

# CHAPTER– I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

The exploitative practice of child labor has recognized as a major socioeconomic problem. It is an affront to the principle of social justice, child right and to the protection of human rights. Children are among the most neglected, abused and exploited segment of the population exposed to such worst form of child labor as rag picker.

Child labor has emerged as a major problem in most of third world countries. Children are found working as integral part of family work force in the agricultural economy and other field. Child labor has increased due to the increase in population and economy strength. One in six children in the world is engaged as labor in market. Millions of children are working in very worst form such as in mine, working with harmful chemical and pesticides in agriculture or working with dangerous machinery and some working as child rag picker (ILO, 2001).

Children living in the poorest house hold and in rural are most likely to engaged in child labor. Those burdens with household chores are overwhelming girls. Millions of girls who work as domestic servant, especially vulnerable situation and more exploited. Labor often interferes with children's education. Ensuring that all children go to school and that, their education is good quality or key to preventing child labor. Child labor remains a major economy and social phenomenon in Nepal. according to National Child Labor Survey undertaken in 1997, 1.660 million children 26.6 percent out of the total 6.225 million children aged between 5 to 14 in the country are economically active (Mishra, 2007).

The need to restrict and eradicate the most intolerable forms of child labor has become an essential element of a national development strategy to achieve sustainable growth and to protect human right. Government of Nepal repeatedly expressed its commitment to eliminating the worst forms of child labor and government currently

in the process of ratifying the new International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention on the worst form of child labor, No-182 ((ILO, 2001)

The term rag picker currently refers to people who collect rags or recyclable materials, collecting, sorting and selling of these various waste materials that can be found at dumping sites, riverbanks, street corners or residential areas and collect primarily plastics, bottles, carbon, tins, aluminum, iron, brass and coppers. Children are engaged as rag picker in most of the town areas in Nepal.

### **1.1.1. Nepalese Contexts**

Child labor remains a major economic and social phenomenon in Nepal. Due to the persistence poverty, child labor is a part of the family support for their subsistence. According to 2001 census about 29 percent of the children within the age group 10-14 are economically active and among which about 62 percent are engaged in agriculture and related activities. And children from child labor in town most of them are engaged in rag picking known as rag pickers (CBS, 2003).

There are numerous theories that account for high rate of child labor in Nepal. One most is the financial situation of nation. Labeled as one of the poorest and most undeveloped nation in the world, Nepal's poor economic status contributes to the highest rate of child labor and poverty. When families are faced with monetary hardship, they are often forced to send their children to work, sometimes in extremely hazardous conditions, merely to attain basic subsistence. In Nepal, child work in general and child labor in particular is common phenomenon.

Rag-pickers known as "*Khate*" in Nepali slang have recently become a part of the growing population. Most of the urban centers of Nepal have street children. According to report by Child Worker in Nepal there are 4,000 children engaged in rag picking in various urban centers in Nepal with highest concentration located in Kathmandu valley, Dharan and Narayanghat (CWIN, 2008). Most children who work as rag pickers come from rural areas especially from hill and mountains regions. A disproportionate number of rag pickers are from *Dalit, Tamang, Magar* and *Tharu* ethnic group. Diyalo bulletin estimated that more than 300 rag pickers live and works in Bharatpur Municipality. Among the rag pickers majority are found to be boys and average age has been estimated 5 to 14 years old (Dialo, 2007)

## **1.2. Statement of Problem**

Children should be given good care about their health and education with proper rearing. They should be provided with proper attention but the case is just reverse in Nepal. Majority of child population is leading a dreadful and fearful life under the root of illiteracy and poverty. Most of people are even unable to feed their children.

Children issues were not given greater importance to Nepalese government till 1980s. Children as a development concern was only included for the first time in the seventh plan (1985-1990). But still, Nepalese children are facing various difficulties due to social belief, persistence of poverty, gender discrimination and illiteracy relating to the development. According to National Planning Centre, due to the persistence of poverty, children labor form is part of the family support for their subsistence (NPC, 2005).

According to UNICEF, rag picking is one of the worst forms of child labor and falls under the street children category (UNICEF, 1997). The millions of children are working in garbage dump and street, as rag picker. Most of the rag pickers are street children and they live in very hazards forms so they face many problems.

The critical problems affecting child rag pickers emerge from an unhealthy environment, insecurity, illiteracy, exploitation and lack of alternative work. Especially during the rainy season most of the children in were found to have poor health , some with acute or chronic tuberculosis and many had physical injuries like cuts, scratches or burns, skin disease like scabies or intestinal disease (CWIN, 1997) . Apart from these children, rag pickers are more likely to be exposed to criminal activities or become victims or criminal gangs and engaged in drugs abuse. According to Pradhan, children involved in minor crimes like pick pocketing, stealing, drug paddling, prostitution and described their relationship with the police to be very negative. They also found that older street boys and criminal gangs used street children in criminal activities. In fact, CWIN report found about 90 percent rag pickers to have experience arrest and detention into police custody, in detention centers , they are mixed with other criminals, are often beaten and tortured or exposed to abuse by other criminals (CWIN,2008).

Most of the rag pickers found to be low school enrollments as well as high drop out rate. The rate of literacy increased with the age of children. Past studies indicates that rag pickers were found to be malnourished, still they have very poor health condition due to the consumption of unhygienic food and working in unhealthy, polluted environment. They are particularly vulnerable during the rainy season when most of them are suffering from diarrhea and scabies and in winter, they suffer from cold. Similarly many times they are burn accidentally while they making them warm in cold night in the street. There are many reasons of being children as rag pickers. The risk of falling ill is very high since they operate in unhygienic, polluted areas and consume dirty or unhealthy food and water (ibid).

The above intimate situation applicable in the context of Naraynghat bazaar. It is a centre urban area of western Nepal. Many children from countryside come here in search of better life. Similarly in migration with family is also high but poor economic growth can not provide sufficient jobs for them, so many children come into the street to survive. In this situation children are engaged in various activities some are engaged in criminal activity such as prostitution, drug paddling, and some are engaged in collection of rags. We can see many children in Narayanghat bazaar wandering as rag picker. They collect rags and sell to earn money. Most of the rag pickers do their work in the morning and in market site. Although there are many local agencies such as Youth clubs, Dialo, Hamro Bhanca Ghar and churches running different programe for their betterment but still they are denied from their basic right. Children are doing works in very hazardous forms in rainy season they go to the Narayani river side to pick the rags and some time they lose their life. Similarly many of the children are used by criminals and they are arrested by police.

In short, some research question can be raised, such as what are the main problems faced by them? What type of program should be effective to improve their socioeconomic status?

### **1.3. Objective**

The general objective of the study is to examine the socioeconomic and demographic characteristic of rag picker and the specific objectives are:

1. To examine their daily activities and
2. To examine living condition of the rag pickers.

#### **1.4. Rational of the Study**

The worst form of child labor is increasing day by day in all over the country. They are denied from education, health, food and shelter. They are even deprived from love, and spending life in very vulnerable condition. Among of the kinds of worst forms of child labor, situation of rag pickers are very vulnerable and it is very challenging to solve their problems.

