

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

The UN's Human Development Index (2011) ranks Nepal 157th countries with the HDI of 0.458. Though the report of national census 2068 has not published yet, the data of previous decade report 54 percent over all literacy. The UN reports a GDP per capita of US \$1550 in 2011. However, these figures mask major differences between the majority who live in the countryside and those who live in urban environments as well as very significant gender and income inequality.

Although the majority of the population still live in rural areas and derive their livelihood from agriculture the pressure of change including population growth, declining fertility of farmland and the pressures of globalization has seen a significant and rapid rise in the numbers living in cities.

An estimated 38% of the population is aged less than 14 years, the pressure of change falls heavily on this age group, and this has resulted in significant levels of child migration (UNICEF, 2009). Children move away from their homes for a variety of reasons including the death of one or both parents, poverty, illiteracy, domestic abuse and the perceived attractions of city life. Many of these children find themselves living on the streets in urban areas and attempt to earn money in marginal economic activities such as collecting rags, shining shoes, dishwashing in hotels, pulling carts and rickshaws and begging. Street children are highly vulnerable to exploitation and sexual abuse. Trafficking of children also occurs with children being 'recruited' often for an exchange of money. These children will often then be used for domestic labor, carpet weaving and a variety of other jobs. They and their families are lured by promises of good employment but the reality will very different with very low pay, and harsh living and working conditions at all.

Thapaliya (2011) writes quoting Human Rights Watch that the term street children refers to children for whom the street, more than their family has become their real home. It includes children who might not necessarily be homeless or without families, but who live in situations, where there is no protection, supervision, or direction from responsible adults.

UNICEF (2009) has sub-categorized and defined street children into three types: Street -Living, Street-Working, and Street-Family. According to UNICEF, children from street families are children who live on the streets with their families. Street working children are children who spend most of their time working in the streets and markets of cities, but return home on a regular basis. Among these three categories, the reality of street living children is pathetic. According to UNICEF, "Street living children are children who may have lost their families through war or illness, or have been abandoned because they had become too much of a burden, or else ran away from their abusive, dysfunctional, poverty-stricken families and now live alone on the streets."

"They work, living and sleeping in the streets, often lacking any contact with their families. These children are at highest risk of murder, constant abuse and inhumane treatment. They often resort to petty theft and prostitution for survival," reports UNICEF. Though the UN has estimated the population of street children worldwide at 150 million, nobody knows their exact number in Nepal...street children are not easy to count because they move around a lot, within and between cities like Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur.

Moreover, UNICEF (ibid) comments that it is no longer a secret that street children statistics (based on broad definitions of "street children") are just estimates, e.g. Kenya: 250,000; Ethiopia: 150,000; Zimbabwe: 12,000; Bangladesh: 445,226; Nepal: 30,000; India: 11 million. According to CWS (1993) the popular image of street child is the neglected, abandoned or orphaned child who begs, collects and sells recyclable goods such as plastic

metal, and sleeps on the street. The conception is based upon certain assumption about street children and their lifestyles. While some of these assumptions are grounded in reality, the criteria for defining 'street children' still remain vague. In the late 1980s, when programs for street children were initiated from the non-government sector in Nepal, the term street children was used to refer to children who literally lived in the streets, i.e. those who worked, ate and slept on the street. By 1993, the definition of street children became ambiguous. This ambiguity is in the report of the street fledged children's national convention held in Oct. 1993 (CWS, 1993). The report uses terms such as "homeless", "helpless", "*khate*", "uncared for", and "underprivileged" to refer to, and thus define street children. It also tends to categorize children into hard core street children and those who work but do not sleep on the street. This implies that who work on the street but live with their families are also street children. This conceptual ambiguity is still prevalent among those who work with street children in Nepal.

Over the past few decades, the standard of living of many urban Nepalese has risen beyond measure, even in the midst of political turmoil. But ironically, at the same time many poor children are struggling for survival out in the streets, sleeping on makeshift cardboard mattresses in main cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara, Dharan, Narayanghat, Butwal, and Biratnagar (SAS, 2010).

Thus, street children are a pervasive problem in today's Nepal, and the problem cannot be in isolation. Schemes alone are not adequate. Where poverty breaks up families, economic and social policies must come together to help protect the dignity of children's lives. Moreover, the international community must back the efforts of countries like Nepal, which are willing to take comprehensive steps through programs with non-governmental organizations to reduce the number of children on the streets.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

The extent of a country's development can be shown by the extent to which its child population has its rights, because children are the indicators of the future of nation. However, most of the people in Nepal are living a very poor life and they are unable to feed their children even for a single day. In such a situation, children have to work very hard from their early stage of life to survive. Most of these children are engaged in carpet industries, hotels, restaurants, and street corners and as domestic servants. The street children make street as their work place and home.

Despite the growing number of INGOs and NGOs, it is even more difficult to get a count of those children who are invisible: work behind closed doors, confined to factories, mines black room bars, kitchen quarters, in illegal activities or other more invisible occupations such as domestic workers, or sexually exploited children and we do not even know the actual number of street children.

Among the different forms of child labor, street children face various problems, which arise in different sectors. These problems are related to their living and working. But these living and working problems have many other problems, such as developmental problem, health problem, and educational problem. These problems are the burning issues for all developing countries including Nepal. The growing number of street children is one of the greatest challenges for all the advocates of development, human right activists and policy makers.

This backgrounding scenario has made the researcher to carry out the study focusing on the present status of the street children. This is why; this study has attempted to explore the present status and condition of the street children along with the exploration of the major problems they are facing with. In this regard, the study will try to seek the answers of the following major research questions:

-) How is the present condition of the street children in Nepal?
-) How is their ways of living?
-) What are the major problems they are facing with?
-) How can they be solved?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to analyze the present condition of the street children in Kathmandu, Nepal. Specifically, the study has the following objectives:

-) To find out the present status of the street children
-) To analyze the problems they are facing with.

1.4 Significance of the Study

As the study is about the status of street children, it help the country know the present status/situation of their children in overall. 'What condition does the children facing and how can that be improved?' can be answered by this sort of study. Further, it will provide a sight for them who are working in the field of child rights, child labor and specifically, the street children. The benefits to be derived from this study are obvious to those responsible for making plans and implementation policy and/or decisions. Certainly, the study will increase the knowledge in the very field. As it gives information about present situation of street children, it will be important for them who are directly (and indirectly) related to this discourse of study in the country and internationally.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The whole discourse of street children is very vast and incomprehensible. Thus, to have certain specific information about it, it has to make limited in certain fields. The study had the following main limitations:

-) It only included the study of Chabahil area of Kathmandu district.
-) It only focused on the analysis of the present situation/condition.
-) The study had completed within three months in a sample of 20 children.
-) The study was carried out only for academic sake.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

An attempt has been made in this chapter to review the related literature and present a conceptual framework of the study relating to street children, child labor, the global situation, and Nepal's experience concerning the street child.

2.1 Theoretical Review

No country in the world is out of any problems as this is originated from social problems, educational system, and poverty. Child labor, an integral part of Nepalese society, is the consequence of an exploitative socio-economic and political reality. According to Bajracharya (1998), the magnitude of the problem is very high and more transparent in south Asia. Exploitation of child labor is extreme in many parts of the world which is in fact intolerable. No sector of labor is completely free of child labor exploitation in reality.

The problems of street children are a universal phenomenon that no country has been out of their problems. However, receiving a worldwide attention in recent years, the problems have still been critical. It is due to the poverty, that compels parents to make children work for wages and the employer never hesitates to take advantage of it because of cheap labor-wage. The phenomenon is the consequences of the exploitative systems operating at the national and international levels not only close the future of millions of children in the Third World countries, but it also drastically restricts the development prospects of these countries. The existence of child labor is a threat to overall world development and to the solidarity and peace in the world, in fact.

Child Welfare Society (2006) in the publication entitled 'situation analysis of street children in Nepal' explores the actual condition of street children.

The book presents an account of situation analysis of two kinds of street children in Nepal-

- (a) Those that live and work in the street, and
- (b) The others who live with their families but spend most of their time playing and working in street.

It goes into details in analyzing the factors that compel the children to leave their home and pass their hard life in the street. Many of these children desert their home because of their obnoxious and alcoholic parents, maltreatment by stepparents and due to the attractions of children in the towns.

