

# CHAPTER - I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Child labor is global phenomenon. The problem however is most critical in the least developed countries. In developed countries children generally do not need to support economically by their families. On the contrary, parents support their children until they are able to stand independently. But, in underdeveloped countries, the reverse is true. Children must support their families economically being labourers or are forced to leave home and survive independently. For this reason, the overwhelming majority of children become child labourers.

Child labour exploitation is a reflection of the socio-economic reality of the country, which is also a consequence of the feudal land holding system which is still a bitter reality of many third world countries. Thus, child labour is a cause and effect of the exploitative socio-economic and political structure of the world like other developing countries (Pradhan, 1995:40).

There are hundreds of millions of children and young people around the world who are imprisoned, not in physical jails; in a state of permanent then locks or bars alone could create. These are children who labour at tasks then harm their bodies and minds, their spirits and future (UNICEF, 2001).

In the context of child labor, a working definition of a `child` may be a person below the general limit of 15 years or in special circumstances 14 years, set by the Minimum Age Convention 1973 (Ministry of Labor/ILO/IPEC, 1997). Child labor means a person in the age groups 5-14 employed for hire rewards on a full time basis and includes a self employed child or a child assisting his/ her parents in their occupation for two or more hours a day (CWIN, 1998).

Child labor remains a serious problem in the world today. According to revised estimate by the ILO's Bureau of Statistics, the number of working children between the ages of 5 and 14 is at least 120 million. As many expected given the prevailing economic conditions the overwhelming majority of these are in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. But pockets of child labor also exist in many industrialized countries. Numerous children work in occupations and industries, which are plainly dangerous and hazardous. They are found in mines, in factories making glass bangles, matches and fireworks, in deep-sea fishing, in commercial agriculture and so on (ILO, 1996).

There is no need to repeat that the existing Nepali society is one of the most poverty stricken and backward societies in the world, increasing poverty, illiteracy and ignorance are leading our society into more and more misery. The living standards of people have gone down every passing day like the setting sun. This miserable condition of our country has affected each and every sector of society. And the children are its main victims, we all desire our children to grow up into good citizens, but there is a lack of good opportunities for their overall development. Not only have they been deprived of basic necessities like nutrition, shelter, clothing, education and health care, but they also suffer from humiliation, neglect, exploitation and disease. In other words, they are missing their entire childhood. There are many problems and obstacles in their path that prevent them from leading a normal childhood (CWIN, UDCL-Nepal 1995).

According to ILO convention No 182 the definition of the worst form of child labor comprises.

- a) All form of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory labor including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use on armed conflict.

- b) The use procuring or offering of a child for protraction, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances.
- c) The use procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs, as defined in the relevant international treaties.
- d) Work which its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (Article 3 of the convention).

There are several factors that are pushing them towards activities such as family breakdown, burden of work and seeking better job and better life in the city. The number of child laborers in the urban areas of Nepal is increasing day by day. The migration of children from rural areas to urban areas is a reflection of poor socio economic condition of their livelihood. In Nepal more than 40 % of the total population is children aged below 14 years and 60% out of total children are economically active supporting their poor families (UNICEF, 1997).

Children are future pillars of the nation, so their all round development is quite essential. Children are innocent, faultless and symbol of creativity. But in our society, the proper environment for them is not available in which they could grow happily rather they are ill-treated and exploited by bourgeois people. In Nepal children are facing various problems due to the backwardness. Poverty and illiteracy are the main cause of child labor in Nepal. Child labor is not only the problem of an individual or a family but also the general problem of society child labor may be regarded broadly as any work of children under recreation that children require. It is the working of children at unfit ages for unreasonable hours or unhealthy condition (Patterson, 1943:229).

Child labor is not teenagers working for a few hours to earn additional pocket money, not children helping a family farms, not youngsters doing household work but children prematurely living adult lives, working long hours for low wages under condition to their health and to their physical and mental development, some time separated from their families frequently deprived of meaningful educational and training opportunities that could open for them a better future (ILO, 1983).

The problem of child labor has become an emerging issue in Nepal. There is a gradual increase in social awareness among different segments of society and this has helped empower them for the rights of working children. Child labor in Nepal has two defunct dimensions one is connected with the rapid urbanization and the growth of industries.

Nowadays, child labor in Nepal is being considered very seriously. It is deeply rooted in most part of the country traditionally children in Nepal are involved in agriculture domestication of animals, handicrafts and other employments. Many children are compelled migrate in town in search of employment, following the tragic calamity in their native land hardship, in their life, corrupted for social relationship and so on (CWIN; 2001).

Child labours have been accepted as an integral part of the Nepalese economy and society. Form many children in Nepal, the working day starts at dawn and extends late till evening everyday. During the day of labour of those children, they are deprived of their basic rights to protection, participation and development. The seriousness of this issue requires that all available data should be scrutinized and analyzed before recommendations for change can be made.

A child first setting foot in an urban area is most likely to gain easy employment in a roadside restaurant, tea or sweet shop. Cheap labor demands are high and skills

are not required. At these times the children get involved directly with the help of parents, relatives or friends. The local restaurants employed children have no other alternatives, and they stay there as long as the owner wishes. They always have to work from early morning to late night. They do not have chance to enjoy or even get holiday. So they are exploited by their master.

Domestic child labour as a global phenomenon, I'm interested to find out the facts and figures of domestic child labourers in Kathmandu metropolitan city. My interest on child labour and their situation compelled me to study on this issue.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The use of domestic child labour is common in Nepal; especially in its affluent urban areas. However, specific information on the incidence of domestic child labour in urban and rural setting is lacking, though it is suspected that at least half of domestic child labour may be working in urban centers in Nepal. Indeed these are general lack of data and information through analysis of the incidence and nature of domestic child labour at both national and local levels. The harsh living conditions, exploitative social relations and in some cases, even children have to leave home on their own and migrate to urban area in search of work. The domestic child labour is spread all over Nepal. Many NGOs, INGOs and social institutions are involved for elimination of child labour.

Domestic child labour is now recognized as a serious social problem in Nepal. It is rooted in the history of the country, its agrarian structure, low level of development and the poverty of people. If society ensures the freedom and dignity of the children by creating the conditions in which they can develop their potential. They have the chance to grow to a full and satisfying adulthood assuring constructive role in the society. The problem of child labour as faced by the developing economics today has indeed taken a serious dimension. The

exploitative socio-economic structures resulting in the marginalization of the poor have left them with no option but to adopt child labour as a survival strategy.

Child labour is not accidental market demand for child labour determined children employment in various enterprises and industries. Children are employed because they are docile, obedient, hired at cheaper rates than adults and dispensed off easily if labour demands should fluctuate.

The high level of fertility in poor family causes critical condition by means of which children have to work for survival as well as to support their family. Numbers of children have been sent to the urban areas by their parents for the sole reason that they are poor. Because of this reason some of the children they migrate to the urban areas in quest of better job. Children are compelled by their employers to do any kind of work even in most several conditions. Employers prefer children because they are easily available, naïve willing, innocent and easy to control and exploit. They are an uncomplaining labour force that can be made to do any work for as much time for whatever wages. In addition employing children means guarantee of stable work force as they can be exploited continuously for many years. To a poor villager child work especially off their residence means not only extra income for the family but one less month to as well.

The following research questions are made to search in the field and find the facts:

- a. What is the socio-economic condition and family background of domestic child labourer?
- b. What type of work risks are facing by domestic child labourer?
- c. What are the major caste, gender and causes of domestic child labourers?

### **1.3 Significance of the Study**

The Domestic Child Labour is one of the common phenomenons in Kathmandu valley. The majority of Domestic Child Labours are the eldest in a poor rural family and work to help their parents for supporting their household. Most of domestic child workers are forced to take heavy burdens. They have extremely long work for little or no payment. Some of them have to pay the loan taken by parents and some of the workers are intended to study but they are not able to get chance for study.

Children are the best creation of nature. And they are the sources of humanity, human civilization and development so their bright future should be essential. But when they remain illiterate, creates burden to the country itself. So, the research on the basis of Domestic child Labour should be done for their welfare. In future, it will be an obstacle to the overall development of the country. So the detailed informant and study on DCL is essential to eradicate the child labour problem. This study is very helpful for providing information about Domestic Child Labour for concerning authority to some extent.

Some domestic servitude is one of the worst forms of child labour in informal sector of which a few study have been done. So, this study is expected to be of great importance in the context of the area selected. This study is very useful for policy makers. It is also great important for NGO's and INGO's which are working on the field of child labour. This study may be a significant guideline in implementing action program making them aware of their rights and in the elimination of the child labour.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to find out the causes and consequences of domestic child labour in Kathmandu Metropolitan city. The specific objectives are:

1. To examine the socio-economic condition of domestic child labourers;
2. To find out the family background of domestic child labourers;
3. To assess the work risks of domestic child labourers;
4. To identify caste, gender of domestic child labour labourers;
5. To identify root causes of the prevalence of domestic child labour.

### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

The study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction, second literature review, third research methodology, fourth with data presentation and analysis and the fifth with summary, conclusion and recommendation respectively.

For the first chapter, introductory part includes background of the study, statement of the problem, significance of the study, objective of the study, organization of the study and limitations of the study. And second chapter includes literature review.

In the third chapter, research design, rationale of the selection of study area, universe and sampling, sources of data, data collection techniques and data processing and analysis are included.

In the fourth chapter, presentation and analysis of the data has been presented. This consists of background, general, family background and socio-economic condition, land occupation status, housing status, reason for working, first job status of domestic child labour, types of works, earning status, perception and experience, health condition of domestic child labour, future ambition of domestic child labour, and personal message of domestic child labour as major chapters, sub chapters are also mentioned under these main chapters. In the fifth chapter the summary and conclusion of the research study has been presented.



## **1.6 Limitations of the Study**

- i. Due to the small sample size and limitation of economy it may not represent overall condition of domestic child labour in Nepal.
- ii. This study is confined to the Domestic Child Labour of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. So, results may not be generalized for all types of child labour but the inferences might be valid to some extent to those areas which have similar geographical and environmental settings.
- iii. This study covers limited area of Kathmandu Metropolitan city Ward No. 34 and 35 so the result may not be applicable at the national level.

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Child labor consist of all types of work profound by children up to the age of sixteen years that is damaging to children health or their physical, mental, intellectual, moral or social development and interferes with their evocation.

ILO (1995) tends to support the view that child work is a potential "learning experience for the Childs growing process depriving the child of the rights to survival, development, protection and participation (ILO 1995).

#### **2.1 Understanding on Child Right**

In 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nation adopted the convention on the rights of the child which makes it clear that all children have the same rights as adults and also adds distinct rights that apply to all human beings under the age of eighteen years. These include.

- a) Provision for growth and development through health and education services.
- b) Protection against exploitation and abuse, and
- c) Participation in decision making on their behalf.

The ways these rights are interpreted depend on the age and maturity of children but one of the most important principles in that best interests of child or a group of children before considering the concern of adults.

#### **2.2 Legal Provision on Child Labor**

The constitution of kingdom of Nepal is a fundamental law of the country and all laws consist with it. The legal provision of the nation is very strict but the implementation of it is very week because of which the situation of domestic child

labour is not improved as intended by the law. The following lines symbolize that the same.

According to Nepal's constitution (1990), the labor act was formulated in 1992. Following this, the labor rules were amended in 1993. The children's act was enacted in 1992 by addressing UN-CRC 1990. The common law code of 1963, the foreign employment act of 1985, and the human trafficking Control act of 1986 also restrict the use of child labor and protect the healthy development of children.

### **2.3 The ILO's Perspective on Child Labour**

ILO's perspective on child labour is very strict and it symbolizes the more welfare of domestic child than prevalence in our nation. The following paragraphs symbolize the same.

The international labor conference adopted the minimum age (industry) convention, 1919 (No. 5) the first in a long line of such convention, which fixed a minimum age of 14 for admission to be employed in an industry.

In fact, more member states of ILO adopted a minimum age of 14 or higher and more than 100 countries have ratified on or more of the 10 years as minimum age conventions prior to convention No. 138. For the ILO, the abolition of child labor and more generally the protection of children and young persons against work of under conditions on their suitable age have been constant concerns since its foundation.

The conference (1979) designated the year as "International year of the child" and called on member states to ratify and implement the relevant international labor standard and above all, to take measures to ensure the proper protection of children regarding to work.

### **2.3.1 The Labour Act, 1992 and Labour Rules, 1993**

The Labour Act, 1992 and labour rules, 1993 seems very clear, it prohibits the employment of child age under 14 and provides various safety rules. The rules are found not implemented well in the field.

The current labor act prohibits the employment of children (under the age of 14 year) and provides various safeguards to minors (at age of 14 but less than 18 years old) children and minor are prohibited from operating dangerous machinery hazardous to health, maximum weight to be carried by a minor as, minor males (16-18) 25 kg, minor females (16-18 years) 20 kg, and minor males or females (14-16 years ) 15 kg, doing night duties (between 6 pm and 6 am) and working more than 6 hours a day or 36hours a week. It has also set a minimum wage for children.

### **2.3.2 The Children Act, 1992 and Child Rules, 1995**

The Children Act, 1992 and Child Rules, 1995 are seems on the side of child labourers, where the interests of children and some age provisions are made. The literature on these act and rules are mention under here.

The children's Act (1992) was issued to safeguard the interest of the children and contains a number of provisions on child labor. 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 a laborer and shall not be engaged as a laborer 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 Board and the District child welfare board. The functions of the Central Child Welfare Board include the following:

- a) To submit to His Majesty's Government a long term policy and plan for the protection of the rights of children and for their physical and mental development.
- b) To approve, implement and review an annual programmed of action.
- c) To formulate the policy and the plan for mobilization of resources required for the annual Programmers
- d) To guide the district child welfare boards.
- e) To arrange for preparation and maintenance of a list of children in each district who are crippled monthly handicapped orphans or who are in jail or are in the labor market (through the district child welfare board).
- f) To identify effective measures to end child labor, child marriage, child sacrifice and to encourage governmental and non-governmental agencies to implement the measures.
- g) To assists and encourage national and international non-governmental organizations, foreign governments and international agencies to undertake activates for the protection and development of children.

Apart from the specific functions already indicated relating to the regulation of employment of children, the district child welfare board has other functions similar to those of the central child welfare board at the district level (cited in ILO, 1995).

### **2.3.3 ILO's Policy on Child Labour**

The ILO's policy on child labour is very clear on the child workers, it also emphasizes on the age of child and successful implementation of the policy. It doesn't differentiate the works and risks. The following paragraphs symbolize that the same.

The ILO's policy on child labor has been derived from two interrelated but distinct objectives. First, the effective and complete abolition of child labor will be attained through legal and socio-economic measures. Law, prohibiting admission for the employment below a certain minimum age should be adopted and enforced. Socio-economic measure leading to improvements in living standards, higher levels of adult employment, and the application of compulsory school education should be adopted in order to make children economically unnecessary and to change the moral force and practical application of the law.

Recognizing that the adoption and successful implementation of level and socio-economic measure for complete abolition of child labor in practice will take time. Hence, child labor will continue to be a persistent problem in large part of the world. Therefore, the second policy objective is the protection of children at work. For this purpose, it encourages countries to regulate the working conditions, e. g. shorter working hours, improved wages and remuneration, safer and less hazardous working environment, Welfare, facilities and services etc.

In short, the complete abolition of child labor and the protection of working children are the long and short-term policy objects of ILO. However, the ILO does not generally oppose all types of work. After all, child work takes various forms. In some case, the child work under the supervision of within the family circle may be an integral part of the socialization process as a means of traditionally acquired skills form parents to child. Such work could also be a source of pride and satisfaction to the children themselves. Even in the modern industrial society, children may work on a part time basis to earn a livelihood for themselves or for their families, and it result disadvantage, educationally and socially. Where they work in conditions that are exploitative and damaging to their health and to their physical and mental development, where they are separated from their families.

They are often deprived of educational training opportunities, where they work as bonded laborers and are forced to lead prematurely adult lives.

### **2.3.4 United Nations on the Rights of Children**

United Nations on the Rights of Children emphasizes the universal rights of children. It includes some provisions of them such as working conditions, education of them, healthcare and some of the conditions which are mentioned below.

Since abuse of children has been regarded as severe violation of human rights UN has announced nearly 20 different human rights relates to international conventions and declarations for the protection and promotion of the right of the children against sexual exploitation and abuse. Every child of this world has the right to live his/her children, .But unfortunately, many children around the world are suffering from the lack of food, shelter, love, healthcare and education. Even after the UN declaration of right, we are witnessing an alarming shocking plight of children in the global context. It is naked truth that millions of children are working in hazardous condition, millions are abused and millions are physically and psychologically handicapped by wars and natural disasters.

Looking at harsh reality of the issue the right of child as per UN declaration is still controversial. Actually in Nepal a large section of children are often neglected. Child exploitation is assumed to be necessary evil. A child has an important place in his family and family is one of the most important parts of the society. In reality (especially in rural communities) children need to contribute to their household economy from the tender age of five. They are important helping hands and partners of family income. The children are thus victimized by poor economy.

The UN convention on the rights of child states the following conditions:

- a) States shall protect children from physical or mental harm and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation.
- b) States shall ensure that each child enjoys full rights without discrimination or distinctions of any kind.
- c) State shall protect the child from economic exploitation and work that may interfere with education or be harmful to health and well being.
- d) Every child has the inherent rights of life liberty and pursuit of happiness state shall ensure to maximum child survival and development.
- e) Children will have time to rest and play.

#### **2.4 Origin of Child Labour**

The literature on the origin of child labour finds out that the poverty as a main result. Economic condition of the children's family is the root cause of domestic child labour. In 16<sup>th</sup> century it appeared and came continue up to now. The following paragraphs emphasize on that the same.

The modernization paradigm holds that child labor is a result of widespread poverty which compels families to send their children with the force. According to this theory, the employment of children is parents driven and a matter of economic necessity. The economic well bring of parents helps to reduce the level of child labor and increase the trend to send their children to school. The related Marxist theory argues that child labor is product of capitalism and the demand for cheap, unskilled labor and the decease in the rate of profit the capitalist to increase their exploitation of child labor.

Originally, the problem of child labor first appeased in the tenth century. Despite the change in the political system the exploitation of child labor has not been



changed are forced to work in the discriminatory labor system. In the rural area, children are still playing a significant role to support the family. The most common work done by the children in the rural areas are fetching water, collecting firewood, grazing cattle, taking care of younger siblings and supporting parents in the farm work.

These days due to raising conflicts the migration of children to urban areas has been increasing tremendously, which has contributed to an overwhelming in the magnitude of child labor. In this way, a majority of children are, employed in various informal sectors which local restaurants are the agencies which employ more child laborers.

Historically, the problem of child labor first appeared in 16<sup>th</sup> century. This was further expanded in different forms and area in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and children were further exposed to high risk areas in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. In Germany, France and UK the problem of child labor was obvious in factories, cotton mills, glass and match making and brick kilns whereas in Norway and Sweden the problem existed in farming, herding and fishing. In France a welfare act for child laborers was introduced in 1941 and in 1853. The government of Germany introduced the first law regarding the health and soft of children and trade unions in Europe began to raise the issue of child labor as part and parcel of their movement however, the implement actions of the laws were very poor. The developed countries not only Germany, UK, Norway, Sweden, France but also Japan, Cyprus, Portugal, Belgium and a serious child labor problem until less than fifty years ago. It has been observed that some countries are not yet free of the child labor problems, economic exploitation and family breakdown (Prdahan, 1995).

## **2.5 Child Labour in Nepal**

Historically, child labour in Nepal started from the field of agriculture especially from rural areas. The literatures symbolize the highest number of child labourers

in Kathmandu metropolitan city. The literatures of CWIN are mentioned in below paragraphs.

Nepal is predominantly rural with 90% of its people living in rural areas. More than 50 percent of the total populations are relying on agriculture for their survival. Most of the families their children work as soon as they are 6-7 years old. Working children are engaged in various kinds of agriculture labor such as farming operations, collection of fodder, operations, collection of fodder, and tending animals.

In cottage and small- scale industries, such as, candle making rug weaving, wood polishing and carrying, child labor has been noticed but no authentic data are available. However, carpet industry has got the rational and international attention so far as the child labor is concerned. And it is believed that there are about 2010 carpet industries in Nepal of which 1600 (98%) are in Kathmandu valley. Out of estimated 300,000 workers 150,000 are children (Pradhan, 1993).

The pioneer institution for the right of the child CWIN shows its study report that working children in Nepal come across the following problems (Pradhan, 1995).

1. Too young to work/inappropriate work for children.
2. Health hazards working conditions.
3. Low wages and long working hours.
4. Work at night.
5. Economic exploitation by adults.
6. Lack of basic education opportunities.
7. Separation from parents.
8. Abuse and neglect.
9. Physical, mental and emotional exploitation.
10. No rest or entertainment.

11. Not having their basic needs met.
12. In appropriate child rearing atmospheres.
13. Lack of adequate parental love care and understanding.
14. Lack of social security and attention.
15. Violation of child's rights law.

There is not enough data or authoritative information to determine the exact magnitude of child labor problem all over the nation. Moreover, estimates of the number and incidence of child labor in Nepal are very wide. It is mainly due to lack of reliable information on the overall distribution of economically active population by age and the concentration of child workers in the informal sector where a large number of children are believed to be working furthermore, as child work under the age of 14 is legally prohibited in Nepal, there is a tendency to conceal the data on the child laborers both in formal and informal sectors. However, several field studies found that a large number of children are working under bondage both in the urban and rural areas. It is estimated that, of the 2.6 million working children (5-18 years) in Nepal, 1.7 million participated economic activities. This comprises of 26.7% of the total children in the country, overwhelming majority of the economically active children do the works based on agriculture (i.e. 95%) and the rest 5.3% in nonagricultural work (Suwal, 1997).

Of the 2.6 million working children in Nepal, 0.9 million work in the non-economic sectors such as housekeeping and 1.7 million in the economic sectors in unpaid or underpaid occupations.

## **2.6 Facts on Child Labour and Dalit Community**

There are 16 lakhs child laborers working in different sectors in Nepal. The total child population in Nepal, under sixteen are 9475874 (i.e. 46%) of total population of Nepal When the Dalit community is only taken into account it is found that the

population of children is 1900000 (estimated) which comes to be the 20% of the total population.

Out of this total children of Dalit community 21% of children are involved in Rag-picking. According to a rapid assessment carried out in six urban cities, 61% children from Dalit community are working in Pokhara, 37% in Butwal, 28% in Dharan, 17% in Bhaktapur and 7% in Kathmandu. 18% children from Dalit community, work as long route porters while 23% as short route porters. 18% children are victimized of Trafficking where as 52% children are found working in local mines. When different work sectors are surveyed it has been found that migrant child workers in Kathmandu are 11%.

A local level survey on restaurants working children in areas of Kathmandu conducted by Bijoya Sainju on behalf of child workers in Nepal in 1989 revealed that these children are badly mistreated by their employers. Even 14 years later the plight of these children remains unchanged.

According to the report of Himal magazine and Save the Children UK, the January 2003 Issue of Himal magazine illustrated girls child “prostitutes working in” cabin restaurants” in Kathmandu valley. The report revealed that there are 1066 officially registered “cabin” cabin restaurant” and 122 “dance restaurant” in the valley alone. In 2002 SC-UK commissioned a study on exploitation of girls in restaurants bars in Kathmandu.

Education is the main indicator of Human Resource Development. The average literacy rate is 54 percent. The male population is literate with 65 percent and the female population is only with 43 percent which are the lowest literacy rate in south Asia. Nepal has invested very little percent of its budget on education. Among the total children of Nepal 62 percent are enrolled in school but only 27

percent of them complete the first five years of primary education. The school drop out rate is 45 percent. There has been constant effort trying to reduce the drop out rate by different agencies at various levels (CBS, 2002).

The study conducted by KC (1998) shows that in most developing countries root of child labor has been attributed to over whelming poverty, ignorance and illiteracy. It is obvious that the lack of access to educational facilities and schooling is often connected with the incidence of child labor. In Nepal, a substantial number of child populations are out of school or in t he labor market mainly because of t he following reasons.

Due to poverty, parents are unable to afford the educational cost of children

Due to Unequal distribution of school or educational institutions

Lack of provision of compulsory education and it s prerequisites

The study conducted by Suwal (1997) revealed that, for Nepal about 68 percent child, aged 5-14 is literate, 75 percent males and 60 percent are females; about 81 percent of total children are reported to have completed 0-5 grade of education and only 17-20 percent completed 6-9 grade of education. A very small proportion (0.5%) of children is reported to have completed 10 and above grade of education.

CWIN's publication (1987:7) entitled "Hotel Kanchha in Kathmandu" was published in Voice of Child Workers. Its main objectives was to find out the actual scenario of hotel and was based on field observations and direct interviews with child workers usually called kanchha in the hotels, restaurants and teashops of Kathmandu. According to this study, the average age of the child who comes mainly form the countryside range between 7 to 14 years. In Kathmandu, the adult

child rate in the hotels, restaurants and teashops is 1:4 each restaurant in an average employees 5.2 child workers.

Chiranjibi Nepal (1993) in his article "Child Labor and Carpet Industry" published in Rising Nepal, states that the carpet industry is the second largest employment generator in Nepal. Out of the total workforce in the carpet industry, 50 percent of them are children. The child laborer in the carpet industry is of two types. The children whose parents are already employed in the carpet industry and the children who have migrated from the village due to poverty. There is a performance for children in the carpet industry because, their 'small hands' are most suitable for making 'strong carpets'. Actual poverty and inadequate resources force children to work and it is difficult to relieve children from labor. Not only this, he had argued that it is unjustified to prevent the children from working so long as alternative arrangements are not made for them.

Adhikari (1993) in his article, "A Disgrace Called Child Labor" Published in Sunday Dispatch, concludes merely restricting employers from employing children will not help to solve the problem of child labor. If these industries, children form their workforce; the problem of rehabilitation will still be serious. Adhikari emphasized that apart from penalizing the industries. The government must commit itself to provide alternative opportunities to these children. The inability of the government to find a proper solution of this problem of rehabilitation is in fact, an excuse and a good argument for those employing child labor.

## **2.7 Working Situation of Children in Kathmandu**

The working situation of children in Kathmandu metropolitan city seems very chaotic and hazardous. Some of the children in Kathmandu metropolitan city are

in unknown condition; the parents do not know the condition of their children. The following literatures of different writers symbolize that the same.

Jha (1988) conducted a study of the child workers in Kathmandu city. He discussed the working condition, cost of living and their exploration by the hotel / restaurant owners. The study examined the factor responsible for the migration of the child worker from rural areas to Kathmandu valley and its socio-economic consequences. It exposes the mockery of laborers legislation in Nepal, which provides little protection to the child laborers from the employers.

Pradhan (1992) focused on the problems of child workers in the carpet as the highly labor intensive Industry. The carpet industry had employed many workers. It was estimated that the number of children working in the carpet industries in Nepal were more than 150000 constituting 30 percent of the total carpet work force. According to Pradhan, the child workers in the factories were mainly aged 5-15 years the labor force in carpet industry also consists of women and young girls. He identified that there was a heavy exploitation of the child laborers in the carpet industries. They had no job securities, as they were not registered as workers. They could be withdrawn at any time. They were accommodated and were forced to work in very poor conditions. They had no medical and educational facilities. They had virtually no lives and had to work for long hours. Yet they were ill treated and poorly paid.

Pradhan (1995) has attempted to analyze the problems of child labor against the background of rural migration and urbanization. He pointed out that the prime cause of child labor in Nepal is the social recognition as a way of life in our society. Poverty, starvation are key factors that contribution for growing number of children in the exploitation in the active labor market. Most of the children from rural and poor families are forced to child labor not only for an additional income

but also to reduce the number of hungry stomach to be faced and hence, reduce their financial burden.

CWS (1996) had conducted a research on account of the situation analysis of street children in Nepal. The study found that many children left home because of their abusive and alcoholic parents, maltreatment of step parents and also due to the attraction of the town facilities. Most of these children fall in the ages between 9-16 years. In the Central Development Region 86 percent of these children are male and remaining 14 percent are female. Almost half of the children in this region were illiterate.

CWIN (2000) study was based on the sampled migrant children working in selected sectors in Kathmandu. Majority of were born in surrounding districts. More than 90 percent of the migrant child workers were born in rural areas, whereas only 9.6 percent were born in urban areas in Nepal.

Dhital (1991) made a study on “Child Domestic Workers in Kathmandu”. This study, which is based on interview of children, shows that there are about 30,000 bonded and semi bonded child labourers in Nepal, engaged in domestic services. Many of them are brought to the cities by the landlords. Some of them are sent / brought directly by their parents, while others are sent / brought by the middlemen. There are also bonded children from above the orphans and runways. The children, before them have a heavy workload, life without joy, empty pocket, abuses, loss of family contacts and an uncertain future. A great majority of them are unpaid working for as much as 17 hours a day for just two meals. They are seldom allowed to partake in the family food and are given too little to eat. Scolding and physical abuse is common, but they have no body to protect them.



CWIN (1992) has published a book named “Misery Behind Looms” the main objective of this book is to find out the problem of child labour in the carpet industries in Nepal. According to this book, the working conditions of satisfactory about 95 percent of the children have unhealthy condition. The factories have created the disease to the workers such as; respiratory diseases, poor eye sight, ENT and gastrointestinal problems, malnutrition, anemia and skin problems. In addition subjected to this, the girl labourers are also forced to traffic with so called assumed borders in India. The children are not only over-boarded by work but also socially and economically exploited. The prevailing laws have proved ineffective to address their problem. It is therefore, recommended that effective programmes should be launched to combat the problem of child labour in the carpet factories.

INSEC (1992) conducted a survey on bonded labour in Nepal under “Kamaiya System”. This study is based on a field survey of three districts in mid western and far-western Terai region of Nepal namely Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur. During the Survey 17728 Kamaiyas were contacted and interviewed every year on oral contract is negotiated on Maghe Sankranti (The first day of Magh) between the employer and Kamaiya. In average the Kamaiyas are paid only paddy, for which he along with his entire family members including the children must work under extremely difficult circumstances for about 15 hours a day over 90 percent of the Kamaiyas are Tharus and they are mostly homeless. In order to reduce the magnitude of this exploitation the study recommends various measures.

The Labour Act (1992) provided for the rights, interests, facilities and safety of workers and employers working in enterprises of various sectors. The labour act provides for the extension of the provisions of minimum remuneration and certain facilities prescribed in the Act to enterprises where less than ten workers or employees work. Thus in terms of a notification issued by His Majesty’s Government, it is also mandating for industrials or transport enterprises

employment less than ten workers or employees, to (a) issue a letter of appointment to every workers or employees, indicating his/her post and remuneration (b) pay for work beyond 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week. At a rate of 150 percent of basic remuneration (c) grant thirteen days holiday with full remuneration and fifteen days sickness leave on half pay to those who have completed one year uninterrupted services (d) arrange for healthy and safety for workers, comply with provisions on maximum weight of load to be carried and provide full treatment to workers for physical injury suffered in the course of work.

Karki (2002) has studied on “Situation of Domestic Child Labourers in Kathmandu”. The general objective is to find out facts and realities of the conditions of the domestic child labourers of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. The study revealed that extreme poverty; landlessness and parental force are the root causes of domestic child labourers. These children are from the economically poor and backward families and they represent the same community. The domestic child labourers have to survive under the most humiliating conditions of neglect, injustice and in human treatment compared to other members of the society. Majority of child labours were found receiving monthly salary less than Rs 501. Only 27.5 percent labourers have received support in education. Majority of them have to work more than 11 hours in a day. These domestic child labourers have to carry out of them are forced to work at the time of illness / injure and are not visited doctor at the time of illness / injury.

## **CHAPTER – III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study has been carried out on the basis of exploratory cum descriptive research design and case study types of research design because of the study was focused on to investigate the causes and consequences of domestic child labour in Kathmandu Metropolitan City.

#### **3.2 Rationale of the Selection of Study Area**

Kathmandu being the capital city of the country, most of the government and non-government along with foreign consular offices are located here. The rich and financially able people live here with luxurious life. Such luxurious and sophisticated people commonly employ domestic servants for the help of their household-works. Keeping this view in mind, Ward No. 34 and 35 of Kathmandu Metropolitan city was chosen for the study of the present condition of the domestic child servants working in these areas. This study has measured the problems and sufferings that the domestic child servants are facing in the present context and also sum up the possible solutions for their betterments.

#### **3.3 Universe and Sampling**

Ward No. 34 and 35 of Kathmandu Metropolitan city is the universe of this study. This study was carried out on the basis of purposive sampling. Under this method, two urban wards (34 and 35) were selected, from these two wards five *Toles* (small area of settlements) were selected from each ward. And then from each *Toles* 10 domestic child labourers (total 100) were selected as samples for the study.

### **3.4 Sources of Data**

This study aims to dig out the causes and consequences of domestic child labour in Kathmandu Metropolitan city. This study generated both primary and secondary data for the completion of this study. Primary data were collected from respondents and secondary data were collected from different published and unpublished written books, articles, journals, reports etc.

### **3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques**

To generate the primary data, the structured questionnaire, semi structured interviews and observation were applied.

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaire**

Structured questionnaire was prepared to generate the realistic and accurate data from the field. The domestic child labourers were surveyed with the structured questionnaires. The respondents were requested to fill-up the questionnaire, in case of the respondents who could not fill-up the questionnaire, questions were asked to the respondents and answers were filled-up by researcher herself.

#### **3.5.2 Interview**

The primary data were also collected from semi structured interview. The interview was taken as cross checking for data obtained from questionnaires.

#### **3.5.3 Observation**

Each sampled domestic child labourer and his/her household were visited and observed. The data were recorded while observing them and their activities.

### **3.6 Data Analysis**

To analyze the generated data the help of computer program i.e. MS-Word, MS-Excel, etc. was taken and simple statistical tools like table, percentages, averages and boxes were used for data analysis; descriptive method was used for the analysis of qualitative data.

## CHAPTER - IV

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.1 Background

This chapter is concerned with the presentation and analysis of data pertaining to the objective of the study. The analysis of demographic characteristics such as; age and sex composition, socio-economic characteristics, cast/ethnicity, educational status, family background, working condition and environment, perception and experience towards the job of child workers who are working as domestic servant are included here. The analytical study is based on the collected primary data.

#### 4.2 General

##### 4.2.1 Age and Sex

Below table gives the information about the extent of domestic child labourers under different age group as well as their distribution as per their sex. The age of children are the matters of puzzlement because none of them have birth certificate or even know their birth date exactly, although most of the domestic child labour guess their age with a little bit of error.

**Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondent Domestic Child Labors by Age & Sex**

Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
5 - 8	2	4.2	2	3.8	4	4
9 - 11	5	10.4	6	11.5	11	11
12 - 14	24	50.0	24	46.2	48	48
15 - 17	17	35.4	20	38.4	37	37
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table 4.1 shows that just 4 percent child worker are in the age group of 5-8. The reason is that this group doesn't have more occupational skill and ability to do work. The maximum numbers of child labourers are from age group 12-14. It is due to the fact that they can acquire important occupational skill easily. Moreover, the children of this age group seem more able to work. That is why the older children get more employment opportunity than smaller ones.

#### **4.2.2 Caste**

The following table shows the distribution of caste among domestic child labourers by sex respectively.

**Table 4.2: Distribution of Domestic Child Labour by Caste**

Casts	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Chhetri	12	25.0	10	19.2	22	22
Brahmin	8	16.6	10	19.2	18	18
Tharu	8	16.6	7	13.4	15	15
Tamang	5	10.4	8	15.3	13	13
Magar	4	8.3	8	15.3	12	12
Newar	5	10.4	3	5.7	8	8
Bhote/Sherpa	4	8.3	3	5.7	7	7
Thakali	1	2.0	2	3.8	3	3
Gurung	1	2.0	1	1.9	2	2
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that out of total male domestic servants, Chhetris are 25 percent, Brahmin are 16.6 percent, Tharus are 16.6 percent, Tamangs are 10.4

percent, Magars are 8.3 percent, Newars are 10.4 percent, Bhotas/Sherpas are 8.3 percent, Thakalis are 2 percent and Gurungs are 2 percent.

Similarly, out of total female child workers, Chhetris 19.2 percent, Brahmin 19.2 percent, Tharus 3.4 percent, Tamangs 15.3 percent, Magars 15.3 percent, Newars 5.7 percent, Bhotas/Sherpas 7 percent, Thakalis 3 percent and Gurungs are 2 percent.

The maximum numbers of domestic child workers are found in Chhetris and Brahmins. Most of people want their domestic servants from these communities because according Hindu customs they are more sacred than other people. Because of this conservative attitude of the society, the higher caste children are on demand. Tharus and Tamangs are also in large proportion due to bad socio-economic condition and education level in their community. The number of so called upper caste children is higher because of the concept of touchability and untouchability in the society. The figure differs because of the demand of upper caste child in the house of upper caste such as Brahmins and Chhetris.

### **4.2.3 Educational Level**

Education is the mirror of the society. So education plays vital role to make free of domestic child labour too. Out of total research domestic workers 44 percent has no formal educational experience at all. Some others have attended the schools for class one, two, three etc. The rest has no educational experience. The below table 4.3 shows the educational level of domestic child labour.

**Table 4.3: Distribution of Domestic Child Labour by Educational Level**

Educational Status	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Literate	30	62.5	26	50	56	56
Illiterate	18	37.5	26	50	44	44
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100
<b>Among Literate</b>						
Primary	24	80.0	22	84.6	46	82.2
Lower Secondary	4	13.3	3	11.5	7	12.6
Secondary	2	6.7	1	3.8	3	7.2
Total Literate	30	100	26	100	56	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

From table 4.3, out of total interviewed children, 56 percent have some educational experiences. It means 44 percent are illiterate. Among the literate respondents, 53 percent are male and rests are female. Similarly, the majority (82.2%) has the knowledge about primary level education. And 12.6 percent has the knowledge about lower secondary and 7.2 percent has the knowledge of secondary level education.

**a. Reasons for on Discontinuation of School**

**Box 1: Manish and his Desire to Study**

*Manish Chaudhary is eleven years old, from Terai region of Kanchanpur district. He has a keen desire to study. He gets lower salary of Rs. 100 per month. He is satisfied with his job because he is provided the chance to go to school. But he did not get any chances to visit his home since June 2000.*



The study has revealed that maximum proportions of child workers are from surrounding districts of Kathmandu valley. Out of total 11 percent are from Nuwakot, 10 percent are from Dhading, 8 percent are from Kavreplanchowk, 5 percent from Dolakha and 5 percent from Sindhupalchowk. Rests of them, 15 percent are from other hill districts, 12 percent are from Kathmandu valley and 31 percent are from Terai region.

### 4.3 Family Background and Socio-Economic Condition

#### 4.3.1 Family Size

The following table shows the family size of domestic child labour in the study area on the basis of their sex.

**Table 4.4: Family Size of Domestic Child Labour**

Family Size	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Alone	1	2.1	3	5.8	4	4
Less than 4	1	2.1	1	1.9	2	2
4 – 6	18	37.5	23	44.2	41	41
7 – 10	23	47.9	24	46.2	47	47
More than 10	5	10.4	1	1.9	6	6
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that maximum proportion of domestic child labour as 7-10 members in their family it is 47 percent. Four percent child workers have no members in family. Similarly, 41 percent has more than 10 family members 4-6. This proportion is 47 percent. 4 percent domestic child labour has no members in family. That means they are alone, similarly 6 percent of domestic child labour has more than 10 family members.

Among the male child labours, 47.9 percent have got 7-10 members in their family, 10.4 percent have got more than 10 members in their family. Out of total female child workers, the maximum 46.2 percent have got 7-10 members in their family, 44.2 percent have got 4.6 members and 1.9 percent has got more than 10 members in their family.

#### 4.3.2 Parental Status of Domestic Child Labour

Parental status of domestic child labour in the study area was found to as that in the following table.

**Table 4.5: Parental Status of Domestic Child Labour**

Parental Status	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Both father and mother alive	25	52.0	32	61.5	57	57
Only father alive	14	29.2	11	21.2	25	25
Only mother alive	6	12.5	7	13.5	13	13
Both not alive	3	6.3	2	3.8	5	5
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Table 4.5 shows that 57 percent child labourers have both father and mother. About 25 percent have only the father whereas 13 percent domestic child labours have only the mother and 5 percent have no parents at all. Among the domestic child labour 61.5 percent females and 52.0 males have got their parents. Among the males and female domestic child labour, 13.5 percent females and 12.5 percent males have got mother only.

This study shows that the maximum proportion of domestic child labour has both father and mother. Though many of them have their parents they have become domestic servants in order to support their parents economically.

### 4.3.3 Step Father/Mother Status of Domestic Child Labour

The below table shows the step father/mother status of domestic child labours in the study area.

**Table 4.6: Step Father/Mother Status of Domestic Child Labour**

Step Father/Mother	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Step Parents – Yes	14	29.2	11	21.2	25	25
Step Parents – No	34	70.8	41	78.8	75	75
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100
<b>Among Yes</b>						
Have Step father	2	14.3	3	27.3	5	20
Have Step mother	12	85.7	8	72.7	20	80
Total	14	100	11	100	25	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that about step father/mother status of domestic child labour by sex. Out of total interviewed children 25 percent reported that they have step father/mother. In comparisons with females (21.2%) the more males (29.2%) have got step parents.

Similarly among the children having step parents, 20 percent responded that they have step father and 80 percent responded they have step-mother. Majority of the children having step parents reported that they have step-mother.

#### 4.3.4 Family Association of Domestic Child Labour

##### a. Association with own Father/Mother

### Box 2: Muna's Compulsion of Leaving Home

*Muna Bhujel, 15 years old is from Makawanpur, has been working for 2 years as a domestic servant. She has five brothers. She left home due to misbehavior of her father, mother and stepmother. She left previous job due to much physical labour. She is not satisfied with the present job because she does not get the chance to study. Food alone can not satisfy her. Muna's duty starts at five in the morning with sweeping and ends at eleven at night with dish washing.*

The following table shows the association with own father/mother of domestic child labours of the study area.

**Table 4.7: Association of Domestic Child Labour with own Father/Mother**

Behavior of Own Father/Mother	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Good	38	84.4	40	80	78	82.1
Normal	7	15.6	9	18	16	16.8
Bad	-	-	1	2	1	1.1
Total	45	100	50	100	95	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Total 95 domestic child labourers have their own father and mother, 5 percent child didn't respond on the behaviour of father/mother because they have no parents. Out of total 95 respondents, the maximum proportion (82.1%) said that the behaviours of their father/mother are good. Out of the rests, 16.8 percent reported that the behaviour is normal and 1.1 percent reported that the behaviour is bad. The maximum proportion of male (84.4%) and female (80%) reported that

the behaviour of their father mother is good. This table also gives the information that none of them have bad relation with their own parents in male workers. Out of female workers 1 worker (2%) reported the bad relation with her father/mother.

From this information, the majority of domestic child labour reported that the behaviour of father/mother is good towards their children. Although they have good relation with their parents, they work as domestic servant because they are from poor family and they have to help to their family economically.

**b. Family Literacy Status of Domestic Child Labour**

The following table 4.8 shows the family literacy status of domestic child labour in the study area.

**Table 4.8: Family Literacy Status of Domestic Child Labour**

Family Literacy	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Father Literate	14	29.2	5	9.6	19	19
Mother Literate	2	4.2	1	1.9	3	3
Both Literate	2	4.2	1	1.9	3	3
Both Illiterate	30	62.5	45	86.5	75	75
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

The above table shows that total 19 percent father are literate and only 3 percent of mother literate of domestic child labour. Equally 3 percent domestic child labour has the both father and mother literate. The number of both illiterate is highest that 75 percent of the domestic child labour.

**c. Family Occupation of Domestic Child Labour**

The following table 4.9 shows the family occupation of domestic child labour in the study area.

**Table 4.9: Family Occupation of Domestic Child Labour**

Family Occupation	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture	16	33.3	14	26.9	30	30
Wage labour	25	52.1	30	57.7	55	55
Service	1	2.1	-	-	1	1
Agriculture and wage labour	4	8.3	6	11.5	10	10
Nothing	2	4.2	2	3.8	4	4
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

The above table shows that out of the total male as shown in table 4.9 the maximum that is 52.1 percent of domestic child worker's family occupation is based on daily wage labour and the minimum that is 2.1 percent of domestic child worker's family occupation is service oriented.

Likewise, out of total female, the maximum that is 57.7 percent of domestic child worker's family occupation is based on daily wage labour and nobody is in service oriented occupation.

In accordance with the given data, out of total domestic child labourers, the maximum proportion (55%) of their family are engaged in daily wage labour, 30 percent are in agriculture, 1 percent are involved in service and 4 percent domestic child worker's parents have no occupation.

The above data indicates that the maximum child labourer's family occupation is wage labour. It can be predicted that the family of wage labour occupation has low financial income. Owing to this fact, the child comes to join as domestic workers.

#### 4.4 Land Occupation Status

The following table 4.10 shows the land occupation status of the family of domestic child labour in the study area.

**Table 4.10: Land Occupation Status of the Family of Domestic Child Labour**

Land Occupation Status	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Having own land	31	64.5	32	61.5	63	63
No land	17	35.5	20	38.5	37	37
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

The above table shows that out of total children 37 percent of are from the family having no land. Here, the proportion of female is greater than the male. It shows that, 38.5 percent female workers and 35.5 percent of male workers have no land.

On the other hand, majority of children (59.5%) are from family that they have got land. Among them, the proportion of male children (64.5%) is higher than the female children (61.5%).

#### 4.5 Housing Status

The following table 4.11 shows the housing status of the family of domestic child labour in the study area.

**Table 4.11: Housing Status of the Family of Domestic Child Labour**

Housing Status	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Have own home	41	85.5	44	84.6	85	85
No home	7	14.5	8	15.4	15	15
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that out of total child workers 85 percent reported that they have got their own home and 15 percent reported that they have got no home. Out of total male, 85.5 percent have their own home and 14.5 percent have got no home in their village. Similarly, out of total female child labour, 85 percent have got home and 15 percent have got no home. This table further indicates that the maximum proportions of child workers have their own home in village, but they join as domestic child labour due to the fact of poverty.

#### **4.6 Reasons for Working**

##### **Box 3: Ranjana's Struggle for Food**

*Twelve years old girl Ranjana Tharu has come from Bardia district because she has no other family members. She did not tell about her family background but according to the employer, she missed her father on her age of 9. Then her mother left her and she became alone. So she came to do work and get food and shelter well in Kathmandu valley.*



The following table 4.12 shows the reasons for working of domestic child labour in the study area.

**Table 4.12: Reasons for Working of Domestic Child Labour**

Reason for	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
To pay loan	9	18.8	12	23.1	21	21
To Study	30	62.6	25	48.1	55	55
To achieve well food and shelter	6	12.5	9	17.3	15	15
Domestic violence	2	4.2	3	5.8	5	5
To see city	1	2.0	2	3.8	3	3
For the help of Brother's study	-	-	1	1.9	1	1
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

The above table shows that the greater number of children (55%) children says that they are working for the advancement of their study. Among them proportion of male is higher (62.5%) than the female (48.1%). 21 percent children are working to pay the loan taken by their parents. 15 percent are working to achieve well food and shelter, 5 percent have fled home because of domestic violence, 3 percent have become domestic servant because they wanted to see the city and 1 percent are working for the help of brother's study.

The proportion of female (17.3%) is higher than male (12.5%) when considering those who want to achieve well food and shelter. In the group working as the result of domestic violence, female proportion (5.8%) is higher than female (4.2%).

#### 4.7 First Job Status of Domestic Child Labour

The following table 4.13 shows the first job status of domestic child labour in the study area.

**Table 4.13: First Job Status of Domestic Child Labour**

First Job Status	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
It is first job	33	68.8	38	73.1	71	71
It is not first job	15	31.2	14	26.9	29	29
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that majority of domestic child labours (71%) say that it is their first job. So it is apparent that the less number of domestic child workers has left their first job.

##### 4.7.1 Reason for Leaving Previous Job of Domestic Child Labour

The following table 4.14 shows the reason for leaving previous job of domestic child labour in the study area.

**Table 4.14: Reasons for Leaving Previous Job of Domestic Child Labour**

Reasons for leaving previous job	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
It was difficult	7	46.6	4	28.5	11	37.9
Low salary	6	40.0	9	64.3	15	51.7
For education	2	13.4	1	7.2	3	10.4
Total	15	100	14	100	29	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Out of total 100 domestic child labourer, 29 child workers were saying that it was not their first job. Now, table 4.14 shows the reason for leaving previous job. Among those who left their previous job, the majority says that they have left previous job due to the reason of low salary. It means 51.7 percent child worker have left previous job because of the low salary, 37.9 percent have left due to difficult work and 10.4 percent workers have left previous job for education.

#### 4.8 Types of Work

The domestic child labours have a very wide range of activities; sweeping and leaning the floor, cooking food, cutting vegetables, taking care of babies, washing clothes, accompanying children to school, polishing shoes, grinding the spices etc. The following table shows the types of works done by domestic child labour in the study area.

**Table 4.15: Types of Work done by Domestic Child Labour**

Types of Works	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cooking only	-	-	5	9.6	5	5
Cleaning only	8	16.7	3	5.8	11	11
Cooking and cleaning	11	22.9	9	17.3	20	20
Washing (vessels and clothes)	3	6.2	1	1.9	4	4
Taking care of babies	2	4.2	7	13.5	9	9
All of above	21	43.7	26	50.0	47	47
Other	3	6.3	1	1.9	4	4
Total	48	100	52	52	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

According to table 4.15, the highest proportion of child workers (47%) reported that they have to do all kinds of household works. The others reported about the specific household works like cooking only (5%), cleaning only (11%) cooking and cleaning (20%), washing vessels and clothes (4%), taking care of babies (9%). However, a small proportion of children (4%) didn't report about their specific works.

The more of the female child workers (50%) and the less male child workers (43.7%) reported that they have to do all kinds of works like cooking, cleaning, clothes washing, taking care of babies. Similarly, there is no male child labour that works for cooking only. This indicates those male child workers are not brought only for the cooking purpose. The percentage of male in cleaning is high (16.7%) compared with female (5.8%).

#### 4.8.1 Working Hours

The following table shows the working hours of domestic child labours in the study area.

**Table 4.16: Working Hours of Domestic Child Labour**

Working hours per day	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 4 hours	2	4.2	1	1.9	3	3
4 – 7 hours	7	14.6	10	19.2	17	17
8 – 10 hours	15	31.2	14	26.9	29	29
More than 10 hours	24	50	27	52.0	51	51
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

The above table shows that the working hours of domestic child labours. Out of total child workers, 51 percent work more than 10 hours, 29 percent work 8-10 hours, 17 percent work 4-7 hours and 3 percent work less than 4 hours in a day. Out of total male, 50 percent child work more than 10 hours in a day but out of total female 52 percent work more than 10 hours in a day.

The maximum number o child labours work more than 10 hours per day. This indicates that the higher proportions of domestic child labours are compelled to work for more hours. They seem to have been exploited by their employers.

#### 4.9 Earning Status

The following table shows the earning status of child workers is analyzed on the basis of monthly wage, which they receive from their message.

**Table 4.17: Earning Status of Domestic Child Labour**

Description	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Do you get salary? – Yes	27	56.3	33	63.5	60	60
Do you get salary? – No	21	43.7	19	36.5	40	40
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100
<b>Among Yes</b>						
Wage/salary per month						
Less than 400	6	22.3	6	18.2	12	20
Rs. 401- 800	11	40.7	17	51.5	28	46.7
Rs. 801-1200	8	29.6	6	18.2	14	23.3
More than 1200	1	3.7	-	-	1	1.7
Not Fixed	1	3.7	4	12.1	5	8.3
Total	27	100	33	100	60	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

The above table shows that out of total children 60 percent are able to get salary. Among them 36.3 percent are males and 63.5 percent are females. The majority of children (66.7%) receive less than Rs. 800 per month. Twenty five percent receive their wages more than Rs. 800 and 8.3 percent children's wages is not fixed. Out of the children who earn more than Rs. 80, the proportion of males (33.3%) is higher than females (18.2%). This study shows that there are no female child workers who earn more than Rs. 1200 per month.

It shows that there is a gender disparity regarding the wages paid to the children. It can also be understood that most of domestic child labourers are compelled to work in low salary and thus they economically exploited by their employers.

#### 4.10 Reasons not Getting Salary

The following table shows the reasons not getting salary of domestic child workers is presented.

**Table 4.18: Reasons not Getting Salary**

Reasons not Getting Salary	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employer support study	12	57.1	10	52.6	22	55.0
Employer pays to parent	2	9.5	4	21.0	6	15.0
Parent took loan	1	4.8	2	10.6	3	7.5
Hope to get payment	1	4.8	-	-	1	2.5
Food only	5	23.8	3	15.8	8	20
Total	21	100	19	100	40	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

The above table shows that 55 percent domestic labours' get support for their study, 15 percent children's parents are paid by their employers, 7.5 percent took loan from their employers, 2.5 percent work in expectation of getting their salaries

in future and 20 percent children work only for food and so they do not get payment.

This table further indicates that the maximum proportion of children's wages is used for their study. It is a positive view of employer for the children. It is also apparent that the large proportions of child workers do not get salary. They are working only for food.

#### 4.10.1 Salary Collection of Domestic Child Labour

The following table shows the situation of salary collection of domestic child labour in the study area.

**Table 4.19: Salary Collection of Domestic Child Labour**

Description	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parents	9	33.3	21	63.6	30	50
Self	15	55.6	10	30.4	25	41.6
Relatives	3	11.1	1	3.0	4	6.7
Villagers	-	-	1	3.0	1	1.7
Total	27	100	33	100	60	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

The above table shows that, the wages received by their relatives is (6.7%) and their villagers (2%). Thus the economic control of the children over their salary seems to be extremely limited as most of domestic child labours' earning is being given to their parents. This supports the previous notation that parents are mostly responsible for sending their children to work as part of an income generating strategy for the household expenses.

## 4.11 Perception and Experience

### 4.11.1 Perception of Domestic Child to their Current Job

The below table 4.20 shows the perception of the domestic child labourers to their current job. It presents about their opinion whether they are satisfied or not.

**Table 4.20: Perception of Domestic Child to their Current Job**

Description	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Satisfied	43	90	42	80.8	85	85
Not satisfied	5	10	10	19.2	15	15
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that out of total respondents, maximum proportion (85%) are satisfied with their present job and among them the proportion of male is greater (90%) than female (80.8%). Fifteen percent respondents are not satisfied with their present job, out of which 19.2 percent of the females and 10 percent of the males are not satisfied.

This table surprisingly reports that maximum proportions of children who are working as domestic servants are satisfied with their current job. This is due to the fact that maximum proportions of children have got to chance for study and their life standard have become better than that of their homes. This indicates that the poor economic condition of their families promotes them to work as the domestic child labourers.



#### 4.11.2 Reasons for Dissatisfaction of Current Job

The below table 4.21 shows that the reasons for dissatisfaction of current job of the domestic child labourers.

**Table 4.21: Reasons for Dissatisfaction of Current Job**

Description	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
To much work	2	40	5	50	7	46.6
Rude employer	1	20	2	20	3	20.0
No chance to study	2	40	1	10	3	20.0
Low salary	-	-	1	10	1	6.7
Dislike ness of place	-	-	1	10	1	6.7
Total	5	100	10	100	15	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows the reasons for dissatisfaction to the current job of domestic child labour. Out of total dissatisfied child workers, the maximum proportion (46.6%) reported that they are not satisfied to the current job because their employers want too much work to be done by them. Among them, the proportion of female is higher (50%) than the male (40%). Twenty percent children are not satisfied due to the rude behaviour of their employers and 20 percent said that they are not satisfied because they do not get chance to study. Moreover, 6.7 percent are not satisfied because of the low salary and 6.7 percent are dissatisfied because of the dislike ness if the place.

This data indicates that maximum children are not satisfied with present job due to the fact that the employers want too much work from them, which verifies the previous conclusion that they are compelled to work hard for the long time.

### 4.11.3 Opinions Regarding to the Leaving Job

The below table 4.22 shows that the opinions regarding to the leaving job of the domestic child labourers.

**Table 4.22: Opinions Regarding to the Leaving Job**

Description	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Wants to leave the job	7	14.6	11	21.2	18	18
Do not want to leave the job	41	85.4	41	78.8	82	82
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

The above table shows that out of total surveyed children 18 percent child want to leave the current job. Among them the proportion of female is higher (21.2%) than male (14.6%). Remaining (82%) does not want to leave the current job. Among them the proportion of male is higher (85.4%) than the female (78.8%). It shows the surprising result that maximum proportion of children doesn't want to leave the current work because they have no other alternatives.

### 4.11.4 Reasons to Leave the Current Job

The below table 4.23 shows that the reasons to leave the current job of the domestic child labourers.

**Table 4.23: Reasons to Leave the Current Job**

Reasons	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Return to home	2	28.6	5	45.5	7	38.9
To study	5	71.4	4	36.4	9	50.0
To get good job	-	-	2	18.1	2	11.1
Total	7	100	11	100	18	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table indicates that the maximum proportion of the males (71.4%) wants to leave the current job in order to study. In this regard, the females are less (36.4%). To go back to their homes, 45.5 percent of female and 28.6 percent of male child workers leave their current jobs. This study shows that maximum proportion of male want to leave the job to study and maximum of female to go back to home.

#### 4.11.5 Relation with Employer

##### **Box 4: Mina’s Cruel House Owner**

*15 years old girl child named Mina Karki came from Dhading to Kathmandu, and joined as domestic worker. She has no parents but stepmother and a brother too. She has completed lower secondary school level education and left school due to the workload at home. The employer abuses her physically and forces to work for long hour. She says recalling the misbehaviours of her employer “one day my brother came to Kathmandu and I also went with him to see the city. When I came back to home, the mistress saw me and began to punish. I was severely beaten and became ill.”*

The below table 4.24 shows that the relation with employer of the domestic child labourers.

**Table 4.24: Relation with Employer of the Domestic Child labour**

Relation	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Good	14	29.2	16	30.8	30	30
Normal	28	58.3	26	50	54	54
Bad	6	12.5	9	17.3	15	15
Worst	-	-	1	1.9	1	1
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table 4.24 shows the relation of domestic child labour with their employer. The overall result indicates that maximum proportions of 54 percent of children have normal relation with the employers and 30 percent children have good relation. A significant proportion (16%) has bad and worst relation with employer. Among them, the proportion of female is higher (19.2%) than the male (12.5%).

This result seems to be apparent that maximum proportions of child have normal behaviour with their employer.

#### 4.11.6 Reasons for Bad/Worst Relationship

The below table 4.25 shows the reason for bad/worst relationship of domestic child workers with their house owner.

**Table 4.25: Reasons for Bad/Worst Relationship**

Reasons for Bad/Worst Relation	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Too much work	3	50	6	60	9	56.3
Abuse physically	2	33.3	1	10	3	18.8
Pays poorly	1	16.7	1	10	2	12.5
Doesn't pay on time	-	-	1	10	1	6.2
Abuse verbally	-	-	1	10	1	6.2
Total	6	100	10	100	16	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that the maximum proportion of children (56.6%) having bad/worst relationship with employers reported that the main cause is employer want too much work from them. Among them, the proportion of female is higher (60.0%) than the male (50.0%). The other 18.8 percent are abused physically, 12.5 percent are paid poorly, 6.2 percent does not get payment on time, and 6.2 percent are abused verbally.

This result shows that maximum proportions of females are having bad/worst relationship with their employers because they are made to work hard for long time.

#### 4.11.7 Sleeping Room Of Domestic Child Labour

The below table 4.26 shows the sleeping room of domestic child workers in the house of their working.

**Table 4.26: Sleeping Room of Domestic Child Labour**

Having Separate Sleeping Room	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	28	58.3	36	69.2	64	64
No	20	41.6	16	30.8	36	36
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows the sleeping room status of domestic child labour. The question ‘Have you got separate sleeping room?’ was asked to the children, and maximum proportions (64%) have reported that they have got separate sleeping room. Among them the proportion of female is higher (69.2%) than male (58.3%). Thirty six percent children have indicated that they have got no separate sleeping room. Among them proportion of female is lower (30.8%) than male (41.6%). These results indicate that most of the domestic child workers have separate sleeping rooms.

#### 4.11.8 Sleeping Place

The below table 4.27 shows the sleeping place of domestic child workers in the house of their working.

**Table 4.27: Sleeping Place of Domestic Child Labour**

Place of Sleeping	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
On the floor	24	50	30	57.7	54	54
On the bed	23	47.9	21	40.4	44	44
Other	1	2.1	1	1.9	2	2
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that 44 percent domestic child workers have facility to sleep on the bed. And 47.9 percent males and 40.4 percent females have opportunity to sleep on the bed. The statistics show that one most of the domestic child labourers especially females do not have proper facility to sleep. It can be understood that the employers do not provide proper facility of the bed rest to their children employees.

#### **4.11.9 Get-up Time**

The below table 4.28 shows the get-up time of domestic child workers in the house of their working.

**Table 4.28: Get-up Time of Domestic Child Labour**

Get-up Time	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
4 a.m.	4	8.3	-	-	4	4
5 a.m.	17	35.4	22	22.3	39	39
6 a.m.	27	56.3	30	57.7	57	57
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that out of total children, 57 percent wake up at 6 o'clock in the morning. Among them, males are 56.3 percent and females are 57.7 percent. Similarly, 39 percent were wake up at 5 a.m. and 4 percent wake up at 4 a. m. Out of total 4 percent has to wake up at 4 a.m. All they are male child workers and no females are found who wake up at 4 a. m.

#### 4.11.10 Bed Time

The below table 4.29 shows the bed time of domestic child workers in the house that they are working.

**Table 4.29: Bed Time of Domestic Child Labour**

Bed Time	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
8 p.m.	6	12.5	4	7.7	10	10
9 p.m.	19	39.6	17	32.7	36	36
10 p.m.	19	39.6	29	55.8	48	48
Above 10 p.m.	4	8.3	2	3.8	6	6
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that the majority 54 percent children go to bed at 10 p.m. and among them the proportion of female is higher (59.6%) than male (47.9%). Similarly 36 percent go to bed at 9 p.m. and 10 percent at 8 p.m.

Now it is clear that the maximum child workers have to work for long time. Which verifies the previous result that maximum proportion of domestic servants are compelled to do work for a long hours.

#### 4.11.11 Frequency of Home Visit

The below table 4.30 shows the frequency of home visit of domestic child workers on year basis.

**Table 4.30: Frequency of Home Visit of Domestic Child Labour**

Description	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
One time	12	25	14	26.9	26	26
Two times	8	16.7	8	15.4	16	16
Three times	1	2.0	2	3.8	3	3
Four times	3	6.3	1	1.9	4	4
Five times	2	4.2	3	5.8	5	5
More than five	3	6.8	2	3.8	5	5
No visit	19	39.5	22	42.4	41	41
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that out of total child workers, 59 percent have an opportunity to visit their homes and 41 percent children have not got chance to visit their homes. Among them the proportion of female is greater (42.4%) than the male (39.5%). The others visit status go as follows: 26 percent one time, 16 percent two times, 3 percent three times, 4 percent four times, 5 percent five times and 5 percent more than five times.

This information shows that the family members do not pay attention to their children. This behaviour of the family helps to increase the child labour. And a significant proportion of child workers do not have permission from their employers to visit their homes.

#### **4.12 Health Condition of Domestic Child Labour**

The below table 4.31 shows the health condition of domestic child labour in the study area.



**Table 4.31: Health Condition of Domestic Child Labour**

Health Problems	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Problems – Yes	23	47.9	30	57.7	53	53
Problems – No	25	52.1	22	42.3	47	47
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100
<b>Among Yes</b>						
Fever	7	30.5	8	26.7	15	28.3
Cough, cold	13	56.6	16	53.3	29	54.7
Chest problem and breathing	1	4.3	2	6.7	3	5.7
Diarrhoea	1	4.3	1	3.3	2	3.8
Headaches	1	4.3	2	6.7	3	5.7
Ear infection			1	3.3	1	1.8
Total	23	100	30	100	53	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that majority of children (53%) have health problems. Out of them, it is shown that proportion of problems of females is higher (57.7%) than the males (47.9%).

Among the domestic servants having health problems, 83% are suffering from cold, cough and fever. Out of them the proportion of male is higher (87.1%) than the female (80%).

From the rest, 5.7 percent suffer from chest pain and breathing, 3.8 percent from diarrhea, 5.7 percent from headache and 1.8 percent from ear infection. No male children having ear problem can be found.

This further indicates that maximum domestic child labourers have problems on in relation to their health. The common problems are cold, cough and fever. Maximum proportions of male workers are suffering by these diseases.

#### 4.13 Future Ambition of Domestic Child Labour

The below table 4.32 shows the future ambition of domestic child labour in the study area.

**Table 4.32: Future Ambition of Domestic Child Labour**

Ambition	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Civil servants	16	33.4	12	23.1	28	28
Police/army	12	25	1	1.9	13	13
Actor/actress	3	6.3	6	11.5	9	9
Social worker	-	-	6	11.5	6	6
Driver	1	2.0	1	1.9	2	2
Business man	3	6.3	-		3	3
Work in foreign country	1	2.0	-		1	1
nurse			2	3.8	2	2
house wife			1	1.9	1	1
Nothing	12	25	23	44.2	35	35
Total	48	100	52	100	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2009*

Above table shows that out of total domestic child workers 28 percent have an ambition to be civil servants whereas 13 percent want to be police/army, 9 percent actor/actress, 6 percent social workers, 3 percent businessman, 2 percent driver, 2 percent Nurse, 1 percent wants to work in foreign country and 1 percent of them wants to work as house wife. The large proportion (35%) has no ambition at all.

In relation to the ambition of the social servants, the proportion of male is higher (33.4%) than female (23.1%). Twenty five percent of males and 1.9 percent of female has ambition to work in the police and army. Similarly, 6.3 percent of males and 11.5 percent of females have ambition to be actor/actress where proportion of female is higher than the male. Two percent male and 1.9 percent female want to be driver. Out of total female, none of the female child workers want to go to foreign country to work whereas 2 percent male children want to go. And 6.3 percent male wants to work in business sector but no female child workers want to work in this field. Similarly, 1.9 percent female wants to be housewives. It is a small proportion among the females. Approximately 11 percent female child workers want to work as social workers in future. Here the surprising result is that no male worker wants to work as a social worker. Two percent female has ambition to be the nurse. Twenty five percent male and 44.2 percent female cannot tell about their ambition.

This information shows that maximum child workers want to be professionals like doctors, teachers and social workers. This is due to the fact that the life standard and environment of doctors, teachers etc. are better than their family.

#### **4.14 Personal Message by Domestic Child Workers**

Maximum child workers convey no message to the people but some to them have got something to say. Messages from child labourers to the people are listed as below:

- “Don’t make others work like us”
- “Give facility to study and entertain to the child workers”
- “Treat the child workers as their own children”

Most of the child workers expressed their message in these three points.

## **CHAPTER - V**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Summary**

This study has been conducted among the children working as domestic child servants in wards 34 & 35 of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. Child working as domestic servants are mainly of the age groups between 5 – 17 years. The objective of the study were to examine the socio-economic condition and family background of domestic child labourers, and was to assess the general working condition of domestic child labourers and also was to find out the causes and consequences of domestic child labour. This research is based on primary data, which were collected by direct questionnaire, observation, and interview and group discussion. With these primary data the other secondary data were also collected to find out the depth-ness and main root of the study, for this purpose different newspaper, books, journals, periodicals etc. were consulted. This study is based on 100 children as samples of the study. The list of well structured questionnaire was used to survey them.

The collected data and characteristics of work are systematically organized and presented on a sheet in order to facilitate description. The data are tabulated on the basis of gender. In every table percentage of different information is also shown.

Out of total one hundred respondents 48 percent were male and 52 percent were females.

The maximum numbers of children, 48 percent fall on the age group in between 12 – 14. The highest numbers of domestic child labour, 22 percent were from Chhetri ethnic community and second highest 18 percent from Brahmins. Among Brahmins proportion of female is higher than males. Out of total, majority of child workers, 56 percent are literate. Among them 82.14 percent has knowledge of

primary level, 12.5 percent have knowledge of lower secondary level and 7.14 percent have knowledge of secondary level.

Out of total literate, proportion of male is higher 62.5 percent than the female 50 percent. The majority of domestic child workers, 70.1 percent discontinue the school due to their poor economic condition. Among them proportion of female is higher 71.8 percent than males 65.5 percent and 46.5 percent and 46.3 percent children left their school due to work load at home. Most of the domestic child workers have come from the districts nearby Kathmandu valley. The maximum numbers have come from Nuwakot district 11 percent. Maximum children, 47 percent have family member size 7 – 10. Secondly, 41 percent children's family size is 4 – 6. Out of total, 4 percent children have no family members where proportion of female is higher than the male.

