

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Nepal, a landlocked developing country located between China and India has a population of 26,620,809 residing within the area 147,181 sq. km. This total population constitutes of 1,29,27431 (48.56%) males and 1,36,93378 (51.44%) females exhibiting an adverse sex ratio (CBS, 2011). Population is composed of the people of different age group. Population composition by age refers to the structure of population of a place or a country by the age. The age structure of Nepal's population has changed significantly over the some years. According to Census 2001, 39.35 percent of total population lies between 0-14 years of age, 54.15 percent lies between 15-59 years of age and 6.50 percent are elderly i.e. above 60 years. Similarly, the literacy rate was found to be 76.92 percent (CBS 2011).

With a gross national product per capita of US\$ 435.9, about 25% of the population is living on less than one dollar per day (UN, 2009) which has been considered below poverty line. Agriculture, the mainstay of the Nepalese economy, provides a livelihood for three-fourths of the population and accounts for thirty-eight percent of Nepal's gross domestic product (GDP). Nepal remains among the poorest and least developed countries in the world (CBS 2003).

Being a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual country Nepal's 2001 census enumerated 102 castes and ethnic groups belonging to more than 7 religions. By religious distribution, majority of the people are Hindus (80.62%) followed by Buddhists (10.74%), Muslims (4.20%), Kirants (3.60%) and remaining others like Christian, Jain, Shikh etc. The region has a variety of ethnic groups, including Brahman, Chhetri, Newar, Gurung, Magar, Tamang, Rai, Limbu, Sherpa, Tharu etc. Nepal's Census 2001 recorded highest number of Chhetris (15.8%) followed by Hill Brahmins (12.7%), Magar (7.1%), Tharu (6.8%), Tamang (5.6%), Kami (4%), Yadav (3.94%) and others. Nepal's Census 2001 also recorded 92 known languages spoken as mother tongue along with a number

of languages reported as “Unknown”. Mostly spoken language is Nepali (48.6%) followed by Maithili (12.4%), Bhojpuri (7.6%), Tharu (5.9%) and others.

Among these 102 social groups enumerated in 2001 Census, 23 castes belong to the category of Dalit castes in Nepal. Among these Dalits Mushar is one inhabiting Terai region of Nepal (Gorkhapatra, 2000). With a population of 172,434 (0.76% of total population) Mushars are one of the dominated castes in Eastern Terai (CBS, 2001). But being Dalits they are down trodden and dominated castes by others. Mushars are believed to be offspring of Rishimunis and is recognized even as Rishidev, Rishi Aashan or as Sadha. The complexion of these caste are generally spotted to be dark, may be due to heat in Terai regions. Mushars is said to have originated from Jogiya of Saptari district and then migrated to various regions of the nation. Past data reveals that Mushars, are logged in various sector like economic, social, educational, politics etc. These are the major working groups in Nepal. They are generally involved in agriculture as low paid labours. Child labour case in these communities is predominant. The main reasons for the children works under 14 years in these communities are lack of parent's awareness, low socio - economic condition and ignorance to the importance of education.

1.2 Child Labour

Defining child labour consideration of age limit is vital as to define “Whom we can consider child?”. Minimum Age Convention No. 138 (1973) has defined a “child” as a person below the age limit of 15 years (ILO 1999). According to UNCRC (1989) the word “Child” is defined as "A child is girl or boy under the age of 17 years". But in the context of Nepal both of these definitions are applicable and two acts are enforced in relation with child labour viz. “Labour Act 1991” and “Children’s Act 1992”. Children Act defines child as every human beings below under the age of 16 years and prohibits the employment of children below age of 14 years. The Labour Act defines a “minor” as a person between 14 and 18 years, which prohibits employment of children below age of 16 years and which is likely to be harmful to their life and also prohibits persons below 18 years of age in certain specified jobs (ILO/IPEC, 1995).

Oxford dictionary has defined the word 'children' as newly born boys of girls and 'labour' as physical or mental work. Thus, the meaning of child labour can be interpreted as "physical or mental work done by a child". ILO, a leading concerned organization, defines that the “most children work, but all the works by children cannot be considered as child labour. Child labour is something different- that young people are being exploited or overworked or deprived of their right to health or education- or just childhood” (ILO/IPEC, 1995).

According to an estimate approximately 250 million child workers belonging to the age group 5-14 exist all over the world. Among them, 120 million work fulltime. Regionally, 61 percent of all child labour lies in Asia. Moreover, the number of children victimized by sexual exploitation in Asia alone is almost 1 million. The problem of child labour is re-emerging even in advanced industrial countries (CWIN, 1997). In Nepal child labour is a common phenomenon. According to National Census 2001, there are 2,981,932 economically active children under the age group 10-14 of which male are 1,533,806 and females are 1,448,126 number of child worker as labour (CBS, 2001).

With a contribution of less than 40 percent to GDP about 80 percent of total population is involved in agriculture in Nepal (CBS, 2001). This fact indicates that largest proportion of child labour is employed in agriculture sector. The pattern of child labour in Nepal is similar to other developing countries where children work in occupations undesirable to adults, wages are low, workers rights aren't recognized and where there are no labour organization children are engaged in various occupations such as manufacturing carpets in towns far from their homes. The other dimension are the traditional areas of work such as agriculture, animals husbandry, brick kilns etc also harbours maximum number of child labour.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Along with main cause poverty there are many other causes of child labour. Some of them are illiteracy, large family size, lack of awareness, helplessness, landlessness. Other reasons of enforcing children in work are ancient tradition of slavery and debt and caste-based discrimination. Children are the future of any

nation. And the status of child labour in any country reflects its socio-economic condition.

The present study is focused to analyse the status of child labour in a caste referred as dalit. Mushars, who are backward in all fields are bound to traditional occupations like working in the field and being the labours. Due to lack of education and awareness, their condition usually remained same. They are always socio-economically and educationally backward people who are discriminated by others. Due to poor economic condition children do not go to school rather they also work with their parents. Child labour is still predominant in this community. Most of the children in this society go to work for their livelihood rather than to study. For the development of Mushar communities, it is necessary to raise the socio - economic, educational status of condition of all men and women of that ethnic group. They should be empowered to stand on their own. So, viewing above reasons, this study was aimed to investigate following questions:

- What is the socio-economic background of child labour?
- What are the causative factors of child labour?
- What is the present working condition of child labour?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine the child labour status and working condition in Mushar community of Bishahariya VDC of saptari district.

The following are the specific objective of this study.

- To examine the background characteristic of child labour.
- To examine the causes of child labour.
- To analyze the working status of child labour.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Children are found working in brick kiln, animal grazing, rickshaw pulling and land cutting in Mushar. Mushar children have been exploited in various ways for their works and all kinds of deplorable condition. They are disadvantaged and marginalized. Several studies have been conducted in child labour in various

sectors but there are few studies on child labour in Mushar community of present study area. Therefore, this study will be significant in different ways such as in search of remedies of problem facing in this field. Moreover, this study is expected to provide accurate information on child labour, which might be helpful, those who are interested to conduct in this field in future.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

Research studies face many problems, so obviously have limitations to the study.

The present study no doubt, bears the following limitations:

- The research has limitations regarding resources so, present study was focused in limited area which covers ward no. 5, 8 and 9 of Bishahariya VDC, Saptari.
- This study is based on the child labours between the age of 5-14 years of Mushar community in study area.
- Unavailability of secondary data on the study area was one of the limiting factor.

1.7 Organization of the Study

The result of this study has been presented in six chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction, statement of the problem, objectives, limitation, significance and organization of the study. In the second chapter, the literature reviews are taken from relevant books, study reports, journals and electronic media relating to the child labour. The third chapter includes research design, sources of data, sampling procedure and sample size, tools for data collection and data collection procedure. Fourth chapter deals with result of present study including the child labours and their families with demographic and socio- economic characteristics as well as working, educational, and health condition chapter five analyzes the information on working and reason of being child labour. Finally chapter six comprises the summary, conclusions and recommendations of this study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Child labour is a universal problem in recent world. Even by receiving a worldwide attention in recent years, the problems have been still critical. A lot of studies on child labour issues have been carried out both in the international level and in the context of Nepal. Among which some relevant literature are discussed in this chapter. Various institutions, agencies and scholars too have defined, interpreted and some into conclusion regarding child labour and its cross cutting issues.

