

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Street children are those who use the street as their permanent residence residing there doing whatever is necessary for their own day to day survival. The term 'Khaate; however has involved into a synonym for street children (sadak baal balika), refers to all street children not withstanding their work, family ties or where they live. All these street children fight for their own survival either begging or rag picking on the streets of our cities. They all sleep in the open space of the street under the roof of the sky. In fact, they are one of the most neglected groups of children who have been denied all the privileges and rights of our society. The street, for many of these children, is not only their home but also their working place. These children are engaged in activities like pottering, begging, guiding tourists, picking money in temples, peddling rickshaws, petty vending, vehicle clearing, rag picking, construction work, micro conductor etc (CWIN, 1989).

Street child is a kind of child labour, which has been one of the critical but neglected issues for a long time. It is a universal phenomenon that no country has been out of such types of problems. However, receiving a world wide attention in recent years is much greater, the problems have been still critical. It is due to the poverty that compels parents to make children work for wages and the employer never hesitates to take advantage of it because of cheap labour (CWIN, 1990).

The number of street children in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur town has been growing day by day. Some of the street children belong to squatter families who have migrated from rural areas, other are runaways from home by a variety of socio-psychological problems or abandoned who beg or rummage through refuse bins for discarded food for their survival. Many street children

are rag pickers, who sell the recyclable wastes. On the other hand junkyard girls on the streets are increasingly found to be engaged in prostitution (Thapa, 2008).

Being a child right organization against child labour exploitation, CWIN has been actively working with migrated children in Kathmandu since more than a decade CWIN runs various programmes for prevention, protection and social reintegration of migrated children and has worked with over ten thousand children in the past.

The ILO has launched the international programme for the elimination of child labour. Moreover WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF have been involved for the protection of child right directly or indirectly. WHO has carried out different studies on the health conditions of child at work especially in difficult circumstances. UNICEF has launched a new programme focusing on the street children who are especially in difficult circumstances. UNFPA is indirectly involved to reduce child labour through family planning programmes.

Nepal, a land-locked Himalayan country with a Population of 26 million is considered to be one of the least developed countries in the world where per capita income is only US \$742, (MOF, 2012) and annual growth rate of population is 2.25. On the other hand, 30.5 percent of the population live below the absolute poverty line (CBS, 2010). In the developing countries like Nepal, where most of the areas are rural, labour and child labour are the most important means of production. Agriculture is the dominant sector and almost 59.6 percent people are dependent upon it. Industries and other economic sectors are still in preliminary stage. Only 20 percent of the total land is cultivated and 13 percent of which has got the facility of irrigation. Out of the total population, 85.8 percent population lives in the rural areas (CBS, 2010).

Children are pillars of our society. In near future they have to handle this society, nation and the whole world as responsible citizens. So children are

entitled as the 'Future Stars' or the 'Rising Sun'. It is said that children are like incomplete soil vessel, their shape could be formed as per the potters' interest if we want to make our society healthy and prosperous, first of all we should think about children.

Today's buds are the blooming flowers of tomorrow; hence the children are the potential energy of the nation on whom the fate of nation depends. The tender body and mind is nothing more than the mud in the hands of the potter. So, if we create proper environment for hidden development and prosperity, they will become what we want them to. Life of a human being to a far extent depends upon the development and exposure that one has got. The best period for such development is the childhood as children are the future of the nation. The development of a child includes good education proper training timely orientation, nourishing food etc. In Nepal, 19 percent of the total children are not even getting the primary education and 10 percent drop out rate in the primary level education. This shows the poor situation of education and task of nourishing food. This is not the only situation of children but adult literacy rate is also very low, i.e. 54.1 percent describing the wider gender disparity (CBS, 2010).

Not only human being but also all creatures go through the stage of childhood and it is considered as a best period of life. However a majority of the children live in a horrible situation. We cannot say that the stage of childhood is the best period of life for every one. Due to the problem of family, domestic violence, natural disaster, murder, quarrelling and mis-guardianship, poverty and illiteracy many of children are compelled to live miserable life. Their innocence and basic rights are threatened and victimized by all sorts of exploitation.