Although many awareness program are being holding and extreme mobility of the target group on this area but they don't know about their rights. Most of child rag picker specially those who have no family contact, do not have shelter, they live in street and the population of such children increasing day by day with vacant future.

#### **1.5. Limitation of the study**

The study covered only Narayanghat Bazaar in Bharatpur municipality Findings are not generalized for all types of child labor. The children under age of 16 years old were included as the respondents for the study.

#### **1.6 Organization of the study**

This study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter is concerned with the introduction of the study dealing with the statement of the problem, objectives, rational of the study and limitation of the study. The relevant literatures have been reviewed in second chapter. The third chapter deals with the methodology used in this study. In the fourth chapter an analysis of this study area is presented which deals with the demographic, social and economic characteristics of sample population. The fifth chapter provides the main findings, summary, conclusion and recommendation of the study. Some case studies are also illustrate in the appendix for comprehensive information about child rag picker.

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1. Theoretical Literature Review**

Receiving a world wide attention in recent year, the concept of child labor is still emerging. Every child has an inherent right to have basic human right and need such as education, health, care, protection, love and respect. The social commitment is importance for the over all spiritual, physical emotional development as well as promotion of the coming generation.

According to the report by New York, 1990, *“If you are to plant for one year, you plant rice, if you are planning for five years, you plant trees. If you are planning for future, you educate your children”* (Mishra, 2007).

According to the report by Youth Club, 1995, *“Illiteracy amongst parent is one of the main reasons behind child work. Parent who has to educate or provide skill training does not see the point for life for adult”* (Dharell, 2009).

In an interview Kailash Satyarthi a leader in fight to end child labor in south Asia, said that “Children work in export, industries, where profit margins are highest, in agriculture, construction materials, stone quarries, and in cottage industries such as carpet weaving and glass industries, there has been tremendous growth in child services. In the export oriented industries of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Srilanka” (ILO, 2001).

According to UNICEF, rag picking is one of the worst forms of child labor and falls under the category of the street children (UNICEF, 1979). Initially rag pickers were considered those children who literally work and live in street, known as children on the street. Today the denotation of the rag pickers has been extended to include those working in the street by living with families in home, slums etc. known as children of the street (ILO, 2001).

This study included both cases whether they belong to the “of the street” or “on the street” category. According to CWIN, Rag pickers also known as “garbage pickers” and he\ she makes living from sorting, collecting and selling waste metal, plastics, and varieties of rags to the local junkyard or garbage collection centers (CWIN, 1998).

Receiving a worldwide attention in recent year, the concept of rag picker is still burning issues. Every child has an inherent right to basic human needs such as education, health care protection, love and respect. The social commitment is thus an essential for the over all spiritual, physical, emotional, development as well as promotion of the coming generation.

### **2.1.1. Concept and Definition**

The definition of child is somewhat complicated. The definition of child or childhood depends on culture and it is observed differ from place to place even the same culture. So, the childhood is very difficult to define universally. According to Enew, there are different stages in children and that are affected by the age of a child who starts to work and the types of work that they do. Childhood may be defined by age but different societies fix different threshold for demarcation of childhood (New Era 2005).

“Father should treat a child as his equal when he reached the age of 16” Charakya (Dharel, 2009)

If we look at modern standards, the Conventional on Right of child CRC ,defines a child to be one who is below the age 18 years old under the law applicable to child maturity is attained (CRC, 1989). According to ILO, minimum age convention, 1978 defines child who is under 15 years old but these criteria’s differ with respect to nature of work (ILO, 1998).

Child work has been considered a potential learning experience or apprenticeship for the child and therefore not harmful. But child labor is define by differentiating it from child work as being exploitative by nature and detrimental to the child ‘growing

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

Child labor can be defined as any productive or survival activity, paid or unpaid within the family or outside, evolving employment or self employment. All forms of work are injuries to children and some may have beneficial impact, such as developing learning skill, improving nutrition or self-esteem or developing a sense of unity with family. Because of these important qualities differences, child work is treated as distinct from child lab our (Boyden, 1994).

Child labor is defined as work which is exploitative or dangerous which detrimental to physical, intellectual and psychosocial health or development or deprives a child from education (ibid). However, there is no distinct between child work and child lab our in Nepal.

According to ILO, convention on the worst form of child labor 1990, following are worst forms of child labor:

- ) Children in factory/industry
- ) Children in mine and quarry
- ) Children in forestry
- ) Children in domestic services
- ) Children in shop/restaurant
- ) Children in street
- ) Children in construction work
- ) Children in commercial sexual exploitation
- ) Children as bonded child labor
- ) Refugee children
- ) Migrant children
- ) Children as porter
- ) Children used in publicity and advertising
- ) Children in circuses/ music industries (ILO,1990, K.C. et. al, 2001)



### **2.1.1.1. Rag Picker**

According to UNICEF, rag picking is worst forms of child labour and falls under the category of street children. The rag picker also known as “garbage pickers” live on the street, in slum, or shanty areas and he /she makes a living from sorting , collecting and selling waste metal , rags, containers to the local junkyards or garbage collection centers (CWIN,1998).

The concept of street children and the definition of the term rag pickers appear to have undergone modification over time, initially, rag pickers were considered those children who literally work and live in the street, known as children on the street.

According to CRC, rag pickers as it target those form of children’s work considered to be the most exploitative and intolerable under all circumstances of child labor forms, child rag pickers differ from other forms of child labor, belonging to street children (CRC,1989).

Rag pickers belong to the “of the street” or “on the street category. Children “of the street” refer to those who live in the street, junkyard, temple, public place etc. and children on the street refers to those children who only use the street as their working place or social hangout but live with their families in home, slum, squat or any other places (K.C. et. al 2001).

The term rag pickers are now more specifically applied to that person who collects rags or recycle able materials that can be sold for money. These materials, are usually gathered from dumpsites, riverbank, and street corners or from residential areas are mainly plastics, bottles, cardboards and others which can be collect easily. Rag pickers get price for their rags according to the quality of materials. Tins, bottles and papers are not worth more so they prefer not to collect these materials. However, higher price materials such as copper, brass and aluminum are hard to find and be assumed to the products of theft. The work rag picker is either seasonal occupation, winter being more productive and summer is slacker. In the rainy season, materials are wet and dirty and collecting is very difficult because of the rain and mud. The rag picker who works seasonally, live at home and work as rag picker, prefer in the winter

while they do other work in summer but all the rag pickers preferred in the morning or evening, when people normally dispose of their garbage. However, some prefer to work in the afternoon.

## **2.2. Empirical Literature Review**

Receiving a worldwide attention in recent year, the concept of rag picker is still burning issues. Every child has an inherent right to have basic human needs such as education, health care, protection love and respect. The social commitment is thus an essential for the overall spiritual, physical, emotional, development as well as promotion of the coming generation .pervious research also determines that the critical problems affecting child rag pickers emerge from an unhealthy environment, insecurity, illiteracy, exploitation and lack of alternative work, especially during the rainy season (CWIN, 1998)

### **2.2.1. Child Labor in the World**

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimate there is 246 millions child labors worldwide. In Sub –Saharan Africa one in three children are engaged in child labor, representing 69 million children. And child labors in south Asia, another 44 millions are engaged in child labor (UNICEF, 2009).

### **2.2.2. Child labor in Nepal**

Exploitative child labor is serious problem in Nepal. According to the National Child Labor Report 2005, 2.6 millions children between ages 5 to 14 are working in Nepal. Of this, nearly, 5 percent are involved in what the International Labor Organization defines as the Worst forms of child labor. According to report by CWIN, there are 4000 street children in Nepal with major concentration in Kathmandu city. In Bharatpur municipality mainly in Narayanghat Bazaar there are more than 300 street children who engaged in works of rag picking (CWIN, 2008).

### 2.2.3.1. Forms of Child Labor in Nepal

According to the ILO Convention, No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child labor the worst forms of child labor in Nepal are following:

- ) domestic child labor
- ) child porter
- ) carpet child labor
- ) bonded child labor
- ) children in mine and quarry
- ) child rag picker
- ) child trafficking

In Nepal ,labor Act 1992 defines a child as a person below the age of 14 years but the Children Act 1992 broaden age limited up to 16 years old.

**Table: Minimum age according with ILO Convention.**

General minimum age	Light work	Dangerous work
15 years or more	13years	18 years (16 years dispersion)
14 years or more	#12 years	18 or 16 years

# for developing countries only (ILO, 2001)

### 2.3. Rag Picker and Education

Education is the basic need that consists of the combination of the knowledge, values and skills that serves as the foundation for an individual's life long learning. The foundation of basic education consist of learning and life skills that enable one to function in one's physical and social environment, including basic communication , critical thinking problem solving and analysis.

Achievement of the universal primary education goals depend on reaching out of school children, most of whom are unable to attend school because of their work commitment (UNICEF/ILO,1998).

In Nepal, studies reveal that many school going age children are still out of school. The situation is worst in rural areas where school drop out rate is very high .studies shows that it is due to the engaging of children in work.

Most of the rag pickers are literate, they dropout school due to different reasons, such as work at home, distance of school, food, admission fee, parent's unawareness are major causes.

The rate of literacy increase with the age of children which considered as natural trend the education of children varies on the basis of caste, ethnicity and geographical areas. The work rag picking, hindrance the children's education and psychological development. Municipalities are also running non formal education for those, who are not able to attend school due to various reasons. However, municipal authorities themselves realize that the coverage of their program me's failed to reach the real target by other local NGOs.

Though most of the rag pickers are not attend any type of school, the child rag pickers are found to be positive towards the education. Many of them are awards of the benefits of education and would like to go school for better future. There are some examples that some organization, clubs and foreigner have supported children for schooling. These activities have really contributed to children at least being aware of their education right (Pradhan, 2005).

When looking at the situation in Nepal, the reality is that though education is free with providing books for some level by government, many children do not go to the school or dropout from there. This is mainly caused by social- cultural issues, such as the parent's ignorance of children's right, mistreatment by teacher in school and on over all poor education system in rural areas.

Vocational education and training seems to be a better approach for children of disadvantage families, since it will allow them to get a job in shorter period of time. Different NGOs and organization provide vocational education for grown up street children including rag pickers for their better future.

## **2.4. Rag Picker and Health**

Healthy children represent a healthy nation; reducing child mortality has been goal of the policy. The health of children in Nepal is closely and integrally linked to several factors from geographically location, climate. The socio cultural practice and attitudes to economic changes that are taking place in the country.

As it has been stated earlier, the population census 2001 reports that population in the age group 1-14 comprised 39 percent of the total population. Over 85 percent of the country' population is rural and more then 40 percent children in this area suffer from malnourished and various disease such as diarrhea. Continuous diarrhea is a major cause of death among Nepalese children. The use of oral re hydration therapy is still low.

Working in extremely poor condition, children are injuring themselves in the hazardous industries. A large portion of the child population involved working in mines and quarry, agriculture ,domestic services, transportation, porters and street work etc, where children has faced many health problem. During the work, child in hunger is common for various reasons.

The children of the street, who have no home or guardians taking care of them usually, spend all their earning in day. The rag pickers working in various hazardous conditions have high risk of health problems. They are potentially high vulnerable situation among of other child labor (CBS 2003).

## **2.5. Causes of Child Labor**

Nepal's rigid structure and poor economic status contribute to child labor. Inequalities between groups in society often augment poverty, which in turns forces parents to send their children to become a part of work force. Social inequalities causing child labor can be seen with bonded child labor. With such disparity of wealth in Nepal, poor families are in great debt and in turn, must become bonded labor. Discrimination against minority groups also contributes to Nepalese children entering in work force.

Land ownership and rural migration have further contributed to child labor in Nepal. Most of the child labor occurs away from the centers of the power and low enforcement. With the power and money in the hands of a privileged few, the bulk of the Nepali population remains in poverty. With such immense rural poverty, families are often caught in common cycle of rural to urban migration in hope to find employment. Factory owners and other employers in urban areas receive a steady flow of rural labor. Therefore children constitute a huge part of this workforce.

### **2.5.1. Poverty**

Poverty is cause and consequence of child labor. Almost one half of population in Nepal falls under absolute poverty. This is mainly due to the high depending on agriculture, decline productivity, increase landless and increased unemployment; children are force to find work in order to service . Child labor exists largely due to lack of asses to resource and low level of literacy, poverty affects proportionally more girls then boys (K.C. et al.) Children from the poorest areas and families tend to work very early age typically have the lowest level of education and suffer other social disadvantages (Boyden, 1994). In such case, children are forced to do work with their parents or engage in caring their young and other domestic work in their own houses, which highly become the obstacles of their studies. Another major factor is lack of ability of their parents to join them in school. Study showed that in child work often directly linked the poverty of family. It has been also mentioned that the necessity of having food, shelter and factors such as unemployed or under employment of adult family members or the death of the bread winner compel children to the work from early age. Many children have migrated to cities in search of living condition and have few choices regarding the conditions of quality of other employment (UNICEF, 1998).

In Nepal children are suffering from malnutrition. Food supplies available to bulk of children are insufficient for their physical well being and diets are in monotonous, unbalanced and deficient in vitamin, protein, minerals and fats. General health

condition is extremely bad. In case of education, primary level education have been increasing rapidly in relation to population growth.

### **2.5.2. Family Structure**

Large family size contributes to child labor as many parents may face financial difficulties and are compelled to send at least one child out to work (NPC, 2005).

Due to increasing rates of family breakup and consequent remarriage, nearly children face exploitation, beating, regret and verbal abuse from their parents (ILO, 1998).

The Family setting is often regarded as a basic social institution within which a child is taught the fundamental of society and life. However, various factors may hinder the healthy development of children within the family circle. The loss of parents or the introduction of stepparent can have a significant impact in the child, Nepalese culture doesn't favor adoption of step children, and many step parents may see these fruits of a previous marriage hindrance or threat. In this light, understanding the family background of rag pickers may help clarify their reasons for leaving home and education for life on the street.

The number of street children in Kathmandu and in other town like Narayanghath in Nepal has growing. Some of the street children belong to squatter families who have migrated from rural area. Other runaways driven from home by a variety of social and psychological as well as domestic problems are abandoning on the street by members of their family.

The average family size of child rag picker is 5.4 members, which is slightly higher than the national average of 5.1. However, girl's rag pickers usually come from larger families with 6.3 members (CBS, 2003). These may indicate that family size is a factor in the incidence of girl's compelled to work as rag picker. Although previous studies indicate that most of rag pickers or street children were came from single or no parent family.

### **2.5.3. Migration**

According to Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC), there is an association between child work, child education and migration. migration it self is caused by many factors such as poverty, low literacy rate of village , lack of school, natural calamities, political conflict and negative treatment by step mother or by step father . Poor teaching in rural areas was also such a major cause of migration (INSEC, 1996).

### **2.5.4 Caste System**

According to International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC, 1995), traditional caste system has led to exploitation of children expectable from untouchable caste. Families are often compelled to work only as street cleaners, blacksmith, and cobbler are trapped in vicious circle of poverty and social injustices. Most of their families are in financial crises, so they are bonded as child labor in land holders, to escape from this situation children comes to the street (Mishara, 2007).

### **2.5.5. Poor Enforcement of Legislation**

In regards to the labor Act 1992 and children' Act 1992, claims that authorities have neither effectively implemented the law nor formulated any plans of action for the children welfare. There is no welfare provision for the children or effective program within child community, therefore under aged child may be forced into the invisible sectors where their condition may be worse.

### **2.5.6. Poor Coordination among Government, INGOs and NGOs**

Pradhan said “among the government bureaucracies and funding agencies, the lack of co-ordination and effective networks is causing major problems to the progress of the child right movement” (Pradhan, 2005).

Although different organization are ready for providing humanitarian help and socialization support to enhance the rights of street children and other children at risk.



They also want to work for the reintegration of children into their families. Many organization are running different programs for child labor but all these are urban centered , so the programs are not still beneficial for child labor, due to lack of co-ordination between state parties and organization.

## **2.6. Law of Child Labor**

The United Nation Convention on Child Right 1989 strongly recognized “the right of the child to be product from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development”.

The constitution of Nepal 1990 seek to protect the interest of children by conferring on them in certain fundamental right and imposing for their benefit , certain directive principles and policies of state. The state shall make necessary arrangement to safeguard the rights and interest of children, insure that they are not exploded and make gradual arrangement for free education (Dharel, 2009).

### **2.6.1 The Labor Act 2048 B.S. (1992) and Labor Rule 2050 B.S. (1993)**

There are several laws in Nepal that protects the right of children. The labor Act 1992 provides for the rights, interest, facilities and safety of workers, employers working in enterprises of various sectors. It defines a child as a person who has not attained the age o 14 years, and a minor as a person who has attained the age of 14 years but not completed the age of 8 years (Mishra, 2007).

In clause 43, it provides the right of minors who have not attained the age of 16 years. They shall not be employed on hydraulic and other machine operated cases, milling machines used in metal industries, circular saw, other dangerous machines or operations hazardous operations for health. Similarly clause 3(1) prescribes no minor between the age of 14 and 16 years shall be employed in any establishment for more than six hours in a day or thirty six hours in a week (Mishra 2007).

The children's Act defines a child to be human beings below the age of sixteen years. Section seventeen of the children Act lies down that a child who has not attained the age of fourteen years shall not be employed in any works as labor. Further, a child shall not be engaged as a labor against his/ her will. It states that a child who may be employed as a labor is entitled to equal remuneration for irrespective of the child's sex, religious, race, color, caste and community.

The increasing child work and education trend has resulted into proliferation of child employment in various sectors. This is happening despite the existence of several conventions and laws to protect children's right. However, there is a debate whether legislation can only eliminate child labor.

Rodgers and Standing, have mentioned that legislation may be help to control the more obvious forms of exploitation. Legislation designed to eliminate the child employment is it self not so enough. They claim that child labor is that where it is prohibits by laws is likely to child workers unprotected, since legally they do not exist. However, two situation should be distinguished those where the law exist but is not enforced and other where activity is not covered by existing laws (ibid).

## **2.7 National Policy on Child Work**

There are several government and on governmental organization working to improve the situation of children in Nepal. National plan and programs have been focused in this direction. The issue of child work has been for the first time addressed in the seventh five year development plan in Nepal. However it is eighth plan that provided specific policies to improve the child well.

It states that children are future leaders of the country. They will be physically, mentally and intellectually capable citizens in the future, if they are provided with facilities for all around development from their childhood. It focused on:

- ) Factors responsible for the school drop out at primary level will be surveyed and remedial step will be taken to discourage such tendencies.

- ) Special emphasis will be laid on activity involving nongovernmental, social organization in the children's -welfare programs.

The ninth plan provided following measure to improve the life of children:

- ) Special measure will be taken to reduce the rate of school dropout, to improve the quality of education, and to improve the enrollment of girl's children of school going age will be provided free primary education.
- ) Measure will be taken to encourage and help to locals to set goals related children and child development when devising local plan (NPC, 2005)

In order to implement the policies addressed by plan documents, several line ministries are providing programs to children in Nepal. Among such line ministries, ministry of women, welfare and children, Ministry of education and health have major aims.

The ministry of Education, Culture and Welfare has different division and directors which help to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate education policies. The council for technical education and vocational training, the council for non-formal education and the sport council work under the Ministry provides appropriate education and training to children. The social welfare council under the Ministry formulate, implements the programs for children. The functions of all these bodies have an important bearing on the progress to regulate and eliminate children.

Under the leadership of Ministry of Women Social welfare and Children Central child welfare board have been established and District Child Welfare Board. The Central Child Welfare Boards includes the following functions:

To submit the governmental a long term policy and plan for the protection of the children rights and for their physical and mental development.

## **2.7. Nepal's Commitments on Children Issues**

The world summit for children convention by six Head State and government was held at the United Nation in New York on 29-30 September 1990. Main objective of the convention was to focus its attention and commitments at the highest political level on children issues, formulating goals and strategies to ensure survival, protection and development of the children for the social- economic development of all countries. This historic gathering of president and prime minister endorsed a summit declaration and a plan of action to implement the declaration for the survival, protection and development of children, in order to follow up the summit some 60 heads of states and governments gathered in New York for the United Nations special session on children from May 8-10, 2002. the special session had concluded with global agreement on the proposed outcome “A World Fit for Children “, which contains series of goals on child health, education and a plan of action to attain them in coming decade. Nepal had a high level participation in both the summit and special session and expressed its commitments to fulfill their goals (Pradhaan 2005).

The 11th summit of the South Asia Associations for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held in Katmandu from 5-7 January, 2002 proved to be very significant for the protection of the right of the children of the region. The SAARC leaders including Nepal had expressed their strong commitment for the regional arrangements for the promotion of welfare of children. The Summit was also believed to be instruments in improving the social- economic and education condition of children of the region. Similarly, Nepal has participates different regional and international conference held in different countries and signed the agreements related to child rights child labor, and different issues on children.

In view of above commitments and policies of the state as its children, it would be highly useful and interesting to examine the existing and social economic condition of the children as revealed by census 2001 (Acharya, 2010).

## **2.8 Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC, 1989)**

The CRC emphasizes that child are holders of rights. It covers all aspect of children lives. It is legally beginning and has been ratified most of the country. The CRC incorporates the whole spectrum of human rights.

According to the CRC (1989) the basic rights of the children are

1. Right to survival
2. Right to development
3. Right to participation
4. Right to protection (ibid)

## **CHAPTER – III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Site Selection**

The study will be conducted in Narayanghat Bazaar in Bharatpur Municipality of Chitwan district because it is highly urbanized area with the high population density. Here many children are found to be engaged in different jobs and majority of them are street children.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The present research design of the study is descriptive research. The purpose of the study is to describe the status of the rag pickers. In this research those children were targeted who collect the rags from different places and sold them to earn money. These researches describe the situation as well as the condition of rag pickers inhabitant in Narayangha Bazaar area.

#### **3.3 Universe and Respondent of the Study**

In this study total number of rag pickers under the age of 16 years old in Bharatpur Municipality considered as the universe of the population. Those rag pickers are considered as the respondent of the study. Total numbers of child rag pickers (“khate”) in Bharatpur Municipality are more than 350 (Acharya, 2010)

#### **3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure**

For the study, ninety respondents are selected by convenience sampling method.

### **3.5 Nature of Data**

Primary data: The major source of data for this study is primary one which is collected through the respondents with the help of questionnaire, prepared prior to the field visit. Besides questionnaire, observation was the source of primary data.

Secondary data: To make the study more precise, secondary sources of data also used during the study. Secondary data was collected from different reports, journals and other relevant literature.

### **3.6 Techniques of Data Collection**

A. the field survey: - the primary data was collected by field survey using both structured and unstructured questionnaire which were already prepared for field visit. Questionnaire was filled by discussion with respondent.

B. Observation: - Their day to day activities was studied by observation method.

### **3.7 Data Analysis**

Data was collected by interview method by using notes, pre coded questionnaire, and quantitative information was done by using Statistical Data Management Software Programs (SPSS). The secondary information was collected from the related institution such as GOs, NGOs, INGOs and youth clubs, church etc.

## **CHAPTER - IV**

### **ANALYSIS OF DATA**

This chapter deals with the demographic and socio- economic characteristics of selected sample population who were involved in sampling. Here, demographic characteristics describes different categories like age- sex and migrant status of sample population and social- economic characteristics describes different categories like caste/ethnicity , religions, family size and composition, working place, collection of rags, living place, daily income and food habit of sample population.

#### **4.1. Demographic Characteristics**

##### **4.1.1. Sex Distribution of Respondents**

There is involvement of male and female in work rag picking. Like most of works, involvement of male is higher than female.

**Table 4.1.1: Sex Distribution of Respondents.**

Sex	Number	Percent
Male	70	77.77
Female	20	22.22
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

The total sample population of study are 90, among of them about 78 percent constitute the boys and 22 percent are girls. The table shows that majority of rag pickers are boys.

Sex distribution shows male and female respondent.

##### **4.1.2. Age Distribution of Respondents**

Age distribution of respondents are classified as single age group from under age 10 to below age 16 years old. Of the total population about 34 percent are below 10 years



old, followed by 11 years old with about 21 percent. Similarly about 17 percent are 12 years old, about 14 percent are 13 years old, about 9 percent are 14 year's old and about 5 percent are 15 years old. Among of them less than 10 years about 34 percent are boys and 35 percent are girls

**Table: 4.1.2. Age Distribution of Respondents**

Age group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under age 10	24	34.28	7	35	31	34.44
11	14	20	5	25	19	21.11
12	11	15.71	4	20	15	16.66
13	9	12.85	4	20	13	14.44
14	8	11.42	-		8	8.88
15	4	5.71	-		4	4.44
Total	70		20		90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Above table shows that one third of the rag pickers are below than 14 years old and also indicates that when age is increased number is decreased. The situation is more vulnerable below age 10 years old in this works.

### 4.1.3. Migrant Status of Respondents

Sample population are migrant and non migrant.

**Table: 4.1.3. Migrant Status of Respondents**

Migrant status	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Migrant	65	92.85	8	40	73	81.11
Non-Migrant	5	7.14	12	60	17	18.88
Total	70		20		90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Among of the respondent most of them are migrated. About 93 percent in boys and 40 percent girls are migrated.

Above table shows, among of rag pickers most of the boys are migrant and girls rag picker are non migrant who living with their family.

## 4.2. Social Characteristics

### 4.2.1 Literacy Status of Respondent

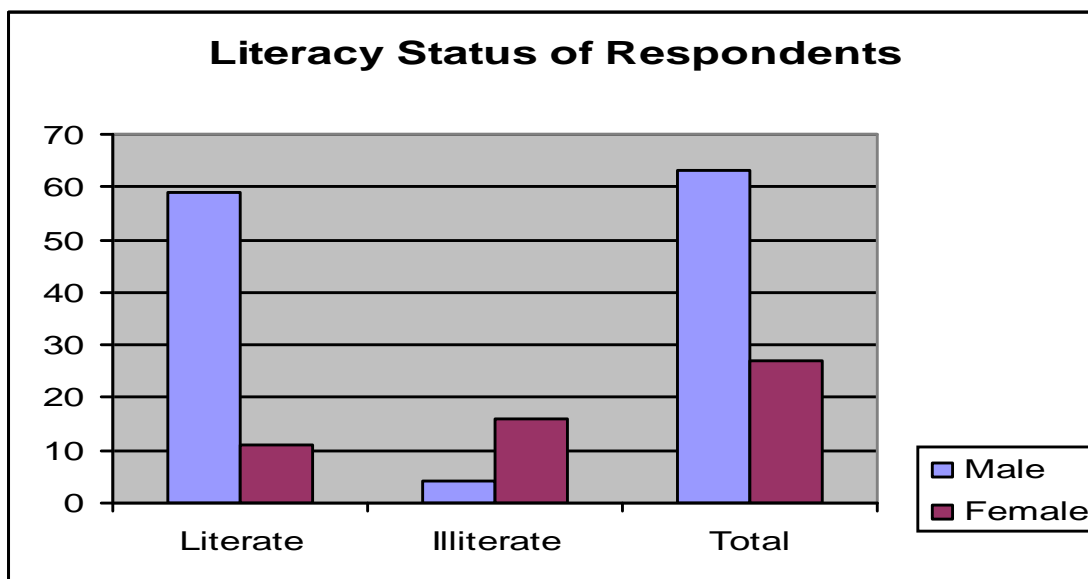
Of the total number of respondents 70 percent are literate and 30 percent are illiterate. Among of them majority of boys (84.28 %) are literate and where 20 percent of girls are literate and 80 percent illiterate girls.

**Table: 4.2.1. Literacy Status of Respondents**

Literacy Status	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Literate	59	84.28	4	20	63	70
Illiterate	11	15.71	16	80	27	30
Total	70	100.00	20	100.00	90	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2011

Literacy rate shows difference between girls and boys. The table shows gender discrimination in literacy status among of respondents. More boys are literate than girls. Most of girls are illiterate



#### 4.2.2. Education Attainment of Respondents

The education attainment is different with gender. Education attainment is measure as primary, L. secondary, secondary level of education.

