

CHILD LABOUR SITUATION IN MUSHAR COMMUNITY

(A Case Study of Bishahariya VDC of Saptari)

**A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO
THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION STUDIES (CDPS),
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES,
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY (TU)
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN POPULATION STUDIES**

BY

Pravesh Jha

**Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS)
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Tribhuvan University (TU)
Kathmandu**

SEPTEMBER 2012

DECLARATION

Except where otherwise acknowledged in the text, the analysis in this thesis represents my own original research.

Pravesh Jha

7 September 2012

RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that the thesis

Submitted by

Pravesh Jha

Entitled

Child Labour Situation in Mushar Community

(A Case Study of Bishahariya VDC of Saptari)

is Recommended for External Examination.

Mr. Sunil Kumar Acharya

.....

Thesis Supervisor

Date: September 7, 2012

VIVA-VOCE SHEET

We have conducted the viva-voce examination of the thesis

Submitted by

Pravesh Jha

Entitled

Child Labour Situation in Mushar Community

(A Case Study of Bishahariya VDC of Saptari)

and find that the thesis is an independent work of the student written according to the prescribed format. We accept the thesis as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Arts in Population Studies.

Evaluation Committee:

Prof. Dr. Prem Singh Bisht

Head, Central Department of Population Studies

Mr. Sunil Kumar Acharya

Thesis Supervisor

.....

Mr. Tej Prasad Adhikari

External Examiner

Date: September 7, 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Mr. Sunil Kumar Acharya, Lecturer, Central Department of Population Studies, Tribhuvan University, for his constant inspiration, encouragement, support, suggestions and guidance during the entire period of this research work.

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Prem Singh Bisht, the Head of Department for his kind administrative support. I would also like to express my thanks and best regards to all the staffs of CDPS, T.U. for their help from respective sectors.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to Mr. Jagdhar Thakur, VDC Secretary, Bishahariya, for proper guiding in the field and for secondary data collection

I would also like to thank all community children and their parents for cooperation during my field study. I would like to thank specially to Nanku Sada Mushar and Ramdev Sada.

I would like to thank my intimate colleagues Pawan, Ramesh and Ramkumar and my friends Rahul Ranjan, Manoj Khadka and Amit Kumar Mishra for their kind support throughout my dissertation work. I am really blessed to have all of them and wish good luck for their future.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my family members without whose support and inspiration I could not have gained the Masters' Degree. I am really thankful to my wife Amira Jha for her constant and never ending support for the accomplishment of this dissertation.

Last but not the least I would like to acknowledge all those persons who help me directly or indirectly to complete this work.

Date:

.....

Pravesh Jha

Batch:063/064

ABSTRACT

Child labour is a major universal social problem. The form of child labour ranges from domestic work to the industrial work prevailing in all developed and developing countries of the world. Child labour, a source of cheap labour is in high rate in countries like Nepal where a major part of population depends on agriculture. Using the data collected from child labours, this study attempts the status of Mushar child labour existing in Bishahariya VDC of Saptari district.

The objectives of this study were to examine the background characteristics of child labour along with finding the causes and working status of child labour. It is based on the primary data collected from the interview of 132 child labour respondents (72 males and 60 females) selected by purposive sampling.

In this study child labours interviewed were from age 8 years to 14 years with majority of children of age 13-14 years. Most of the child labours interviewed were found to work in brick kiln and agriculture sector either seasonally, occasionally or regularly. Most of them were found to work seasonally which may be due to the reason that brick kiln and agricultural works run only in certain seasons. Working hour of these children varied from less than 5 hours to 10-12 hours a day. Majority of respondents were found to work for 5-8 hours a day. Their salaries also varied between Rs. 1000-5000 per month with majority of respondents getting salary between Rs. 2000-3000 per month. Perception about their work showed that about 89 percent of them are satisfied with their job while 11 percent were not satisfied. The dissatisfaction due to low wage was about 47 percent. Mostly the children who work contributed to their family's income. Most of them contribute to buy food along with supporting to pay back debt of family and paying school fees.

Analysing the reason of work, majority of them had debts in their family which shows their poor economic condition. The actual reason for child labour was found to be poverty along with debt problems on them.

Keywords: Child labour, Mushar, Caste discrimination.