2.1 Concept and Definitions of Child Labour

The ILO convention 182, article 2 has defined a “child” as a person below the age limit of 18 years (ILO, 1999). According to UNCRC (1989) the word “Child” is defined as "A child is girl or boy under the age of 18 years". In context of Nepal, Children,s Act, 1992, defines child as every human beings below the age of 16 years and prohibits the employment of children below age of 14 years. The Labour Act, 1991, defines a “minor” as a person between 14 and 18 years, which prohibits employment of children below age of 16 years and which is likely to be harmful to their life and also prohibits persons below 18 years of age in certain specified jobs. In this study "Child" is defined in terms of age. Accordingly only the population aged 5-14 year is taken as "Child" population in this study.

United Nations (1989) defined "Child labour" as a person in the age group of 5-14 employed for hire or rewarded, on a full time basis and includes a self employed child assisting his/her parents in their occupations for two or more hours a day.

Similarly, ILO, a leading concerned organization, defines that “the most children work, but all the works by children cannot be considered as child labour. Child labour is something different- that young people are being exploited or overworked or deprived of their right to health or education- or just childhood” (ILO/IPEC, 1995).

The ILO (1995) refers to child work as a "potential learning experience of apprenticeship for the child labour as exploitative by nature and detrimental to the

child growing process, depriving the child of the rights to survival, development, protection and participation.

UNICEF (1997 a) defines child labour as:

- Full time work at too early an age.
- Too many hours spend working.
- Work that exerts under physical, social or psychological stress.
- Work and life on the street in bad condition.
- Inadequate pay.
- Too much responsibility.
- Work that hampers access to education.
- Work that undermines children's dignity and self esteem (slavery, bounded labour and sexual exploitation).
- Work that is detrimental to full social and psychological.

ILO convention on the worst of child labour, 1999, defines child labour as:

- All forms of slavery of practices similar to slavery such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- The use, procurement or offering of a child for prostitution, production of pornography or pornographic performance.
- The use, procurement or offering of a child for illicit activity, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.
- Work which by nature or by the circumstances under which it is carried out is likely to harm the health, safety morals of children.

Information on child labour is relatively scarce because of a general tendency to conceal it since child work is illegal. Therefore, presenting comprehensive picture of child labour is a complex task. On the contrary, there is a serious outcry against child labour exploitation and demand for speedy to prohibit it (Beguele and Boyden, 1998).

The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) was created in 1992 with the overall goal of the progressive elimination of child labour, which was to be achieved through strengthening the capacity of countries to deal with the problem and promoting a worldwide movement to combat child labour. IPEC currently has operations in 88 countries.

2.2 Theoretical Literature

2.2.1 Theorizing Child Labour in General

Most working children are engaged in activities permitted by national and international standards. But many more are working in violation of these standards. Bounded children, children working underground mines, children in street trades, children working junkyards and rag pickers, children employed as seasonal and cheap labour in pesticide soaked fields etc., are young people in difficult situation of his moderns age (ILO, 1998).

The latest statistics by ILO shows that about 215 million child workers exist all over the world. A survey conducted by the ILO states that out of these, 60 percent are in Asia, 23 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa, 8 Percent in Latin America and Carribean and 6 percent in Middle East and North Africa (ILO 2010). The report breaks down data by age and gender. Progress was greatest among children aged 5-14, where the number of child labours fell by 10 percent. The number of children in hazardous work in this age range fell by 31 percent. Child labour among girls decreased considerably (by 15 million or 15 percent). However, it increased among boys (by 8 million or 7 percent). What's more, child labour among young people aged 15 to 17 increased by 20 percent, from 52 million to 62 million (ILO, 2010).

Every year hundreds of children leave their homes and migrate to urban areas because of curiosity and unfavourable economic conditions at home. UNICEF (1997 a) has broken down the child labour into following seven areas: domestic service, forced and bound labour, commercial sexual exploitation, industrial and plantation work, street works, work for the family and girl's work.

In context of Nepal Pradhan (1995) has recognized following areas in which child labours were found to work: factory/industry, mines, plantation, domestic services,

entrepreneurship, transportation, porter, street, construction works, sex work, bonded labour, circus/ music, commercial advertisement etc.

There are several factors that are pushing them towards cities, such as family breakdown, burden of overwork and seeking better job and better life in the city. The number of child labours in the urban areas of Nepal is increasing day by day. The migration of children from rural area to urban area is a reflection of the poor socio-economic condition of their livelihood in rural area. In, Nepal 60 percent out of the total children is economically active supporting their poor families (UNICEF, 1997 a).

2.2.2 Child Labour in Nepal

Child labour in Nepal has two distinct dimensions. Major one is connected with the rapid urbanization and growth of industries. Children are engaged in various occupations such as the manufacture of carpets, construction of roads and building, quarrying and mining as well as working in domestic service in towns away from their home (ILO, 1995).

Child labour in the context of Nepal shouldn't be defined in terms of paid and unpaid jobs. Rather it should be defined in terms of the nature of work whether it is beneficial or harmful or intolerable. Authoritative information with regard to the magnitude and nature of child labour in Nepal is scarce. Moreover, estimates of the number and incidence of child labour in Nepal differ widely mainly because of lack of reliable information about the overall distribution of economically active population by age, and the concentration of child workers in the informal sector. Furthermore, there is general tendency to conceal the existence of child labour in both rural urban areas because work by a child under 14 years is legally prohibited in Nepal. Therefore it is not quite possible present a reliable estimate of child labour nationally. According to the population census of 1981, 4.5 million or 60 percent of the child population in the 10 - 14 age group was economically active in almost all sectors of rural and urban economy in Nepal, with 50 percent employed in agricultural and other allied occupation in the country side and other 20 percent were engaged in cities in such locations and factories, constructions resturants. (Gurung, 1992).

Pradhan (1995) has attempted to analyze the problem of child labour against the background of rural migration and urbanization. He has pointed out that the prime cause of child labour in Nepal is the social recognition of it as a way of life in our society. Poverty, starvation and deprivation are obvious key factors that have contributed to the growing number of child exploitative labour markets. Most parents in the rural and poor urban areas send their children to work not only for an additional income, but also to reduce the number of hungry stomachs to be fed and hence their financial burden.

ILO (1996) reported that in Nepal child labour exploitation existed in various forms, children are found around the home, on the street, in crafts and trading, in plantations found almost everywhere under varying forms and terms of employment. No sector of labour is completely free of child labour exploitation. Inadequacy, poverty, hunger and lack of them compel them to engage in prostitution or in crime. In rural areas they are engaged in agriculture and in urban areas children are engaged in hotels, restaurants, brick kilns, factories, constructions, rag pickings and garment factories.

Ministry of Labour of Nepal (1998) has conducted a research report entitled "Child labour in Brick kilns of the Kathmandu valley". The study attempts to quantify the use and extent of child labour in brick kilns. Small children, aged 5-14 start working with their parents whom they accompany when they themselves go to work.

Many studies have been carried out to analyze the reasons for child labour to work at their developing age. Some of which have been discussed here.

Chhetri (1996) in his study on child issues and poverty in Nepal has concluded that poverty compels children to participate in the labour force, which in turn deprives them of the right to education.

KC et al. (1997) studied the child labour situation in Nepal and found that many parents cannot afford money for their children to study, poor people are always busy in solving the hand-to-mouth problem and they are ignorant of the advantages and the value of education. Children are weighed only from the economic perspective. Even if some children realize that education is advantageous for their future life,

either they do not have access to school or they cannot afford to buy stationery and pay the fees. So, children leave home with the hope of acquiring both an income and education

According to Timseena, child labour is a serious demographic problem because it greatly influences the society. It is rapidly growing and renewable in nature. Majority of the children shift due to hand to mouth problem. (Timseena, 1999).

According to a study by CWIN (2000) nearly 60 percent of children are literate of which 50 percent have primary education and only 8.9 percent have secondary education. Majority were born in surrounding districts (44.6%) followed by terai (24%) and Hill (20%) more than 90 percent of the migrant child workers were born in rural areas of Nepal. The main reason why children leave home are insufficient food at place of origin (23%), to look for jobs (33%) parent's suggestion (22.8%), domestic violence (12.5%), friends' advice (12%), and dislike of village life (8.9%).

KC et al. (2002) have also found that domestic violence is one of the fundamental reasons for the children leaving home and ending up the worst forms of child labour in Nepal. Domestic violence against children is much more pronounced when either of the child's parents is a step-parent or the child's own parents have died.

Pandey (2008) studied the major causes of child labours in Nepal. According to the study the major causes of child labouring are mass poverty, illiteracy, feudal rule influence of village elite, money lenders, unemployment and underemployment family distribution food, scarcity urban attribution and violence in the family.

2.3 Empirical Literature

Poudel (2001) carried out a research "Socio-economic status of domestic child labours at Kathmandu metropolitan city" and found that majority of child workers were from big family. The poor economic condition of the family was found to be the major determinant of children being forced to work.

