

"SITUATION OF STREET CHILDREN"
A CASE STUDY OF KATHMANDU METROPOLITAN
CITY

A Dissertation

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LETTER FOR RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “Situation of street children” (A case study of Kathmandu metropolitan city” is an independent work of Mrs. Apsara Adhikari completed under my supervision for the partial fulfillment of requirement for the Master degree of Arts in Sociology. To the best of my knowledge, this study is original. Therefore, I forward this to the dissertation committee for evaluation with recommendation.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

This is to certify that the dissertation submitted by Mrs. Apsara Adhikari entitled “Situation of street children” (A case study of Kathmandu metropolitan city) has been approved by this Department in the prescribed format of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CWS	Child Welfare Society
CWIN	Child Working in Nepal
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CRC	Convention on the Right of the Child
SA	Sociology/Anthropology
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
NGO	Non – governmental Organization
INGO	International Non – governmental Organization
VOC	Voice of Children
CPCS	Child Protection Center and Services
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nation
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
i.e.	That is
yrs	Years
%	Percentage
P	page

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Children are biological and natural phenomena and they are a developmental stage that every individual passes through before attaining adulthood. Moreover, Children are very important members of our society. For every nation, children are the pillars of economic and social development. At every step of their journey of lives, their interest is neglected. In such situation their development is thus being violated. As a result many children of the developing countries have become the victims of the street.

When talking about the street children, it is difficult to say when how and from where this tradition and practice of being street children really started. There is no evidence that suggests how this tradition came into existence. In late 1980s when programs for the street children were initiated from the nongovernmental sector in Nepal, the street children were used to refer to the children who literally live in the street, worked, ate and slept on the street. There might be several reasons of the increase of the number of street children every year.

The term “street children” in English is not new. In 1884, George C. Needham used the term in passing to describe the children. According to him “Through the stress of circumstances are forced into a course of life which tends to the multiplication of criminals and increase of the dangerous classes”. But until the 1980s term as ‘street urchin’ ‘waif used in the early part of the century, or runaway of ‘abandoned child’ heard subsequently. After 1980s the term has more common as “street children” (abandoned children 2000)

Street children are not a part of traditional phenomena of our society. But instead of that, it has been increasing every year as part of our urban reality. Every year lots of children in Nepal land on the streets due to various socio-economic reasons. The notion that street children are prone to criminality and socially unacceptable behavior is one of the dominant popular conceptions about them in urban Nepali society today. There every

child who is backbone of the nation can be seen roaming around the main streets of city like Kathmandu, Pokhara, Butwal, Bhairahabawa, Dhahran, Biratnagar, Nepalgunj etc.)

The majority of Nepali children live at home in conditions of extreme poverty .The soul cause that is forcing the children towards the street are poverty. There are also other many causes like family break up, large family size, lack of parental education, early school dropout and pull out, domestic violence, gender discrimination, ignorance and lack of social awareness, trend of migration. These causes are also forcing the children towards the street.

Definition of Street Children

Street children are those who use the street as their permanent homes spending majority of their time out their doing whatever is necessary for their own day to day survival. (CWIN 1990) UNICEF has defined street children as “Street children and those for whom the street (in the widest sense of the ward, i.e. unoccupied dwellings, Wastelands etc) more than their family has become their real home a situation in which there is no protections, supervision or direction from responsible adults.

Categorization of street children is not found to be uniform around the world. It depends upon the situation of a country and their vision for them. CWIN categorized street –children into three types. These are:

Runway Children

The runway children are those who had left their homes by themselves or with their friends to escape abuse, neglect, and hard lives.

Orphaned or Abandoned Children

Orphaned or abandoned children are those children who had been thrown out on the street by fate and cruelty to find far themselves.

Squatter Children

The squatter children are those children who spent their entire days working and playing on the street but often returned to their homes in the poor and shanty areas in the city at night.

The operational categories of street children which is given by UNICEF are:

- (I) Children on the street: Who have homes and mostly return to their families at the end of each day.
- (II) Children of the street: These children have chosen the street as their home and it is there that they seek shelter, livelihood and companionship. They have occasional contact with their families.
- (III) Abandoned children: Children who have severed all ties with their families.

But in the context of underdeveloped and developing countries, entire families are and may be also living permanently on the street. It confuses the UNICEF categorization of street children. So a survey research conducted by UNESCO in India had categorized for the convenience on the basis of their contact with families.

- 1. Children on the street: Children who live with their families whether it is the street, in slums or wasteland or abandoned but spend a lot of time working or hanging about on the street.
- 2. Children of the street: The children of the street could be further classified into two groups.

a) Roofless:

Who live and work on the street (i.e. abandoned building, under bridges, bus stands in doer ways or in public parks), yet maintain occasional contacts with their families, who may live in the same or other city or in rural areas. They see the street as their home and spend most of their lives on the streets, begging, selling household goods,

rag-picking scavenging waste materials, shining shoes or washing bike or cars to supplement their and their family income. They do often send money to their families.

b) Roofless Rootless:

Who live and work on street and have no family contacts whatsoever. These children have run away from their families to escape emotional and physical abuse from an abusive stepmother/stepfather or an alcoholic stepfather and are presently “roofless and rootless” in the city. They have often been beaten or tortured due to neglect/estranged relationship with their families. They may be orphaned abandoned or have broken families due to dislocation because of migration, war, famine, natural disasters and poverty (ibid, P. 17)

The popularity of the term “Street Children” popularity in Nepali “Khate” increased significantly after the street children’s National Convention which was held in Kathmandu in October 1993 for three days, which attracted significantly coverage in the media. The issues regarding street children in Urban Nepal received a tremendous amount of attention from development organizations and the media in the 1990 s. The numbers of NGO’s and INGO’s offering various programs to the street children have certainly increased. However, the definition of street children still remains ambiguous and congested (CWIN 1995).

How Children become Street Children

Children, who are the future architects and backbone of the country have inborn rights to survival, protection, education, health care, nutrition and a favorable atmosphere for development. It is easy to see poverty as the principle reason why children make the street as their home; they simply do not have the money for decent shelter. The problem is much more complex, though, and involves social and political components in addition to the obvious economic ones. The problems of street children are mounting as the trend of migration to urban areas continues. The fact is that Kathmandu does not have a long history of problems with street children and the degree of the problem involved along with the number of squatter settlements have been growing at an increasing rate since the opening of new highways linking Kathmandu with rural areas.

Most of the children take street as their home due to their family background and parental conditions. Children come from the poor farmers or agriculture workers, where living becomes very hard to survive. Some children come on the street because of the harassment given by their stepparents. In some of the cases, domestic child workers take street as their home due to the maltreatment by their masters.

Quite a big number of children now a day are found roaming in groups around the main streets of Kathmandu. Most of the time, they hang out around hotels and restaurants and wait for the customers to pass down the road. Some of these children are abandoned or orphaned and the rest either they runaways or have parents nearby.

Some children land on the street due to emotional violence by beating, discrediting, withholding food and making them over work, and psychological violence towards the children inflicted by alcoholic parents. In addition, some children leave their home with their own desire to see the city, which in rural children's imagination is a land of plenty where money, jobs and opportunities are abundant and easy to come by.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Social problems are the conditions threatening the well-being of society. Richard C. Fuller and Richard Meyers define, a "social problem as a condition which is define by a considerable number of persons as a deviation from social norms which are regarded they cherish". Social problem are situation or condition which are regarded by society as threats to its established ways or to its wellbeing and therefore, needing to be eliminated or alleviated. Street children problem is one of the social problems of our society, which is recent phenomenon of Nepal. Due to lots of social and economic reasons these problems arise in the society. Such as rapid Process of urbanization which encourages the migration trend of the poor people from countryside. However family migrations as well as child migration in the city areas are the major causes of the problem of street children. As we know that there are lots of social, economic and political factors to push them from countryside or village and to pull them towards the urban area. Street children are comparatively very high in those countries where there is rapid growth of Urbanization trend. Cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Manila, Rio de Zenario, Mexico City ad Bangkok are some of the burning example of street children problem in the world. The number of street children has grown in recent decades

because of political turmoil, civil unrest, increasing family disintegration, natural disaster and growing urbanization.

Kathmandu is also among those cities where urbanization growth is very high in last 40 years. The children of the street are also growing day by day with their problems. The most important problems of street children are scarcity and lack of security. They are never sure where their next meal will come from. Small street children are more insecure from the bigger street children as they torture and unhealthy conditions. They are exposed to dangerous chemicals in the garbage dumps and suffer from chronic illness and infected wounds.

As they have no choice, they must work wherever they can make the money needed for their survival. They are vulnerable to various forms of abuse and exploitation. The worst form of problem of the street children in our society, for it treats the street children differently and people looks by the eye of hate and called them as “Khate”

There are about 5000 children working and living on the streets of urban centre of Nepal. For this there are lot of reasons such as poverty is the main reason as well as maltreatment of parents, family breaking, ignorance of family, influenced by friends, lack of education are the major causes of children migration to the city areas. In Kathmandu CPCS, Voice of Children and other some organizations are trying to socialize and rehabilitate the street children, but the problem is still challenging.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to understand and describe the exact situation of the street children in Kathmandu Metropolitan city. But the specific objectives of this study are as follows.

1. To analyze the socio-economic status of the street life.
2. To find out the causes factors of children to come in the street.
3. To investigate, how the children of the street learn to survive in the street.

1.4. Significance of the Study

As we know that children are integral part of every family and community and childhood is the very important stage as well as foundation of our life is weak it will affect the whole construction. Due to this fact children should have a significant place in every society.

There are many children at a high risk on the street who are working in the most difficult circumstances. They are denied belied basic human rights, access to education, health care; more over they are discriminated, neglected, exploited and abused at every step of their life.

I hope this study will help to enlighten the problems affecting street children and it will help in the resolution of the problem of street children. I also hope that this study will help to provide some guidelines for policy maker and other social organization to increase their activities to help more helpless and hapless children.

Besides this it can be important for further study to solve the problem of street children.

1.5. Limitation of the Study

Through this study is of great significance; it may have some limitations, which can be mentioned as follows:

-) This study was confined only Kathmandu Valley and therefore the result obtained from the study cannot be generalized for all the other urban areas.
-) The study was done over a short period of time and therefore has limitations in terms of time that was spent with each respondent interviewed.
-) This study includes only those children whose age is below 16 years.

In spite of all these limitations, it is hoped that with all the effort and dedication that has been put forth the study would still is a significant and useful one.

1.6. Organization of the Study

This section deals how the chapters are organized hereby altogether; this study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is the introductory part of the study. The Second chapter provides review of literature and third is about methodology used to conduct this study.

The fourth chapter is about socio-economic characteristics of respondents. The fifth chapter deals with causes of being street children and surviving status of respondents and sixth chapter provides summary, conclusion, findings and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 General Overview

Street child is a common problem and has been occurring throughout the world for a long time since even before written history. Developed countries have managed to protect, however it is not fully controlled. One of the serious problems, which influence becoming street child, is the poverty level. Moreover it is also connected with the unstable political situation, closure of border between the countries, gender and race etc. Sometimes children want to be free from their parents and their wish to stand independently drives them to be onto street.

Children's right to participate in the social and creative works and in the decision, which affect their lives directly, are still an ideal thing in most of the society. We talk a lot about children right but these days street children are proactive and take part into various activities.

Children were used to be neglected and their issues were undermined in most of our societies. Whenever children's issues had been taken into consideration, they were guided by the principles of charity and welfare. This had never become a political agenda even for discussion till the Convention Right of the Child (UN-CRC) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989. Since then the right of the child have been emerged as a powerful political agenda in national, regional and international level.

(<http://www.infonepal.com>)

2.2 Specific Review

In this section the researcher has tried to review root causes of being street children, people's attitude towards them, street children's behavior etc. in different countries of the world including Nepal are discussed in the following sections.

2.2.1 Street Child Status in the World

Street children throughout the world are subjected to physical abuse by police or have been even murdered outright, as governments treat them as a blight to be eradicated rather than as children to be nurtured and protected. They are frequently detained by police simply because they are homeless, or criminally charged with vague offences such as loitering, vagrancy, or petty theft. They are tortured or beaten by police and often held for long periods in poor conditions. Girls are sometimes sexually abused, coerced into sexual acts, or raped by police. Street children also make up a large proportion of the children who enter criminal justice systems and are committed finally to correctional institutions (prisons) that are euphemistically called schools, often without due process. Few advocates speak up for these children and it is also observed that family members of the street children or concerned individuals are not willing and are unable to intervene on their behalf.

The term street children refer to children for whom the street more than their family has become their real home. It includes children who might not necessarily be homeless or without families, but who live in situations where there is no protection, supervision, or direction from responsible adults.

While street children receive national and international public attention, that attention has been focused largely on the social, economic and health problems of the children - poverty, lack of education, AIDS, prostitution, and substance abuse. With the exception of the massive killings of street children in Brazil and Colombia, often by police, which Human Rights Watch reported in 1994, very little attention has been paid to the constant police violence and abuse from which many children suffer. This often-neglected side of street children's lives has been a focus of Human Rights Watch's research and action.

The public view of street children in many countries is overwhelmingly negative. The public has often supported efforts to get these children off the street, even though they may result in police round ups, or even murder. There is an alarming tendency by some law enforcement personnel and civilians, business proprietors and their private security firms, to view street children as almost sub-human.