Contents

DECLARATION	i
RECOMMENDATION	ii
VIVA-VOCE SHEET	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
ABSTRACT	v
LIST OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF CHARTS AND FIGURES	ix
ACRONYMS	x
CHAPTER ONE	
INTRODUCTION	1-5
1.1 General Background	1
1.2 Child Labour	2
1.3 Statement of the Problem	3
1.4 Objectives of the Study	4
1.5 Significance of the Study	4
1.6 Limitation of the Study	5
1.7 Organization of the Study	5
CHAPTER TWO	
LITERATURE REVIEW	6-16
2.1 Concept and Definitions of Child Labour	6
2.2 Theoretical Literature	8
2.2.1 Theorizing child labour in general	8
2.2.2 Child Labour in Nepal	9
2.3 Empirical Literature	11
2.4 Some International and National Commitments	13
2.5 Variables Identified	15
2.5.1 Demographic Variables	15

2.5.2 Social Variables	15
2.5.3 Economic Variables	15
2.6 Conceptual Framework	15
CHAPTER THREE	
METHODOLOGY	17-18
3.1 Study Area	17
3.2 Research Design	17
3.3 Sample Design	17
3.4 Questionnaire Design and Field Operation	18
3.5 Data Collection, Processing and Analysis	18
CHAPTER FOUR	
CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDY POPULATION	19-24
4.1 Demographic Characteristics	19
4.1.1 Age and Sex Distribution of Sample Population	19
4.1.2 Parental Status of Respondents	20
4.2 Social Characteristics	20
4.2.1 Family size of Respondents	20
4.2.2 Parental Educational Status of Respondent	21
4.2.3 Educational Status of Respondents	22
4.3 Economic Characteristics	22
4.3.1 Housing condition of the Respondents	22
4.3.2 Main income source of respondents' family	23
4.3.3 Family Debt Status of Respondents	23
CHAPTER FIVE	
WORKING CONDITION OF CHILD LABOURS	25-36
5.1 Working Condition of Child Labourers	25
5.1.1 Reasons for joining work	25
5.1.2 Types of work	26
5.1.3 Working Hours	27
5.1.4 Working Time Frame	29

5.1.5	Control over income	30
5.2	Earning Status	30
5.2.1	Wage payment system	31
5.2.2	Work satisfaction	32
5.3	Child contribution to the family	33
5.4	Relationship of Employers to child Labourers	34
5.4.1	Respondents' medical expenditure	34
5.4.2	Future Plan of Children	35
CHAPTER SIX		
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION		37-41
6.1	Summary	37
6.2	Conclusion	39
6.3	Recommendations	40
References		42-44

List of Tables

Table 4.1: Distribution of respondents by age and sex	19
Table 4.2: Distribution of respondents by parental status	20
Table 4.3: Distribution of respondents by family size	21
Table 4.4: Distribution of respondents by parental educational status	21
Table 4.5: Distribution of respondents by their educational status	22
Table 4.6: Distribution of respondents by housing condition	23
Table 4.7: Distribution of respondents by main income source of family	23
Table 4.8: Distribution of respondents by family debt status	24
Table 5.1: Distribution of respondents by reason for joining work	25
Table 5.2: Distribution of respondents by types of work	26
Table 5.3: Distribution of respondents by working hours and age	28
Table 5.4: Distribution of respondents by working time frame	29
Table 5.5: Distribution of respondents by person who control their earning	30
Table 5.6: Distribution of respondents by income	31
Table 5.7: Distribution of respondents by wage system	31
Table 5.8: Distribution of respondents by work satisfaction	32
Table 5.9: Distribution of respondents by reason for dissatisfaction	32
Table 5.10: Distribution of respondents by contribution to family	33
Table 5.11: Distribution of respondents by their relationship with employers	34
Table 5.12: Distribution of respondents by medical facilities	35
Table 5.13: Distribution of respondents by their future ambition	35

List of Charts and Figures

Chart 2.1: Conceptual Framework of Study	16
Figure 5.1: Distribution of respondents by types of work by sex	27
Figure 5.2: Distribution of respondents by working hours and sex	28

ACRONYMS

CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	Central Department of Population Studies
CWIN	Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Center
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
INGOs	International Non Government Organization
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
NG	Nepal Government
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Corporation
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee