged in such a child labour. So the question arise what is being done to deal with poverty, with situation of the poorest of the poor? Without solving this question of poverty, child labour can not be eliminated. The complete elimination of child labour from these factories is a national challenge for future because most of the children lose physical, mental, social and moral development engaging in such a intolerable forms of child labour. Hence, child labour can be considered as one of the phenomena caused by underdevelopment and poverty. In this sense child labour is not a problem. It is the symptom of problem of poverty and inequality (ILO,1994).

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APPENDIX-A

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Individual Questionnaire

Questions asked to the child laboureres in Brick Klins

Name & Address of Brick Factory:

Name of child:

Home Address: District.....

A. Basic information

S.N	Question	Response Category	Code
1.	Age of respondent	Completed age	
2.	Sex of the respondents	Male.....1 Female.....2 Others.....3	
3.	Caste/ Ethnic Group	Brahmin.....1 Chhetri.....2 Tamang.....3 Rai.....4 Magar.....5 Dalit.....6 Others.....7	
4.	Migration	Local(1) Migrated(2)	

5.	If migrated reason for migration	Migrated(2) Present Political crisis(1) Unemployment(2) Family conflict(3) Poverty(4) MultipleAnswer.....(5) Others(specify)(6)	
6.	When did you arrive Kathmandu?	
7.	What is your parental status?	Both alive.....1 Both died.....2 Only father alive.....3 Only mother alive.....4 Father with step mother....5 Mother with step father.....6 Father Deserted.....7 Mother Deserted.....8 Don't know.....9	
8.	Parent's Occupations	Agriculture as tenant cultivate(1) Agriculture as owner cultivate(2) Porter(3) Army(4) Bonded labour(5) Unemployed(6) Others(specify).....(7)	
9.	Child's Education	Literate(1) Illiterate(2)	
10.	If literate, specify the class.....		
11.	School:	School going(1) Dropped out(2) Never been to school(3)	
12.	If dropped or never joined school,	Parent's illiteracy(1)	

	reason.	Parent's negligence(2) No school around(3) Helped to parents, home and cultivate(4) Weak in study(5) Poverty (6) MultipleAnswer.....(7) Others(Specify).....(8)	
13.	Do you want to continue/join the school?	Yes(1) No(2)	
14.	If no, why?	

B.Work and Payment

15.	How did you join this work?	Through friends(1) Through parents(2) Through relative(3) Own self(4) Thekedar(5)	
16.	How long have you been working in this factory?	Less than 6 months(1) Less than 1 year(2) 1-2 years(3) More than 2 years(4)	
17.	In which age did you start work here for the first time?	Less than 10 yrs(1) 10-14yrs(2) 15-18yrs(3)	
18.	How many hours do you work in a day?	Less than 8hrs(1) 9-10 hrs(2) 11-12hrs(3)	

19.	What type of work you are doing here?	Making brick(1) Preparing mud(2) Carrying brick(3) pilling the bricks(4) Taking out brick from the klin(5) Loading brick into truck(6) Multiple Answer.....(7)	
20.	Why did you choose this work?	Easy to do(1) Easy to find(2) Good income(3) Parents involvement(4) Others(specify)...(5)	
21.	How do you get your wage payment?	Piece Rate(1) Daily wage(2) Monthly(3) Others(specify).... (4)	
22.	How much do you earn monthly?	Less than Rs.1000(1) 1000-2000(2) 2000-3000(3) More than 3000(4)	
23.	Who keeps your earnings?	Self(1) parents(2) Brother/Sister(3) Relatives(4) Cooperatives(5) Broker(6) Others(specify)...(7)	
24.	If Broker keeps your earnings do you think he cheats you in wage payment?	Yes(1) No(2)	
25.	If yes, how?	

26.	Do you save?	Yes(1) No(2)	
27.	Your monthly expenditure?	Up to Rs.300(1) Up to 500(2) Up to 100(3) Up to1000(4)	
28.	Do you have to support your family?	Yes(1) No(2)	
29.	If yes, whom you support?	Parents(1) Brother(2) Sister(3) Multiple Answer(4)	
30.	If no, why?	
31.	Do you find your earning sufficient to your needs?	Yes(1) No(2)	

C. Living Condition & Health

32.	Where do you live here?	Temporary hut(1) Rented house(2) Others(specify).....(3)	
33.	With whom do you live here?	Parents(1) Brother/Sister(2) Relatives(3) Friends(4) Broker(5) Alone(6) Others(specify)...(7)	
34.	What type of facilities are you getting in this factory?	Lodging(1) Food(2) Dress(3) Health care(4) Entertainment(5)	

		Above all (6) Multiple Answer(7)	
35.	If you get lodging facility how is the sleeping palce?	On the mat(1) On the bed(2) On the table(3) Others(specify)....(5)	
36.	Have you ever been sick since working here?	Yes(1) No(2)	
37.	If yes, specify the nature of sickness?	Relating to Respiration(1) Fever(2) Headache(3) Chest pain(4) Joint pain(5) Backache(6) Dysentery(7) Others(specify).....(8)	
38.	If you ever experienced injuries please specify the nature?	Burnt(1) Fell down(2) Hit on eyes(3) Others(specify)....(4)	
39.	Is there any first aid health provision in the site?	Yes(1) No(2)	
40.	Who take care of you at the time of injuries?	Parents(1) Employers(2) Friends(3) Self(4)	
41.	How did you get better?	Hospitalized(1) Natural treatment(2) Medicine(3)	
42.	How many times do you bath per	Once(1)	

	week?	Twice(2) Daily(3) None(4)	
43.	Commonly eaten food	Daal Bhat(1) Daal Bhat, Tarkari(2) Meat(3) Bread Tarkari(4) Fruits(5) Others(specify).....(6)	
44.	What types of faced problems have you since working here?	Sexual harassment(1) Economic problems(2) Sleeping(3) Over work(4) Health problem(5) Don't know(6) Others(Specify).....(7)	
45.	Have you ever experienced any abuse?	Physical(1) Mental(2) Neglect(3) Sexual abuse(4) Don't know(5)	
46.	By whom?	Employer(1) Colleagues(2) Customers(3) Local boys(4) Thekeddar(5)	
47.	Are you satisfied with current work?	Yes(1) No(2)	
48.	What is the reason for not satisfying with current work?	Low wage(1) Hard & hazardous work(2) Not good Job(3) Others(specify).....(4)	

49.	What do you prefer?	Go back home(1) continue the work(2) Join alternate job(3)	
50.	What is your future ambition?	

APEENDIX-B

Questionnaire for the Factory Owner

Name of the factory:

Address:

Established:

Registration no:

Total no of workers under 18 years of age(male female):

Name of the owner/manager being interviewed:

1. Sources of recruitment
 - i.Middleman ii.Advertisement iii.Personal approach iv.Others
2. Do you keep the record of the child workers?
 - i.Yes ii.No
3. Do you have to pay in advance to the workers?
 - i.Yes ii.No
4. How do you pay the salary?
 - i.Piece basis ii.wage basis
5. Facilities given to child worker
 - i.Lodging ii.Fooding iii.Dress iv.Health Care v.Entertainment vi.Above all
6. Do you know what employing children are illegal?
 - i.Yes ii.No
7. Has any government authority come to stop it?

i.Yes ii.No

8. Did the factory provide any compensation to the child workers?

i.Yes ii No

9. Do you know about child rights and child labour laws

i.Yes ii.No