In several countries such as Brazil, Bulgaria and Sudan, the racial, ethnic, or religious identification of street children plays a significant role in their treatment. The disturbing notion of "social-cleansing" is applied to street children even when they are not distinguished as members of a particular racial, ethnic, or religious group. Branded as "anti-social," or demonstrating "anti-social behavior," street children are viewed with suspicion and fear by many who would simply like to see street children disappear.

In Bulgaria, Guatemala, India and Kenya Human Rights Watch has reported that police violence against street children is pervasive, and impunity is the norm. The failure of law enforcement bodies to promptly and effectively investigate and prosecute cases of abuse against street children allows the violence to continue. Establishing police accountability is further hampered by the fact that street children often have no recourse but to complain directly to police about police abuses. The threat of police reprisals against them serves as a serious deterrent to any child coming forward to testify or make a complaint against an officer. In Kenya, Human Rights Watch has worked with NGOs and street workers to encourage the establishment of a network for documenting and reporting police abuses against street children, and to improve children's treatment by police. Yet even in Guatemala, where the organization Casa Alana has been particularly active in this regard and has filed approximately 300 criminal complaints on behalf of street children, only a handful have resulted in prosecutions. Clearly, even where there are advocates willing and able to assist street children in seeking justice, police accountability and an end to the abuses will not be achieved without the commitment of governments.

(Source: <http://www.infonepal.com>)

2.2.2 Children in UK

Street child problem is a universal problem all over the world. Despite of being rich country in the world, UK is facing a sever situation and has been trying to resolve the street children problem. Government of UK has established Children Charity throughout the country to record children about their problems.

According to the Children Charity record, they were saying that they are physically or sexually abused. The number is significantly high and which is 1/5 1h of the phone

call received at children's charity helpline desk. This indicates that they were harassed by the people. (source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi.uk/45980.stm>)

2.2.3 Romanian Street Children

In Romania the street children problem was most serious when the regime of President Nicolas Ceausescu was collapsed. Because of lack of food and poor living conditions in Bucharest, the capital city of Romania, many children were struggling to get food and massive numbers of children came out on the street. Their principal station place was railway station. During wintertime, they managed to sleep on top of hot tap to protect them from cold. They went to market areas scavenging for food and stealing from passers-by. This was the normal life of street children during cold winter in Romania.

Some of the girls are involved in child prostitutes. This is the most terrible situation when they do not have anything to eat and it seems an easy way to survive. Street children are also taking glue sniffing from plastic bags-a substance they call Aurolac, which they get from meal shoe Polish. They also start to take cigarette just for temporary relief from their harsh existence. These are some of the behaviors of the Romanian street children. The root cause of the problem is mainly the political turmoil and unstable political regime.

(<http://news.bbc.uk/1/hi/world/from-ourcorrespob/43486.sym>)

2.2.4 Brazil

In developmental terms, Brazil is defined as an emerging economy: it is at the upper end of income category. The scale of the Brazilian economy, the country's abundance of the middle natural resources and land, its diversified manufacturing structure and its high degree of industrialization all point to successful development. Yet these factors also obscure the pronounced disparities that divide the country,

Because of the huge gap between rich and poor the gap between modern industrialisation and colonial-feudal agricultural and ownership structures are more extreme in Brazil than in almost any other country. It is as if the people of one and the same nation were living in two different worlds. According to the UN Development

Program, nearly half of Brazil's population lives in absolute poverty. With a population of 168 million (mid-1999) Brazil is among countries that have the highest absolute number of people living in poverty. 43.5% of Brazil's population ekes out a living on less than US\$ 2 per day. The situation of these people is not much different from the circumstances in which the poorest of the poor live in other parts of the world. Thus, over one million children under five are undernourished. Health care, sanitary facilities and food resources are inadequate for most of the population, while education is the privilege of a select few.

Extreme population density and crowded living conditions in the slums, combined with the struggle to survive, generally lead not only to social disintegration but also to violence within the family and to broken families. This makes the situation even more difficult for children and young people, and at least partly accounts for their increasing presence on the streets. The growing number of children who work on the streets, or even live there permanently, is one of the most pressing development problems worldwide.

In conclusion Brazilian street children are due to high level of poverty and which infect is being created by high contrast between rich and poor. This leads a serious family problem, which drives children being onto street.

(source:<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/from-ourcorrespondent/43486.stm>)

2.2.5 Pretoria, South Africa

The street child problem in South Africa is quite severing. There is a high contrast between black and white children. Ross illustrates in her study (1991, page 70) that the vast majority of an estimated 9,000 street children in South Africa are black. There are virtually no white street children in South Africa, but there are 10,000 white children in 160 states- register red and subsidized children's homes. The street children phenomenon is merely the outcome of Political system of racial segregation that has been in place since 1948. According to the Johan Le Roux, 1996, the average age of street child population is 13-14 years. There are only a few girl street children according to Johan. Richter's (Le Roux, 1993) profile on South African street children shows that about a third of the children return home within a short period of time. Another third stay on the streets for periods of 6 to 18 months, while the remaining

third remain on the streets for more than two years. Many street children do not have a clear concept of time. They often do not know how old they are or how long they have been on the streets. They can talk only in terms of specific events, like how many Christmases they have eaten on the streets.

The street children number in the urban area in comparison to the rural areas is high due to high pull factor of the urban areas. According to the study made by the different researchers in different dates, the following are the reasons why the Pretoria of the South Africa has tremendous numbers of street child.

- Socio-economic factors such as abuse of alcohol and drugs, financial problems and poverty, family violence and family break up, poor family relationship, parental unemployment and resulting stress, physical and or sexual abuse of children, parents' absence from home, collapse of family structures, collapse of extended family, and emergence of vulnerable nuclear families in urban areas
- Harsh and neglectful treatment of their families frequently derived from parental depression, anger, anxiety and frustration at life circumstances,
- High Push-pull factors,
- Structurally disadvantaged homes from where poor living conditions result in many difficulties,
- Desire to take control of one's life and displace old values and conditions with new ones,
- Rapid industrialization and urbanization with the concomitant breakdown of extended family ties,
- Migrant labour and racial segregation as well as unrest and violence in black residential areas in South Africa.

2.2.6 India

India is one of the largest countries in the world both in terms of the country's size and Population density. There is also a high gap between rich and poor. The poor economic conditions and violence in the family leads children being onto street.

According to the program launched by Ministry of Welfare, India in different areas in 1993 found the following information in regards to the street children. The abstract is taken from the Indian Street children website.

AGE GROUP

The average age of street children as found in the study is presented in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 Age wise population of street children

S. N.	Age Group	Percentage
1.	6-10 Years	33%
2.	11-15 Years	40%
3.	16 Years and Above	27%

(Source: <http://www.hrw.org>, published date 1990)

The average age group of Indian street child is about 13 years.

WORK CONDITION

Most street children find themselves some work, even though they may not be steady and lose jobs regularly. Many think of rag picking as a "job". The finding of the study is presented in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2 Work condition of street children in India, 1989

S. N.	Age Group	Percentage
1.	Working children are paid inadequately	39.3
2.	Being forced to overwork	34%

(Source: <http://www.hrw.org>, published date 1990)

Many children are lured into bonded work or "work-camps" that they are unable to escape from, due to unscrupulous and cruel proprietors or middlemen.

HEALTH CONDITION

The health condition of street children is generally poor. Many suffer from chronic diseases like TB, leprosy, typhoid, malaria, and jaundice and liver/kidney disorders. Venereal disease is rampant among older ones (13 + Yrs.). Scabies, gangrene, broken

limbs and `lepilepsy are common. HIV & AIDS cases are now widely seen. Most street children are exposed to dirt, smoke and other environmental hazards. They are constantly exposed to intense sun, rain and cold,

Though there are supposed to be "free" Government / Municipal Hospitals in all cities, street children do not have easy access to them due the need to pay bribes to enter, or the indifferent or hostile treatment meted out to them by the staff. Bangalore, Vijayawada and Hyderabad report extreme conditions in this regard.

DESIRE

The study in Madras shows that many street children would like to live in a secure place. The vast majority of them have a survival instinct and the tenacity that helps them survive the day to day trails of street life.

Table 2.3 Shows the desire of street child in Madras

S. No.	Desire of Street Child	Percentage
1	Like to live in a secure place	45.6%
2	Eager to change their present life	71%
3	Ambition to do something meaningful in their future	63%

Source: Indian Street Child Website,

Street children are found totally ignored by the relevant authorities. They are constantly arrested, locked up, tortured and abused in all ways because there is none to take responsibility for them.

- They live in fear of arrest and long detainment.
- They have no faith in the police or the judicial system.
- They disrespect the legal authorities because they have rarely experienced any kindness or understanding from anyone at that level.

2.2.7 Nepal

Country's Reflection

Population is rapidly growing and shall be one of the densely populated areas in the world within a decade or so. Literacy rate is only 48.6% (Source: HDI Report2006), which is significantly low as compared with other parts of the world. Per capita GDP is about 252 US\$ (source: HDI Report 2006), which is merely sufficient for the parents to feed and for schooling of their children. It is therefore utmost important to develop both aspects in a balancing way so that the street child problem in the future could be reduced significantly.

Because of the insufficiency of food production and poor quality of drinking water facilities, health problems of people are significantly increasing. In the other hand one doctor is available for 874 peoples Most of the doctors are based only in the urban areas and only few numbers of Compounded Health Assistants are available in only some places of the remote rural areas. One can estimate how vulnerable the health situation in Nepal is. It would be a difficult time to be faced by the Nepalese people in the days ahead if not planned in a planed way.

Table 2.4 shows the economic indicator. Better the economic indicator lower the number of street child. No doubt the lower economic indicator affect living standard of a family. If a family does not have sufficient money to support their family, they will force to carry on the following activities:

Abuse of alcohol and drugs; financial problems and poverty; family violence and family break-up; parental unemployment and resulting stress; physical and/or sexual abuse of children; parents' absence from home as a result of personal or financial reasons; collapse of family structure;

Table 2.4 Economic indicator of Nepal

Item	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005*
GDP growth ¹	4.6	-0.4	2.6	4.0	5.0
Gross Domestic investment	42.1	25.6	26.9	25.5	25.0
Merchandise export growth	-	-20.3	-14.9	10.0	12.0
Merchandise import growth	-	-15.3	8.1	10.0	12.0
Current account balance/GDP	4.5	4.2	1.8	1.0	0.5

Source: Asian Development Outlook,

Estimated

Above table shows that import is significantly high as compared with export, which implies that there is lack of industrial development and less production. Around 1965 we were the rank Vt of the Jute supplier in the world but now we have to import from other countries. Similarly we were one of the highest rice exporters to the other countries. Now we have to import from the other countries. Rice forms a major % of expenditure in poor household. Earlier rice could be produced for subsistence. However, now poor people need to spend money. This reduces their purchasing power for buying other essential item. This indicates that the poverty level of Nepal is significantly high.

Definition of Child

There is no universal definition of child. In many countries a child is defined in terms of age, limit, which differs with various activities. United Nations Children's Fund Declares, "age limits are a formal reflection of society's judgment about the evolution of children's, capacities and responsibilities (UNICEF 1997)."

The Children Act 1992 defines "Child" means every human being below the age of 16 years But the Labor Act 1992 and Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS 1995) define the age limit of child at 14 years whereas the Nepal Citizenship Act 1963 considers a person below 16 years of age as minor. Similarly the Civil Code (Muluki Ain) 1963 consider the legal age of marriage for boys and girls at 18 years with parents' consent and 18 years for boys and girls with no consent of parents.

However, the researcher has set the children's age between 6-16 years as child. The rational for selection of children of this age group was to enable the researcher to interview them independently.

State of Child Right

Child right violations are predominantly incurring in the forms of economic, social, physical, emotional and sexual abuse. The statistics, cases recorded and analysis as shown in Table 2.5 shows how the traditionally ingrained unfair social systems such as child labor exploitation, racial and caste discrimination, gender and social

discrimination and sexual abuse have infected our society. Despite people with conscience and children themselves raising voices against such social anomalies, the government has failed to safeguard children's rights and their best interests.

Table 2.5 Nature of case and incidents

S. No.	Nature of Cases/incidents	Numbers
1	Violence against children	145
2	Child labor exploitation	71
3	Child Sexual abuse	73
4	Corporal punishment in schools	188
5	Abandoned children	23
6	Neglected children	82
7	Children without families	16
8	Infant killing	28
9	HIV infection	41
10	Children affected by natural calamities	107 (36 deaths)
11	Death from communicable diseases	121
12	Accident	284 (215 deaths)
13	Serious illness of street children	52
14	Abandoned and maltreatment of physically and mentally challenged children	21
15	Children migrated from rural areas	458
16	Inappropriate care of children in care centers	29
17	Children directly affected by the armed conflict	18 (11 deaths)
18	Trafficking in children	42
19	Child suicides	29
20	Cases published for children's for adoption	177
21	Child marriage	25
22	Children in conflict with laws	42
23	Missing children	521
24	Found children	228
	Total cases Recorded	2866

Source: CWIN Nepal

It should be noted that these incidents or cases are just a fraction of incidents of violations of children's rights in Nepal. Majority of incidents of child rights violations still goes unreported due to inadequate mechanism, lack of access to such mechanism and awareness among people. Many other cases are also covered under the influence and pressure from various forces.

There is a continuous conscience and growing voice against violence and the strong voice in favor of peace. The children are zone of peace campaign has in fact, appealed all conscious and peace loving people.

This campaign should not be only limited in the city centre but has to spread all over the country including remote villages. But sadly the peace workers are still not allowed to operate in their full potential.

It is true that after Nepal ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the child rights horizon has widened in Nepal.