According to the book, most of these children fall in the age group of nine to sixteen years in the central development region, in which 86 percent of the children are male while the remaining 14 percent are female. Furthermore, less than half (40%) of the children in this region are illiterate as well.

According to UNICEF (1996), the street for many of these children is not only their home but also their working place. These children are engaged in activities like pottering, begging, guiding tourists, picking money in temples, peddling rickshaws, petty vending, vehicle cleaning, rag picking, construction work, and as 'tampo' conductors. These children earn an amount varying between Rs. 25 to Rs. 120 per day.

Child Hope Asia presents an account of Asia describing the street children in Delhi to whom some are Nepali. According to a report of it, of the total 1,000 street children in Kathmandu, 46 percent are refugees from Tibet and Bhutan.

Three concepts- child, work and labor- constitute a major debate in development literature. Though childhood differs from one context to

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

Child labor 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 child labor, abolitionism and protectionism. Abolitionists believe that any form of economic activity is detrimental to the development of children and hence children employment at a certain age should be prohibited. They see child labor and education as antithetical, and their intervention is to remove children from the labor market and enable them to attend school.

While analyzing this, Abolitionist views to deal with the child labor in the context of rural Nepal may not fit. Firstly, the role of children to the livelihoods of household should not be underestimated. Secondly, most children may combine work and school simultaneously because of fragmentary nature of work. Finally, parents' attitude towards education may be negative because of immediate economic hardship and illiteracy. It can be said that the main reasons for child labor are poverty, discrimination of gender and caste/ethnicity, dysfunctional families, parents' illiteracy and unawareness towards children's education.

Poverty is both the cause and consequence of child labor and the exploitation of children. Extreme poverty and landlessness in rural areas are fuelling child labor not only in urban areas but also in rural areas as well (CWIN 1989b). The obvious causes of poverty include structural inequality in access to assets, education and health services and the absence of social

security system in many developing countries. Lower the household per capita income is, larger the proportion of children in work and lower the school participation rate. The effect of poverty on school enrolment has been often adverse because of direct and indirect cost involved in schooling vis-a-vis heavy workload of children. Parents' perception of child labor has been documented as influencing the child labor in a society. In the case of schooling, parents' perceptions are dubious. While some regard the possibility for children to learn how to read and write, others consider education as irrelevant. Also, when school and labor schedulable conflict, they tend to give more importance to work, which has immediate benefits for the subsistence of the family.

The article published in *Voice of Child Workers* January-March 1989, entitled 'Street Kids in Kathmandu' notes that the habitual abode of the street kids in Kathmandu is the street pavements and the temple sides. The number of children working and living in the street is about 500, of which 52 percent are minors below the age of 6 years.

CWIN (1989b) notes that the street kids are harassed by local hooligans and are victims of humiliation and suspicion. Quite often, they meet physical injury in the street and also in their working areas like the garbage dumping place. They are exposed to a variety of hazards, both moral and physical. For them, the future is in creating and the past in mystery. It is only the present in which they have learnt to struggle for survival. According to it, they have only one choice, i.e., how to survive.

2.2 Empirical Review

According to Baniya (2010), street children in Nepal are seen sniffing glue and sleeping aimlessly in the street. They are not more than 15 years of age who are always in a group or if not in the group they are found sleeping in the street. The children mostly belong to the rural areas and they have runaway

due to various domestic problems in the village. The family problems, lack of education, food, security and moreover they ran away due to poverty to take shelter in the streets of the capital Kathmandu and other urban areas. She further adds that the main problem of children choosing street is being an orphan, no care in family, abandonment, rise in domestic violence, exploitation at work places, growing trend of migration in general are also leading children coming to streets.

She writes that street children are very vulnerable to the exposure to alcohol, drugs and tobacco. Furthermore, sheltering in the streets they are not safe because they are into smoking cigarettes, sniffing glue or dendrite that intoxicates them. Most of them are addicted to it and the addiction leads to them to do different crimes as well. There are child care centers and organizations, however the children don't want to stay there where they can't sniff dendrite and smoke cigarettes or be in freedom like they have in the streets. They find freedom from sex to drugs so they are addicted to street and once they are in street they rarely come back to the society. As a result, street children are among the high risk and insecure groups and they are vulnerable to various forms of exploitation and abuses. They do have negative impact over the society in every form.

Thapaliya (2011) writes quoting CWIN (Centre for Child Workers in Nepal) that every year more than 500 children are added to the streets of Kathmandu from different districts of Nepal like Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Dhading, Makawanpur and Dolkha. In the middle of this, it is compelled to doubt the so-called standard of living, when younger children are suffering throughout Nepal, due to multidimensional socio-economic-political problems. Is the standard of living mere economic jargon or merely a myth?

To quote Thapaliya (2011), Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, is among those cities like Bombay, Manila, Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, Bangkok, Nairobi,

where the problem of street children is very high due to the rapid growth of urbanization and many other problems, such as economic breakdown, social distortion, natural disasters and increasing family disintegration. Street children are the worst victims of child labor in Nepal. Life on the streets has always been unstable, but it is further unstable in Nepal due to the deteriorating socio-economic infrastructure.

The life of the Nepalese street children is so pathetic that with the little money they make by street based jobs, such as rag picking, begging, porting, flower selling, newspaper selling, street vending, and shoe shining, they cannot afford one full meal a day, and most of the time they are hungry. It is hunger that is forcing them into criminal activities, and the ultimate reward they get is mob beatings or a jail term. To survive, every street child has to work very hard and in many ways they are threatened with various forms of violence. Many such children develop physical complications related to their hazardous work and unhygienic living conditions. As a result, they become apathetic to social norms and values.

According to the CWIN (2001), street children are often at greatest risk of violence from those that are responsible to protect them-the police and other higher authorities. "Police often beat, harass, sexually assault and even torture street children. They may beat children for their money or demand payment for protection to avoid false charges, or for release from custody. They may seek out girls to demand sex. For many street children, assaults and thefts by the police are a routine part of their lives. Some are even killed by police. Very rarely are those responsible brought to justice," reports CWIN.

To quote Bohora (2005) most of the working children in Kathmandu are between the age group of 12-14 years, followed by the age group of 9-12 years in least number. A majority of the child workers are from Chhetri and Tamang communities. Almost all children are migrant workers coming

from Makwanpur, Okhaldhunga, Kabhre, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Hetauda, Dharan, Sindhuli, Dolkha, Siraha, Ramechhap, Nuwakot, Dang, Rolpa, Gorkha, Jhapa etc. districts and there are a few child workers who have been recruited locally. Regarding education, out of the 110 street children surveyed, 45.45 percent had studied up to primary level and 2.72 percent children had studied up to primary level. Nearly, 34.54 percent of the street children were totally illiterate and only 17.27 percent were just literate.

According to him (ibid) different factors are responsible for illiteracy such as neglect from parents and poverty. There are many causes of street children's leaving their home. Maltreatment/abuse, influences of others, search/expectation of better life, family poverty and the death of parents are some of the main causes that laid the children compel to leave home and live in the street. Other causes like- serious political conflict and natural calamities are also responsible for causing some children to leave home. However, urban attraction and pull factors of urban facilities are also the reason for the children to be in the street in Kathmandu.

Most of such children are come from the agriculture. Wageworkers and domestic servants are the other categories. Bohora's (ibid) study found that street children are engaged in various types of work but rag-picking and begging are the most common jobs. Hotel and restaurant workers, paper vendor, domestic work, factory works etc. are other sectors of their involvement.

CWIN (1990), in a survey entitled 'Lost Childhood: A Survey on Street Children of Kathmandu' says that an estimated number of about 500 children are in the street in Kathmandu. In 1990, one-fifth of these children were personally interviewed and asked about their personal history, current status, income origin etc. It was found that the children were of three

types:- run away children, squatter children and orphan children. Most of those children were engaged in rag picking, pottering, betting and staling. They suffered from illnesses like scabies, cold, fever headaches, diarrhea dizziness tuberculosis and ENT infections. Because of having inadequate and unhygienic food, they were malnourished. Some of them survived on food lying in the garbage bins as well. Schooling was unknown to them. They were indifferent to their future, and were not only indulging in gambling, smoking and pick pocketing but were also sometimes addicted to drinking and drugs.