**Table: 4.2.2. Education Attainment of Respondents**

Level	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Primary	52	88.13	4	100	56	88.88
L.secondary	5	8.47	-	-	5	7.93
Secondary	2	3.38	-	-	2	3.17
Total	59				63	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Among of boys 88.13 percent appeared primary level, 8.47 percent appeared lower secondary level and 3.38 percent attained secondary level. But among of literate girls 4 are appeared primary level and remaining are illiterate.

Table shows that education attainment is very poor in rag pickers majority of them are appeared primary level and girls rag pickers are not appeared upper level then primary. Some boys are attained lower secondary and secondary level.

### 4.2.3 Caste/Ethnicity Status of Respondent

There are 13 castes identified and majority of them are from indigenous group followed by *dalit* and some are from upper caste.

**Table: 4.2.3 Caste/ethnicity status of respondent**

Caste/ethencity	Number	Percent
<i>Kumal</i>	23	25.55
<i>B.k.</i>	9	10
<i>Sharki</i>	9	10
<i>Chepang</i>	8	8.88
<i>Tamang</i>	8	8.88
<i>Sunwar</i>	7	7.77
<i>Magar</i>	7	7.77
<i>Gurung</i>	5	5.55
<i>Tharu</i>	5	5.55
<i>Shrestha</i>	2	2.22
<i>Giri</i>	2	2.22
<i>Chetri</i>	2	2.22
<i>Yadav</i>	2	2.22
<i>Brahmin</i>	1	1.11
total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Among of the respondent about 26 percent are from *kumal* community followed by *Sharki* (10 %), *B.K.* (10%), *Tamang* (8.88%), *Chepang* (8.88%), *Sunwar* (7.77%), *Magar* (7.77%), *Gurung* (5.55%), *Tharu* (55%), *Shrestha* (2.22%), *Chetri* (2.22%) t, *Yadav* (2.22%) and *Brahmin* (1.11%) .

#### 4.2.4. Family Size of Respondents

Family size of respondent is also a cause of child rag picker. The family size is classified as number of members up to 3 to more than 5.

**Table: 4.2.4. Family Size of Respondents**

Family size	Number	Percent
Up to3	7	7.77
3-5	74	82.22
5+	9	10
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Of the total respondents about 83 percent are belonged to family with members (3-5), 10 percent came from family with members more than 5 and only 8 percent belonged family with members less or equal to 3.

This table shows that large family size is also a cause of child rag picker. Majority of respondents are from large family size.

#### 4.2.5. Family Composition of Respondents

Respondent are from different family backgrounds. Their family composition measure in terms of parent less, single parent, both parent, step mother, step father.

**Table: 4.2.5. Family Composition of Respondents**

Family composition	Number	Total
Parent less	35	38.88
Single parent	24	26.66
Both parent	16	17.77
Step mother	10	11.11
Step father	5	5.55
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Of the total sample population about children 39 percent are parent less followed by 27 percent with single parent, 18 percent has both parent, 11 percent has step mother, 6 percent has step father.

Above table shows that family destructions also a main cause of child rag picker. Majority of respondents are parent less followed by single parent.

#### **4.2.6. Food Habits of Respondents**

Food Habit of the respondent is not similar they eat cooked and junk food to full their appetite. They prefer different food to eat.

**Table: 4.2.6. Food Habits of Respondents**

Kind of food	Number	Percent
Cooked food	76	84.44
Junk food	14	15.55
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Of the total respondents, about 84 percent eat cooked food and 16 percent eat junk food but no body spends night with hunger. Above table shows that most of the respondents are prefer cooked food to eat.

#### **4.2.7. Shelter of Respondents**

Child rag pickers work in different Places; they used certain place for living where they spend their night to sleep. This Study shows they used street, junkyard, bridge as their shelter.

**Table: 4.2.7. Shelter of Respondents**

Place of living	Number	percentage
On the street	31	34.44
On junkyard	21	23.33
At home	20	22.22
Over the bridge	18	20
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

This table shows most of the respondent about 34 percentage live on the street, 22.22 percentages live on junkyard, and 23.33 live at home and 20 percentage live over the bridge.

#### **4.2.8. Consumption of Drugs and Alcohol**

Beside food a majority of respondents spend their money for smoking, alcohol and drugs. Smoking is quite common among of child rag pickers but trend is negligible among of girls

**Table: 4.2.8. Consumption of Drugs and Alcohol**

Substances	Number	Percentage
Smoke	60	66.66
Alcohol	22	24.44
Drugs	8	8.88
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Above table shows that 66.66 percentage respondent use smoke, 24.44 percentage use alcohol and 8.88 percentage use drugs.

### **4.2.9. Habits of Spending Leisure Time**

Beside their works of rag picking respondents spend their leisure time by doing different activities like playing cards, swimming in Narayani River, wandering along the road and bus station and some sleep during the day.

**Table: 4.2.9. Habits of Spending Leisure time**

Activities	Number	Percentage
Playing cards	41	45.55
Swimming in river	20	22.22
Wandering	16	17.77
Sleeping	13	14.44
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

According to above table about 41 percent respondent spend their leisure time by playing cards with their friends, 20 percent swimming in river, 16 percent wandering on market area, 13 percent by sleeping.

### **4.3. Economic Characteristics**

It includes the family occupation, working site of respondent, rag picking season and time, daily collection of rags, place of selling if materials and their daily income.

#### **4.3.1. Respondents' Family Occupation**

All the respondents have not similar family occupation. They are from different family occupation.

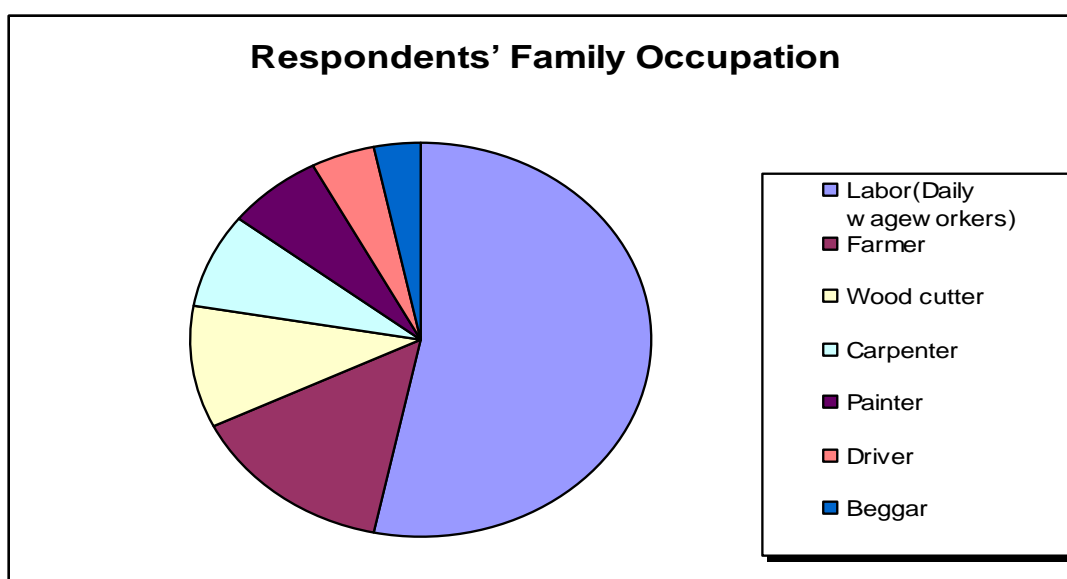


**Table: 4.3.1. Respondents' Family Occupation**

Occupation	Number	Percent
Labor(Daily wageworkers)	48	53.33
Farmer	13	14.44
Wood cutter	9	10
Carpenter	7	7.77
Painter	6	6.66
Driver	4	4.44
Beggar	3	3.33
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Majority of respondents, about 53.33 percent are comes from family with occupation labor or daily wage workers, 14.44 percent are comes from farmer, 10 percent are wood cutter family, 7.77 percent are from carpentry, 6.66 percent are from painter, 4.44 percent are driver and 3.33 percent are from beggar family.