However, Nepal has again failed to meet the deadlines of submitting its initial and periodic reports on the children's rights to the UN CRC committee. Though government of Nepal has committed to resolve Right of the Child but questions come who is doing what for the benefit of these children.

HMG/N has committed itself to series of national and international conventions and commitments such as protection from child labour exploitation, commercial exploitation and trafficking, bonded labour, elimination of polio, drastic decreases in the infant -mortality rate, ensure education to all children, establishment of juvenile court and stop child soldiers.

In Kathmandu, there is Child Protect Centers and Services (CPCS) with a motto of "a raise of hope for child workers," which has been established to provide shelter for street children. The CS has 15+years-average ages street children. No one less than 8 years of age has been sheltered in the CPCS. At present there are over 100 children taking shelter. The CPCS is funded by locally and internationally.

2.3 Empirical Orientation

In fact there are no empirical formulas established to count or to crunch the numbers why this happens or why this is not happening. It is therefore purely a theoretical approach, which is verified by survey of 50 respondents.

Here the researcher tries to find information and data from the sample that what the driving forces to become street child were. It is purposive type of study and thus tries to summaries reasons of being street child and their composition.

2.4 Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

The high level of poverty is believed the most influencing driving factors for children being onto street. Social causes, family causes and economic causes and other causes are the outcome of the poverty and are the leading causes that in-forced child being onto street. Cultural background might be the other influencing parameter creating confrontation and violence in the family.

There is no any theoretical framework which influence being child onto street. However, it is purely qualitative analysis and therefore no quantitative analysis is possible. Because of the unlimited variables associated with the topic, the researcher has no control in the study. It is therefore that the researcher has set the boundary of the study area according to the set research questionnaires.

The researcher envisioned that the leading problem of being street child is due to the family problems especially due to the poverty. Lack of sufficiency to generate more income and bad habit of taking alcohol could be the prime leading factors creating violence in the family.

The researcher believes that Kathmandu is the most appropriate area to acquire more realistic information and data and thus has been chosen as the study area. It is the area where we can find heterogeneous composition of street child population with different ethnic background, which thus felt the study, would be more rational.

Street child is a kind of social problem and which need to be addressed to resolve in long term basis. This highlights the importance of the topic and thus it is believed that

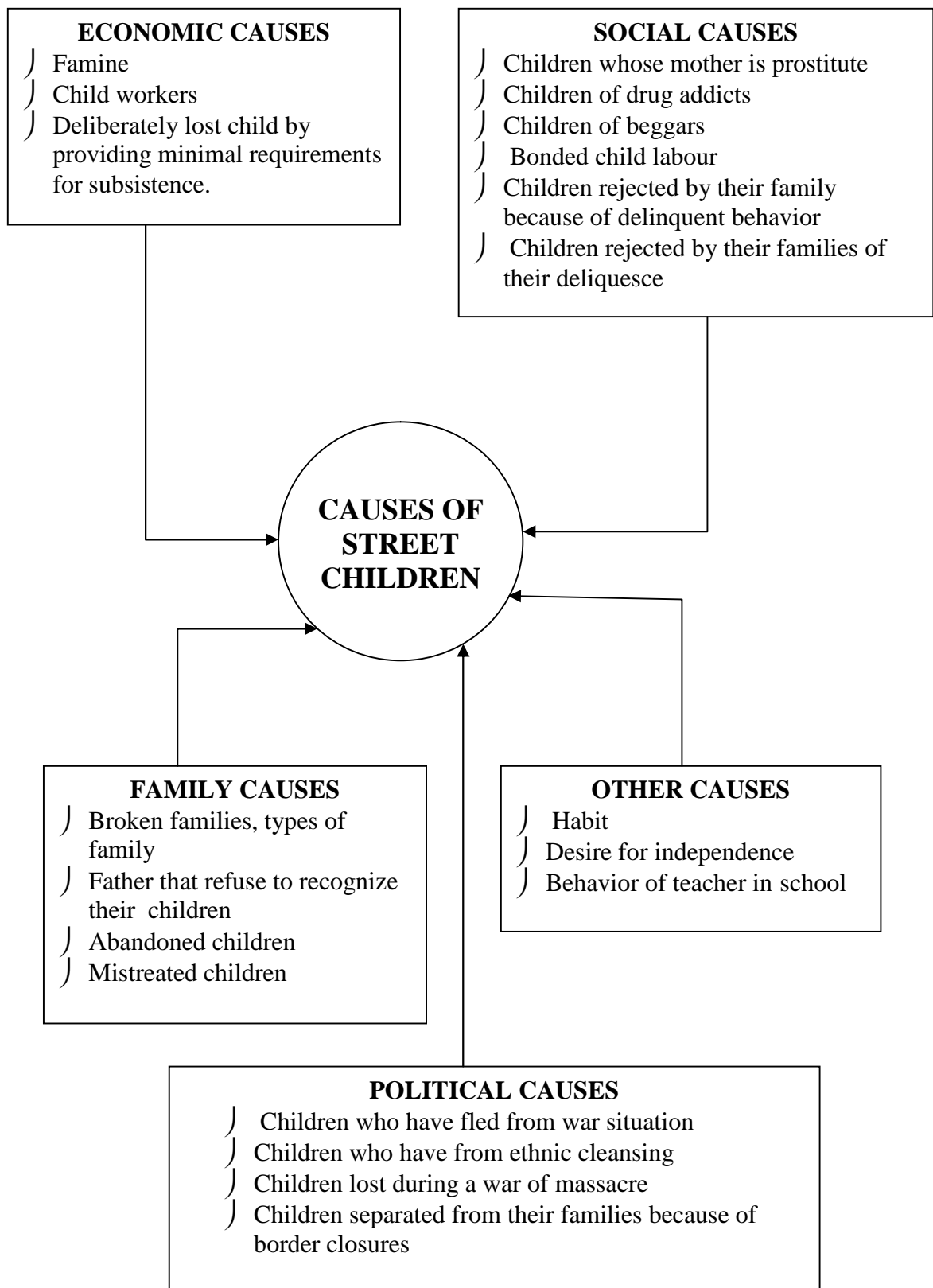
the findings drawn from the study to some extent will help to make people aware about the right of children and the planner to make plans and programs.

2.5 Causes of Being Street Children

There are several reasons that influenced children being on to street. The most influencing parameter is due to the high level of poverty and affection with chairs. However, we cannot put aside the cultural background and colonial-feudal agricultural and ownership structures.

Generally speaking, the root cause of being street child could be as shown in the Figure 2.1 below.

Figure 2.1: Root cause of child being onto street



In the chart mentioned above, there is some duplication in the points in heading with other. However, it is felt possible in duplication because of the causes. Historical study of the causes as mentioned in figure 2.1 are briefly described below illustrating how the children are influenced/driven to be on street.

2.5.1 Social Causes

Social cause is one of the leading parameter that influence child being onto street. Reasons of being on to street from the social causes are briefly discussed hereunder.

- Children whose mother is prostitute

Many prostitutes 'children, even though they are generally well taken care of, run away when they discover what their mother does for a living. This is a tragedy with significant psychological consequences.

Sometimes a mother spoils her child with presents or money in order to be "forgiven" by them, but this just creates additional problems.

- Children of drug addicts

When parents are drug addicts, life can be unbearable for their children who may decide to go away. Unfortunately, drugs have been demystified for the child, who is at great risk of becoming an addict too, and will be very difficult to get treated. This is more serious problem in middle class and higher class family. Such children are quite young of age above 13 years or so. They look terrible in nature and thus it was difficult to ask them so many questions.

- Children of Beggars

Children whose parents are beggars are in danger of becoming like their parents. This prospect may seem so grim that the child may prefer to run away. They normally do not speak while begging. It is quite common in beggar's family. Their parents ask them to beg and at the end of the day they have to give their parents what they have earned. It is quite common for disabled child.

- Women trafficking

All acts involve in the recruitment and/or transportation of a person within and across national borders for work or services by means of violence or threats of violence, abuse of authority or dominant position, debt bondage, deception or other forms of coercion. They are forced to involve in activities such as farming, child camel, jockeys, carpet factories, forced beggary, domestic service, criminal activities, forced marriage, sex market, illegal adoption etc. This is one form of the source of street child since the children born from such parent are not socially accepted in our culture. Therefore, the children are forced to leave their home.

- Bonded child labour

Bonded labour takes place when a family receives an advance payment, which perhaps significantly low, to hand a child-boy or girl-over to an employer. In most cases the child can not work off the debt, nor can the family raise enough money to buy the child back. The workplace is often structured so that "expenses" and/or "interest" are deducted from a child's earnings in such amounts that it is almost impossible for a child to repay the debt. In some cases, the labour is from generations, that is, a child's grandfather or great grandfather would provide the employer with a new worker- often with no pay at all.

They are asked just to accomplish what they have asked to be performed. It is a kind of jail since they are innocent. It is therefore that have changed their mentality to leave the place and join with other street child onto street.

Bonded labour, normally debt bondage or peonage is outlawed by the 1956 UN supplementary convention on the abolition of slavery, the slave trade, and institution and practices similar to Slavery.

- Children rejected by their family because of delinquent behavior

In this case the child has shamed the family publicly and the solution has been to throw the child out of the family home for several years.

Yet possible future imprisonment is ALWAYS catastrophic for children, especially if the child is placed in a cell with adults.

The offence may be theft, drug addiction, or child prostitution. Whenever there is a case of child prostitution, it is always disastrous for the child. On the other hand, it's necessary to expose the guilty parties and bring them to justice. The children felt guilty and thus prefer to stay alone and ultimately came onto street to spend rest of his/her life.

It often happens that the parents are put in prison, and nobody bothers about their children, who are left to their own device. As a result, the street is often only place left for these children.

- Children rejected by their families because of their delinquency

In these cases, the child is a source of public shame for the family in one way or another. One solution can be to separate him/her from his family for a few years. On the other hand, imprisonment, especially if put with adult prisoners, is ALWAYS catastrophic.

- The shame caused could include:
 - Theft
 - Drug addiction
 - A child who is ashamed to return home after being in prison
 - A child prostitute known in the neighborhood.

It's a matter of conscience: to publicly denounce child prostitute is always catastrophic for the child concerned; on the other hand, one should denounce and judge the perpetrators of the crime.

- Handicapped children forced to beg

Handicapped children are often used as beggars. This is a profitable activity but it is also humiliating. Certain children prefer to run away and end up in the street in the hope of finding another way to earn money. Some children were also sold in the market as property. There are few such children on the street.

- Child beggars or guides for the blind

In third world countries, begging is a profession, as is being a guide for the blind. Children who earn money in this way run away to keep their earnings. Some children are forced to beg by their adoptive families, who keep all the taking. This is a modern form of slavery or procuring.

- Child slaves

Higher-class family normally prefers to keep child servant with them. They normally do not allow going out when they are at home. The frustrated child from such behavior would like to come out if an opportunity found. Child slavery is quite common in many African countries.

- Children who have escaped from a Koranic school

In many Moslem countries in Africa, children are entrusted to a mar about to study the Koran for a number of years. They leave their families at a very young age and often do not know where they originally came from.

Normally everything is fine, but in certain cases the system has become corrupt. The mar about no longer teaches, instead sends the children out to beg or work for him. It is a true case of temporary slavery. If the child returns empty-handed, he is severely beaten.

When confronted with such treatment, a child may want to escape but may not know where to go or where his family is, he or she begins wandering.

2.5.2 Family Causes

This is also one of the influencing factors to drive children being onto street. Some of the major causes are mentioned below:

- Broken families,
- Type of families
- Fathers that refuse to recognize their children,
- Abandoned children,
- Orphan,

- Gifted children in a poor, sick family,
- Children who need to be reconciled with their family after a family crisis,
- Mistreated children

BROKEN FAMILIES

This is basically because of the two reasons which are discussed below.

- **A child may have been rejected by a stepfather or stepmother**

This is a very frequent problem. For majority of the street children as various reports highlight, the root cause of the problem is broken families.

- **Both parents have disappeared**

It is quite frequent in other part of the world. Sometimes we wonder whether the child ever had parents. The most appalling stories are possible. A 13-year-old child in Somalia who had never seen his parents happened to obtain the telephone number of his father who is a great singer in a foreign country. He called him and said: "Hello, are you my father? If people are not going to take care of their children, they shouldn't have them". And then he hung up.

TYPES OF FAMILIES

Children are innovative and creative. They want to do what they feel themselves appropriate. Bigger the family size less fulfillment of their child requirement, however this is always not true. Income generation highly influences whether to stay in joint family or separate out. Whatsoever the type of families, insufficiency to fulfill demand of their child leads the children to be on to street.

FATHERS THAT REFUSE TO RECOGNISE THEIR CHILDREN

In countries where marital fidelity is not exemplary or where there are frequent alcohol-ridden orgies, there often exist situations where a father cannot be sure of his paternity. This situation is particularly painful for the child, because he or she must

endure both the handicap of not having a father, and the belief that his or her mother is not respectable.

ABANDONED CHILDREN

There are many cases of abandoned children and the reasons for these vary. This is quite common in unmarried boys and girls who gave birth and later on left them onto street when they are about 3-4 years of age.

ORPHAN

If a child is being raised by a grandmother, the child will be orphaned again when she dies. But there are other reasons a child may be an orphan:

- **Orphans of war**

The other example could be Rwandan children in Goma, Liberians in Conakry or children who survived the Senegalese-Mauretania massacres in April 1989.

- **Orphans as a result of AIDS**

These are the children born from HIV/AIDS suffering people. In fact they are not accepted in the society and are forced to be a street child. This is most terrible in African countries and some part of the south Asian countries as well.