CWIN, (1998a), based on a survey of the rag pickers or garbage pickers in Kathmandu reported that rag-picking, in fact, is a terribly unhygienic dangerous and destructive occupation for the growth and development of children. However, they found it difficult to give up as there is virtually no alternative of it was open to them. According to CWIN (ibid) rag-picking children should be provided not only with shelter but also with opportunities for the development of their health, education and skills. They should also be provided alternative employment opportunities and voice should also be raised against the exploitation of them.

Bajracharya's study (1998) entitled "A study on child labor in Nepal, Kathmandu" has tried to make understand the attitudinal aspects of owner about giving employment and also the attitude of the children towards work. There are various factors governing the demand and supply of child workers. Low wages, lack of rules in regard to the termination of job and labor intensive production in most of the units are the major factors are the demand of child labor. On the other hand, low level of family education, larger family size, poor financial status of family and the lack of care, love and attention to the children increased the supply of child labor in the labor market. Enforcement of minimum working conditions, compulsory education, skill development and income generating programmes targeting

the parents/families and legal measures are the major efforts that should be applied for the improvement of the condition of both the child labor and street children.

To quote Pradhan (1992) children are not only deprived of their fundamental rights to survival and protection, but also equally exploitation and discriminated against in their everyday life. In certain regions of the country, the children are still being pushed into slavery, child labor, street children, child abuse and girl trafficking and child bandage are becoming very common issues.

Sattaur (1993) gives an account of different types of child labor in Nepal. He discusses why children work despite regulations. Relevant regulation against child labor in Nepal, are also mentioned in the book. He suggests 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, trade unions should introduce priority program for child labors and the media and NGOs should raise more awareness on the related issues.

CWIN's publication (1998a) entitled state of the rights of the child in Nepal gives an authoritative account of the conditions of children in Nepal. It is stated that the employment of children under the age of 19 is declared illegal. Yet most of the laws have not been implemented and child rights violations have been taking place in the country. Rampant cases of child abuse, sexual exploitation, sexual violation and rape, trafficking, and child migration are mattes of concern. However, there has been progressive change in socio-cultural, political and economic attitudes of the people towards the problems of the children. As a result, Nepal has ratified the convention on the Rights of the child and ILO Minimum age of employment convention. The country adopted the Labor Act, 1991 and

Children's Act 1992 and efforts have been made by government and certain I/NGOs to bring about certain awareness in the society against the exploitation of children in the latest years.

Another publication of CWIN (1998b) entitled Urban Child Labor in Nepal: Realities and Challenges shows how children younger than 16 years have to labor in order to support themselves and their families. The numbers of working children are growing with every passing day, which is mainly due to an increase in migration from the rural to the urban areas.

ILO/IPEC's publication (1995) entitled child labor in Nepal volume 1 begins with the statement that child labor is a major social problem in the developing countries. It finds that the situations of the child labor is getting rapidly worse in Nepal and this is more so due to migration of children from hills to the Terai and from rural to urban areas. The global pressure against the use of child labor in carpet factories and the problems of girl prostitution and trafficking have been able to draw much of public attention.

UNICEF (1997) has broken down child labor into 7 main types. These examples of child labor are unique to any one region or world. These are

-) Domestic service force
-) Bounded labor
-) Commercial sexual exploit
-) Industrial labor
-) Plantation workers
-) Workers work for the family
-) Girl workers

Sattaur (1993) enlisted that the types of work undertaken by the working children in Nepal can be categorized under 10 main heading as: agriculture,

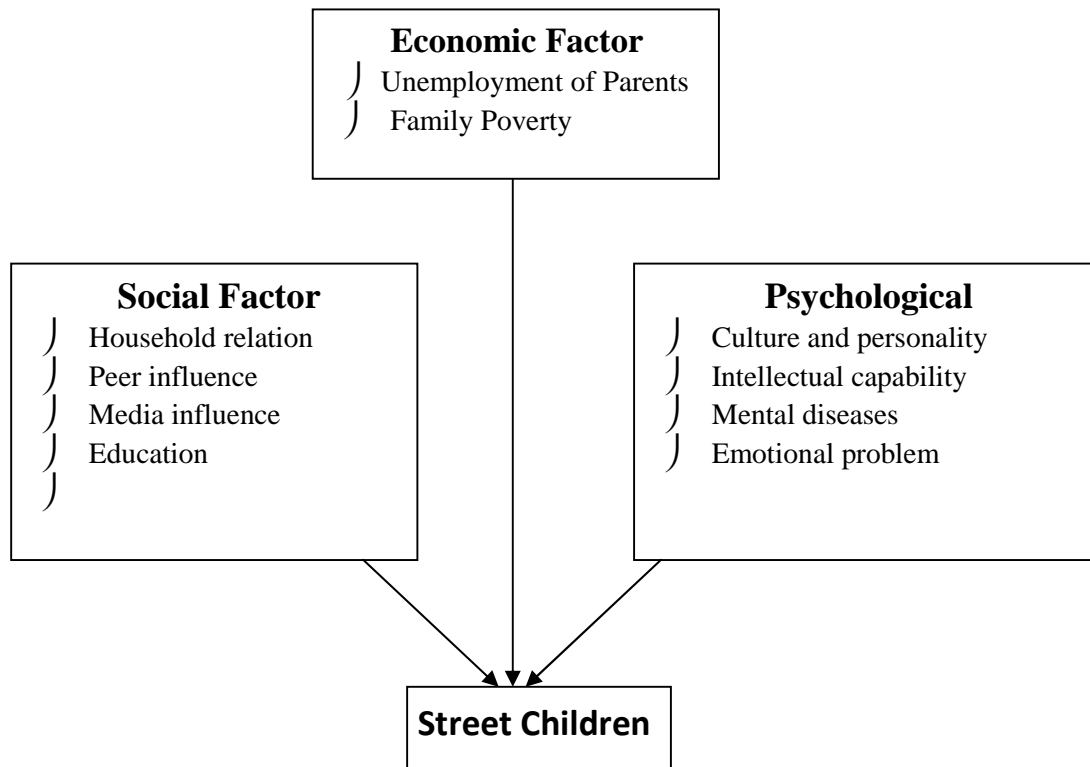
cottage industry, manufacture, plantation, domestic, scattering, selling manual labor, sexual exploitation, and street child.

Manandhar (1992) writes in a seminar paper entitled "A situation of street children in Nepal" presented to South Asian workshop on street children, organized by Tata institute of social service, Bombay, India in collaboration with International association of schools of social work, Vienna, Austria by establishing a correlation between poverty and growth in the number of street children as those, "who spend about 5-6 hours each day in the street go back every evening to their parents in slum areas." The number of such children in the Kathmandu is quoted to be 500; of which 89 percent come from outside Kathmandu. The existing legal provision failed to be effective in addressing the problems of child labor. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a body at the highest level and ombudsperson to supervise action on behalf of children.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

As the aim of present study was to explore the present status of street children in Chabahil area of Kathmandu along with the causes of being so, the theoretical and empirical review stated so far helped us now to derive the following conceptual framework of the study:

Figure: 1 Conceptual Framework



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

Social Factors: A child does only those things that s/he learns from the society. Family is the primary institution where a child starts to be

socialized. Therefore, the family should have good and strong relationship with each of the member. If family is itself suffering from bad condition like turmoil or broken home and loose family ties, a child always feels insecure and cannot learn well. Parental care determines the nature of child. Like family, a child also learns from his friends or peer groups. If s/he meets bad companion we cannot expect good behavior from her/him. Likewise, education and media are also influencing on the personality of a child.

Psychological Factors: Individuals have different personalities as certain universal traits link all humans at all. These common characteristics are not necessarily biologically based. They may also result from universal or nearly universal extrasensory experiences viz. birth itself, stage of psychological development; internalization with parents, siblings and others and experiences with other objects. The psychological factors viz. culture and personality, intellectual capability, emotional problem and mental diseases affect the degree/extent of street children in some unexpected deal.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher had made use of the following methodological strategies to carry out and complete the proposed research work:

3.1 Sources of the Data

The study made use of both the primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data were collected from the field using different tools and techniques of data collection. The secondary data were collected through document study. The primary data were the main information for analysis and interpretation and the secondary data were supportive for the development of theoretical backbone of the study.