This table shows that poor economical background is another cause of rag picker. Majority of respondent are from poor economical status. Most of their family occupation was labor or daily wage workers.

### 4.3.2. Working Site of Respondents

This study identified various working site where rag pickers has frequently gone to collect rags.

Rag pickers collect rags from different area such as from market area, dumping site, and street, riverside and from various religious places.

**Table: 4.3.2. Working Site of Respondents**

Site (working area)	Number	Percent
Market area	31	34.44
Dumping site	29	32.22
Street	15	16.66
Riverside	9	10
Temple/gumbas	6	6.66
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Among the total respondent, about 34.44 percent are picked rags from market area, followed by 32.22 percent from dumping site, 16.66 percent picked rags from street and 6.66 percent picked from temples/gumbas or from other religious places and 10 percent picked rags from river side.

This table shows that respondent went many places for collecting rags .Among of them most of went to market area followed by respondent going on dumping site to collect rags, where they found sufficient rags.

### 4.3.3. Rag picking Season of Respondents

This study shows that all seasons are not suitable for collection of rags. Winter season is most fruitful, whenever collection is high.

**Table: 4.3.3. Rag picking Season of Respondents**

Season	Number	Percent
Winter	73	81.11
All season	15	16.66
Summer(rainy)	2	2.22
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Majority of the respondents 81.11 percent are worked in winter season, 16.66 percent are collected rags in all season and very few 2.22 percent collected rags in summer or in rainy season.

Above table shows that, worked in winter is favorable so most respondents collect rags in winter.

#### **4.3.4. Rag picking Time of Respondents**

This study identified morning and evening time is suitable for rag collection.

**Table: 4.3.4. Rag picking Time of Respondents**

Time	Number	Percent
Evening	76	84.44
Morning	14	15.55
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Majority of respondents 84.44 percent picked rags at evening and 15.55 percent picked rags in the morning.

This table shows that morning and evening are peak hours for rag picking.

### 4.3.5. Daily Collection of Respondents

Quantity of daily collection is different among of the respondent. This study identified they collect rags up to 6Kg. to more then 9 Kg.

**Table: 4.3.5. Daily Picking Time of Respondents**

Rags (kg.)	Number	Percent
Up to6	68	75.55
7-8	13	14.44
9+	9	10
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Of the total about 75.55 percent collect less or equal to 6 kg. Rags per day followed by 14.44 percent are collect 7 to 8 kg. And 10 percent are collect 9kg. Or more rags in daily.

This table shows inequality in collection of rags. Most of respondents are collecting rags up to 6 kg. Per day,

### 4.3.6. Collection Materials by Respondents

This study identified various types of rags collected by child rag pickers such as plastics, others metallic things as tins, glass.

**Table: 4.3.6. Collection Materials by Respondents**

Materials	Number	Percent
Plastics (bottles)	37	41.11
Others	35	38.88
Tins (metallic objects)	13	14.44
Glass	5	5.55
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Among of total sample population about 41.11 percent collect plastics and plastics made materials, 38.88 percent collect varieties of things, 14.44 percent collect tins and other metallic materials, and very few 5.55 percent collect glass materials.

Above table shows that, collected materials also different among of respondents. Most of respondent collected plastics and other variety of things.

#### **4.3.7. Place of Selling Rags by Respondents**

This study identified that child rag pickers use to go different places for selling their rags. These places are junkyard owners, shopkeeper, and friends.

**Table: 4.3.7. Place of Selling Rags by Respondents**

Persons (place)	Number	Percent
Junkyard owners	74	82.22
Shopkeeper	13	14.44
Friends	3	3.33
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Of the total respondents 82.22 percent are sell rags to junkyard owners, 14.44 percent sell to shopkeepers and 3.33 percent sell to their friends.

Above table shows that respond sell their materials in different places. But most of them are sell their rags to junkyard owners.

#### **4.3.8. Other Jobs**

Child rag pickers do not earn sufficient money by selling the rags so sometime they do other jobs to collect money for their food. They do works like selling water bottles, junk food on bus station, washing dishes into restaurant, ticket blackmailing in cinema houses.

**Table: 4.3.8. Other jobs**

Jobs	Number	Percentage
Selling water bottles	37	41.11
Selling junk food	23	25.55
Washing dishes	22	24.44
Ticket blackmailing	8	8.88
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Rag pickers some times do other jobs in their off time. Among of respondent about 41 percent sell water bottles, 26 percent sell junk food, 25 percent washes dishes and about 9 percent engaged in ticket blackmailing.

#### **4.3.9. Daily Income of Respondents**

This study shows that although all respondents sell their rags but their income depend on quality ant quantity of rags. They earn Up to Rs.40 to 70.

**Table: 4.3.9. Daily Income of Respondents**

Income (Rs.)	Number	Percents
Up to 40	65	72.22
50-60	16	17.77
60- 70	9	10
Total	90	

Source: Field survey, 2011

Of the total respondents about 72.22 percent earn less or equal to Rs.40, 17.77 percent earn Rs. 50 to 60 and 10 percent earn Rs.60 to 70 daily.

Above table shows many of respondents earns more then 40 Rs per day.

## CHAPTER - V

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

#### 5.1. Summary

Rag picker is a worst form of child labor .It has many complicated and challenging issues that always hinder the children's basic rights. The worker is usually consists of collecting various used materials from street corners , riverside, and from dumping sites to sell them in very low price to junkyards and earns money.

Although several research and studies were conducted focusing on street children or rag pickers in various urban areas but still the situation is vulnerable, so this study is expected to be great importance in the context of the study area selected.

A structured questionnaire was used in the survey. The specific object of the study is to examine the daily activities of the rag pickers .This study mainly focus on the relation of rag pickers and their socio- economic status. The study was based on Narayanghat bazaar in Bharatpur municipality and the respondents were under age 16 years old.

#### 5.2 Findings of the Study

- ) Majority of rag pickers are boys and very less are girls. And most of them are below age 12 years old.
- ) Majority of boys' rag pickers are migrated from different places of country side.
- ) Gender discrimination in rag picker is prevalent. Majority of boys are literate but girls are illiterate.
- ) Majority of rag pickers are from indigenous group followed by *dalit*.
- ) The average family size of child rag pickers is 3-5 members.
- ) Child rag pickers usually originate from families whose main occupation is non agricultural labor.
- ) Child rag pickers usually originate due to family destructions.
- ) Although they live in out of the house but they eat cooked food then junk food.