GIFTED CHILDREN IN A POOR, SICK FAMILY

This case is more frequent than one might think. A clever child in such a family may be tempted to take their chance alone. This type of child is more likely to leave than his grandparents. This is quite common in poor families.

CHILDREN WHO NEED TO BE RECONCILED WITH THEIR FAMILY AFTER A FAMILY CRISIS

A tragedy may have occurred for which the child feels in some way responsible.

MISTREATED CHILDREN

▪ Beaten children

In some countries beating a child is considered almost normal. As a consequence, the children are so terrified that they may run away, even very far away, and never return.

▪ Children who are punished too severely by well-meaning parents

Sometime such situation has to be faced for not understanding the psychology of the child. This is the situation from South Africa, the mother said: "When my son was 7, he went out every night. I tried everything: I burnt him with a red-hot iron, I broke his arm, but he always ran away. I don't know why".

▪ Children who have been thrown out of the house after misbehaving

One child that we took in was thrown out of home because he accidentally poked out one of his younger brother's eyes. His father threw him out permanently and never forgave him.

▪ Victims of rape or incest

When a child has been a victim of sexual abuse, their psychological reactions to this abuse remain for years. Especially this sort of cases can be noticed at the age group of 13 years and above. During survey only one case was noted. The child who raped her sister once was asked by his family to leave home permanently.

▪ Children of mental-illness

This is a quite common phenomenon among mentally ill children to leave their home while nobody is in house to take care of them. It is difficult to determine whether mentally-ill children are street children or not. They are the children who escape from their home and enjoy their life in the street.

2.5.3 Economic Causes

The reasons of leaving their parenthood are discussed below.

FAMINE

➤ A rural child discovers that he is one too many mouths to feed.

Poverty level in rural area is quite high where production is only sufficient for three months of a year; they normally struggle to find food. This may be differed from place to place. The example given below is the case from African continent.

In periods of drought or famine, many children who realize that they are just one more mouth to feed jump into a truck going to any direction. These children, even the very young, may travel great distances. The day the opportunity arises for one of these children to travel to Europe, they will do so; some of them know many countries.

➤ A child lives in extreme poverty in a slum

This is quite common in urban areas. In Kathmandu Valley we can see much family living around temples, riverbank with small hut etc. It is extremely difficult to count the exact numbers in short duration and limited resources.

The extreme poverty of slums around African capitals with the resulting malnutrition or hunger of the residents leads to children leaving their families. Such children move around less than rural children but are more inclined to delinquency.

CHILD WORKERS

Even if working voluntarily, children who work too far from home gradually stop going home and no longer need to. A child who is forced to work is usually well treated. In human or humanities treatment is tolerated only for so long and then the child generally escapes.

CHILDREN THAT ARE DELIBERATELY "LOST" BY PARENTS INCAPABLE OF PROVIDING MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBSISTENCE

The majority of children claim to have been "lost" during a visit to urban area. Such parents are from rural area who visits the Kathmandu during festival time. It is hard to say whether they lost their children deliberately or unknowingly.

2.5.4 Political Causes

This is the most violent situation that forces children being in the street and some of the causes felt important are discussed below.

CHILDREN WHO HAVE FLED FROM WAR SITUATIONS

This is common when the country is facing a terrible war situation. This is very horrible situation in African countries. Liberians in Conakry, Targuis in Mali or Niger, Rwandans in Goma, refugee children in Sudan or Somalia are some of the examples that forces children to leave their home and being onto street. It was also found that Ethiopian children ran as far away as to Guinea.

CHILDREN WHO HAVE ESCAPED FROM "ETHNIC CLEANSING"

This is also a common phenomenon where there is struggle in religious matter. The list is all too lengthy in this case too: repatriated children from Senegal, children chased from Mauritania, Hutus and Tutsis from Burundi and Rwanda, and so on.

CHILDREN LOST DURING A WAR OR MASSACRE

Psychologically, the case is different between a child who has fled and one who has got lost. Lost children don't even necessarily know who they are: for example a child took refuge for years with people who had massacred his parents.

CHILDREN SEPARATED FROM THEIR FAMILIES BECAUSE OF BORDER CLOSURES

The situation is somewhat different in African countries. This is what happened in Mauritania, which had closed borders for years. Entire families were taken by surprise and separated. Similar situation developed when East and West Germany built Berlin Wall. We saw many Korean people meeting their family after years when government allowed meeting their family.

2.5.5 Other Causes

Besides above-mentioned four causes there are some other reasons the children are forced to be onto street. Some of the major influencing forces that children move onto street are discussed below.

HABIT

After spending years living on the streets, a street child is sometimes happier there than at home. We have to remember that these children are easily influenced. It is quite common to get reply from street children when they are told they are not allowed what they wish to do.

DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Sometimes we're confronted with adventurous children who have come from distant cities or even foreign countries and are pursuing their dream of traveling. One of them had learned the names of all the states and governors of the United States in the hope that this information would be useful when he got there, which he claimed would be soon.

BEHAVIOUR OF TEACHER IN SCHOOL

For many children around the world, violence is a regular part of the school experience. In some countries, school officials routinely use corporal punishment to maintain classroom discipline and to punish children for poor academic performance. In other countries, authorities fail to intervene to protect minority children from harassment and attacks by other students. The failure of school officials to protect children from violence in school denies them their right to be free from all forms of physical or mental violence and the full enjoyment of their right to education.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODS

3.1. Rationale of Site Selection

Kathmandu is not only largest metropolitan city but also the capital city of Nepal too. So it became the dumping site of man of different nature. Due to various causes street children are hiking day by day with various problems in the form of beggar, rag pickers and unwanted exploitation. This study is concern in the major bulk of the street children like as Buspark, Thamel, Jamal, Ghantaghar, Basantapur and Birhospital, etc are chosen as a major crowded area. Those areas are chosen in this research because the previous research report does not include those areas. Therefore the researcher has focused in those areas.

3.2. Research Design

To find out the reality and hidden facts of street children is the fundamental objective of the study in Kathmandu. So Explorative as well as descriptive Research design are made to investigate the minimum acquaintance about street children. On the other hand, Descriptive research designs are made to identify the major problems associated with them.

3.3. Nature and Source of Data

Different types of quantitative and qualitative data has been collected and analyzed. Both primary and secondary data were used in the study.

The primary data has been collected from the field by administering semi-structured close and open-ended questionnaires for interview. Direct observation was also conducted while acquiring data.

The secondary data has been collected from available materials such as books, journals, project reports, internet, reports and published articles.

The researcher also referred data from other countries of the world as a case study. Definitions of street child cause of being street child and programs to minimize such problems where felt relevant are added as reference.

3.4. Universe and Sampling Procedures

As the street child is mobile, the exact population of the street children of the study area is unknown. Due to the unknown universe or the unknown total number of street children in Kathmandu, the study area, the researcher has applied non-probability and accidental sampling technique based on to achieve purpose as set three in the objectives. The researcher took 50 samples from the study area. Emphasis has given to cover different age group, ethnic composition, their involvement area, daily life style, etc.

3.5. Data Collection Method

3.5.1. Interview

Mixed type interview method was applied to collect primary information from the street child. The questionnaires have been prepared on the basis of the study objectives. To acquire more relevant information the researcher has put on the spot questions to make the set questions more clear. The set of questions for interview was semi-structured, close and open-ended questionnaires.

3.5.2. Observation

Beside interview, partial observation was also carried out parallel for their behavior analysis, age group classification with whom they are extending their friendship, food and clothing that they are using.

3.5.3. Case Study

The researcher has used different case study during the course of interview from different respondents to make the research more practical.

3.5.4 Internet and Website

The researcher has extensively used relevant website and Internet to acquire secondary data and information. Case study from different countries has been abstracted from internet and website to make study more rational. Definition of street child, root cause of street child, race and gender, age and sex, activities and their involvement area are taken and referred where felt important.

3.6. Data analysis

The data collected through various tools and techniques has been analyzed in the subsequent chapters using both descriptive and statistical method of analysis. The data processing has been done by appropriate coding interpreted to make the meanings and implication of the study clear.

CHAPTER IV

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDY

POPULATION

In this chapter a description of interviewed street children is done in terms of their origin, age, sex, caste/ethnicity including family status and literacy status of respondents.

4.1 Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Their Place of Origin

In the course of collecting information about the street children, a question was placed them regarding their birthplace as a district as well as developed region. Almost all street children can be categorized into two groups, in terms of migration and their residential status. The first category consists of street children who have left their home and living in town. They are migrated to these places in search of jobs with close relatives or friends. The second categorized children are those who are from squatter, whose family live in nearby towns, especially, riverside, dirty place (Bishnumati, Bagmati side.)

They come from different socio economic, ethnic family and educational background. In this context most of the children left their home by their divergent nature with family, which lead them to deviate from their usual residence for example povertyness, neglect behave from parents to be lured for runaway maltreatment from guardians: on the other hand it can be seen that same parents and relatives would leave their children on the road during the day time just for begging. The sight of small children with begging bowels is quite common. Same of urban squatter's family used their children for different economic activities for surviving. Some cases of this family constantly residing there from generation to generation and some other family currently migrated to Kathmandu from migrant parents. It was found that the parents of such children are mostly involved in manual work such as rikshaw pulling, rag picking, factory workers, and taxi driving, vending, retail shops or begging. This trend has rapidly increased instead of overcoming.

27 districts were listed as the birthplace of the street children the majority of street children in the valley came from periphery districts of Kathmandu. Most of them come from Sindhupalchowk (N=6), Kathmandu (N=6), Nuwakot (N=4), Kavrepalanchowk (N=4), Dolakha (N= 4). The migration pattern of street children interviewed that both boys and girls tend to migrate to the Kathmandu valley. 7 girls are interviewed.

Table No. 4.1: Distribution of Respondents According to their place of Origin

S. No.	District/region	Boys	Girls	Total
Central Development Region				
1.	Sindhupalchowk	5	1	6
2.	Kathmandu	5	1	6
3	Nuwakot	3	1	4
4	Dolakha	3	1	4
5	Kavrepalanchowk	3	1	4
6	Rashuwa	2	-	2
7	Dhading	1	1	2
8	Makwanpur	1	1	2
9	Lalitpur	2	-	2
10	Chitwan	1	-	1
11	Sindhuli	1	-	1
12	Bhaktapur	1	-	1
13	Parsa	1	-	1
Eastern Development Region				
14	Jhapa	1	-	1
15	Morang	1	-	1
16	Ilam	1	-	1
17	Ramechhap	1	-	1
18	Okhaldhunga	1	-	1
19	Sunsari	1	-	1
Western Development Region				
20	Gorkha	1	-	1
21	Tanahun	1	-	1
22	Lamjung	1	-	1
23	Kaski	1	-	1
24	Nawalparasi	1	-	1
25	Baglung	1	-	1
Mid Western Development Region				
26	Dang	1	-	1
27	Pyuthan	1	-	1
Total		43	7	50

The situation of family is inherently landless or lost by natural disaster or sized through indebt bondage process. Unemployment and discriminated nature of social elite person these causes create plight situation and that forcefully pushing them to move elsewhere or scattering with the hope of better life.

4.2 Caste/Ethnicity, Age and Sex of the Respondents

Here, a brief description of interviewed street children's ethnic backgrounds; their age and sex are discussed. As prothivi Narayan Shah proclaimed, "*my kingdom is the garden of the four vernas and 36 castes therefore Nepal is a common garden where all kinds of flowers could blossom*". Six castes /ethnic groups identified in the study. The rationale behind the discussion of different ethnic communities have different living standards, norms and values that may have causes to lead towards poverty, and poverty is the main cause and push factor for children to survive street life, i.e., Tharu dalit and Tamang community's children are more vulnerable than other ethnic group.

Age is another determinant factor to indicate age pattern of the street children such as minimum and maximum. The age of the interviewed children ranges from six to sixteen years most of them were above age of 10 and remaining other below the age of 10.

The majority of children visible on the streets of Kathmandu valley are boys. It is clear from general viewpoint girls are discriminated by cultural values , family norms comparably with boys (I.e. more restriction to go away with alone) therefore, fewer girls are exposed with are situation on the street. But usually boys have little objection to go away. Sometimes parents would consent to work form their tender age as an economic supporter. Girls are rarely exposed on the street life. If she exposed on the street life it is clear that she hasn't any support beside herself of more compulsion to do so.