3.2 Research Design

The study was qualitative in nature. Both the descriptive and analytical study design were used in the study. The collected data were described in narration and were analytically be analyzed so as to derive the finding of the study.

3.3 Sample of the Study

The researcher sampled 20 street children from Chabahil area of Kathmandu valley by using purposive sampling method of sample selection for the collection of primary data.

3.4 Tools and Techniques for Data Collection

A semi-structured interview schedule was used in the study as the tools for collecting data. A comprehensive interview schedule was constructed mostly relating to the situation and problems of street children and were administered to the sampled population to get necessary responses for study. Further, case study method was used to study the specific cases of the children.

3.5 The Process/Method of Data Collection/Analysis

First, the researcher prepared all the tools and set all the techniques for collecting required information. He Sought necessary permission from the concerned department to conduct the study and visited the field with the research tools. Then, he purposively sampled the necessary population. A good rapport was established with the informants and the purpose and the process of research was explained in detail as far as possible. The questions set in the questionnaire were asked to them for their responses. At the same time, the researcher interviewed them with the help of a semi-structured interview schedule to seek other necessary information that were lacking in the questionnaire. After completing the field work, the data were reviewed, edited, coded and tabulated before start analyzing and interpreting them.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

As Nepal is a developing country, the gap between the poor and the rich is unreasonably huge. So many factors contribute to have such situation. The socio-cultural trend of this country is basically influenced by feudalistic norms and values. A large majority of the people is uneducated and unconscious and move by superstitions and conservative thinking. Further, poor economy is another main element that determines the living standard and the way of living of the people.

As parents are poor, they cannot well treat their children. Most parents in the rural (and also urban) areas who send their children to work not only for an additional income, but also to reduce the number of hungry stomachs to be feed. This miserable condition of our country has affected each sector of society and the children are its main victims. Street children are an unavoidable phenomenon in the country like Nepal where unplanned urbanization is a growing trend. In this country, there is huge gap between villages and cities, as well as rich and poor. Most of the cities have been pointed by so called new development models where villages are deprived from even a basic facilities like food, health care, drinking water, education, general physical development and employment. This has also caused a growing number of street children in the major cities in Nepal. This is why; there is no other way to these children except to run away from their home to city areas in search of works for the betterment of their life. The migration of children to the urban areas has been increasing tremendously. This is one of the serious indicators that may result a child to be in the street.

Before start dealing with the status of street children in Nepal, it is better to talk about the category to which they belong. There are two types of street children:

-) Children of the street: Children who live in the street
-) Children on the street: Children who only use the street as their working place and live with their families

Our concern in the study is in the first category of the children stated above.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Informants

This section describes characteristics of the 20 children who were interviewed for the purpose of this study. The description presented below helps to understand street children's background and the effect of street living. There are different reasons for the children to leave home. Poverty, too much of work at home, maltreatment by step (father/mother) parents etc. are some of the major ones. Before start dealing with the problems, they face, it is necessary to know their place of origin, age group ethnicity, family status their educational status.

4.1.1 Origin of the Street Children

From the survey, street children can be categorized into two groups, in terms of migration and their residential status. The first category consists of street children who have left their home in the villages and are living in town. They migrated to these places in search of jobs with close relatives or friends. The second categories are the ones who are from squatters whose family live in nearby places. Their guardian's maltreatment results them run away from their homes. The migration from rural to urban among landless laborers with the desire to escape from economic hardships and in search of employment is another cause. The table below has shown the place of origin of the street children involved in the study:

Table No. 1: Place of Origin of the Street Children

SN	Place of origin	No.	%
1	Periphery of Kathmandu Valley	12	60
2	Eastern Hill	2	10
3	Eastern Terai	3	15
4	Western Hill	1	5
5	Western Terai	2	10
	Total	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

It has been clear from the data presented above that the place of origin of the street children were diverse however, the great majority have been from the periphery of Kathmandu, which is less developed hill. These comprise 60 percent of the total respondents. Eastern terai comprising of 15 percent of the total respondents becomes second main place of the origin of street children in Kathmandu. In this way, each 10 percent street children come from eastern hills and western terai, which is the third largest majority of the street children. Rest of other 5 percent of the street children came from the western hill, which is the lowest percentage of the total respondents involved in the study.

So far as the reason behind their street life is concerned, many of the respondents pointed out for the mal-treatment of their parents/guidance. The interview and the interaction with them during field study has shown the following reasons behind their miserable street life:

-) Expectation of better life
-) Too much work at home
-) Conflict
-) Maltreatment by the guardians/parents
-) Influenced by friends
-) No schooling around

4.1.2 Age Structure

The age between 10-16 years is a critical period for child. This age is the period of socialization and self-esteem. Most of the child labor falls under this age. The table below shows the age structure of the informants:

Table No. 2: Distribution of Street Children by Age Group

SN	Age- group	Boys	Girls	Total	%
1	5-9	1	-	1	5
2	9-12	5	-	5	25
3	12-14	7	1	8	40
4	14+	5	1	6	30
	Total	18	2	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

According to the data presented in the table above, out of 20 children surveyed, 18 were boys and only two were girls. This indicates a very low percentage of girls among the street children. This may partly be explained by the fact that streets are not safe places for girls. All respondents were categorized into four groups based on their age structure i.e. 5-9 years, 9-12 years, 12-14 years, and above 14 years. Out of the 20 children interviewee, 5 percent street children are of 5-9 age group, 25 percent were in 9-12 age group, 40 percent were in 12-14 age group, 30 percent were in the age above 14 years. Only 2 respondents were girls, one each of 12-14 and 14+ age group. Out of 20 children, one child (5%) is in the age group of 5-9 years. 6 children (30%) were above 14 years. This survey also revealed that most of the lower aged group children belonged to poor families. Due to lack of nourishing food, these children's physical growth is lower. Therefore, they seemed to be younger than their actual age.

4.1.3 Caste/Ethnic Composition

The ethnic diversity of street children in Kathmandu constitutes children from various ethnic groups such as Chhetri, Brahmin, Magar, Tamang, Rai, Lama, Damai, Chaudhari, Newar and Kumal, which is presented in the table below:

Table No. 3: Distribution of Street Children by Ethnicity and Gender

Ethnicity	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Chhetri	2	-	2	10
Tamang	2	2	4	20
Brahmin	1	-	1	5
Magar	2	-	2	10
Rai	1	-	1	5
Lama	2	-	2	10
Damai	1	-	1	5
Chaudhari	2	-	2	10
Newar	2	-	2	10
Kumal	1	-	1	5
Madhesi	2	-	2	10
Total	18	2	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

According to the data presented in the table above, Tamang has the highest (20%) of street children, followed by Lama, Magar, Madhesi, Chaudhari, Newar and Chhetri (each 10%). Similarly, Brahmin, Rai, Damai and Kumal constituted each 5 percent of the street children population studied so far.

4.1.4 Educational Status of the Respondents

Though Nepal has announced for the basic education to all by 2015 AD., it has attained only about 64 percent literacy rate (according to the rough data of the national census 2011). From the case study of the 20 children, near about 35 percent children interviewed were illiterate. Many children were attending non-formal education programs provided by their concerned organization in Kathmandu. Among those who had been to school before, most of them had studied only between 1 and 2 classes. The Children were willing to go to school. But, they cannot go to school as they have no source of income, which supplements their survival along with the study. A hunch is predicted through the study that the high dropout rate of the primary school level has become one

of the contributing factors to the growth of street children. The educational status of the street children was found as below:

Table No. 4: Distribution Status of Children's Education Level

Level of Education	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	5	1	6	30
Literate	8	1	9	45
Primary (1-5)	4	-	4	20
Lower Secondary (6-8)	1	-	1	5
Total	18	2	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

As shown in Table 4 above, 30 percent of the total respondents were illiterate and had not attended any school. Other 45 percent were just literate. Some 20 percent children had studied up to primary school, and only 5 percent had acquired lower secondary level education. None of the respondent children was studying during the period of the field survey.