Save the Children Norway (2002) mentioned that in Nepal there were 77000 domestic child workers, 2100 domestic child workers in urban area, 45% female domestic child workers, average age group by domestic child group was 13 years,

10 percent age group under 10 years and 70 percent age group were in between 10-14 years. Among them totally domestic child worker had to work more than 14 hours a day, health situation was bad, 59 percent were suffering from various types of abuse and 48 percent could not go their home even in feast and festival.

In a research by Kandel (2003) on “Situation of domestic child labours: a case of Butwal municipality”, it has been concluded that 83 percent were of below 15 years , highest number of child workers were from major ethnic group, 46 percent have 7-9 family members, 67.5 percent have both parents, 7 percent were parentless, 39 percent got opportunity to go to school, 33 percent were mistreated, 52 percent were scolded and 23.3 percent were slapped, 39 percent of the studied population had got salary less than Rs. 300 per month, 54 percent have their own land and 13.4 percent have sufficient land for their survival.

Kharel (2004) conducted research on “Situation analysis of domestic child labour in Nepal: a case of Lalitpur sub-metropolitan city” taking 105 child workers as sample population. She found that highest percent of domestic child labours were of 11-13 years of age group, highest number of domestic child labour were from Brahmin caste, majority of them had agriculture land, 76.2 percent were literate and 43 percent had completed primary level, 56.7 percent were found injured during work, 64.8 percent suffered from disease in the work place, 95.65 had got treatment, 94.5 percent got time for rest, 29.5 percent of the study population were compelled to be domestic child labour due to abjured behaviour of step parents, 24.8 percent due to friend’s advice and 24.8 percent from parental force.

Sharma (2007) carried out a research on “Situation of domestic child labour in Baglung municipality, Baglung”. He has conducted his study on 50 domestic child labours (28 males and 22 females). He found that out of 50 respondents nearly 60 percent were of 11-14 age group. 50 percent domestic child labours family’s occupation was agriculture, nearly 40 percent respondents were illiterate and 60 percent respondents were working during the time of sickness. 50 percent of respondent slept on the floor and 50 percent were tightly ignorant about their right of the child.

From the above studies it can be concluded the main reasons for being child labours are poverty, illiterate and unemployed parents etc.

2.4 Some International and National Commitments

Universal declaration of human rights (10 December)

As a member of the United Nations, Nepal is obliged to respect and implement the provisions of the universal declaration of human rights. Article 4 of the declaration says that no one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

International covenant on civil and political rights (16 December 1966).

Nepal ratified the international covenant on civil and political Rights on 14 May 1991. Article 8 of the covenant makes the provision concerning slavery, slavery trade, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour.

Convention on the Rights of the child (20 November 1989)

Recognizing the children need special care and protection because of their vulnerability, the UN general assembly adopted the convention on the rights of the child on 20 November 1989. The convention was ratified by Nepal on 14 September 1990.

The convention defines, for its purposes, a child to be a human being below the age of 18 years, unless under the law applicable to the child majority is attained earlier.

World Summit for Children

The world summit for children was held at the United Nations in the new York on 29 and 30 September 1990. Where his majesty's government of Nepal endorsed the declaration of children and undertook to "Work for special protection of the working child and for the abolition of illegal child labour".

Colombo Resolution on children, (18 September 1991).

As a member of the SAARC, Nepal has signed the Colombo resolution. In accordance with this resolution, His Majesty's government of Nepal obliged the basic education access 60 and enrolment in primary education for at least eighty

percent of girls as well as boys by 1995 and elimination the worse forms of child labour.

Legal Provision on Child Labour in Nepal

To control and eliminate the child labour some law is required. Nepal has many laws regarding child labour. Some of them are as follows:

The Labour Act, 1992 and the Labour Rules 1993

The current Labour Act prohibits the employment of children (under the age of 14 years) and provides various safeguard to minors (least age of fourteen but less than 18 years old) children and minor are prohibited from operation dangerous machinery hazardous to health, maximum weight of load to be carried by a minor as, minor males (16-18) 25 kg, minor females (16-18) kg, doing night duties (between 6 pm and 6 am) and working more than 6 hours a day or 36 hours a week. It also sets a minimum wage for children.

The Children Act, 1992 and child Rules, 1995

The children's Act, 1992 was issued to safeguard the interest of the children and contains a number of provisions on child labour. The Act defines a child to be a human being below the age of 16 years and states that a child who has not attained the age of 14 shall not be employed in any work as labours and shall not be engaged as a labour against his will. The Act further prohibits engaging a child in work, which is likely to be harmful to his health or hazardous to his life. The children's rules (1995) prescribe the functions of central child welfare boards. The functions of the central welfare board include the following.

- To submit to government of Nepal a long term policy and plan for the protection of the rights of children and for their physical and mental development.
- To formulate the policy and the plan for mobilization of resources required for the annual programmed.
- To approve, implement and review and annual programmed of action.
- To guide the district child welfare boards.

- To arrange for the preparation and maintenance of a list of children in each district who are crippled monthly handicapped orphans or who are in jail or in the labour market (through the district child welfare board).
- To identify effective measures to eliminate child labour, child marriage, child suffice and to encourage governmental and non - governmental agencies for implementing the measures.
- To assist to encourage the national and international non-governmental organizations, foreign governments and international agencies for undertaking activities for the protection and development of children.

2.5 Variables Identified

On the basis of both theoretical literature and empirical literature the appropriate variables are discussed as below:

2.5.1 Demographic Variables

Demographic variable can affect children by various ways which we try to analyze in this study. Demographic variable includes age, sex, parental status.

2.5.2 Social Variables

People are the most influencing by the social variable, it affect children by birth. It includes family size, parental education, education. This study tries to show that how social variable contribute to children to become labour.

2.5.3 Economic Variables

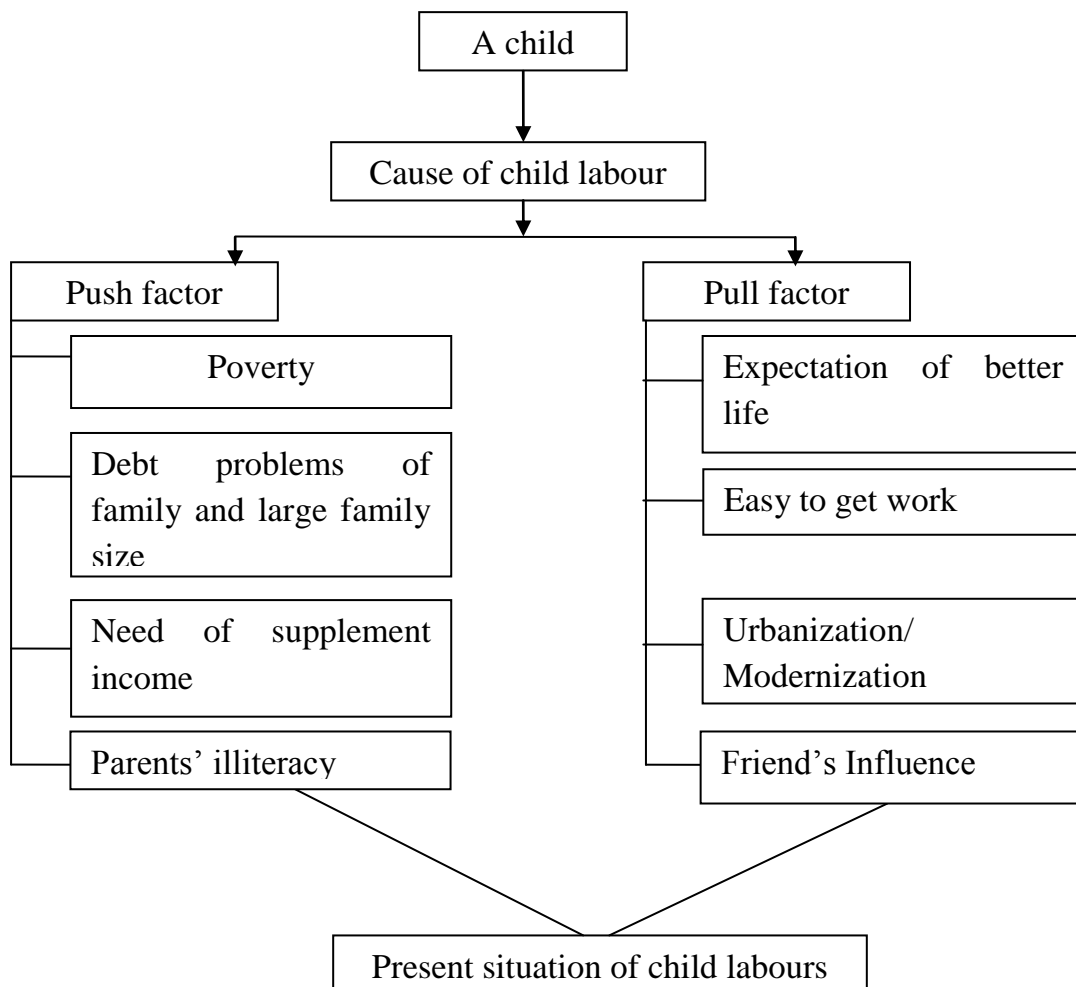
It includes the economic discrimination among people. It is that variable which compelled people to do maximum, difficult, heavy and unwanted works. In this study, it includes shelter condition, income, debt problems .