Table No. 4.2: Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity, Age and Sex

Age and Caste/Ethnicity of Respondents	Boys	Girls	Total	
			No.	%
Age Group				
6-9	17	3	20	40
10-16	26	4	30	60
	43	7	50	100
Caste/Ethnicity				
Ethnic groups	16	2	18	36
Brahmin/Chhetri	14	3	17	34
Dalits	6	1	7	14
Newars	5	1	6	12
Puri/Giri	2	-	2	4
Total	43	7	50	100

Source: Field Survey

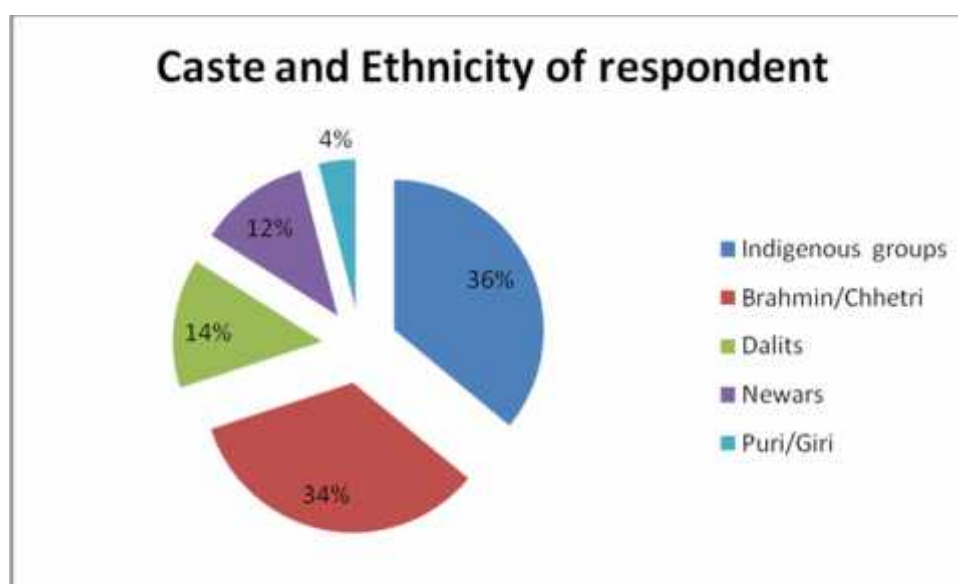


Figure no. 4.1. Pictorial representation of caste and ethnicity of respondent

Table no. 4.2 reveals that the majority of respondents (60%) interviewed come under the 10-16 years age group.

Among them majority of boys (52%) and 8 % girls observed in this age group. And 40 % respondents fall into 6-9 age group. Among them 34 % are boys and 6 % girls. Above figure indicates that street life is not favored for girls. Furthermore, due to the restrictions or imposed by socio-cultural norms and values for women, the numbers of street girls are likely nominal. The data generated in this study, negates the common assumption that majority of street children comes from so called low caste families. But the above table no. 4.2 reveals that the largest proportion of street children in the study belongs to the ethnic groups (36%), come in the first position, Brahmin/Chhetri which is so called high caste in our Hindu society, take place second position (34 %) and Dalit community follow the third position (14%). The phenomenon of street children affects most caste/ethnic group of Nepal. Unlikely the traditional beliefs that street children came mainly from most backward caste/ethnic group such as Tamang, Lama and Dalit. Street children also come from the so-called higher caste groups such as Brahmin and Chhetri.

Yet the highest number of street children are from Tamang and Lama two of the indigenous groups of the Nepal that reside in the periphery districts of the Kathmandu valley such as Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Rasuwa, Dhading, Nuwakot, Makawanpur, where most of the residing people are indigenous groups with weak socio-economic status.

Case study 1

Muna Yadav (name changed) is 13 years old and comes from Chitwan district to sustain her life. Her father was alcoholic and has a step mother who used to always beat her without cause. Muna tried to tolerate unbearable hitting by her parent by verbally and physically. Ultimately, one day she left home without permission of her parents. She lived as a refugee in her but it was not possible forever. Therefore she decided to go to Kathmandu and arrived here two years before. Now she is a ragpocker and living with adult patronization.

4.3 Literacy Status of the Respondents

The literacy status of street child is significantly low. They only recognized Nepali alphabet. More important matter is that though they had not joined school but learned Nepali alphabet at home. Table 4.3 shows the information about literacy rate of street child.

Table 4.3 Literacy status of street child

S. No	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	School admitted at point	24	48 %
a.	Literate (only recognized Nepali alphabet)	9	37 %
b.	Dropped out school before being literate	15	63%
2.	Not admitted school but recognized Nepali alphabet at home	2	4%
3.	Illiterate	24	48%
	Total	50	100 %

About 48 % of the street children were admitted school at one point, but most had dropped out before they learnt their alphabets and number. As a result, some 37 % were literate from school, which means they could recognize Nepali alphabet in spite of joining school at home. Though they are from schooling background but they shy to speak. The reason could be they don't want to disclose their conditions or they are onto street from early stage causing no memory about their past history. The illiteracy is about 48 %. However, it was observed that they know little bit in many topics.

4.3.1 Reasons for not attending school

Street children are very vulnerable to exposure school. There are many reasons for not attending school. Some of these are low economic status. Lack of awareness, neglecting behaviors of guardians involved in household chores rather than educational activities, no school around there, reluctant nature to study of the respondents. In the course of observation, one question placed them why did you not attend school? Nevertheless, Poverty is the vital factor to push the Children for street life. Some of ancillary factors such as family size dysfunctional family, death of parents, or separation of children from own parents, social and cultural discrimination between son and daughter, upper class and lower class. Most of the children involved in household chores couldn't pay for schooling cost.

Case study 2

“Why do you ask me that question? If I attend school and living with my parents, I would not be here in worst position. It is not my intentional job. It is my compulsion, everybody asked me same question. He added more question: Can you nurture me? You earn dollar on your name.”

4.4 Family Background

The family is the most basic unit offering provision for the basic needs of children, protection from abuse and exploitation and emotional support as their children grow into adulthood where families unable to offer this to their children then children can assist families in fulfilling this role. Children have negative impression with their family about not fulfilling their duty to their children, i.e., family for requiring that child to work rather than attend school. Poverty is the main enemy of their family where they must be faced lacking of basic fulfillments such as nutritional two times meal for a day, home, cloths, schooling, income opportunities around there. Parent's unusual behavior is another aspect to create more problems such as quarrel nature, alcoholic, gambling. These types of nature seem in lower status families rather than middle class family. Landlessness, father/mother or both of them severe sickness, presence of step mother, home abandoned by mother/father, handicapped parents, such type of position create incompatible situation in the household which lead to the children to disperse from their home. Not only one exceptional case of Shyam,

hundreds of such more pathetic case can be seen on the street of Kathmandu. A large number of respondents reported that own mother are not their home care takers.

Absence of own parents particularly the mother is directly associated with the deprivation of children from education, nutrition, health and love, affection. In this study one in tenth street children reported that they were orphans. The proportion of mothers living at home prior to the child starting street life was higher (67%) than fathers (46 %). This may be due to the higher death rate of fathers (28%) as compared to mothers (21%). Between the parents, father has tend to left home (26 %) for different purpose which compared to mother 12 % left home for next marriage.

Many children who have had a stepparent or an Alcoholic parent in the Family reported of having Conflicts and violence within the family and abusive behavior towards them. This could also be a contributing factor, which compelled the children to leave their homes and resort to street life. The fact that a majority of the street children do have parents proves that the parents have not taken proper care provided adequate love and support to their children, which is essential for the children's overall development. This is shown by the various incidents, which motivate the children's overall development. This is shown by the various incidents, which motivate the children to leave their homes and go into the streets.

Case study 3

“I am Shyam Tamang from Dolakha district. When I was 10 years old, my mother passed away leaving me behind my two younger brothers. After a few months my father brought a woman as wife. I am from very poor family. My family possessed a small plot of lands, which was not sufficient to solve hand to mouth problem even four months. After eight months my family depends upon father's labour income. I couldn't explain when my mother died. The main occupation of my family was farming and pottering. Other members of my family involved in stone quarry with limited earnings. We were hardly maintaining our livelihood in my villages. Two years ago, when my contemporaries enjoying with great festivals of Dashain, same time I had been tormented from my stepmother. It was unbearable; my father also tortured me verbally and physically. At that time I went to my relatives. After that I arrived here (Kathmandu) now. I am potter and sometimes rag picker.”

Table no. 4.4: Family Status

Mother's Status	(Number = 50)	Percentage
Living at Home	33	67
Dead	11	21
Absence at Home	6	12
Total		100
Father's Status	(Number = 50)	
Living at Home	23	46
Dead	14	28
Absence at Home	13	26
Total	50	100

4.4.1 Size of family

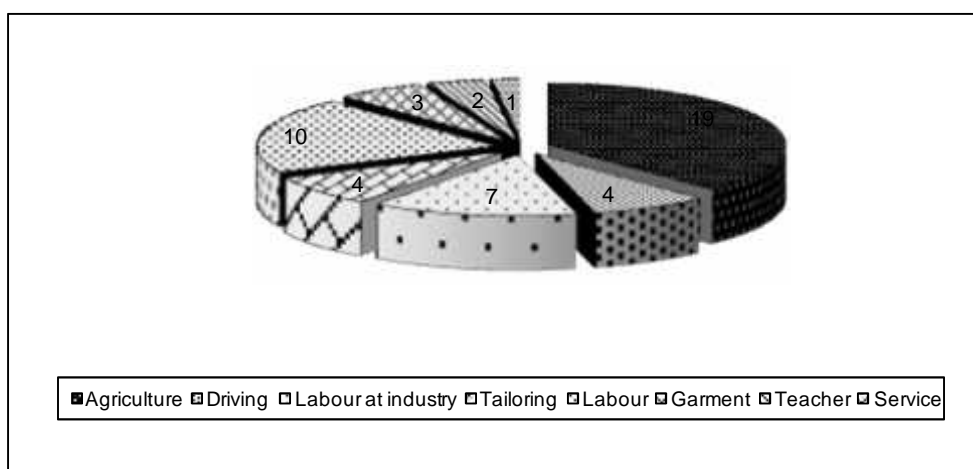
The hypothetical assumption is that children of large family have tended to move from their home to streets. Bigger family size means many mouths to eat and many pressing needs, which might have pushed children into street. But it is not true. Those street children who included in this study have reported that more or less equal proportions of children (47%) were from large size family and (53%) were from small size family children arrived here. However, presence of stepparent and regular absence of father or mother has a negative impact on an economic, social and mental condition of children.

4.5 Occupation of parents

Most of the street children have come from the poor farmers or agriculture workers. The rest of the children's parents are involved in several low income jobs such as construction labour, driving, carpet and tailoring. Only a few children belong to the middle class families. When we talk about parents' occupation, we normally understand the occupation of the father simply because of our male dominant culture.

Table No. 4.5: Occupation of parents

S. No	Parent's occupation	Respondents	
		Numbers	Percentage
1	Agriculture	19	38
2	Driving	4	8
3	Labour at carpet industry	7	14
4	Tailoring	4	8
5	Labour	10	20
6	Garment	3	6
7	Teacher	2	4
8	service	1	2
Total		50	100



Source: Field survey

Figure 4.2 Pictorial diagram of occupation of street children's parents

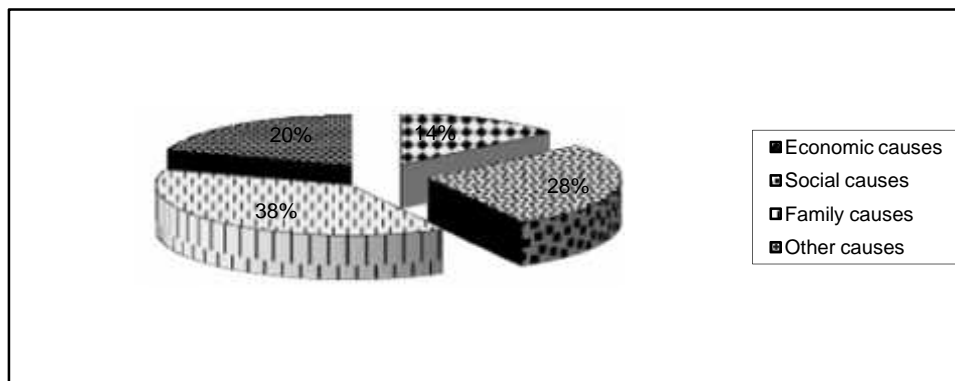
As can be seen from the Figure 4.2 that the agriculture is the most dominant occupation (38%) followed by labour 20%, carpet industry 14% and so on. This indicates that the main influencing factor of being street child is due to the high level poverty and low economic level of family.

CHAPTER V

CONDITION OF STREET CHILDREN

5.1 Causes of being Street Child

Open-ended single question was asked to all respondents. The question was “Why you become street children?” The response from all respondents were collected and then grouped. The researcher categorically divides into groups the root causes and driven forces as obtained is presented in Figure no 5.1



Source: Field survey

Figure 5.1 Pictorial representation of reason of being children onto street

The details of findings and observation as mentioned in the above figure are described further in the subsequent subsections.

5.1 .1 Social Causes

This is one of the most influencing reasons of children being onto street. The photograph in Figure 5.2 below shows a girl who was born from a HIV/AIDS affected parents and now she is on the street because of delinquency behavior of the community.