- ) The child rag pickers collect mainly plastics and plastics made materials, bottles, tins and other metals.
- ) The price rag pickers get for their rags varies according to quality of collected materials.
- ) Child rag pickers collect rags from market site and dumping site.
- ) Many children are enjoying rag picking though it is dirty work.
- ) Majority of children work in winter season.
- ) They collect rags in morning and evening and they do other jobs in their leisure time.
- ) Many NGO and local clubs have been working to provide informal education to street children but their contribution is invaluable.
- ) Majority of rag pickers sell their rags to the junkyard owners, some sell to shopkeeper and some to their friends.
- ) Child rag pickers earns more then Rs.40 per day.
- ) Majority of child rag pickers do not want to leave this job.
- ) Beside home rag pickers select street for their sleep and some use junkyard and bridge.
- ) Smoking and using alcohol is common among of child rag pickers.
- ) Most of child rag pickers enjoy playing cards with their friends.

### **5.3. Conclusion**

The phenomenon of rag picking by children to street life is due to survive in their life condition. This phenomenon create problem for the children and making their life vulnerable. Most of the children engaged in rag picking are from poor, disadvantages and illiterate family. The main causes of the children rag pickers are poverty, family adversity. About 93 percent of boys rag pickers are migrant and but 60 percent girls are non-migrant and living with their family members.

The study reveals that of the children rag pickers are boys and girls are very less number. Children rag pickers spent more their time on the street. They enjoy doing this job so boys do not want to leave this job. Boys feel freedom in this works because of self dependence. But girls want to leave this works due to insecurity. Study further



show that most of rag picker left home within 12-14 years old when they feel sense of freedom.

Rag picking is seasonal works; winter season is favorable for rag picking. Most of them collect rags in evening and in leisure time some rag picker does another job like selling of water bottles and junk food in bus parks and some time they wash pots in hotels and restaurants to manage their food.

Although NGOs /INGOs and locals clubs conducting programmers' to address issues of street children but very less number get benefited from such programs'. But most of them have negative attitude towards such organization. This may be due to poor monitoring mechanism and lack of proper co-ordination among the concerned authorities.

The study shows that most of the boys' rag pickers are literate but girls are illiterate. Most the boys work and live in group with their friends but girls are work and live with their family members. Majority of boys rag pickers use smoke, alcohol, drugs but girls are not using these.

Boys' rag picker does not so their interest towards education but girls wants to rejoin the school if they get chance. Rag picker collect variety of rags like plastics, bottles, tins, glasses and they sell those things to junkyards owners, shopkeeper or some time to their friend. They collect the money daily and spend same day so they have not collection for future.

#### **5.4. Area of Further Research**

This study is based on the socio economy status and daily activities of child rag pickers under age 16 years old in Narayanghat bazaar of Bharatpur municipality.

This study does not cover their health status, knowledge about their rights, sex relation and future aim of the rag picker. Similarly this study does not cover about all ages rag picker of Narayanghat bazaar .So, further study could focused on these objects.

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# QUESTIONNAIRE

## Tribhuvan University

### Central Department of Population Studies

(For the purpose of M.A Dissertation)

#### Section: Personal Identification

1. General Information
  - a) Name
  - b) Age
  - c) Sex: Male (      ) Female (      )
  - d) Mother tongue
  - e) Caste/Ethnicity
  - f) Religion
  - g) Family type – Joint (      ) Nuclear (      )
2. Can you read?  
Yes [      ] No [      ]
3. Have you ever attending school?  
Yes [      ] No [      ]
4. What class do you read?  
Grade [      ]
5. Why did you dropout school?
  - A) Parents /step parents behavior [      ]
  - B) Cast leading on the school [      ]
  - C) Economic poverty [      ]
  - D) But not suitable environment [      ]
  - E) Due to distance of the school [      ]
  - F) Because of failing [      ]
  - G) Others specify
6. Do you want to be enrolled in school again in the future?  
Yes [      ] No [      ]

**Section: Origin and family background**

1. Where were you born?

District	VDC/Municipality	Ward No.

2. If non-Nepalese, what is your nationality?

.....

3. Do you have a home?

Yes [            ] No [            ]

4. How many members in your family?

.....

5. Who are they?

A) Father                    [        ]

B) Mother                   [        ]

C) Step father             [        ]

D) Step mother            [        ]

E) Spouse                   [        ]

F) Brother                  [        ]

G) Sister                   [        ]

H) Uncle                   [        ]

I) Aunt                     [        ]

J) Others (specify).....

6. Among the children of your parents, which children are you?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

7. What is your parent's occupation?

.....

8. Are they literate/illiterate?

.....

9. Where do you live?
- A) Own house [ ]
- B) Rented house [ ]
- C) Temple/Stupa [ ]
- D) No fixed place (street) [ ]
- E) Others (specify)
10. Are you living in group?
- Yes [ ] No [ ]
- Note: For migrant
11. Why did you leave your house? Tick out.
- A) Poverty /Hunger
- B) Family behavior
- C) Other (specify)
12. With whom? Tick out.
- A) With parents
- B) With relatives
- C) With friends
- D) Alone

**Section: work History**

1. What is your frequently going site? Tick out.
- A) Street
- B) Riverside
- C) Market area
- D) Dumping site
- E) Others (specify)
2. What type of thing do you mostly pick up? Tick out.
- A) Plastics
- B) Papers
- C) Glasses
- D) Tins
- E) Others (specify)
3. Do you do the job regularly or occasionally?
- .....

4. At what time mostly do you go to collect the rags? Tick out.

A) Morning

B) Mid day

C) Evening

If occasionally, go for question no.5

5. At what season do you come to work as rag pickers?

.....

6. How much rag do you collect in a day? In kg.

.....

7. Who buy your rags? Tick out.

A) Junkyard owner

B) Broker

C) Relatives

D) Others (specify)

8. How much do you earn in a day? In Rs.

.....

D) Others (specify)

9. Are you working alone or in group?

.....

10. Besides rag picking what do you do?

.....

11. How do you spend your leisure time?

.....

12. Do you like this job?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

13. Do you want to leave this work?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

14. Have any NGOs/Ingo's and Clubs approached you?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

### **Section: Personal behavior and health care**

1. Who arrange your food? Tick out

A) Own self

B) Others (specify)

2. What kind of food do you take most of time? Tick out
  - A) Junk food
  - B) Cooked food
3. How often do you spend days and night in hunger? Tick out
  - A) Quit often
  - B) Some time
  - C) Rare
  - D) Never
4. Do you smoke?  
Yes [     ] No [     ]
5. Do you drink alcohol?  
Yes [     ] No [     ]
6. Have you ever tried drugs?  
Yes [     ] No [     ]
7. If yes, how many times in a week do you take drugs?  
.....
8. Where do you sleep? Tick out
  - A) At home
  - B) On the street
  - C) Over the bridge
  - D) Other places (specify)
9. Do you sleep alone or in group?  
.....