2.6 Conceptual Framework

The literature reviewed on the related issues provides the base for the study. The present study is conceptualized with two phases of children's survival. The first phase is socio-economic condition of children and the second is employment in brick kilns, construction and household labour. There are related causes i.e push and pull factors while living at home and other hazardous conditions while employed at brick kilns, construction and household. The push factors mean those

factors, which compel the children to leave their home. Indeed one cannot normally leave his/her home. With only reason several reasons can push simultaneously at a time. Respondents responded that poverty, hard life, mal-nutriments and death of parents are push factors. Pull factors include expectation of better life, urbanization, market demands. Pull and push factors play vital role for entering the children into the labour market. The conceptual framework of this study can be summarized as:

Chart 2.1: Conceptual Framework of Study



Source: Based on Literature Review

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study Area

The present research was conducted on Bishahariya VDC of Saptari district. Saptari district lies in the Eastern Terai of Nepal with an area of 1363 square km. Total population of Saptari district was 570,282 among which 291,409 were male and 278,873 were females. Rajbiraj is the centre of administration of Saptari district (CBS, 2001). Among 115 VDCs of Saptari district Bishariya is one which is surrounded by Komadepura and Koiladi VDC in the east, Ithari Bishanpur VDC in the west, Launia VDC in the North and Deauribharuwa and Pharsaith in the south. The total population of the VDC is 6,663. Out of them 3,170 and 3,493 were female and male respectively (Village Profile, 2010).

The present study was mainly focused on child labour under the age of fourteen in Mushar community at Bishahariya VDC ward numbers 5, 8 and 9. According to the National Census 2001 (CBS) total population of Mushar in Nepal was 172,434. Out of the total population, the males were 88,041 and females were 84,393. Total population of the Mushars in the study area was 1352 among which there were 312 children involved in different types of works in labour market such as brick kilns, house marking, rickshaw puller and other activities that may be harmful for the children's health (Village Profile, 2011).

3.2 Research Design

The research design has been applied to explore economic values and existing situation of child labour status in Mushar community, their hidden factors and realities. Research was done by the questionnaire method. The field work was conducted in Oct 2009 with well structure questionnaire. All the data collected during present study were primary gathered from child labours and their parents.

3.3 Sample Design

The present study was based on purposive sampling procedure during which only child workers between the age of 5-14 years were taken as respondents. Among 195 households of Mushars in ward numbers 5, 8 and 9 of Bishahariya VDC children of only 132 households were found working during the study period. The

data for present study was collected from ward no. 5, 8 and 9 of Bishahariya VDC, since only these three wards have Mushar population. For the purpose of data collection only one child labour from each family were taken as respondent regardless how many children of the family are in working status. One child from the house with two or more children as child labours was selected randomly. Questionnaires were filled by interviewing with the child labour and parents available. Altogether 132 child labours under 14 years of age in working status during study period and their parents were interviewed to collect the data.

3.4 Questionnaire Design and Field Operation

The questionnaire was the main tool to collect information from respondents. Questions in the questionnaire were included as the variables identified in the conceptual framework. Questionnaire has been designed to obtain information about economic and demographic condition of the child labours. Information about their family background, age, sex, working condition, education, parent's income and occupation and the root of that condition of child labours were collected through questionnaires.

3.5 Data Collection, Processing and Analysis

First of all child labours working at different sites were interviewed by researcher visiting their houses and interviewed the parents using the prepared tools and collected the data for the study. Data processing activities were initiated soon after the beginning of field work and were completed in one month. Primary data were processed by using computer software MS-Excel and presented in different tables, to clear the picture of study overcomes. Data were analyzed on the basis of percentage and differences through cross-tables and mean tables. Simple statistical tools were used to analyze the data.

CHAPTER FOUR

CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDY POPULATION

4.1 Demographic Characteristics

4.1.1 Age and Sex Distribution of Sample Population

Age and sex is the main factor of demographic composition. Present study was focused to study the child labour status of Mushar Community in Bishahariya VDC of Saptari district. This study covered the respondents between the age of 8-14 years. Those children who were under the age of fourteen were taken as the source of the study. For present study 132 were selected for the purposive sampling among which 72 were male and 60 were female children. Age and sex wise distribution of child respondents is shown in table 4.1. Highest number (41.7%) of male child labours were of age 14 followed by child labour of age 13 (30.5%) which gradually decreased with lowest number (1.4%) of child labour of age 8. Male child labours of age 9, 10, 11 and 12 were found to be about 3 percent, 4 percent, 6 percent and about 14 percent respectively in the sample population.

The female age of 14 is very sensitive stage as they are just stepping in the youth and there are vital changes in their body. In that age she needs full support of family. But in present study it was found that female child labours was highest in number (58.3%) belonging to this age followed by age 13 female workers (21.7%).

Table 4.1: Distribution of respondents by age and sex

Age	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
8	1	1.4	1	1.7	2	1.5
9	2	2.8	1	1.7	3	2.3
10	3	4.2	2	3.3	5	3.8
11	4	5.5	3	5.0	7	5.3
12	10	13.9	5	8.3	15	11.4
13	22	30.5	13	21.7	35	26.5
14	30	41.7	35	58.3	65	49.2
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source : Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

The pattern of female child labours according to age followed same as that of male child labours. Female child labours were lowest for the age 8 and 9 which was

found 1.7 percent each. Female child labours of age 10, 11, and 12 were found about 3 percent, 5 percent and 8 percent respectively.

In present study trend of working child labour was found higher with increasing age i.e. higher proportion of child were found to be working of higher age. The mean age of female child labours was found to be 13.15 years while mean age of male child labours was found to be 12.86 years. As whole the mean age of child labour was found to be 12.99 years.

4.1.2 Parental Status of Respondents

Family is a part of socialization. In a family, mother takes care of children and a father provides the economic needs of children usually in Nepalese society. Generally it is said that children who do not get proper care by parents leave their home for work. Present study showed that majority (94.7%) of respondents have both parents alive while father of 3 percent children were deceased and mother of about 2 percent respondents were deceased. Among male respondents about 4 percent children have only one parent. Similarly, about 7 percent of female respondents have only one parent alive. In present study poverty may be the main reason of child labour so majority of respondents were found to have both parents alive. Parental status of respondents in present study is shown in table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Distribution of respondents by parental status

Status of parents	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Both alive	69	95.8	56	93.4	125	94.7
Father dead	2	2.8	2	3.3	4	3.0
Mother dead	1	1.4	2	3.3	3	2.3
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source : Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

4.2 Social Characteristics

4.2.1 Family Size of Respondents

Size of the family is influenced in general by sociological reason besides economic reason. Poor families normally have higher fertility and hence higher family size

of the children push into labour market. Table 4.3 presents the family size of child labours of study area.

In present study it has been found that majority (79.5 %) of child had 4-6 number of family size which was followed by family size of child labour having 7-9 family members (19.7%). The minimum number (0.8 %) of child labour belonged to family with members more than 10. This result also showed that there is little influence of large family size on a child to be a child labour.

Table 4.3: Distribution of respondents by family size

Family size	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
4-6	59	81.9	46	76.7	105	79.5
7-9	12	16.7	14	23.3	26	19.7
10 and above	1	1.4	-	-	1	0.8
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0
Average family size- 6						

Source : Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

In term of sex, 59 (81.9 %) male child labours had 4-6 number of family size, and only 1 (1.4 %) had family size above 19. Similarly, 46 (76.7 %) female child labour had 4-6 number of family size and non of above had more than 10 family members.

4.2.2 Parental Educational Status of Respondent

Educational status of parents also plays an important role in physical, mental and social development of their children. Among total respondents 112 (84.8%) child labour's parents were illiterate and 20 (15.2%) were found literate. It is clear that education status of parents of child labours is very low in the study area (Table: 4.4).

Table 4.4: Distribution of respondents by parental educational status

Educational of parents	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent

Literate	9	12.5	11	18.3	20	15.2
Illiterate	63	87.5	49	81.7	112	84.8
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

Viewing sex-wisely 9 male and 11 female respondents have literate parents and 63 male and 49 female respondents have illiterate parents.