4.1.5 Causes of Not Joining/Continuing School

Every child has a dream to go to school. However, they cannot go as most of these children come from poor families where main source of their family income becomes agriculture. Many of the families have a little land or no land at all. Although primary level education is free in Nepal, the prevailing socio-economic condition like poverty, illiteracy, lack of adequate working and employment facilities compel parents to send their children to work rather than to school for their survival. Furthermore, the case of street children regarding their education is bitter. During the survey, when they were asked to give the reasons for not joining or not continuing school, respondent had given different reasons behind it. The main reasons were related to family and personal causes. The status of their responses was given in the following table:

Table No. 5: Distribution of Children by Causes of Not Attending Schools

Causes	Number	Percentage
Poverty	9	45
Not interested	1	5
Parent's distorted	2	10
Negligence of parents	4	20
No school around	3	15
Death of parents	1	5
Total	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

As far as the data presented in the table above is concerned, it is clear that the large number (45%) of the respondents were not joining the school due to poverty. Similarly, 5 percent children were not interested to join/continue their study and 20 percent were deprived because of the negligence of their parents. Death of parents resulted for 5 percent of them and parents distorted resulted for 10 percent. According to 15 percent of the total respondents, they did not join school, as there was no school in their access in their locality during their first school age.

4.2 Household Status

Most child laborers and the street children have come from poverty stricken villages where poor parents have few opportunities for employment. The situation of landlessness, indebtedness and poverty at home is forcefully pushing the rural poor to the cities with the hope to escape from growing tragedies one of the reasons for children coming for work is believed to be family problems including violence at home and broken families. Street children's household status is affected by various factors such as HH structure, parent's educational level and economic condition. Nepalese society is male dominant society. In the other hand when one of the parents of a child especially mother dies then father generally gets second marriage. As a result there arise discrepancy between own children and stepchildren. These first children are badly treated by their stepmothers.

Therefore, to understand the family status, an attempt has been made in this chapter to explore the family milieu, such as parental status (alive or dead), education and overall awareness as well as their economic condition. For the convenience of our study, the points have been dealt separately.

4.2.1 Type and size of Household

According to the interaction and interview with the respondents during the field study, most of the respondents were from nuclear families and a few were from joint family. In most of the nuclear families, presences of stepparents (either stepfather or stepmother) were observed in this survey. In a joint family after death or absence of parents, children's care was taken by grandparents or uncles and aunts. Children cannot get perfect nutrition and love as of their parents by their guardians.

Size of a household is influenced in general, by sociological reasons besides economic reasons. The poor household have normally high fertility rates and hence bigger family size. This bigger household size of street children might be due to the existence of joint household or stepparents. Thus, a bigger household size means many mouths to eat and many pushing needs, which might have pushed the children in to street. Thus, presence of stepparents and regular absence of father or mother has a negative impact on the economic, social, and mental condition of the street children. As our study is concerned, among the 20 family, 9 were found joint and rests of 11 were found nuclear in family structure. No matter whether the family was joint or nuclear, the size of the family was found larger than the average size. That is, according to the respondents, most of their family size was of more than 6-7 members.

4.2.2 Parents Living Status (Alive or Dead)

The majority of the street children had both parents remaining alive. However, this does not mean that the parents were living together as a household. They were remarried or separated. The fact that most of the children have both parents certainly suggests that the parents have not carried out their

responsibility of taking care of their children adequately. This denotes parental negligence as one of the factors behind children's moving into the street. The following table has shown a glance of living status of their parents:

Table 4.6: Status of Parents (Alive or Dead) by Children's Sex

Status	Boys	Girls	Total
Father alive	7	1	8
Mother alive	2	-	2
Both alive	6	-	6
Both died	3	1	4
Total	18	2	20

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

The data presented in the table above clearly shows that out of 20 street children, 40 percent children have their father alive. Similarly, for 10 percent children, their father was dead, that is only mother is alive. Among the children, 30 percent respondents had their parents alive and 20 percent children's parents were dead. Out of total respondent, all the respondents of street children know about their parents living status (alive or dead).

According to the data obtained from the interaction and interview with the informants, the main reason driving children out of their home is the maltreatment of their stepparents. In most of the cases, it had found that either one or both of the parent's death leads to fulfill the vacancy by step parents. This observation may not be true in all cases because most of the respondents of this study were from the families having both parents alive. But it is definite that death of any one of the parents bring stress and strain beyond the management of the child and the family dissolution may isolate the child and drive him/her away from the family sanctuary. This, in many respect, was proved by the respondents as well.

4.2.3 Parental Education

In developing countries like Nepal, illiteracy rate is high and is a serious drawback. The illiteracy of parents and general ignorance of them are perhaps the major respond for the widespread nature of street children. In Nepal, illiteracy has dropped from 76.50 percent in 1981 to only 60.40 percent in 1991 and 46.3 percent in 2001, according to the national data of CBS (2001). Although government budget on education is high, the progress in literacy is very low in comparison to it. In this respect, the following table shows the educational status of the parents of the street children. This data is based on the responses of the informants, and depends on their knowledge of it. Thus, it may and may not have actual in overall.

Table No. 7: Status of the Parent's Education

Educational Status	Number	Percentage
Illiterate	5	25
Just literate	7	35
Primary	2	10
Secondary	1	5
Above S.L.C.	1	5
Don't know	4	20
Total	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

The table above shows that the majority (35%) of the children's parents was just literate and 25 percent of them were illiterate. This table also indicates that 10 percent parents of the respondents had primary level education. Similarly, each 5 percent parents of the street children have secondary level education and above SLC level education. Lastly, 20 percent children did not know any about their parent's educational status. This data shows that most of the parents of the street children were of low level of educational attainment, in which, most of them were illiterate as well. From this, it can also generate that parent's educational status is also one of the deterministic factor to determine the future of their children.

4.2.4 Family Livelihood and Occupation

Majority of the Nepalese total population live in rural areas of the country and more than 80 percent of them are solely dependent on agriculture for their survival. Although Nepal is called an agricultural country, the agriculture is based on the traditional technologies. As a result, it is consumption oriented rather than becoming vocational. This is why; the major source of income is agriculture followed by wage labor. The study supports the general assumptions that the child labor is a result of poverty of the family. It is often a response to the basic requirement of the family. Parental occupations of the street children (respondents) were presented in the following table. These data were based on the responses of the respondents in an interaction and the interview during the field visit.

Table No. 8: Status of the Parent's Occupation

Occupation	Number	Percentage
Agriculture	5	25
Wage Labor	4	20
Business	3	15
Porter/worker/driver	3	15
Domestic servant	1	5
Other	1	5
Don't know	3	15
Total	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

The data presented in the table above shows that the majority (25%) of the children's parents were engaged in agriculture. Likewise 20 percent of the children's parents were engaged in wage labor. As same as this, each 15 percent of them were engaged in business and porter/worker/driver. According to rest of 15 percent of the informants, they did not know about the occupational status of their parents. According to the data presented in the table above, each 5 percent of the informant's parents were domestic labor and general service owner.

4.2.5 Status of Household Income Sufficiency

In Nepal, many people live under the poverty line, except a few professionals and businesspersons and perhaps some large landowners. This study supports the general assumption that child labor is directly related to the poverty of the parents and their household. Fulfilling the basic requirements of the households is an obligation of the households. The children of the under or unemployed families, therefore, must work for the household's survival. At the work place, either masters or owners abuse the children. So, they are forced by their employers to run away and work on the street. The table below shows the status of the household income of the informant's family.

Table No. 9: Distribution of Household Income Sufficiency

Income	Number	Percentage
Sufficient	4	20
Just sufficient	5	25
Insufficient	7	35
Don't know	4	20
Total	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

According to the data presented in the table above, 20 percent of the street children's household income is sufficient. That means it was sufficient to a certain level and style out of the total 20 respondents. For rest of 25 percent children, their household income was just sufficient for their family survival that means tightly sufficient but no saving for education and health etc. As reported, 35 percent children's household income is not sufficient for survival. According to 20 percent of the respondent's they did not have any knowledge about their parental earnings. This data denote that the income of the respondent's parents is not sufficient to well-accelerate their family.