Majority of children, 57 percent have both the father and mother. Among them proportion of female is higher 61.5 percent than male 52 percent. Five percent children are found orphan. Twenty five percent child workers have step-parents. Among them 20 percent have step-father and remaining 80 percent have step-mother. Majority of children, 82.1 percent have good association with their parents. Among them the proportion of male is higher 84.4 percent than female 80 percent. Twenty percent children have good, 44 percent normal and 36 percent have bad behaviour with their step father/mother.

Maximum number of children, 75 percent has both the father and mother illiterate. Among them proportion of female is higher 86.5 percent than male 62.5 percent. Majority of the children's family occupation is wage labour, 55 percent. Therefore, they got low-income. This has made children to be domestic child workers. Maximum, 63 percent have their own land and among them 56.9 percent children reported that their land is insufficient for their family survival. The

maximum number of children 85 percent reported that they reported that they have own home in village.

Not getting chance to study because of poverty 55 percent is the major cause that has make children domestic servants. The loan taken by their parents is the second major factor to make children domestic servants 21 percent. Among 29 percent children were forced to work by their parents and were accompanied by them in the workplace. Twenty nine percent children reported that, it is not their first job. Among them the majority 51.7 percent leaves their previous job due to low salary and 37.9 percent children leaves due to difficult work. Most of children, 47 percent have to do all the household works assigned to them and 20 percent children have to do cooking and cleaning.

Majority of the children, 51 percent reported that they have been working more than 12 months. Out of total, 60 percent children receive their payment. Out of them 46.7 percent reported that their monthly income range is Rs. 401 – 800. Twenty percent children earn less than Rs. 400 per month. Out of those children who are not able to receive salary, maximum 55 percent say that they are not getting salary because employer support for their study and 20 percent are working just for food. The higher proportion of children, 85 percent reported that they are satisfied with their present job. Fifteen percent are not satisfied. Among them maximum proportion 46.6 percent are not satisfied due to the reason of too much work. Almost, 82 percent child workers want to continue to the present job. Among them proportion of male is higher 85.4 percent than female 78.8 percent. Just 18 percent want to leave the current job because they want to study. Among them 50 percent want to continue their study in home. And 11.1 percent are searching good job.

Even though majority of children, 54 percent have normal behaviour with their employer, a significant proportion 16 percent have bad/worst relationship with their employers because employers want too much work. From them 56.3 percent, they are abused physically 18.8 percent, paid poorly 12.5 percent, not paid on time 6.2 percent and abused verbally 6.2 percent. Nearly, 43 percent children have to get up at 5 a.m. and the majority of children, 54 percent have to work till 10 p.m. and beyond. More than 40 percent child workers reported that they have not visited their home yet. Among them proportion of female is higher 42.4 than the male 39.4 percent.

More than half 53 percent have been suffering from any health problems. Among them the higher proportions 83 percent have suffered from fever, cold, cough etc. And 5.7 percent have health problem on chest and breathing rests of them are healthy. Out of total child labourers, most of them have an aim to be civil servants like doctors, teachers etc. Maximum domestic child labourers don't want to say any message but some of them unanimously say, "Don't make other children work like us."

## **5.2 Conclusion**

The maximum proportions of domestic child labours are from the economically poor and backward families. They have to survive without love and care of their family. Most of them are literate but maximum of them have the knowledge about only primary level. They are unable to precede their study due to poor economic condition. The majority of domestic child workers are from poor rural family and they work to help their parents for the support of their household needs. Almost equal numbers of male and female are employed as domestic child labourers. The maximum of domestic child labourers are from those families in which step-parents are very indifference on the future of their children. The parents have no amount to pay for the study of them; unawareness of their parents about the

importance of education of their children is also the root cause to push them in domestic labour.

The study shows that the domestic child labourers have to face many hazardous problems. It was found that the employers are taking maximum advantage of their child labourers by paying minimum salary, by not giving leave and by exploiting them as much as possible. The employers control most of the domestic child labourers. They fail to provide opportunities to improve their lifestyle through schooling and other aspects. Most of the domestic child labourers are working with a minimum pay some of them are not getting any pay. Child labourers have to do almost all types of works in the home. Majority of them have to get up at 5 a.m. in the morning and work till at 10 p.m. at night. More than half are working since one year and maximum of them have not visited their home yet. Most of them have separate sleeping room but bed is not available so they sleep on the floor. The health condition of them is also poor. Majority of them have problem on health and maximum of them are suffering from cough, cold, fever, headache and breathing problem.

The domestic child labour in Nepal is not a new phenomenon. It is said that poverty is the main causes of domestic child labour but the overall discussion of this study states that poverty is not solely responsible to make child labourers. The root causes of domestic child labourers are poverty, unavailability of study for children, domestic violence, landlessness, behaviour of step-parents, parental forces etc. There are also so many other factors, which are indirectly related to child labour. These are family size, parental status, family illiteracy and family occupation.



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*www.voiceofstreetchildren.org*

*www.cwin.org.np*

## ANNEX-I

### Situation of Domestic Child Labour in Nepal:

#### A Case Study of Kathmandu Metropolitan City

### QUESTIONNAIRE

**1. Personal:**

Name: .....

Age: .....

Sex: .....

Religion: .....

Literacy Status:     Literate ( ) Illiterate ( )

If literate education grade completed .....

**2. Family Background:**

S.N.	Questions	
1.	Where is your home?	District ..... VDC/Municipality ..... No home .....
2.	Do you have your own home in your village?	Yes ..... No .....
3.	Do you have your Parents?	Father, Yes ... No ... Mother, Yes ... No ...
4.	How many members are there in your family?	Specify, Sisters... Brothers.....     Total.....
5.	Do you have your own land in your village?	Yes ..... No .....
6.	If you have own land in your village	Yes ..... No .....
7.	What is the main source of income of your family?	Agriculture.... Wage labour.... Service (Govt/Pvt.).... Other (Specify) .....
8.	Do you have step-father/mother?	Yes ..... No .....
9.	If yes, how is your association with your father/mother?	Good .... Normal.... Bad....

10.	What is your association with your own father/mother?	Good .... Normal.... Bad....
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### **3. Education:**

1.	Are your Parents literate?	Father, Yes ..... No ..... Mother, Yes ..... No .....
2.	Have you ever been to school?	Yes ..... No .....
3.	If yes, then till which class did you pass?	Primary ..... Lower secondary..... Secondary..... If other (specify) ....
4.	If not then why did you leave your school?	Due to poor economic condition..... As school was so far ..... Due to workload at home ..... Self not interested to read..... Other .....
5.	At present are you getting chance to join school?	Yes ..... No .....
6.	In which class are you reading now?	Class .....
7.	How did you feel when your friends going to school?	Want to go to school..... Nothing ..... Jealous .....

### **4. About Current Work:**

1.	Is this your first job?	Yes ..... No .....
2.	If No, why did you leave your previous job?	It was difficult..... Low salary..... For education .....

3.	What types of work have to do here?	Cooking ..... Cleaning ..... Cooking and cleaning..... Dish and cloth washing ..... Baby care ..... All .....
4.	How many hours you have to work in a day?	Hours .....
5.	Are you satisfied with your present job?	Yes ..... No .....
6.	If not, why?	Rude employer..... No chance to study ..... Low salary ..... Too much work..... Dislike of place ..... Other (specify) .....
7.	Would you like to leave present job?	Yes ..... No .....
8.	Did you get salary from your work?	Yes ..... No .....
9.	If yes, how much do you get as salary per month?	Nrs..... Only foods .....
10.	If No, why did not you get salary?	Employer support study..... Master pays to parents ..... Parents took loan ..... I work in debt ..... Other (specify) .....
11.	Who collects your monthly salary/	Self ..... Parents..... Relatives .... Other (specify).....
12.	Are you sending cash money or kind to your home?	Yes ..... No .....
13.	If you send cash or kind, how much do you send this year?	Cash..... Kind (in Rs) .....

14.	Who keeps your salary?	Master..... Guardian ..... Villagers..... Middleman ..... Self .....
15.	How many times did you send your salary to your home in year?	Once ..... Twice ..... Thrice ..... If any other (specify) .....
16.	When did you join this work?	Month..... Year.....

### 5. Condition of Work

1.	Do you have your separate sleeping room?	Yes ..... No .....
2.	What is the place of your sleeping?	On the floor..... On the bed..... Other (specify) .....
3.	On which time do you get up?	4 am.... 5 am..... 6 am ....7 am .....
4.	At what time do you go to your bed?	8 Pm.... 9 Pm..... 10 Pm & above .....

### 6. Employment Relationship

1.	Through whom did you come here to work?	Parents ..... Villagers ..... Friends ..... Self ..... Employer ..... Middleman ..... Other (specify) .....
2.	Why did you come here to work?	To pay loan..... To study ..... To achieve well food and shelter ..... Because of domestic violence at home..... Other .....
3.	How is your relationship with your employer?	Good ..... Normal..... Bad..... Worst .....

4.	If bad/worst, Why is so?	Wants too much work ..... Wants work for long hours..... Pays poorly ..... Does not pay on ..... Abuse physically ..... Abuse sexually .....Abuse verbally ..... Other (specify) .....
5.	Are you getting salary as your employer committed?	Yes ..... No .....
6.	How many times did you visit your home since you employed in this work?	Times .....

### **7. Health and Nutrition**

1.	Have you ever been suffered by illness because of workload?	Yes ..... No .....
2.	If yes, from what types of illness/ injury did you get?	Cold/cough.... Fever .... Eye infection .... Ear infection .... Skin Problem.... Back problem.... Chest pain, breathing problem.....Diarrhea .....
3.	Do you get enough food?	Yes ..... No .....
4.	How many times do you eat in a day?	One ..... Two ..... Three..... If more than three (specify) .....
5.	Do you eat the same food that your home masters eat?	Same as masters ..... Rest food of masters ..... Low quality food ..... Others (specify) .....



**8. Miscellaneous**

1.	Would you like to leave this work?	Yes ..... No .....
2.	If yes, what do you want to do?	Return back to village/ city..... To study ..... Want to search another good job..... Other (specify) .....
3.	What is your further ambition?	If any (specify) ..... .....
4.	Do you have any message to any one from your side?	..... .....