4.2.3 Educational Status of Respondents

Education is the important thing to develop human career and society. Without education, nobody can get success in their life. Table 4.5 gives information about the educational status of respondents in study sample.

Among total 132 respondents, 104 (78.8%) child labours were literate. Among literate 64 were male and 40 were female child labours. Similarly, out of 64 respondent 47 (73.4%) male child labours had completed primary level of education and 17 (26.6%) had gained lower secondary level education. Among 40 literate female child labours, 30 (75%) had gained primary education and 10 (25%) had gained lower secondary education. In present study primary level was considered as education of grade 1-5 and lower secondary as grade 6-8. On an average child labours were found to have primary level education (average grade 4).

Table 4.5: Distribution of respondents by their educational status

Educational status of Respondents	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Literate	64	88.9	40	66.7	104	78.8
Illiterate	8	11.1	20	33.3	28	21.2
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0
Education level						
Grade 1-5	47	73.4	30	75.0	77	74.0
Grade 6-8	17	26.6	10	25.0	27	26.0
Total	64	100.0	40	100.0	104	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

4.3 Economic Characteristics

4.3.1 Housing Condition of the Respondents

Shelter is one among the basic needs of human beings. Housing condition determines the health and security of a person. Housing condition can also be related with economic status of a person. The child labours in present study were asked if their family had own house or not. (Table 4.6)

Table 4.6: Distribution of respondents by housing condition

Housing Condition	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	71	98.6	60	100.0	131	99.2
No	1	1.4	-	-	1	0.8
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Bishhariya VDC, 2009

Table 4.6 about respondent's housing condition shows that 131 (99.2%) have their own house while only one male child labour was found who did not have own house.

4.3.2 Main Income Source of Respondents' Family

Family income plays a vital role for the carrier development of their children. Similarly, it also determines the living standard and quality of life of child labour. The information on main source of income of the respondents is presented in table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Distribution of respondents by main income source of family

Main source of income	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agriculture	36	50.0	19	31.7	55	41.7
Non - agriculture Wage work	36	50.0	41	68.3	77	58.3
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

From the table 4.7, it is evident that 77 (58.3%) child labours had non-agriculture wage work as main source of their family and 55 (41.7%) respondents had agriculture wage as the main source of their family income.

4.3.3 Family Debt Status of Respondents

No children want to work as labour but because of poverty and lack of food, they were forced towards. Information on debt status of parents of respondent children had reported that a high proportion (65.9%) was debted in comparison to non-debted parents (34.1%). Table 4.8 shows the distribution of respondents by their family debt status.

Table 4.8: Distribution of respondents by family debt status

Family Debt status	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	46	63.9	41	68.3	87	65.9
No	26	36.1	19	31.7	45	34.1
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source : Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

CHAPTER FIVE

WORKING CONDITION OF CHILD LABOURS

This chapter is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the working condition, reasons for joining work and wages of the respondents. The analysis mainly focuses working hours, types of work, working time frame and controlling over their earning. The second part deals with the earning status and perception on earning and current work. The third part deals with the contribution to the family and relationship of the employers.

5.1 Working Condition of Child Labours

5.1.1 Reasons for Joining Work

In our society, children are forced either by the family or by their personal will to enter in labour market at an early age. The Mushar child labours were asked to tell maximum two reasons that caused them to join the child labour occupation which is shown in table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Distribution of respondents by reason for joining work

Reasons	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Debt problem	14	19.4	8	13.3	22	16.7
Family conflict	6	8.3	3	5.0	9	6.8
Step father/mother	2	2.8	1	1.7	3	2.3
Lack of Income of family	38	52.8	39	65.0	77	58.3
To be free from home	12	16.7	9	15.0		15.9
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

In present study, majority (58.3%) of children joined the labour market due to lack of income of family followed by the child labour due to debt problem (16.7%). A number of children (15.9%) had also joined the work to be free from home. Other reasons for being child labour were family conflict (6.8%) and step parents (2.3%). Visualising sex wise, majority (65%) of female child reported that lack of income is the key reason for becoming child labours whereas for male child with same reason were also predominant (52.8%).

This indicates that majority of children join to the work due to extreme poverty of the family. Other main reason for joining the work traditional occupation of the children parents in the visited areas.

5.1.2 Types of Work

In the study area, children were found to be engaged in different types of work such as animal herding, brick to kiln, working at other house, building construction and paddy harvesting etc. Majority of children were found to work at brick kiln in (57.6%) among which 47 (35.6%) were engaged in carrying brick to kiln and 29 (22%) were engaged in brick moulding. Those child labours who are involved in brick kiln were found to be involved in other works as well such as digging up soil, moulding brick by hand with the mould, sun drying the bricks, transportation of brick from field to kiln (raw brick) and kiln to outward like a coolie. Labours including children carry raw bricks from field to kiln and loading the bricks from kiln. Less than ten and eleven years age group of male respondent were mainly engaged in animal grazing (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Distribution of respondents by types of work

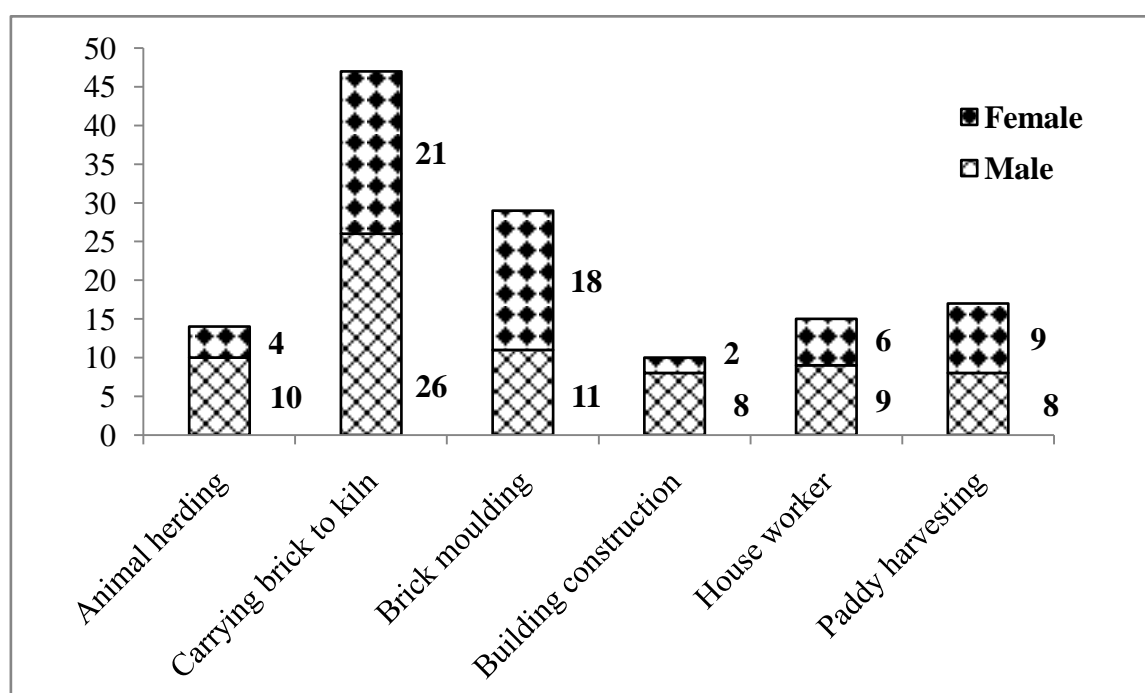
Type of work	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Animal herding	10	13.9	4	6.7	14	10.6
Carrying brick to kiln	26	36.1	21	35.0	47	35.6
Brick moulding	11	15.3	18	30.0	29	22.0
Building construction	8	11.1	2	3.3	10	7.6
House worker	9	12.5	6	10.0	15	11.3
Paddy harvesting	8	11.1	9	15.0	17	12.9
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

Present study showed that 17 (12.9%) child labours were involved in agriculture sector (paddy harvesting), 15 (11.3%) were found involved house worker, 14 (10.6%) were found as animal herders and 10 (7.6%) were engaged in building construction.

In terms of sex wise distribution majority (36.1%) of male and female (35%) were found to be engaged in carrying brick to kiln. In case of male workers children working in other different types of works were found almost same viz. brick moulding (15.3%), animal herding (13.9%), House worker (12.5%), building construction (11.1%) and paddy harvesting (11.1%). In case of female workers, 30 percent females were found in brick moulding, 15 percent in paddy harvesting, 10 percent as hose worker, about 7 percent as animal herder and 3 percent were engaged in building construction.

