

SITUATION OF DOMESTIC CHILD LABOUR IN NEPAL

A Case Study of Kathmandu Metropolitan City



A DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS

FOR THE MASTERS DEGREE OF ARTS

IN SOCIOLOGY

BY

SOMEERAI

TU REGD NO.- 7-1-223-303-99

EXAM ROLL NO. - 280247

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

2009

SITUATION OF DOMESTIC CHILD LABOUR IN NEPAL - By Someer Rai, 2009

**RETURNED AND REINTEGRATED: A STUDY OF CHILDREN
INVOLVED IN MAOISTS CONFLICT**



A DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS

FOR THE MASTERS DEGREE OF ARTS

IN SOCIOLOGY

By

Somee Rai

TU Regd No.- 7-1-223-303-99

Exam Roll No. - 280247

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

2009

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This is to certify that the Thesis submitted by Somee Rai entitled “**Situation of Domestic Child Labour in Nepal: A Case Study of Kathmandu Metropolitan City**” has been prepared under my supervision and guidance as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology. Therefore, this is recommended for the final evaluation and approval.

.....

Shyamu Thapa Magar

(Supervisor)

Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology

University Campus, Kirtipur

Kathmandu, Nepal

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled “**Situation of Domestic Child Labour in Nepal: A Case Study of Kathmandu Metropolitan City**” has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts (M.A.) in Sociology/Anthropology.

Evaluation Committee,

.....

Dr. Om Gurung
Head of the Department

.....

Mr. Madhusudhan Subedi
(External Examiner)

.....

Shyamu Thapa Magar
(Supervisor)

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology Tribhuvan University for allowing me to submit this thesis on this topic in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of masters in Sociology/Anthropology.

I am grateful to my supervisor Lecturer Shyamu Thapa Magar for providing me an opportunity to conduct this study under her supervision. I never forget her kind guidance, inspiration and supervision during the preparation of this study. I must humbly express my deepest respect for her to accomplish this study.

I am very thankful for all of my friends who helped me to finish this study. I am very pleased to those friends who provided me necessary data and assistance while conducting field study.

Last, but not the least, my very special gratitude goes to my respected parents, sisters, for their encouragement, co-operation and support to complete this study. This work would not have been possible without the overwhelming responses of respondents of study area (34 and 35 Wards) of Kathamandu Metropolitan City. Therefore, I would like to thank them heartily.

- Somee Rai

Abstract

This study based on Situation of Domestic Child Labour in Nepal: A Case Study of Kathmandu Metropolitan City is mainly based on primary data collected from the area of study. The data were obtained through the use of structured questionnaires, field observation, and interview as major tools. Altogether, 100 respondents of different walk of life were sampled by using the simple random sampling under the probability sampling. They were the child labourers of different districts of the nation. The main objectives of this study were to find out the socio-economic condition, family background, general working condition and root causes of the prevalence of domestic child labourers of Kathmandu Metropolitan City.

This study revealed that the maximum (48%) respondents are of 12 – 14 years of age. The main castes of domestic child labour are Chhetri, Brahmin, Tharu, Tamang, Magar, Newar, Bhote/Sherpa, Thakali and Gurung. Among them, the highest number is of Chhetri (25%) in the study area. The educational level of domestic child labour is 56 percent literate and 44 percent illiterate. The majority (82.2%) has the knowledge of primary level education. The main cause of drop-out of school of them is poor economic condition of their family. The maximum (39%) child labour in Kathmandu Metropolitan City are from surrounding districts; Nuwakot, Dhading, Kavreplanchowk, Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha. The family size of domestic child labour is 7 – 10 (47%), 10 and above (41%), 4 percent have no family members in the family rest of them are 4 – 6 family members in the family. Out of total 43 percent domestic child labours have either father only or mother only in the family. The study further reveals that the family literacy of domestic child labour is only 25 percent.

Family occupation and land holding are the main factors of position and condition of the family in Nepalese context. The family occupation of domestic child labour shows 30 percent agriculture, 55 percent wage labour and rest of them others. The land holding status of their family is (63%) having own land and (37%) having no land. The insufficiency of food because of less agricultural land, poor housing status and burden of debt are the push factors to domestic child labour of the respondents. The parents of domestic child labour are themselves on compulsion of their children's labour because of

the hand to mouth problem in the family. The majority (51%) children work more than 10 hours in a day, they have to do all the works of the home that ordered by their employer. The monthly earning ratio of domestic child labour is very less, majority of them earn 401 – 800 per month. Only 55 percent of them are found that they are getting the chance of study. In total 85 percent are satisfied with current job and rest of them are not satisfied, the main reason of not satisfied with current job is too much work. The relation of domestic child labour with employer is found normal (54%), good (30%), bad (15%) and worst (1%). The wake up time of them is before 6 a.m. for the work and sleeping after 10 p.m., their sleeping place is primarily floor than other places.

The health status of domestic child labour is poor because they were found suffered from either cough, cold, fever, chest problem, breathing problem, diarrhea, headaches or ear infection while this study surveyed them. The main message of them was “Don’t Make Other Children Work like Us.” The present study has found the way of relief of them by raising the income level of their family, for this purpose the activities or programmes related to awareness and raising income level such as; goat farming, chicken farming, commercial vegetable farming etc are essential.

CONTENTS

	Page No.
RECOMMENDATION LETTER	i
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF BOXES	xi
ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS	xii
CHAPTER-I: INTRODUCTION	1-8
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Significance of the Study	6
1.4 Objective of the Study	7
1.5 Organization of the Study	7
1.6 Limitations of the Study	8
CHAPTER-II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE	9-22
2.1 Understanding on Child Labour	9
2.2 Legal Provision on Child Labour	9
2.3 The ILO's Perspective on Child Laobur	10
2.3.1 The Labour Act, 1992 and Labour Rules, 1993	10
2.3.2 The Children Act, 1992 and Child Rules, 1995	11
2.3.3 ILO's Policy on Child Labour	12
2.3.4 United Nations on the Rights of Children	13
2.4 Origin of Child Labour	14
2.5 Child Labour in Nepal	15

2.6	Facts on Child Labour and Dalit Community	17
2.7	Working Situation of Children in Kathmandu	19
CHAPTER-III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY		23-25
3.1	Research Design	23
3.2	Rationale of the Selection of Study Area	23
3.3	Universe and Sampling	23
3.4	Sources of Data	24
3.5	Data Collection Tools and Techniques	24
3.5.1	Questionnaire	24
3.5.2	Interview	24
3.5.3	Observation	24
3.6	Data Analysis	25
CHAPTER-IV: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA		26-54
4.1	Background	26
4.2	General	26
4.2.1	Age and Sex	26
4.2.2	Caste	27
4.2.3	Educational Level	28
4.3	Family Background and Socio-Economic Condition	29
4.3.1	Family Size	29
4.3.2	Parental Status of Domestic Child Labour	30
4.3.3	Step Father/Mother Status of Domestic Child Labour	31
4.3.4	Family Association of Domestic Child Labour	32
4.4	Land Occupation Status	35
4.5	Housing Status	36
4.6	Reasons for Working	36
4.7	First Job Status of Domestic Child Labour	37

4.7.1	Reason for Leaving Previous Job of Domestic Child Labour	38
4.8	Types of Works	39
4.8.1	Working Hours	40
4.9	Earning Status	40
4.10	Reasons not Getting Salary	41
4.10.1	Salary Collection of Domestic Child Labour	42
4.11	Perception and Experience	43
4.11.1	Perception of Domestic Child to their Current Job	43
4.11.2	Reasons for Dissatisfaction of Current Job	44
4.11.3	Opinions Regarding to the Leaving Job	44
4.11.4	Reasons to Leave the Current Job	45
4.11.5	Relation with Employer	46
4.11.6	Reasons for Bad/Worst Relationship	47
4.11.7	Sleeping Room Of Domestic Child Labour	47
4.11.8	Sleeping Place	48
4.11.9	Get-up Time	49
4.11.10	Bed Time	50
4.11.11	Frequency of Home Visit	50
4.12	Health Condition of Domestic Child Labour	51
4.13	Future Ambition of Domestic Child Labour	53
4.14	Personal Message by Domestic Child Workers	54

CHAPTER-V: SUMMARY & CONCLUSION **55-59**

5.1	Summary	55
5.2	Conclusion	58

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ANNEXES

LIST OF TABLES

Page No.

Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondent Domestic Child Labourer by Age and Sex	29
Table 4.2: Distribution of Domestic Child Labourers by Caste	30
Table 4.3: Distribution of Domestic Child Labour by Educational Level	32
Table 4.4: Family Size of Domestic Child Labour	33
Table 4.5: Parental Status of Domestic Child Labour	34
Table 4.6: Step Father/Mother Status of Domestic Child Labour	35
Table 4.7: Association of Domestic Child Labour with own Father/Mother	36
Table 4.8: Family Literacy Status of Domestic Child Labour	37
Table 4.9: Family Occupation of Domestic Child Labour	38
Table 4.10: Land Occupation Status of the Family of Domestic Child Labour	39
Table 4.11: Housing Status of the Family of Domestic Child Labour	40
Table 4.12: Reasons for Working of Domestic Child Labour	41
Table 4.13: First Job Status of Domestic Child Labour	42
Table 4.14: Reasons for Leaving Previous Job of Domestic Child Labour	43
Table 4.15: Types of Work done by Domestic Child Labour	44
Table 4.16: Working Hours of Domestic Child Labour	45
Table 4.17: Earning Status of Domestic Child Labour	46
Table 4.18: Reasons not Getting Salary	46
Table 4.19: Salary Collection of Domestic Child Labour	47
Table 4.20: Perception of Domestic Child to their Current Job	47
Table 4.21: Reasons for Dissatisfaction of Current Job	48
Table 4.22: Opinions Regarding to the Leaving Job	49
Table 4.23: Reasons to Leave the Current Job	50
Table 4.24: Relation with Employer of the Domestic Child labour	50

Table 4.25: Reasons for Bad/Worst Relationship	52
Table 4.26: Sleeping Room of Domestic Child Labour	53
Table 4.27: Sleeping Place of Domestic Child Labour	54
Table 4.28: Get-up Time of Domestic Child Labour	54
Table 4.29: Bed Time of Domestic Child Labour	55
Table 4.30: Frequency of Home Visit of Domestic Child Labour	56
Table 4.31: Health Condition of Domestic Child Labour	57
Table 4.32: Future Ambition of Domestic Child Labour	58

LIST OF BOXES

Page No.

Box 1: Manish and his Desire to Study	29
Box 2: Muna's Compulsion of Leaving Home	32
Box 3: Ranjana's Struggle for Food	36
Box 4: Mina's Cruel House Owner	46

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

CBS	-	Central Bureau of Statistics
CPC	-	Child Protection Centre.
CRC	-	Child Rights Convention.
CWA	-	Child Works in Asia.
CWIN	-	Child Workers Concerned Central in Nepal
GOs	-	Government Organization
HMG	-	His Majesty's Government
ILO	-	International Labor Organization
ILS	-	Institute of Labor Service
INGO	-	International Non-government organization
IPEC	-	International Programmed for the Elimination
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organization
NO.	-	Number
NHRD	-	Nepal Human Development Report
NPC	-	National Planning Commission
SAARC	-	South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation
TU	-	Tribhuvan University
UK	-	United Kingdom
UN	-	United Nation
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	-	United National Children's Fund
VDC	-	Village Development Committee
WDR	-	World Development Report