4.2.6 Monthly Household Income

Household income is one of the causes that lead children to be on the street from the study of parental occupation, it found that majority of the households

do not reserve regular wage. So, these households are insecure financially. Those who receive regular wage are able to earn invariable low income under these circumstances, poverty normally would not allow them to schooling and even sufficient food for their livelihood. Thus, children have to work hard from their early age and they cannot take burden of heavy work. So, there is no other way for these children except to run away from their home to city areas in search of betterment of life. Thus, insufficient family income or poverty is also deep-rooted cause to become street children. The table below has presented the monthly household income of the informant's family:

Table 10: Distribution of Street Children's Household Income

Income level (Rs.)	Number	Percentage
Below 1,000	3	15
1,000-2,000	5	25
2,000-3,000	6	30
3,000-4,000	4	20
More than 4,000	1	5
Don't know	1	5
Total	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

The data presented in the table above shows that, out of the total respondents, 30 percent street children's family income is up to Rs. 2000-3000 per month. Likewise, 25 percent of the street children's household income is up to Rs. 1000-2000 per month. Similarly, 15 percent of street children's household income is below Rs. 1000 per-month. Only 5 percent children's household income is more than Rs. 4000 per month. Lastly, rests of other 5 percent of the total respondents did not know about their family income. This data indicate the poor status of street children's household income for survival.

4.3 Problem, its Causes and Consequence

Children in Nepal start working at a very young stage in and around their own homes. In the rural economy, children have played a significant role in the family subsistence, fetching water, collecting firewood, grazing cattle, carrying for children and supporting parents in the field are the most common works that children perform in the rural areas. Nowadays, the migration of the children to the urban areas has been increasing tremendously and this has ultimately contributed to an overwhelming increment of the magnitude of child labor. In this way, a majority of children are employed in informal sectors carpet and garment industries, confectionery, brick kilns, roads and building construction. Transportation and stone quarries and domestic service are major child labor employing agencies in Nepal the reasons for this are that children are a cheap source of labor.

As the street children are increasing day by day, the incensement of the street children in slum and squatter areas has also been contributing factor for their growth in the urban areas. There is no need to repeat that the existing Nepali society is one of the most poverty stricken and backward societies in the world. Increasing poverty, illiteracy, and ignorance are leading our society into more and more misery. The living standards of the people have gone down every passing day like the setting sun. This miserable condition of our country has affected every sector of society and the children are its main victims. Not only have they been deprived of necessities like nutrition, shelter, clothing, education, and health care but they suffer from humiliation negligence, abuse, exploitation, and disease. It means there are many problems and obstacles in their path that prevent them from leading a normal childhood. Some of them as explored by the study have been dealt in detail below:

4.3.1 Causes of Leaving Home

As the study is concerned, the significance of street children's past experiences in the home, specifically with respect to family and friends in forming their self-image and social identities are the major cause for living home. The causal factors: poverty at home, problematic family relationship, conflict related phenomenon in the villages and the attractions of the city are the main causes that were found (during the study) as one of the causes of the child for leaving her home. It seemed logical to assume that a child's perspective on his departure, as well as those of members of his community, would differ depending whether it was promoted by conflict within the family the encouragement of friend or the search for work. The table below has attempted to show a glimpse of the causes of leaving home:

Table 11: Causes for Living Home

Causes	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Maltreatment/Abuse	5	2	7	35
Influenced by others	4	-	4	20
Exception of better life	3	-	3	15
Poverty	3	-	3	15
Conflict	1	-	1	5
Death of parents	1	-	1	5
Others	1	-	1	5
Total	18	2	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

It is clear from the table above that large proportions of the respondents leave their home due to the maltreatment/abuse, which were accounted for 35 percent. Similarly, 20 percent of the respondents left their home due to expectation of better life and other 15 percent of the respondents left their home due to poverty. Death of parents and conflict caused children to live their home, which accounted for 5 percent and the remaining 5 percent had suggested other reasons for living the home.

4.3.2 Types of Work the Children Did

Speaking in general, children start working as soon as they become age of six or above depending on the level of development, prevailing culture, and tradition of society they live. In Nepal, it is common to ask a 7/8 years child for some help may that be household chores or farm works. As in an estimate cited in the Nepal human development report 2011, some 35 percent of the 10-14 years age group is economically active. Although the government data does not include children, working less than 10 years of age the reality is that many children below 10 years of age are also working along with their frontier of the family.

Most of the street children worked either rag picking and selling in on a junkyards or begging at tourist areas. To fulfill the immediate basic needs, except these two jobs, many children were engaged in different types of work depend upon the area where these children live. For example, a street child at Chabahil Chwok worked at a local fast food restaurant as dishes cleaner. Another one was found begging with the domestic and foreign tourists at Mitrapark and Jai Bageshwari area. Above all, the following table has shown a glimpse of the works that the street children were done during the field study:

Table 12: Types of Work Done by Street Children

Types of Work	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Rag pickers	7	-	7	35
Hotel/restaurant	2	1	3	15
Beggars	6	-	6	30
Bus/truck cleaners	1	-	1	5
Domestic work	1	1	2	10
Selling papers	1	-	1	5
Total	18	2	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

Among the 20 respondents, 35 percent were found to be engaged in rag pickers and selling it in a junkyard. The second rank of data was of the beggars who were 30 percent of the total respondents. Similarly, 15 percent were working as hotel/restaurant assistants where they could get just food as their return. Rests of 10 percent children were surviving by domestic work at local area. The minority of children (each 5%) were engaged as bus/truck cleaners, and in selling newspaper with loud voice on the road (as hawkers). This data shows that almost all the street children studied so far were engaged in any sorts of income generation activities mainly for the survival and to solve the day-to-day hand-to-mouth problems.

4.3.3 Income Profile

The level of income of street children depends upon their types of work. Begging is an easy type of works whereas rag picking is of hard and risky type. The beggars of tourist areas earn larger amount of income than other children. The study also found (from the interaction and interview) that the street children earn sufficient income for their daily survival but they spend huge amount of their income in watching cinema, taking drug and gum, having alcohol and smoking.

Table 13: Distribution of Street Children by Their Cash Income

Income level (Rs./day)	Number	Percentage
Below 20	3	15
20-50	6	30
50-80	4	20
80-100	4	20
100+	3	15
Total	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

The data in the table above shows that 30 percent of children earned Rs. 20 to 50 per day. As same as this 20 percent of children earned Rs. 50 to 80 per day and other 20 percent earned 80-100 per day. Likewise, 15 percent

of children earned less than Rs. 20 per day. Only 15 percent of street children earned more than Rs. 100 per day. The table supports that begging and rag picking are the predominant sector of street children's income sources.

4.3.4 Income Level by Types of Work

Street children are engaged in various type of work such as rag picking, begging, selling papers, domestic work hotel etc. Income level of street children depends upon their types of work. The principle sources of income for street children are begging and rag picking during the survey it was found that generally rag pickers earn much amount than other worker. They collect scraps either early in the morning or from evening to night and sell them in a junkyard. But the beggars of tourist area have larger amount of income than all other children. The income level of beggars depends upon the area where they beg. To specify more, distribution of children by types of work and income level presented on the given table.

Table 14: Types of Work and Income Level of the Respondents

Types of work	Income level (Rs./day)					
	Below 20	20-50	50-80	80-100	100+	Total
Rag pickers	-	2	2	2	1	7
Hotel/restaurant	-	2	1	-	-	3
Beggars	1	1	2	1	1	6
Bus/truck cleaners	-	-	1	--	-	1
Domestic work	-	-	1	1	-	2
Selling papers	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	1	6	7	4	2	20

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

The data presented in the table above shows that the street children's income level ranged from less than Rs. 20 to more than Rs. 100 per day. In average, they used to earn Rs. 50-80 per day.