Figure 5.1: Distribution of respondents by types of work by sex



Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

5.1.3 Working Hours

Children's act 1992, defines "A child who hasn't attained the age of 14 years shall not be employed in any work as a labours. While engaging a child as labours, he shall not be engaged more than 6 hours a week. But this provision isn't applicable in the case of child labours. Averagely child labours were found to work for 7 hours a day.

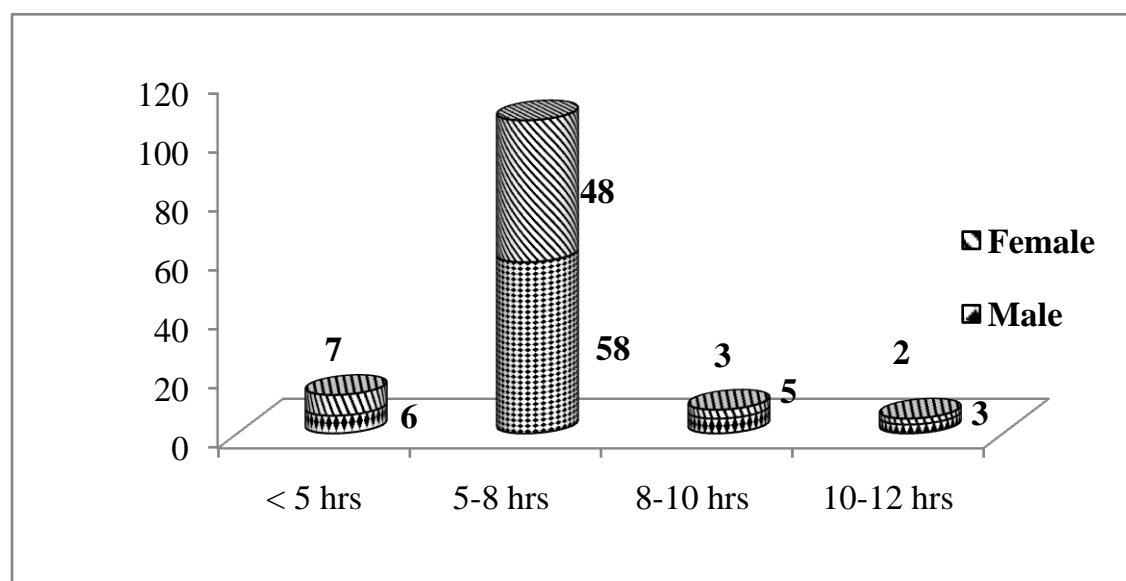
Table 5.3: Distribution of respondents by working hours and age

Age	8 years	9 years	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	Total	
								Number	Percent
<5 hrs	2	3	1	4	1	2	-	13	9.8
5-8 hrs	-	-	4	3	12	28	59	106	80.3
8-10 hrs	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	8	6.1
10-12 hrs	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	5	3.8
Total	2	3	5	7	15	36	64	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

Table 5.3 shows the distribution of respondents by working hours and age. It is evident from the table that maximum number of child worker of age 14 (i.e. 59) works for 5-8 hours a day. Only 2 Children of age 8 years were found to work less than 5 hours daily. Three children of age 9 years were also found to work only less

Figure 5.2: Distribution of respondents by working hours and sex



Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

than 5 hours a day. Similarly 1 child of age 10 years was found to work less than 5 hours and 4 were found to work between 5-8 hours a day. In case of age 11 child workers, 4 children were found to work for less than 5 hours a day and 3 workers were found to work between 5-8 hours a day. 2 children of age 12 were found to

work between 10-12 hours a day. For the same aged workers 1 was found to work less than 5 hours and 12 were found to work for 5-8 hours a day. In case of child workers of age 13 maximum number (i.e. 28) was found to work for 5-8 hours followed by 8-10 and 10-12 hours (each 3) with only 2 working for less than 5 hours a day. Child workers of age 14 were found in highest number who works for 5-8 hours a day followed by those who worked for 8-10 hours (i.e. 5).

The working hours of child labours sex-wisely in present study area is presented in the figure 5.2. In present study working hour is divided in four groups viz. less than 5 hours a day, 5-8 hours day, 8-10 hours day and 10-12 hours per day. It is evident from table 5.3 that majority(80.3%) of child labours have to work for 5-8 hours a day followed by number of child labours working less than 5 hours per day (9.8%). Child labours working for 8-10 hours per day and 10-12 hours per day were found respectively 8 (6.1%) and 5 (3.8%) in the sample population of present study. This table also reveals that only 6 (8.3%) male and 7 (11.7%) female child labours work less than 5 hours a day.

5.1.4 Working Status

Working status of child labours may also responsible for their development in different sectors. Working time frame of child labours' is found to be different from one place to another place. The working time frame of Mushar child labours in the present study area is presented in table 5.4.

Table 5.4: Distribution of respondents by working time frame

Time frame	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Regular	22	30.6	10	16.7	32	24.3
Seasonal	44	61.1	45	75.0	89	67.4
Occasional	6	8.3	5	8.3	11	8.3
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

In present study though larger number of child workers were found to work seasonally (67.4%), a remarkable number (24.3%) of children were found to be regular workers. Similarly, child labours who work occasionally contribute less proportion (8.3%). Viewing sex-wisely it is clear that both male and female child

are mostly seasonal workers (61.1% and 75.0% respectively) followed by number of regular workers (30.6% and 16.7%). Occasional workers were found in least number (both male and female 8.3%).

5.1.5 Control Over Income

It is evident that mostly child labour is due to poverty, so, earning of children contributes something to family income. Child labours salary is taken by different persons such as parents, sister, brother and relatives. Table 5.5 shows that who receives a child labour's earning from employer. Other wages are also supposed as salary.

It is evident from the table 5.7 that salary or wages of most of the child workers were received by either parents (52.2%) or self (46.2%). Salary or wages of remarkably lower number (1.6%) of child labours were received by other relatives. Most of the female workers (56.7%) receive their earning themselves. While in case of male workers mostly (61.1%) salary or wages were received by parents. Only 1 each male and female workers' earning were received by other relatives.

Table 5.5: Distribution of respondents by person who control their earning

Salary Recipient	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Parents	44	61.1	25	41.7	69	52.2
Self	27	37.5	34	56.7	61	46.2
Relatives	1	1.4	1	1.6	2	1.6
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

5.2 Earning Status

Many children work for food and clothes. They get cash and some food as a salary. Children are the cheap sources of labours and are paid according to the rules and regulations of their employers. The condition of wage payment per month to child labours in the study area is shown in table 5.6. For the workers who did not get their salary in monetary form, the wages they get in either form were converted into salary in monetary form. In monetary form, the average income of child labours in present study was found to be about NRs.2600 per month.

Table 5.6: Distribution of respondents by income

Income (Rs.)	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1000-2000	20	27.8	11	18.3	31	23.5
2000-3000	32	44.4	28	46.7	60	45.5
3000-4000	13	18.1	19	31.7	32	24.2
4000-5000	7	9.7	2	3.3	9	6.8
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

In present study sample both male (44.4%) and female (46.7%) workers are highest who earn between Rs. 2000-3000 per month. In total almost 46% child workers earn between Rs. 2000-3000 per month. Male child workers who earn between Rs. 1000-2000 per month were 20 (27.8%) followed by those who earn Rs. 3000-4000 per month (18.1%) with least (9.7%) earning Rs. 4000-5000 per month. While in case of females, number of child labours earning Rs. 1000-2000 was 11 (18.3%), Rs. 3000-4000 was 19 (31.7%) and those earning Rs. 4000-5000 per month was 2 (3.3%).

5.2.1 Wage Payment System

The wage systems of respondents are different by their words. Usually house workers and agriculture labours get wage in the form of paddy, wheat or something else while the workers in brick kiln were generally paid money. Workers in brick kilns receive wage in piece rate basis i.e. payment is made on the basis of task completed but not on hour basis. They aren't paid monthly but they receive money per week or per day. The children who are engaged in animal herding or work at house for cleaning and washing receive money on monthly basis (Table 5.7).

Table 5.7: Distribution of respondents by wage system

Wage System	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Daily	19	26.4	12	20.0	31	23.5
Weekly	33	48.6	38	63.3	73	55.3
Monthly	18	25.0	10	16.7	28	21.2
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

In present study, most (55.3%) of the child labours were found to be paid on weekly basis followed by those paid on daily basis (23.5%) least on monthly basis (21.2%).

In terms of sex, it is found that the majority of the female child labours (63.3%) get the wage on weekly basis followed by paid on daily basis (20%) and on monthly basis (16.7%). Similarly, in case of male respondents mostly were found to be paid on weekly basis (48.6%) followed by paid on daily basis (26.4%) and on monthly basis (25.0%).

