

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF STREET CHILDREN
(A CASE STUDY OF POKHARA)

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Department of Economics,
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in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

in

ECONOMICS

Submitted by

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF STREET CHILDREN (A CASE STUDY OF POKHARA)
By: Chandra Kala Baral - 2013

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mrs.Chandra Kala Baral has prepared this Dissertation entitled **“Socio-Economic Status of Street Children: A Case Study of Pokhara”** under my supervision and guidance for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Economics in the form and standard required by Tribhuvan University. I hereby, forward it with recommendation for approval.

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APPROVAL SHEET

We certify that the dissertation entitled “**Socio-Economic Status of Street Children:A Case Study of Pokhara**”. Submitted by Mrs. Chandra Kala Baral found to be the original work and written according to the prescribed format. We, therefore, recommend the dissertation to be accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **MASTER OF ARTS in Economics**.

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ABSTRACT

The study entitled “Socio-economic Status of Street Children: A Case Study of Pokhara” was conducted in Pokhara city during 2012-2013 to find out the causes and consequences of the street children as well as their socio-economic status. The explanatory research method was applied to investigate the minimum acquaintance about street children and similarly the descriptive method was employed to identify the major problems associated with them. Out of 74 street children 50 were used in the study by snowball technique.

Most of the children were of about age range of 10-12 years. Among them 54, 26 and 20 percent were from Dalit, Janajaties and Upper caste, respectively. Sixty six percent of children were literate and 34 percent never attended school. Reasons behind not attending school were lack of awareness, lack of support from guardian, poor economy and lack of interest on themselves. Factors that forced the children to leave their home was maltreatment by family members, expectation of better life, pressure of work at home, poor economic status of the family and breakdown of their family due to second marriage either from father or mother or early death of both parents. Education status of street children was very bad. Health status of street children was also very fragile as they didn't get hygienic food to eat.

In the study area majority of street children were street rag-pickers, beggar and load carrier. They earned nominal amount of money and only few of them saved their earning. Fifty four percent of the respondents have saving habits. They spend their earning for food, alcohol, cigarette and habitual dendrite sniffing.

Circumstances and problems faced by street children were mistreatment of police, and stealing of goods and belongings. Major dreams of the respondents were to become drivers, mechanics, social workers, soldiers and police.

Street life of children is full of trouble, challenge, complexity and hardships. Every day they did fight with the hurdles, obstacles and risky circumstances. From this study it is suggested that the government agencies, NGOs, INGOs and local communities should focus their immediate attention on the causes and consequences of street children and suggest their permanent way out.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACR	-	Asia Child Right
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APCN	-	Association for the Protection of Children Nepal
BBC	-	British Broadcasting Corporation
CBOs	-	Community Based Organizations
CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CPCS	-	Child Protection Center and Service
CPSC	-	Community of Police and Service Centre.
CRC	-	Convention on the right of the child
CWIN	-	Child Workers in Nepal
CWSUK	-	Child Welfare Scheme UK
ENT	-	Ear, Nose and Throat
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	-	Gross National Product
Gos	-	Government Organization
HDI	-	Human Development Index
HIV	-	Human Immune-Deficiency Virus
ILO	-	International Labor Organization
INGOs	-	International Non-governmental Organizations
MOHP	-	Ministry of Health and Population
NAOSC	-	National Alliance of Organizations for Street Children
NGOS	-	Non-governmental Organizations
NLSS	-	Nepal Living Standard Survey
STD	-	Sexual Transmitted Disease
UN	-	United Nations
UNDP	-	United Nations for Development Program
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
US\$	-	United State's Currency
VDC	-	Village Development Committee
VOC	-	Voice of Children
WHO	-	World Health Organizations