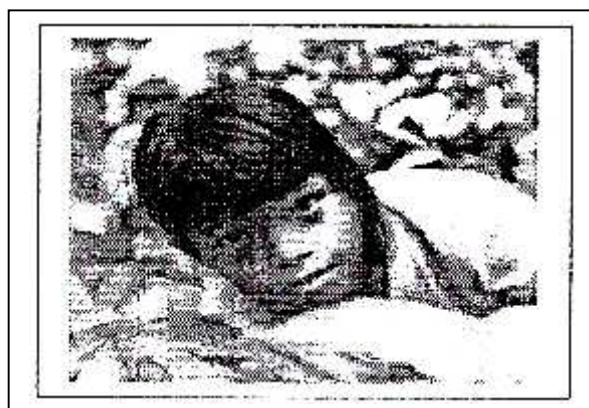


Figure 5.2. A girl from HIV/AIDS parents not accepted socially

Source: Child website Nepal

Reasons of being onto the street due to the social causes as observed in the study are tabulated in Table 5.1 below. The pictorial presentation of the data/information is presented in figure 5.3

Table No. 5.1: Street child due to social problems

S. No.	Social causes	Interviewed numbers	
		Numbers	Percentage
1	Children whose mother is a prostitute	3	21.4%
2	Children of drug addicts	1	7.1%
3	Children of beggars	3	21.4%
4	Bonded child labour	4	28.6%
5	Children rejected by their family because of delinquent behavior	3	21.5%
Total		14	100%

Source: Field survey

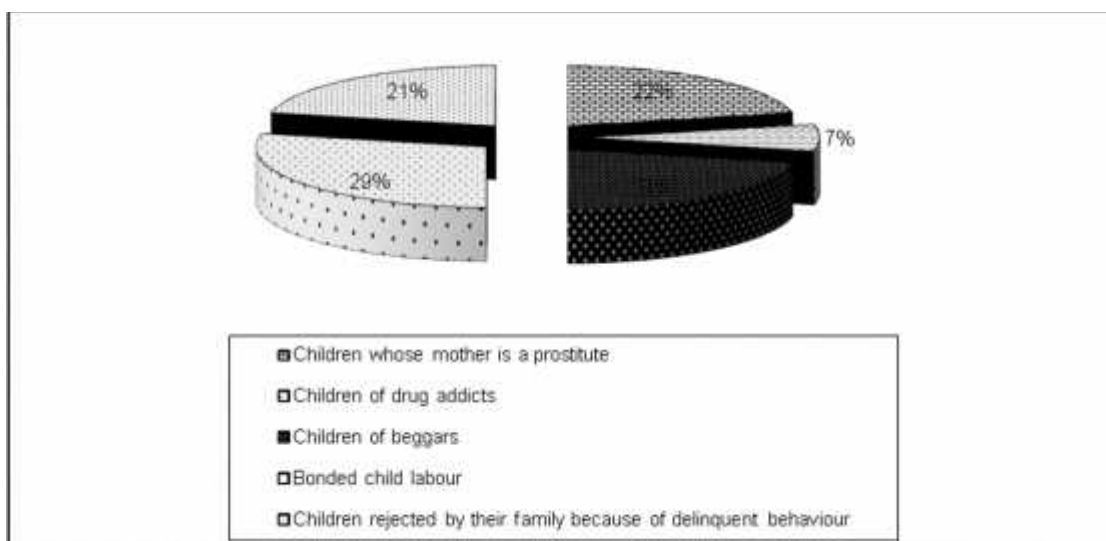


Figure no 5.3 Pictorial representation of street child being on street due to social causes.

From the 50 respondents who were asked questionnaire it was found that 28% street children were influenced by the social causes. Out of those situation the bonded child labour (30%) is the most influencing causes followed by children of beggars and children whose mother is a prostitute (21%). Children’s deliquesces behavior (14%) followed by children of drug addicts and rejected children by their family due to women trafficking. It can be concluded that social problem is one of the root causes that drives child being onto street. Figure 5.4 below is the picture of a girl who did activities, which made her parents ashamed of her and thus they asked her to leave home. This is quite common when offspring does activities that parents can feel shameful for.



Figure 5.4 A girl rejected by their family because of delinquent behavior

Source: Internet Photo Gallery, Nepal

5.1.2 Family Causes

This is other prime factor, which influences children being onto street. Due to lack of economic support and high level of poverty, parents will not in a position to support their family and then start taking alcohol. Intolerable situation can be created within family and the children try to be free from such home. The main root causes as observed during survey are presented in the Table 5.2 showing number of respondents and their representation in percentage. The pictorial representation can be seen in Figure 5.5 below.

Table 5.2 Causes of being street children due to family problems

S. No.	Root family causes	Number noted	Number in %
1	Broken families	2	10.5%
2	Father that refuse to recognize their children	2	10.5%
3	Abandoned children	3	15.8%
4	Orphan	3	15.8%
5	Mistreated children	9	47.4%
	Total	19	100%

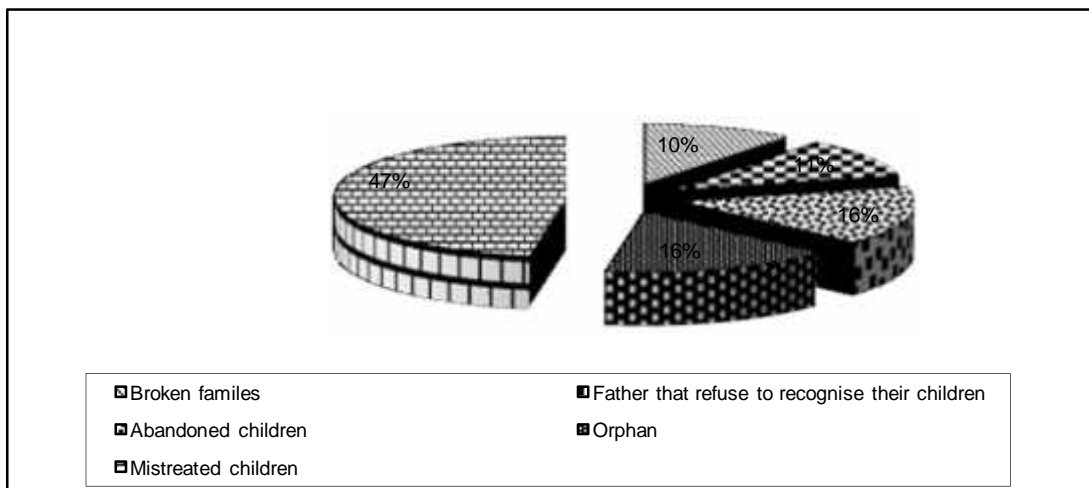


Figure 5.5 Pictorial representations of family problems

The root cause of the street children is due to mistreatment from their parents. About 47% street children are from those families where children are not treated with good environment (Discrepancy in Table 5.2 and Figure 5.5 is due to rounding error). Abandoned children and orphan children (15.5%) followed by father that refused to recognize their child (10.5%). No one observed due to gifted children in a poor and sick family and children who need reconciling with their family after family crisis.

5.1.3 Economic Causes

Economic cause is another important cause of street child. Population is increasing quite significantly but economic status of people is becoming poor day by day. It is therefore difficult to feed their children. Based on the survey the researcher classified economic causes in the following ways.

The reasons of leaving their parenthood are discussed below.

- Famine
- A rural child discovers that he is one too many mouths to feed.
- A child lives in extreme poverty in a slum
- Child workers
- Children that are deliberately “lost” by parents incapable of providing minimal requirements for subsistence

Table 5.3 and Figure 5.6 summarized the finding of the economic causes, which drive children being onto street.

Table 5.3 Street child due to economic causes

S. No	Root economic causes	Interviewed numbers	
		Numbers	%
1	Famine	3	42.9%
2	Child workers	2	28.6%
3	Deliberately lost children by parents in capable of providing minimal requirements for subsistence	2	28.6%
Total		7	100%

Source: field survey

Based on the survey data and information, famine (42.9%) is the most economic influencing cause of being child onto street followed by child workers and deliberately lost children by their parents (28.6% each).

Deliberately loss of child is basically occurring during festival time because of their inability of providing minimal requirement for subsistence.

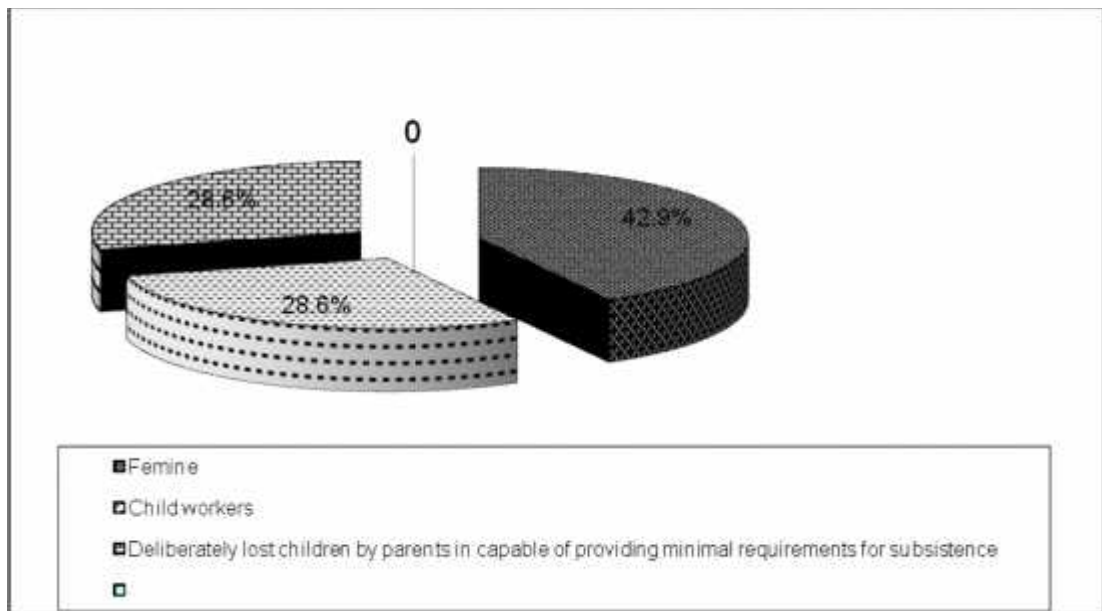


Figure 5.6 Pictorial representation of economic causes that influence child being on street.

5.1.4 Political causes

This is the most violent situation that forces children being onto street. The researcher tries to find out the real situation in the following areas.

- Children who have fled from war situation
- Children lost during a war or massacre

However no single respondents were observed during field survey. The reason could be that they were reluctant to mention the political cause as the root cause or there were no such street children in real situation.

5.1.5 Other Causes

Besides above mentioned four causes these are some other reasons that forced children to be onto street. Here are the some causes found during survey. Behavior of their parents and social institutions and child's desire for independence that drive them onto streets are the major causes found in the survey. Table 5.4 and Figure 5.7 show the result from the survey.

Table No. 5.4: Other causes of child being onto street

S. No	Root other causes	Number of respondents	Number in %
1	Habit	4	40%
2	Desire for independence	3	30%
3	Behavior of teacher in school	3	30%
	Total	10	100%

Source: Field survey

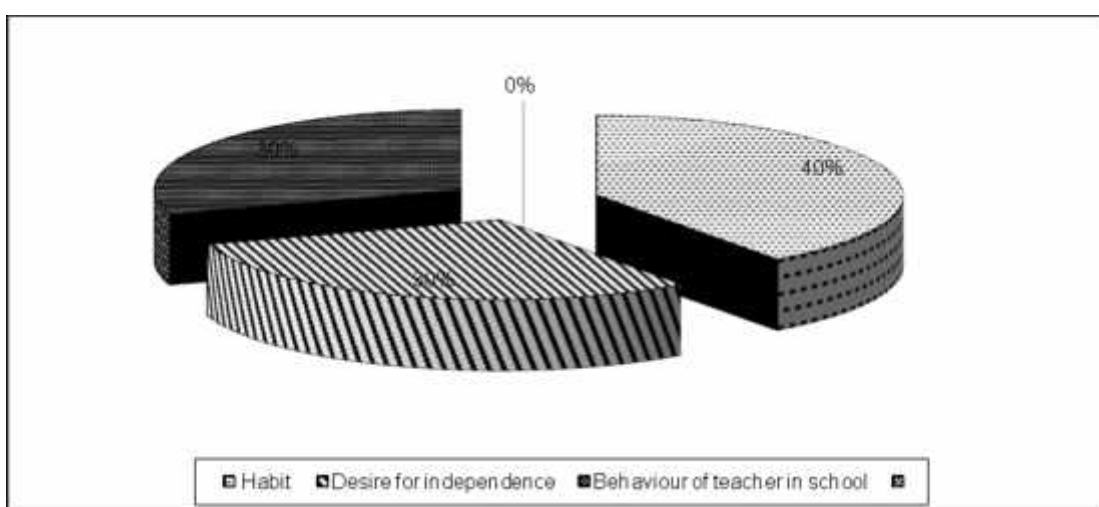


Figure 5.7 Pictorial representations of other causes that influence child being on the street

Habit of the child is the most influencing cause. About 40% of respondents are influenced by their habit. The reason could be they do have plenty of time where no one disturbs to carry out their plan as they wish to do so. Behavior of teacher in school and desire of independence (30% each) is the other cause that influenced children to be onto street. Bonded child is one who wants to be free from their house owner. Teacher in school routinely used corporal punishment to maintain discipline and to punish children for poor academic performance. One of the respondents was saying that he was punished in front of his classmates that made him feel guilty and thus consequently left the school. He was saying that he is reluctant to rejoin school. The reason could be age factor.

5.1.6 Ethnicity

Table No. 5.5 Ethnicity of respondents

Caste/Ethnicity	Boys	girls	No	Percent
Ethnic groups	16	2	18	36
Brahmin/Chhetri	14	3	17	34
Dalits	6	1	7	14
Newars	5	1	6	12
Puri/Giri	2	-	2	4
Total	43	7	50	100

Source: Field Survey

The data generated in this study, negates the common assumption that majority of street children comes from so called low caste families. But the above table no. 5.5 shows that the largest proportion of street children in the study belongs to the ethnic groups (36%), come in the first position, which is so called high caste in our Hindu society Brahmin/Chhetri, take place second position (34 %) and Dalit community follow the third position (14%).

The phenomenon of street children affects most caste/ethnic group of Nepal. Unlikely the traditional beliefs that street children came mainly from most backward caste/ethnic group such as Tamang, Lama and Dalit. Street children also come from the so-called higher caste groups such as Brahmin and Chhetri.