5.2.2 Work Satisfaction

Child labours in study sample were asked whether they are satisfied with their current work or not. The result is shown in table 5.8.

Table 5.8: Distribution of respondents by work satisfaction

Perception	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Satisfied	62	86.1	55	91.7	117	88.6
Unsatisfied	10	13.9	5	8.3	15	11.4
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

Among 132 total respondents 117 (88.6%) were found to be satisfied with their current work while only 15 (11.4%) told that they were unsatisfied. Viewing sex-wisely satisfied female were higher (91.7%) in proportion to satisfied male respondents (86.1%). Among unsatisfied 10 (13.9%) were males and 5 (8.3%) were females. Table 5.9 shows the reason for dissatisfaction with work among unsatisfied.

Table 5.9: Distribution of respondents by reason for dissatisfaction

Reason for dissatisfaction	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Low wage	4	40.0	3	60.0	7	46.7
Hard work	4	40.0	1	20.0	5	33.3
Other (left education)	2	20.0	1	20.0	3	20.0
Total	10	100.0	5	100.0	15	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

Among unsatisfied most were found to be unsatisfied due to low wage (46.7%) followed by those unsatisfied due to hard work (33.3%) and those unsatisfied because of leaving education (20%). Male child who were unsatisfied due to low wage and hard work were found 40% each while male respondents who were unsatisfied because of leaving education were found to be 20%. In case of female respondents 20% each were unsatisfied due to hard work and because of leaving education while 60% female respondents replied that they were unsatisfied due to low wages.

5.3 Child's Contribution to the Family

Most of the working children give contribution to their families from their income, either in cash or in kinds (male 97.2% and female 100%). Parents of the child labours expect economic support from their own children. Children's are forced to work in different sectors in order to support his/her family in the absence of father and mother.

Data of present study suggested that family support is basically for buying food (80.8 %) and paying debts (16.9 %) (Table 5.10). Besides this their income was also used for paying school fee and for buying clothes (2.3%). Majority (98.5%) of respondents replied that they support their family from their income in comparison to those who do not support their family.

Table 5.10: Distribution of respondents by contribution to family

Contribution	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	70	97.2	60	100	130	98.5
No	2	2.8	-	-	2	1.5
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0
If yes, types of support						
Buying food	53	75.7	52	86.7	105	80.8
Paying schooling fee buying clothes	2	2.9	1	1.7	3	2.3
Paying debt	15	21.4	7	11.6	22	16.9
Total	70	100.0	60	100.0	130	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

Viewing type of support sex-wisely, mostly female respondents (86.7%) support their family to buy food from their income in comparison to male respondents (75.7%). Mostly the incomes of male respondents (21.4%) were found to be used for paying debt as compared to income of female respondents (11.6%). Almost equally (i.e. 3%) of both male and female respondents use their income to pay school fee or buy clothing.

5.4 Relationship With Employers

Workers' relationship with employer is an important factor to determine the actual situation of child labours. Table 5.11 explains the status of relationship between the worker and employer. From table, it is clear that the relationship between worker and employer was good (96.2%) in most as cases as compared to bad relationship (3%) and indifferent (0.8%). From table, it is evident that mostly female respondents (96.7%) had good relation as compared to male respondents (95.8%). Similarly, females (3.3%) were badly treated by employers as compared to male respondents (1.4%). Only 1 male respondent replied that there is no indifferent relation with his employer.

Table 5.11: Distribution of respondents by their relationship with employers

Relationship Status	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Good	69	95.8	58	96.7	127	96.2
Bad	2	2.8	2	3.3	4	3.
Indifferent	1	1.4	-	-	1	0.8
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

5.4.1 Respondents' Medical Expenditure

“Health is wealth” so good health is important part of human life. An unhealthy person cannot do any work. Health is the primary concern in any field of life. During work a worker may get sick and cannot do work till healthy again. A question was asked to all child respondents whether employers provide them medical expenditure or not if they fall sick. Table 5.12 shows whether employer of sample population provide medical expenditure or not. From table it is clear that most (87.1%) of the child workers have no medical facilities from employer and

only 17 (12.9%) male respondents replied that they get medical facilities from their employer.

Table 5.12: Distribution of respondents by medical facilities

Employer pay to medical expense	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	14	19.4	3	5.0	17	12.9
No	58	80.6	57	95.0	115	87.1
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

Viewing sex-wisely, 14 (19.4%) male respondents get medical expenses from employer and 58 (80.6%) do not have medical facilities from employer. In case of female child workers, 3 (5%) out of 60 gets medical expenses while 57 (95%) do not any medical expenses from their employer.

5.4.2 Future Plan of Respondents

Almost all children came to be a child labour with the hope of earning money for their survival and making better living standard. So, it is important to know and understand the perception of the child labour to their plan for the future. The data collected during the field study is presented in table 5.13.

Table 5.13: Distribution of respondents by future ambition

Future ambition	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Study	11	15.3	3	5.0	14	10.6
Continue same work	3	4.2	3	5.0	6	4.5
Earn more money	44	61.1	20	33.3	64	48.5
Don't know	14	19.4	34	56.7	48	36.4
Total	72	100.0	60	100.0	132	100.0

Source: Field survey, Bishahariya VDC, 2009

Viewing sex-wise majority of male respondents (61.1%) wanted to earn more money in their future while 11 (15.3%) male respondents wanted to study, 3 (4.2%) wanted to continue same work and 14 (19.4%) did not have any future plan. In case of female respondents majority (56.7%) did not have any future plan while 20 (33.3%) female respondents wanted to earn more money, 3 (5%) wanted to study and 3 (5%) wanted to continue same work. As a whole 64 (48.5%) respondents wanted to earn more money in future followed by number of respondents with no plan (36.4%), want to study (10.6%) and continue same work (4.5%).

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary

Nepal is one of the poor countries in the world .In Nepal, impaired health, unemployment ,poverty and illiteracy are the prevailing problems ,which affect each sectors of Nepalese life even including children .They are forced to work and there are virtually no sector in which children are not employed. From such kinds of involvement, they have not only been deprived of necessities but also suffered from abuse, exploitation humiliation, negligence and diseases. They are lacking normal childhood.

This study is based on the interview of 132 (72 male 60 female) Mushar children working in Bishahariya VDC of Saptari district. Respondents selected were aged less than 14 years on the basis of purposive sampling technique. The study has attempted to analyze the status of child labour in Mushar community. In this context, efforts are made to present the social facts about Mushar child labours. The data were analyzed using MS-excel and frequency and cross tables. The data collected are represntedd in tables and diagrams where necessary. Data were mainly presented to describe the causes and condition of both male and female child workers.

The major findings of this study are summarized below:

- Out of 132 respondents, 72 male and 60 female were taken for the purpose of this study.
- The majority of female child labour are highest in age 14(58.3%) followed by age 13(21.7%) whereas males are highest also in age 14(41.7%) followed by age 13(30.5%).
- Majority of child labour (94.7%) had both parents alive.
- Highest percent (79.5%) of child has 4-6 number of family size , which is followed by the of child labour having family size 7-9 (19.7%). The minimum number of child labour has family size above 10 (0.8%).
- However, almost 15% child labours' parents are literate and majority (about 85%) of parents are illiterate.

- Majority (78.8%) of child labours are literate and some (21.2%) percent are illiterate. About, 74 percent child labours are study in the course of primary and 26 percent are study in the course of lower secondary.
- Majority of child labours (99.2%) have their own house. But only few (0.8%) children do not have own house.
- Similarly, 55 (41.7%) child labours' parent's occupation is agriculture while 77 (58.3%) child labours' parent's have non-agricultural occupation.
- Majority of child labours (65.9%) have family debt problem .But only about 34% children have no debt problem.
- Of the total respondents 77 (58.3%) joined working due to lack of income of family .It is followed by those who had debt problem (16.7%). 22 respondents (15.9%) work to be free from home while 9 (6.8%) joined work because of family conflict and 3 (2.3%) due to step father/mother.
- Majority of child labours (35.6%) are involved in carrying brick to kiln followed by workers whose works are brick moulding (22%),paddy harvesting (12.9%) working at other houses (11.3%), animal herding (10.6%) and working in building construction (7.6%).
- Similarly, 106 (80.3%) children reported that their working hours is 5-8 hours while 13 (9.8%) children have to work for less than 5 hours a day, 8 (6.1%) child labours work for 8-10 hours and 5 (3.8%) child labour work 10-12 hours a day. There is age difference in working hours.
- On the basis of working time frame, majority of child labours (67.4%) are involved in working seasonally. It is followed by regular child labour (24.3%) and those child labours who work occasionally (8.3%).
- Majority of child labours (52.2%) reported that their parents receive their salary followed by child labours receiving own salary (46.2%) and salary of only 2 (1.6%) child workers is received by other relatives.
- Similarly, about 23% child labours receive RS 1000-2000 per month, 46% receive RS 2000-3000 per month, 24% receive RS 3000-4000 and 7% receive RS 4000-5000 per month.