4.3.5 Expenditure Pattern

The street children, who have no home or guardians taking care of them, usually spend all their earning in a day and therefore have no means of survival for days where earnings are insufficient. As they come from the households who are living in precarious economic conditions and where overall, earnings may be insufficient to feed the household. It is expected that street children usually earn sufficient income to cover their food cost after half and days rag picking in entertainment. Therefore, they have to borrow for food and clothes from the junkyard owner. However, borrowed cash is more often spent on cinema tickets, tasty foods, alcohol, cigarettes, glue, and gum sniffing and gambling with cards and carom board. The phrase much repeated by boys available in the Chabahil Chwok "money comes in quickly and a goes quickly in 'khate' job" sums up what they see as their inability to resist spending money immediately. The table below shows the principal spending items perceived by the street children:

Table No. 15: Principal Spending Items Perceived by Street Children

Expenditure	Boys	Girls	Total	Percentage
Food	6	1	7	35
Smoking	2	-	2	10
Clothes	2	1	3	15
Alcohol	2	-	2	10
Entertainment	3	-	3	15
Medical treatment	1	-	1	5
Lost	1	-	1	5
Other	1	-	1	5
Total	18	2	20	100

Source: Field Study Survey, 2011

From the above table, it can be seen that the street children's expenditure on different items was according to their priority basis. The main items of expenditure were food, clothing, smoking and entertainment. Out of the total 20 respondents, 35 percent have incurred expenses on food. Almost 15

percent of the children gave priority to spending on clothes, 15 percent spent on different types of entertainment as third priority. Other respondents had given low priority to smoking and alcohol (10%). Finally, 5 percent of the children's expenses went on medical treatment. They told that the looting of their money by local boys (the so-called dada) and extra expenses on different things such as lending to friends, expenses on amusing things was the other field of their expenses. . During the survey period, it was found that these children did not worry about the future and found interested just to enjoy and survive at present.

4.3.6. Major Problem the Children Faced

The street children do not labor hard like other working children. During the survey, all the respondents were asked whether the earning was sufficient to their survival and could save some from earning. It was found that the entire respondent save something from what they earned. However, the children were influenced by bad atmosphere and have learnt all types of bad habit. They do earn and spend their earning immediately. These children do not have any incentive to save. So explained earlier drinking alcohol, glue and gum sniffing, taking smoking and watching film were the main area of their enjoyment. They also spent their money for sticking mouth and noses into plastic bags inhaling the intoxicant. This is a new trend of getting highs as intoxicant and other drugs remain expensive and inaccessible to these street children.

Based on this context, an attempt was made to explore and analyze the major problems faced by them in their life. Referring back to the interview and interaction with them during the field visit, the following problems were found faced by them at the field and in their life:

-) Problems to manage the basic needs-food, cloths, and shelter
-) Maltreatment of other people

-) Harassment and exploitation by seniors, tourists, local boys (dada), police, and local people
-) Security threats
-) No worry and hope of future life
-) Homelessness, helplessness and hopelessness
-) Health related problems
-) Sexual exploitation

Street children are a widespread phenomenon in both the developed and developing countries. A majority of our children live very miserable condition in their everyday life. They need protection and security. The burden of the child is his/her innocence. The Childs innocence attracts the predator innocence makes the child vulnerable. For many children, the reality of child hood is altogether different. Due to family problems, domestic violence, poverty and illiteracy many of the children are compelled to live miserable life. Their innocence and basic rights were threatened and victimized by all sort of exploitation.

Children working as garbage collectors, shoe shiner and porters are described as 'part of the self employed sector often homeless and leading a marginalized life where crime, alcohol and drug abuse, gambling, violence and police harassment are an everyday reality' (CWIN 1998:40). The most enthusiastically contested aspect of Khate' identity is their association with theft criminal activity in general. During the survey it was found that the police often harassed them as they chased, taken to the police station, unjustly accused of theft, then beaten and held for several days.

Child stage is the most effective stage of human development. However, in every developed and developing country, children are exploited in different ways. Children are always being the victims of violence and abuse. Sexual abuse of street children is not new phenomena are a country like Nepal.

However, different means of media and police also says. Nepal is being a centre for pedophilia. Child abuse is the illegal sex acts performed against children below 16 years by an elder person for their sexual satisfaction. Children are very vulnerable and are not matured enough to protect themselves from sexual exploitation. Physically or mentally, they are immature and easily targeted.

Sex is not something that is ordinarily talked about in public. However, children do not want to express about their sexual exploitation, some senior street boys were asked about street child abuse. It was found that, local vendors and tourists offer help in times of need. Every so often, certain children are successful in striking up a more lasting relationship with tourists who foster them during their stay. The interpersonal relationship existing under the guise of 'welfare work' is very complex and at times, incurred various forms of exploitation. However, the degree of risk to street children of sexual exploitation is unknown because of the lacking of related contents in the research tools.

4.3.7 Case Study

Some important cases were collected and presented here which were related to the subject matter of our study

1. A Case Study of Narendra Rawal

He is a boy of 14 years. He was from Liwang village of Rolpa district. Maoists took his father in their civil war. During the war with police in Rolpa, his father was killed in police encounter. Then his mother went to police station to beg justice for their protection. While returning, the armed force of Maoists shot his mother. He has twin sisters and one brother. His uncle is now taking care of them. When he heard that Maoists were coming to take him in their force, he ran away from the village without saying a word to anyone. He came to Kathmandu 6 years ago by bus and got down

at Kalanki. That was his first visit to Kathmandu. He got confused where to go after getting down from the bus. He started walking to east road unconsciously. He reached at Kalimati. There he saw a big signboard and the gate of Kalimati vegetable market. He entered into the gate. It was a morning time and someone told him to unload the vegetables from the tempo. He did his work and that is how he earned Rs. 10. Then he saw other boys like him engaged in the same work. One day, he loaded a Tempo full of vegetables. There was a women from Chabahil who was buying those vegetables. After loading the sake of vegetables, she requested him to go with her up to Chabahil to which she would pay Rs. 50. Thus, he went to there. Chabahil was the new destination for him. He decided to stay at there. The women of the grocery contacted him to a bus driver. The driver gave an opportunity to clean his bus once a day in each evening. He provided him Rs. 40 and the supper as well. From that day till now, he is doing the same job. He is satisfied from the jobs because of money. He sleeps with his friends in the vegetable market. He wants to go home to bring his brother and sisters here in Kathmandu. He thinks that it is his responsibility to take of care them, being a big brother. He earns Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 per day, now-a-days. He wants to be an army in the future.

2. A Case Study of Mote Darji

Mote is a 13-year boy from Gorkha. He has studied up to grade two in his village. He dropped out the school because his family does not have sufficient amount of money to buy stationery and uniform. He used to live in joint family in a small house. His family occupation is sewing cloth. His father and uncle used to play musical instrument at the time of marriage bartbandh in the village. This occupation could not fulfill the needs of the 11 members of the family. He has grandmother, father, mother, two sisters, two brothers, two uncles, aunt, and himself. His father does not have much land. Poverty, lack of food at home is the main reason of leaving home. His mother was the only one who was aware of his leaving of home. After

leaving home he came to Mugling. He saw many children selling different items to the bus passengers. Then, he also decided to do that type of work. It was the summer season. He bought two cucumbers for Rs. 5 and then sold them in pieces for Rs. 18. He found it profitable. Then, after spending a week in Mugling, he came to Kathmandu and reached Chabahil. For a couple of days he was without work. He saw other children collecting plastics, tin and other stuff in Bus Park. Then he had friendship with them and started doing the same work. Now, he works at a fast food restaurant at Chabahil Chwok.

3. A Case Study of Sano Bhai Lama

He is a 15 years child from Dhanding. He has studied up to grade four. He left his school because his family decided to engage him in the work at city. Therefore, they send him to Kathmandu with his uncle. His uncle put him in the job, as auto conduction. His sleeps in tempo. The owner of the tempo provides him food and clothing as well as Rs. 600 monthly. He sends Rs. 500 to his home.

Generally, he goes home during festival time. He looted twice by a Junki (big street boys who takes drugs) when he was sleeping at garage. Since those events took place, he does not keep money with him during nighttime. Once the police at Chabahil also caught him because he was hanging outside the moving tempo during office time. The police kept him at station the whole night and punished him. In the morning, police told him to clean the toilet. From that day, he does not like police, so he wants to become a Maoist to take revenge and punish them.