Yet the highest number of street children are from Tamang and Lama two of the indigenous groups of the Nepal that reside in the periphery districts of the Kathmandu valley such as Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Rasuwa, Dhading, Nuwakot, Makawanpur, where most of the residing people are indigenous groups with weak socio-economic status.

5.1.6 Occupation of parents

Most of the street children have come from the poor farmers or agriculture workers. The rest of the children's parents are involved in several low income jobs such as construction labour, driving, carpet and tailoring. Only a few children belong to the

middle class families. When we talk about parents' occupation, we normally understand the occupation of the father simply because of our male dominant culture.

Table No. 5.6: Occupation of parents

S. No	Parent's occupation	Respondents	
		Numbers	Percentage
1	Agriculture	19	38
2	Driving	4	8
3	Labour at carpet industry	7	14
4	Tailoring	4	8
5	Labour	10	20
6	Garment	3	6
7	Teacher	2	4
8	service	1	2
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey

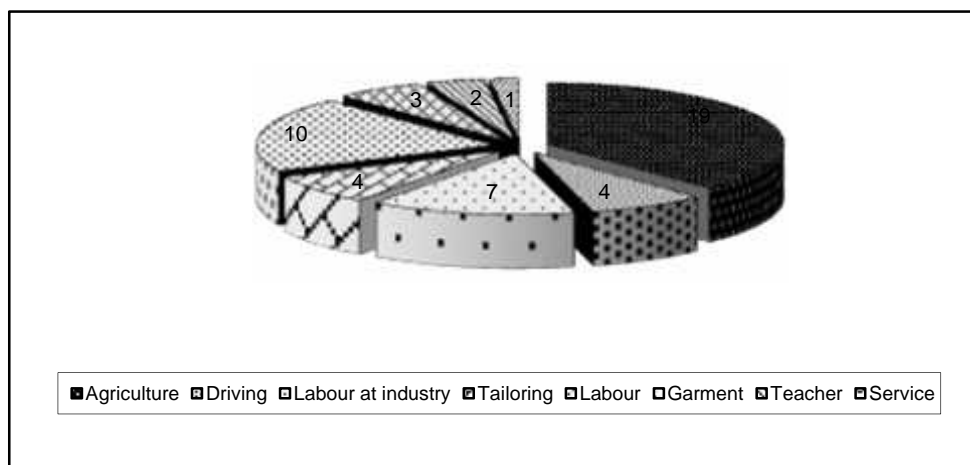


Figure 5.8 Pictorial diagram of occupation of street children's parents

As can be seen from the Figure 5.8 that the agriculture is the most dominant occupation (38%) followed by labour 20%, carpet industry 14% and so on. This indicates that the main influencing factor of being street child is due to the high level poverty and low economic level of family.

5.1.8 Literacy status of street child

The literacy status of street child is significantly low. They only recognized Nepali alphabet. More important matter is that though they had not joined school but learned Nepali alphabet at home. Table 4.8 shows the information about literacy rate of street child.

Table No. 5.7: Literacy status of street child

S. No	Particulars	Number of respondents	Percentage
1.	School admitted at point	24	48 %
a.	Literate (only recognized Nepali alphabet)	9	37 %
b.	Dropped out school before being literate	15	63%
2.	Not admitted school but recognized Nepali alphabet at home	2	4%
3.	Illiterate	24	48%
	Total	50	100 %

About 48 % of the street children were admitted school at one point, but most had dropped out before they learnt their alphabets and number. As a result, some 37 % were literate from school, which means they could recognize Nepali alphabet in spite of joining school at home. Though they are from schooling background but they shy to speak. The reason could be they don't want to disclose their conditions or they are onto street from early stage causing no memory about their past history. The illiteracy is about 48 %. However, it was observed that they know little bit in many topics.

5.2 Surviving status of street children

5.2.1 Street Children in Economic Activities

As every street is an individual, each child has a different way of life. Street children and their activities are influenced by their need to survive day to day. The street is where children work, eat, socialize, play, and learn, wash and sometimes sleep. These casual activities are not different like their interests. They are involved in different activities and not solely do involve in a single occupation. Here after observation and interview with the selected street Children and informal discussion with concerned people of having information about them, it is learnt that street children are classified into six forms in terms of their economic activities.

5.2.1.1 Street Children as a beggar

Table No. 5.8: Street Children as a beggar

S. No.	Economic Activities	(Number = 50)	Percentage
1.	Begging	6	12
2.	Rag Picking	32	65
3.	Pottering	4	7
4.	Automobile Repairing Center	3	6
5.	Street Venders	5	10
	Total	50	100

Begging is the partial job in order to survive for them. Some do door to door begging while others sit at one spot with a bowl in front of them. They spread their empty hands for help with little bit kindly face and dissemble activities such as handicapped, looks severe sickness, orphan. They use their tricks especially for foreign people. Some of child beggars reached to the bus parkland get into the bus and beg with passengers from artificial medical description, which made by broker.

Nevertheless, contrary to popular belief, they have pride and dignity and don not beg or steal unless they are compelled to do so. Out of 50 respondents, 12% were involved in begging job.

5.2.1.2 Street children as a rag picker

Rag picking is one of the common jobs among street children. Generally, they get up early in the morning as possible as and return back later night. Took their dirty sack on the shoulder and move their usual places (Junkyards wall corner, dump pills, river side) collect milk plastics, polythene bags and other waste materials which can be resold in waste collection centers. Some of them wake up at mid night because they would be free to collect waste materials, which is thrown from household at night but always dogs and police threaten them to avoid from there. Sometime cold weather and rainy season they turn at their jobs towards begging and other bad works otherwise they should face starvation, although, they have a lot of experience about hungry stomach. Similarly, 65% out of 50 respondents were involved in this job.

5.2.1.3 Street children as a potter

Pottering is also common and alternative job of rag picking. Generally, load, unload and load carry are the most risky job. It would be dangerous for their unhealthy and immature health structure. Child pottering is common in new bus park with low wage. How many rupees would you beg for carrying it? “As you can kindly!” They have not any bargaining power with their own labour. How pathetic situation! Out of 50 street children, 17% are involved in pottering job.

5.2.1.4 Street children as a street vender

Street children strolling on the street for selling cheap cost goods (battery) peddling lottery tickets, film pestering, selling newspapers and mineral water bottles. That is another way of living for them. Likewise, 10% out of 50 respondents adopting their job for survive.

5.2.1.5 Street children involved in rough work (stealing/looting) and petty crimes

Among those street children who were found in three forms, first pick pocketing around the market places and bus terminals mainly new comers passersby, second stealing metal scraps or dump of junk collection centers, household, public area, (garden temples), from shops and third form of stealing from a drunkard person who is unconscious at later nights. There were large numbers of cases reported in police station. These children can sometimes make more properties such as necklaces, watches, purse, belt, cap, eyeglass, shoes, pots, and more money. When they are too well-known in one locality then they change their usual residing/strolling places and choose other places for their own business.

5.2.1.6 Street children as a helper/worker in automobiles repairing

Among all respondents, 6% were involved in different automobiles repairing centers. They were regularly working under the commands of employers. Employers take more advantage of their childness and honesty.

As shown above, child labour is a common issue in Nepalese context for the discussion among academic field and policy-making sectors.

5.2.1.7 Income Profile

Income level of street children depends upon their type of work. Begging is an easy types of work whereas rag picking, pottering are the hard and risk jobs. The begging with tourist can earn large amount of income rather than other jobs. But it is very partial job. Sometimes they (beggars) cannot earn even one rupee. Usually they earn sufficient income per day unless some sudden problems do

Box 1

Average income of street children is 40 to 60 per day sometimes it would be more than 200 or sometimes it would be below 10 rupees.

come on their daily routine. If they get more money they use their Income in unnecessary Things such as watching Movies, drinking alcohol and smoking. While asking why they do not use their income for good work. “They say, easy get; easy spend. Why to save and for whom? No one forwards anyone behind. No one need for me.” “Not how many rupees do they earn per day? Not more, average 50 rupees per

day but it's not certain. Sometimes it would be more than 200 or sometimes would be money less. While earning money as expected, how they spend. "*Khayo Piyo Masti Garyo Bholi Kasle Dhekhe Ko Chha* (we have to enjoy at present, no one can see future)".

5.2.1.8 Expenditure Pattern

The working children who are known as worst form of children come from very poor and illiterate families, have to work at the most congested dusty place. They also face plight situation even in low payment of hard work. Long working hours, inadequate shelter, job Insecurity, exploitation by Adults and deprivation from education and medical facilities. Therefore, they do not care about their earnings where it is used for.

Box 2

Street children expend their income for unnecessary things rather than their own usefulness such as alcohol, smoking, drugs, watching movies etc.

Although it is expected that street children usually earn sufficient income to cover their food cost after half a day is over but they spend their whole income to use for entertainment. So they have to borrow for food cloths from their fellows.

Nevertheless however borrowed cash is more often spent upon cinema tickets tasty foods, alcohol, smoking, carimbord, glue and other drugs. The phrase much repeated by boys' "money comes quickly and goes quickly in Khate job."

There is no fixed amount of earning among street children. Sometimes they do not earn at all. Sometimes they earn an average of Rs. 40-60 per day. Sometimes children run the risk of losing all the earnings to the leader of street children or by a gang of junkies or by the police. It is found that there exists street children gang comprising 5-12. The main aim of such gang is to protect the number of the gang from outside attack. The leader of the gang sometimes exploits its members economically.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary

The problem of street children is universal. Because of high push and pull factor of urban areas, it is believed that the number of street could have been in increasing order. Street children are the reflection of a growing social tragedy in the world. The reason of increase in street child number is due to widespread recessions, political turmoil, and civil unrest, increasing family disintegration, natural disaster and growing urbanization.

The objective of this research study is to determine possible causes of being street child and their socio-economic background, survival strategies, their ethnic background and their life style.

For the study both descriptive and exploratory research design was adopted. 50 samples were selected on the basis of non-probability, and accidental sampling technique. The researcher has also used semi observation to acquire relevant information. Semi structured closed and open-ended questionnaires were prepared and asked to make study more flexible and rational. The findings of the study based on 50 respondents are summarized below.

Summary of Findings

Respondents were boys and girl both.43 respondents were boys and 7 respondents were girls during field survey was recorded. Based on the field observation and interview the following findings have been drawn but it could not be generalized to other urban areas. The summary of findings of the study is briefly described herein:

Area of origin

Most of the street children at Kathmandu valley are from adjoining districts of the Kathmandu. One can say that Sindhupalchowk (N=6), Nuwakot (N=4), Kavrepalanchowk (N=4), Dolakha (N= 4).are the most influencing districts. Little influence for other 22 districts was observed in the field survey.

Age Group

The majority of respondents (60%) interviewed come under the 10-16 years age group. Among them majority of boys (52%) and 8 % girls observed in this age group

Ethnicity

The largest proportion of street children in the study belongs to the ethnic groups (36%), come in the first position, Brahmin/Chhetri take place second position (34 %) and Dalit community follow the third position (14%) and Newars (12%), and Giri/puri (4%).

Literacy status

The literacy status of child is significantly low. 48% of the respondents were admitted school at one point and then left school where as 63% continued for some time but left before being literate. 48% of street children never joined school and are illiterate but only 37% street children recognized Nepali alphabet and it can be said that they know Nepali alphabet to read and write.

Occupation of parents

This is one of the most influencing causes that might drive children being onto street. According to the respondents, 38% are from agricultural profession followed by labour in construction industry (20%), labour at carpet industry (14%) and driving/tailoring (8%).This can be inferred that street children are from agriculture background family.

Cause of street child

The study depicts that there are four categories of causes that influence child being onto street. They are social causes, family causes, economic causes and other causes. The study revealed that the most influencing causes is the “family causes (38%)” followed by social causes (28%), economic causes (14%) and (20%) other causes. In the family causes group mistreated children (47.4%) is the root cause noted during field study. Children of beggars and child born from prostitute (21.4% each) is the root cause of the social problems. Famine and poverty (42.9%) is the most influencing root causes as found in the economic causes. Despite of these causes habit (40%), desire for independence and behavior of teacher in school (30% each) is the other causes of child being onto street.

Surviving status of street children

Street children are involved in different economic activities for survive not solely involve in a single occupation. Here after observation and interview with the selected street children and informal discussion with concerned people of having information about them, it is learnt that street children are classified in six forms in terms of their economic activities. They are in Begging (12%), Rag picking (65%) Pottering (7%), automobile repairing center (6%) and Street venders (10%).

Income Profile

Average income of street children is 40 to 60 per day sometimes it would be more than 200 or sometimes it would be below 10 rupees.

Expenditure Pattern

Street children expend their income for unnecessary things rather than their own usefulness such as alcohol, smoking, drugs, watching movies etc.

6.2 Findings

- a. The phenomenon of street children is a symptom of extreme social and economic stress. Street children are almost always the children of the poorest people in any area.
- b. Street children come into the city (Kathmandu valley) mostly from hilly area rather than Mountain and Terai areas also most of them come from Sindhupalchowk (6) and Kathmandu (6) district.
- c. Out of 50 respondents only 14 percent were girls. Likewise majority of the street children come from ethnic group (Lama, Gurung, Magar, Tamang) (36%) and followed by Brahmin/Chhetri (34%)
- d. Out of 50 respondents 48 % of the street children were illiterate where as 4 % are not admitted school but recognize Nepali alphabet at home. Similarly 48 % of the street children have admitted school at point which includes 37% of them are literate who recognized Nepali alphabet where as 63 % out of school admitted have dropped out school before being literate.
- e. Out of 50 respondents 26 have their step mother and their only one complain is that ill behaving from step mother.
- f. Street children usually originate from those families whose main occupation was agriculture 38% but more than half involved in non-agricultural sector (low income jobs) 62%.
- g. Street children are frequently exposed in different work activities for survival, i.e. begging, rag picking, pottering etc.
- h. Rag picking is the common job among street children. Out of 50 respondents 65% were involved in rag picking.
- i. Street children pointed out that pottering and stealing are the most risky jobs than others.

- j. Stealing/pick pocketing is the high income source and pottering is low income source. Likewise rag picking is the casual job for them, which can give middle income.
- k. Expenditure pattern of street children seemed to be very usual sometimes watched movies, taking alcohol, drugs, gambling and prostitution. Their most of the income credited for unnecessary things rather than useful work.
- l. Reasons to become street children were identified as, political, social, cultural, economic and accidental including natural calamities. Among those causes, economic factor was the most striking push factor.
- m. Extreme level of poverty, quarrel nature of parents, presence of step parents (especially mother) influenced by peer group and labour broker are the main factors playing the role to abandon home.
- n. Street children are highly vulnerable to sexual abuse, exploitation with senior adults as well as to be drug addict. They have either poor health condition or threat to physical safety even threat to emotional well being too.
- o. Street children have learned to spend their lives in free and unstructured atmosphere. Therefore freedom is the main motto of these street children.
- p. Minority of children for whom the streets were home finding somewhere safe to sleep is a challenge.
- q. A number of NGOs/ INGOs and private firms have been established for improving the situation of street children such as CPCS, VOC Nepal in spite of whatever the situation of outcome.
- r. Projects set plan/policy to focus an advocacy for findings about over all aspects of child rights rather than action program on the field is to rescue from risky condition that fall under this condition.
- s. There are different street based shelters as a rehabilitation center but lack of basic facilities rather than stated on documents for a providing services.

- t. Street children have over realized that fear from the police, dogs, bullies and local gang boys. Likewise they are highly vulnerable to being exposed to or involved in criminal activities such as petty crimes.

6.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, the problem of street children is universal. Because of high push and pull factor of urban areas, it is believed that the number of street could have been in increasing order. Street children are the reflection of a growing social tragedy in the world. The reason of increase in street child number is due to political turmoil, and civil unrest, increasing family disintegration, presence of step parents, natural disaster and growing urbanization.

The main aim of the study is to investigate about those children who spend their most of the time on the streets and street is the livelihood for them. The study is based on their socio-economic background, survival strategies and possible causes of being street children and providing services as possible as to catch hidden information about their nature and attitude.

There are many children in the study area who are still surviving as vagabond life with plight situation. Their vagrancy nature keep them endanger and vulnerable to illness and crime for society at large. Their autonomous life pattern push them towards marginalized life from social mainstream and denied from basic human rights i.e access to education, love and affection from parents, protection from risk, health care and nutritional food regarding hygienic shelters, even further they have daily victimized by different accuses without proper care and justice. So the study attempt to address the issues and recommend that whatever the situation of nation, children should be taken into consideration about their full rights and avoid the violence and exploitation in every sphere. The study was unable to include all street children due to time constraints but able to hold the important information, which can be more representative for all street children and their usual activities. The information to be collected through different approaches such as conducting qualitative activities before the structured interview helps to build the positive relationship with respondents.

6.4 Recommendations

All we know that street child is becoming one of the social problems. It is therefore that the government has to come up with a concrete plan and program that should address to resolve street child problem. However, we all know that street child problem could not be fully resolved. In this study the researcher has proposed that the government should start short-term and long-term plan to resolve this issue. Otherwise this would be a disaster since population is increasing drastically but no resources are available to feed them all round the year and no mechanism has been developed to cope with the situation.

Based on the findings of this study, the following policy and program recommendations are made to the concerned organizations agencies and policy makers towards the implementation of the deplorable conditions of the street children.

Preventive, protective and rehabilitative measures are equally important to address the situation of street children. The preventive approach would discourage children from leaving home for street life. This should be focused at the place of origin. A protective approach would prevent the children who are already on the street or at the destinations, from engaging in the worst forms of child labour. The following recommendations are ordered by priority.

6.4.1 Preventive approach

i. Increase the public awareness

Through publication, meetings publicity and mass media campaigns, a new and heightened public awareness should be created about the exploitative nature and hazardous condition of street children. A general awareness concerning the exploitation of children should be developed nationally so that vested interests may be broken and parents come to realize that short term benefits from child work are for out weighted by long term deprivation and abasement. This can be achieved through advocacy with an effective information, education and communication (IEC) program.

ii. Economic measures

Present national economic crisis should be eradicated by introducing appropriate economic planning, policies and programs aimed to eradicate poverty and under and unemployment problem for the overall development of living standards. Alternative sources of income for adults should be notified so that they may become less dependent on their own children's earning. For example, loft loans should enable them set up their own economic ventures. Initiatives should be targeted at agrarian reforms and industrial diversification.

iii. Education Policy

Appropriate national policy or education should be implemented to tackle the problem of street children i.e. extension and implication of the principles compulsory education for children, i.e. extension and implication of the principles compulsory education for children aged between six to sixteen years. The content of education should be changed so it encourages children to study. The focus should be a vocational and skill oriented training. Scholarship for talents, parents to be penalized if they do partiality among their children.

iv. Legal measures

A separate act for the betterment of street children should be introduced. Anti-child labour laws, for example, Children's Act 1992, Labour Act 1992, Constitution of the kingdom of Nepal 1996, Interim Constitution 2063, must be implemented and enforced effectively.

v. National task force for investigation

With a joint effect of the Governmental and non-governmental agencies, a national task force should be established to find out the magnitude of street children, to investigate the situation, problems and to offer effective measures to prevent such self-destructive behavior for once and all.

vi. Control migration

Growing trend to run away from rural areas to urban cities should be immediately controlled and discouraged by creating better employment opportunities in rural areas. Income generating programs should be lured for those families who are unable to send their children to school as an alternative to making their children work.

6.4.2 Protective measure

i. Issue of citizenship

Most of the street children especially those who have no family contact or losing their family contact at their place of origin, do not have their citizenship papers which are necessary to obtain formal work in Nepal. The government should facilitate the procurement of citizenship for those children.

ii. Sensitized law enforcement

Law enforcing agencies are not sensitized to children's rights and protection of children working in risky conditions. There is wide range of complaints against government agencies regarding the denial of children's rights when handling their in cases injustice. There should be a child friendly justice system and people involved in such areas should be trained and sensitized to the rights of children.

- a. Counseling and socialization: Counseling is the most important and basis requirement for children who have left home, who have no home and no parents or who do not want to return home. Socialization is important to minimize the gap between those children who generally feel rated by society and the people living in the society who do not consider them as social element.
- b. Hotline, help line services: In order to provide a range of services to those children who are involving different activities (known as worst form of child) a hotline or help line service in Kathmandu, should be arranged by the government should provide free call telephone service to credible NGOs to undertake emergency support programs for the benefit of these children.

- c. Public awareness: One of the main recurring problems among street children is marginalized society, which makes their reintegration even more challenging. It is therefore necessary to establish an environment in which society recognize these children as human beings which can be accomplished through public awareness programs focusing on child rights and development.
- d. Dialogue with employment: if the children engaged in any earning provider center employer should be involved in the battle against child labour exploitation. Employer should have protected child rights and committed to act under the legislation.

6.4.3 Rehabilitative measures

i. Separate projects on street children

A separate project on street children should be operated providing a range of services such as formal and non- formal education, vocational education, skill based training, alternative livelihood opportunities, advocacy and outreach, temporary shelter, basic health care and nutrition, spiritual and value information, sports and recreational activities. The project can thus prevent from exploitation.

ii. Rehabilitation center

As possible as to the rehabilitation is necessary for all street children so they can find their place in society and whenever possible who still have parents will to take them back should be reintegrated into their families.

The established shelter may serve as a receiving and rescue home for abused and/or removed children's in need of care. It should provide social services and economic assistance to displaced children; mobilized support and concern for underprivileged victimized children conduct information drive about different issues affecting children and encourage collective action for their growth and development.

iii. Training centers

Among the rehabilitated children have the interest to learn different skill for support their own life. It they should be provided these opportunities such as mechanical, carpentry, cooking, painting, embroidery, they will be self-dependent for their further life.

Encourage them to give up bad habits such as alcohol, drug addict, stealing. Impart the knowledge about their respectability with family and society.

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APPENDIX

Questionnaire

1. Name:
2. Age:
 - i. 6 - 7
 - ii. 7-8
 - iii. 8-9
 - iv. 9-11
3. Sex:
 - i. Male
 - ii. Female
4. Caste:
 - i. Brahmin
 - ii. Chhetri
 - iii. Newar
 - iv. Tharu
 - v. Gurung
 - vi. Tamang
 - vii. Limbu
 - viii. Others
5. Religion:
 - i. Hindu
 - ii. Buddhist
 - iii. Muslim
 - iv. Christian
 - v. Others.
6. Birth place (district)
.....
7. Are your parents alive?
.....
8. Do you have stem mother or step father?
.....
9. Are they literate?
.....
10. Do your parents quarrel?
 - i. Yes
 - ii. NoIf yes, how often times in a month?
 - i. 1-3
 - ii. 4-6
 - iii. 7-9
11. Do you remember they quarrel after taking alcohol?
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No
12. How many family members do you have?
.....

13. Family Occupation:
- i. Service ii. Agriculture iii. Others.....
14. Does your family have own land?
- i. If yes, does it sufficient to feed your family?
- ii. How many months it is sufficient?
1. 3 months
2. 3-6 months
3. 6-9 months
4. 9-12 months
5. More than 12 months
15. Do you have any idea that how much your family earns a year?
- i. 10000 ii. 10000-20000
- iii. 20000-30000 iv. Above 30000
16. What are the sources of income?
-
17. Are you literate?
- i. What level did you study?
- ii. Why you left school/
- iii. Does your parents not allowing you to go school?
18. Do you remember how old when you have started street life?
19. What are the forces that had driven you to be on street?
- i. Family causes
- ii. Social causes
- iii. Political causes
- iv. Economic causes
- v. Other causes
20. Have you seen your parents/guardians after being a street child?
- i. Yes ii. No
21. Where do you get food?
- i. Hotel ii. Restaurant iii. Bhatti

22. How you manage foodstuff and clothes?
- i. Earn little money by doing work.
 - ii. Ask for social organization for their help.
 - iii. Earn little money by begging.
23. How you manage to sleep in night time?
- i. Street
 - ii. Maunder
 - iii. Dharmashalas
 - iv. Room
 - v. Shelter at NGOs.
24. Are you paid for your work?

25. How much do you earn in one day?

26. Do you have heard anything about NGO, which established to support street child?
- i. Yes
 - ii. No.
27. Have you ever been ill? If yes, what is your illness?
- i. Nails prick
 - ii. Diarrhoea
 - iii. Fever
 - iv. Fractured
 - v. Dog bite
 - vi. Hit by bus
 - vii. Scribes
 - viii Boil
 - ix. Cut wound
 - x. Measles
28. Does elder help you while you are sick?
- i. Yes
 - ii. No
29. If you are serious, how do you manage your treatment?
- i. No idea
 - ii. Left this for peer friends
 - iii. I use my own earning
 - iv. Believe on god
 - v. Request for NGOs
30. Do senior/adults pressurize you to do nasty jobs?
- i. Yes
 - ii. No

31. Have you taken anything besides food such as chares, glue sniffing, drugs etc?
 i. Yes ii. No
 If yes, what are you taking?
 How often a day?
 i. One time a day ii. Two times a day
 iii. Three times a day iv. Chronic
32. How many of you want to stay together in a group?
 i. 2-4 ii. 4-6 iii. 6-8 iv. Above 8
33. Do government agencies misbehave you?
 i. Yes ii. No
34. How about public attitude on street child/
 i. Positive ii. Negative iii. Don't know
35. What do you want to be in future?
 i. Driver ii. Soldier iii. Mechanics
 iv. Teacher v. Actor/actress vi. Police
 vii. Officer. viii. Politician ix. Social worker
36. How long do you want to spend your life on street?
 i. I don't know ii. Enjoy being on to street than parental home
 iii. Want to be independent iv. I am habitual.
37. Doesn't any event strike you to change your life pattern?
 i. Yes ii. No. iii. If yes which event?
38. If someone offers you job would you interested to work with him or her?
 i. Depend on type of offer
 ii. I don't want to accept
 iii. Street life in enjoyable
 iv. More free time and use that time on my wish
39. If you were provided schooling again, would you like to rejoin?
 i. Yes ii. No iii. Have to think.
40. Do you know about Juvenile Justice about child right?
 i. Yes ii. Heard about it iii. No.

41. Have you ever participated in procession?
- i. Yes
 - ii. No
- If yes when?
- i. Children's day
 - ii. Political parties rally
 - iii. Democracy day
 - iv. Education day
42. What do you do for entertainment?
- i. Watch TV at shop
 - ii. Enjoy looking people at work
 - iii. Play with friends
 - iv. By taking drugs, cigarette etc.
43. In your opinion how the street child problem in Nepal can be solved?
- i. By enforcing street children Law
 - ii. By starting children help line desk.
 - iii. By alleviating poverty.
 - iv. By providing schooling to all
 - v. Providing more job opportunity
 - vi. By launching social security
 - vii. By establishing peach
44. Don't you think yourself that you are raising sun of the country?
- i. Yes
 - ii. No
 - iii. Yes but I cannot think of because of social circumstances.