- Majority of child labours (55.3%) reported that they get wages on weekly basis followed by child labour getting the wages daily (25.5%) and those who get on monthly basis (21.2%).
- About 89% child labour are satisfied with the present work while 11% aren't satisfied.
- Those children who are not satisfied reported that low wage (46.7%) is the main reason for dissatisfaction followed by those unsatisfied due to hard work (33.3%) and those who are unsatisfied because they have to leave their education (30%) for work.
- Majority (98.5%) of respondents reported that they support their family from their income while few (1.5%) do not support their family from their income.
- Similarly, majority (80.8%) of child labours reported that they support family basically for buying food from their income. Some (16.9%) help their family to pay back the debt from their earning while few (2.3%) use their income to pay school fees and buy clothes.
- About 127 (96.2%) child labours had good relation with their employers while only 4 (3%) had bad relation and 1 (0.8%) reported indifferent relation with employer.
- Majority of child labours (87.1%) reported that their medical expenses were not paid by their employers if they fall sick during work and only 17 (12.9%) were paid medical expenses from their employers.
- About 49% child labours want to earn more money in future while 36% do not have any future plan, about 11% want to study in future and about 5% want to continue same work.

6.2 Conclusion

Mushar, a dominated caste of Hindu tribe of terai region of Nepal is backward in all sectors. It is very difficult for this tribe to manage with fooding, lodging and clothing, the basic needs of human beings .They seem to be always struggling for these basic needs but in vain. Condition of their lodging and fooding is quite pathetic. It is because they are not aware of education and they have been suffering from poverty for years. Because of their poor economy, the Mushar parents are

bound to send their children for work to their employers to fulfil their survival needs by selling their labours.

The academic condition of the Mushar children is very low. The reason behind this is the poor economic condition of the parents along with their ignorance to the importance of education. Although there are some Mushar parents who are quite aware of the importance of education and are willing to send their kids to school, they are bound due to their poor economic condition. Nowadays many of them are sending their children at the time of getting some facilities by the government but they can't continue their studies regularly. So, they are deprived of getting education because of poverty/lack of awareness and are forced to engage in child labour.

After the study in 132 child labours, this study has come up with the conclusion of following reasons due to which the Mushar children are engaged in child labour:

- Low socio-economic condition.
- Parents' ignorance to education.
- Social discrimination.
- Their compulsion to send their children to work for their survival needs.

6.3 Recommendations

On the basis of this study and analysis over all scenario of child labour in Mushar community of Bishahariya VDC, Saptari, the following recommendations are drawn which are applicable to both policy and action level, also helpful to policymaker to improve and protect child labours from extremely exploitation and hazardous condition:

- There should be the provision of special reservation for Mushars in higher education, employment and policy.
- There should be a special programmes to attract Mushar children to school.
- Free vocational and skill development programs should be launched in rural area for the parents so that they can increase their income.

- Minimum wage system must be implemented by VDC as provided and indicated by state.
- As mentioned in children's Act(1992) of Nepal, the working hour for children should be limited to 6 hours a day and 36 hours a week but it is not implemented on behaviour so concerning agency should taken action on this situation.

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
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 Child Labour Situation in Mushar community
 (A case study of Bishahariya VDC of Saptari)

S. No. of Respondent

Respondent Name:

Sex:

Age:

House Address:

Ward No.:

S. N.	Question	Coding	Symbol
A.	Family Background (Information taken from Parents)		
1.	What is your name?	
2.	Is your wife alive?	1. Yes 2. No	
3.	If yes, where is she?	1. Home 2. Gone to other place for work (Place.....)	
4.	Is your husband alive?	1. Yes 2. No	
5.	If yes, where is he?	1. Home 2. Gone to other place for work (Place.....)	
6.	Are you literate?	1. Yes 2. No	
7.	If yes, what level did you complete?	
8.	What is your occupation?	1. Agriculture/ Self 2. Agriculture wage 3. Service 4. Trade 5. Housewife 6. Other (Specify).....	
9.	How many children do you have?	1. Son..... 2. Daughter..... 3. Total.....	
10.	How many children are in between age 5 to 14 years age? (Specify age)	1. Son 2. Daughter 3. Total	
11.	How many children are going to school?	1. Son 2. Daughter	
12.	How many children are going for work?	1. Son 2. Daughter	
13.	Why are you sending them for work?	Specify.....	

14.	What type of family do you have	1. Single Family 2. Joint Family	
15.	Do you own a house?	1. Yes 2. No	
16.	Do you have own agriculture land?	1. Yes 2. No	
17.	If yes, how much?Kattha	
18.	Is it sufficient for your family to feed from your lands?	1. Yes 2. No	
19.	Are you indebted?	1. Yes 2. No	
20.	If yes, from whom did you take loan?	1. Money lender 2. Child's employer 3. Other	
B.	Types of work (Information taken from child respondent)		
21.	Where do you work?	1. Home 2. Out of home, Place.....	
22.	What type of work do you have?	1. Animal grazing 2. Carrying brick to kiln 3. Brick molding 4. Building construction 5. Working at other house 6. Other (Specify).....	
23.	Who draws your salary?	1. Parents 2. Self 3. Others (Specify).....	
24.	How is your relationship with your employer?	1. Good 2. Normal 3. Bad 4. Worst	
25.	If bad/worst, why?	1. Wants much work 2. Wants continuous 3. Other (Specify).....	
C.	Working Condition (Information taken from child respondent)		
26.	How many hours do you work?	1. < 5 hrs 2. 5-8 hrs 3. 8-10 hrs 4. 10-12 hrs	
27.	Do you work regularly, occasionally or seasonally?	1. Regularly 2. Occasionally 3. Seasonally	
28.	Are you working alone or working with someone from your family/ relative?	1. Alone 2. With family/ relative (Specify).....	
29.	Does your employ pay the medical expenses if you fall sick?	1. Yes 2. No	
30.	Through whom did you come to join this work?	1. Through parents 2. Through relatives	

		3. Through neighborhood 4. Through friends 5. Through own/ self	
D.	Earning Status (Information taken from child respondents)		
31.	On what basis do you get the wages?	1. Daily 2. Weekly 3. Monthly 4. Yearly	
32.	What do you get for your work?	1. Money 2. Others (Specify).....	
33.	How much do you get from your work?	Rs.....	
34.	How many days do you work per year (approximately)?	
35.	Do you give money at home?	1. Yes 2. No	
36.	What does your family do with that money?	1. Spend in house work 2. Save 3. Don't know	
37.	If, no What do you do with that money?	1. Save my self 2. Give to friend 3. Spend my self 4. For saving	
38.	If you save you're earning, what do plan to do with saving?	1. Start education 2. Help my family 3. Improve my life status 4. Others (Specify)	
E.	Reason (Information taken from child respondent)		
39.	Why did you join this work?	1. Debt problem 2. Family Quarrel 3. Step Father/Mother 4. Lack of income of family 5. To be free from home	
40.	At what age did you first start to work?	1. <10 yrs 2. 11-14 yrs 3. 15-17 yrs 4. Don't know	
41.	Did you work anywhere before joining this work?	1. Yes 2. No	
42.	If yes, where did you work?		
F.	Education (Information taken from child respondent)		
43.	Are you literate?	1. Yes 2. No	
44.	Did you attend school?	1. Yes 2. No	
45.	If yes what level did you complete?	
46.	Who pays your school fee?	1. Parents 2. Self	

		3. Owner 4. Other	
47.	If no, why did not you go to school?	1. Due to work 2. It's not important 3. Lack of poverty	
G.	Perception of child working (Information taken from child respondent)		
48.	Apart from your wage/salary do you also get other benefits?	1. Yes 2. No	
49.	If yes, what extra benefit do you get?		
50.	Are you satisfied with current work?	1. Yes 2. No	
51.	If no, why are you not satisfied?	1. Low wage 2. Hard work 3. Other (Specify)	
52.	What do your family/parents think about your work?	1. Good 2. Bad 3. Indifferent 4. Other	
53.	How does your employer treat you?	1. Good 2. Bad 3. Indifferent 4. Other	
54.	What type of support do you provide to your family?	1. Buying food 2. Pay schooling fee 3. Buying clothes 4. Paying debt	
55.	What would you like to do in the future?	1. Study 2. Continue the same work 3. Earning money 4. Won't know	

Some question adopted by Thesis 333.31/khc

Thank you