4. A Case Study of Thule Gharti

He is a 13-year boy from Hetauda. His father had five wives. His mother had eloped with another man when he was two-years old. He came to Kathmandu with one of his stepmothers. He and his stepmother ran away

from the home because of his father's alcoholism and violence upon them. Now his stepmother has married another man. Therefore, he became alone and living in the street. He uses to sell water bottle and other foodstuff in the long and short route bus, standing in the street of Chabahil. Sometimes he also works as a rag picker. His average daily income is in range of Rs. 50 to Rs. 60. When his friends talk about their family gathering during the visit to their home at festival time, he feels alone and sad in the street. He wants to become police in the future.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the analysis, interpretation and presentation of the collected data, the following summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study have been drawn. For the convenience of our presentation, summary, conclusion and recommendations have been presented in separate sub-headings as below:

5.1 Summary

This study presents the findings of the rapid assessment made about street children in Chabahil areas of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. The field survey that forms the basis of this study covered 20 street children, among which 18 were boys and two were girls who were interviewed at different places of Chabahil area, Kathmandu.

In this study, an attempt is made to identify the major factors leading to the children's to being street and the conditions under which they are surviving, and the steps taken by governmental and non-governmental agencies. There is a lack of information on the condition of street children in Nepal. The study, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative information and data, has attempted to provide some important aspects of the street children situation especially of the street of Kathmandu city

Most of the children were between the age group of 12-14 years, followed by the age group of 9-12 years. A majority of the child workers were from Chhetri and Tamang communities. Almost all children were migrant workers coming from Makwanpur, Okhaldhunga, Kabhre, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Hetauda, Dharan, Sindhuli, Dolkha, Siraha, Ramechhap, Nuwakot, Dang, Rolpa, Gorkha and Jhapa districts and there were a few child workers who have been recruited locally. Regarding education, out of

the 20 street children surveyed 5 percent had studied up to lower secondary and 20 percent children had studied up to primary level. Nearly, 30 percent of the street children were totally illiterate, and only 45 percent were just literate. Different factors are responsible for illiteracy such as neglect from parents and poverty. There are many causes of street children's leaving their home. Out of the total respondents, many of them left their home due to maltreatment/abuse, as well as from other's influences. Only some of them had done this in expectation of better life, due to poverty at home and the death of parent. Serious political burning conflict and other causes were also responsible for causing some children to leave home. However, urban attraction and pull factors of urban facilities were the reason for them to be now, on the street in Kathmandu.

Most of the children came from the agriculture and wage worker's background. Rests of others were from domestic servants. Only some of the children understudy were generating sufficient income for household and their own survival, whereas many of them were earning just sufficient and insufficient income. Illiteracy of parents is very high because parents of only some percent of children had gained the SLC level education, whereas most of the parents were illiterate.

The children understudy were engaged in various types of work but rag-picking and begging were the most common jobs. Out of the total respondents, 35 percent were engaged as rap-picking, 30 percent were engaged as begging, 15 percent were at hotel and restaurant and minority group were engaged in selling paper, domestic work, factory etc. Income level of street children depends upon their types of work. Begging is an easy type of work whereas rag pickers earn higher amount of income in comparison of other types of work. Beggars of tourist area earned larger amount of income than all other children's. Street children understudy were earned sufficient income for their daily food but they spent huge amount of their income in watching movie, alcohol, smoking etc.

Street children were exploited and harassed in various ways by various persons. Among them, senior street children, police, local boys etc. were involved to harass them. Tourists, however, harassed only a few of them.

Street children come from the poor, least organized and most deprived segments of the urban population. From the survey, it can be inferred that street children do not give high importance to health and personal hygiene issues. This is due to the fact that their main concern is with meeting the daily requirements of food along with the fact that they sleep on the streets had their meal twice a day, but a very simple food. However, fever, cough, diarrhea, headache, back pain are the major forms of sickness among the street children.

The street children were facing some major problems in their life. The following problems were found by the study faced by them at the field and in their life:

-) Problems to manage the basic needs-food, cloths, and shelter
-) Maltreatment of other people
-) Harassment and exploitation by seniors, tourists, local boys (dada), police, and local people
-) Security threats
-) No worry and hope of future life
-) Homelessness, helplessness and hopelessness
-) Health related problems
-) Sexual exploitation

5.2 Conclusions

To conclude the study, it can be said that the day-to-day fears of walking through a dark street can indicate that rights of the children need to be realized. Lots of NGOs, INGOs, many other social organization including Village Development Committee (VDC), District Child Welfare Board

(DCWB), Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) and Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare are working in the field of child rights so all these social organizations are engaged to uplift the socio-economic status of children.

The data presented in this research including only 20 respondents through judgmental sampling survey. Therefore, this study tries to give an overall picture of the situation of street children in Kathmandu city. From the survey, it was found that most of the street children have come from different ethnic caste group but greatest number of street children have come from Tamang, Damai, Magar, Chaudhari, Rai and Newar castes. This may indicate that those ethnic groups had a comparatively higher probability to resort to street child labor than other. Survey shows that, most of working children are in between the age group of 12-14 years, followed by the age group 9-12. Study also found that, due to lack of nourishing food, these children's physical growth is poor. Therefore, they seem to be younger than their actual age. Most of the children are willing to go to school but they are not able because of various factors and most of the children come to the street before completing their primary education. This is another factor in contributing to increase the number of the street children.

From this research, it is found that maltreatment/abuse, influence by others, poverty, conflict, death of parents are the major causes for leaving home. Study also shows that most of the migrant's children are from periphery of Kathmandu and minority group of street children are come from different part of nation. Children on the street category are because of poverty and children of the street category are because of maltreatment of their parents and influenced by their friends. Most of the children have both parents alive. This suggests that the parents have not carried out their responsibilities of taking good care of their children. Children from both

large and small size of families have come to the street but bigger family size might have pushed the children into the street. Thus, family cause has become one major cause of children leading in the street. Most of the children reported that their parents were adopted agricultural occupation and children from sufficient family income and children from insufficient family income both are leading on the street. Thus, poverty is not only the reason for them to come to the street rather maltreatment and other factors are the cause to push them into the street.

The study found that many of the street children are engaged in rag picking. However, children involved in begging and other jobs spent more hours and earn less money. This indicates that because fewer hours more money, the majority of street children in Kathmandu is rag picker rather than beggar and others. They enjoy street life because of autonomy and freedom, access to quick discretionary cash and entertainment, which they cannot have at home. Most of the children of the street category don't save whereas most of the children on the street category do save some money from their earnings.

Though most of the children are harassed and neglected by people from different walk of life, there are some people who support them in their daily life like junkyard owners who provided different support to rag pickers as food, shelter and loan also, like owner of the hotels where most of the children regularly bought their meals provided food on credit as well as collect some saving money of the street children, like many citizens who have also different kind of sympathy towards them. This indicates that they have maintained some social relation, as they are also a social being.

The study found that majority of the street children are involved at least one or more bad habit including either smoking or tobacco or alcohol or gum/glue sniffing. Street children sniff glue because it takes away the

children's hunger, cold, and despair and gives them the courage to steal and engage in picks pocketing. They are harassed and abused in different ways by different people in different places. But the result shows that, children from of the street category faced more harassment and many problems on the street rather than children from on the street category.

From the observation of their daily life including sleeping arrangements as well as health and hygienic condition, nature of work, food and clothing, a question arises as to whether they have the conditions of basic human dignity and human rights such as proper shelter, minimum level of nutritious food, and access to health facilities etc. Most of the children have dental hygiene problem among the personal cleanliness habits. As for bathing, washing clothes and hand washing is concern, these surveyed children are more conscious regarding the habit of personal cleanliness. Regarding the planning for the future of the street children, majority of these wants to be a drive. Apart this some children wants to join police and army force and even some wants to be doctor, engineering by undertaking higher studies if they have a chance to get education. This indicates that some children's have a keen interest towards education.

5.3 Recommendation for Further Research

-) Street children are very wide area of study. There are many problems and issues still to be analyzed and studied. Urbanization and industrialization are directly co-related with street children.
-) In this context, the following could be some of the areas worth of being investigated for beneficial results in contributing towards improving the conditions of the vulnerable children:
 - Analyzing situation of children's right in remote rural areas, which usually are their places of origin, should be studied.

- How large scale state drive programs and institutions can be stabilized in order to improve the situation of children in general, should be studied.
- In the present time, how many children's are affected by political conflict in the nation can be studied.
- How we can rehabilitate the street children properly.
- The aspect of street children's sexual harassment should be studied.

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