It is common to see children at the age of 6 or 7 years working along side their parents and other family members, helping around the home, running errands, working in the fields and farms, tending live stock, hard setting crops, taking

care of younger siblings, fetching water, collecting fire wood, or helping cook family meals. Girls are expected to be shared more of the household chores with their mothers and other female relatives remaining in sense very much on the 'inside' of the family economy.

As Kathmandu valley has been considered as a most migrant receiving area in the country. The study is focused in the area where the overwhelming majority of the migrant street children are working. This study may be a significant guideline in implementing action program for making children aware of their rights and protection for their future lives. The study may explore the hazardous and risky conditions of children working in various sectors.

Child stage is the most effective stage of human development and if one is deprived of the various opportunities, they will not be able to attain proper development and can not lead best human life.

Generally child labour refers to those who are below 14 years of age, deprived from minimum level of facilities, working long hours, getting low wage and damage their physical and mental development. Children who are prematurely living adult lives and training opportunity that could help make their bright future, are the general but a serious form of child labour. So if the work is not harmful as child work not child labour.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The social problem like poverty and unemployment are mostly seen in the city area. The relation and socialites among the members of village area is very strong. In village society if a child lacks proper cares from his guardian, other member would try to keep him far away from loneliness feeling. But in the contrast to remote society, we never found that kind of social protection to the child in developed or urban society. There fore this problem is mostly found in the developed city or country.

In the developed countries, this problem was found long ago when they started to run toward industrialization and modernization. Nowadays this problem is still found in serious stage in those countries that are highly developed. In days, the magnitude of the problem is increasing significantly even in the less developed countries where the urban culture is growing up.

The existence of street children is not a new phenomenon. Despite the growing number of INGOs and NGOs, it is even more difficult to get a count of those children who are invisible: work behind closed doors, confined to factories, mines backroom bars, kitchen quarters, in illegal activities or other more invisible occupations such as domestic workers, or sexually exploited children. And we don't even know the actual number of street children. The amount of information and data under street children is very limited. In this situation right policy can not be formulated and misconception about it remains as usual.

To what extent a country is developed can be shown when how much of its child population has got its child rights because children are the future of nation. In the context of Nepal, most of the children are engaged as hotel, boy rag picker, street hawker shoe polisher, carpet maker and domestic servants. In this situation children have to work very hard from their early stage of life to survive. As Nepalese children are in a poor stage, they have to work from early morning to late night, from their early childhood for living.

Man is becoming individualist and he doesn't have enough time to think about others. That's why in the big cities or states, crimes and delinquencies are increasing day per day, we have already mentioned the types of crime and delinquency which are found in higher degree in big cities. In those countries, a lot of street hooligans, hoodlums in the gang fight and different types of vagrancy are observed. But in the less developed countries like Nepal, this problem does not seem severe. With the growing pace of industrialization modernization, development of urban culture and change in social structure, our society is also snatching away by this problem. Joint family and extended

family are becoming nuclear and men are looking busy and have less time to think about themselves and others which cause the bad psychological defects on the child. The different survey, studies and reports published by the different institutions or in the personal level show that this social problem is not found in higher degree in developing countries as in the developed countries like America. Even the magnitude of the problem in Nepal is not serious as seen in the big cities of India. However the street children are increasing significantly in the Nepalese largest cities like Kathmandu.

We can see various forms of child labour in Nepal. Poverty is the main factor of child labour because if a family is very poor and is unable to afford for their food, cloth, and shelter for everyone, then all the members of family have to work for living. A large number of these working children are living under dreadful and fearful life with great uncertainty. Everywhere, they are exploited and cheated. They are also deprived from school education.

Among the different forms of child labour the street children face various problems, which arise from different sectors. Their problems are related to their living and working. But these living and working problems have many others problems, such as; developmental problem, health problems; educational problem etc. These problems are the burning issues for all developing countries including Nepal. This growing number of street children is one of the greatest challenges for all advocates of development, human right activists and policy makers.

So this study has attempted to answer those problems and assess the selected socio-economic situations that have affected the degree of street children. The main focus has been made on the exploration and description of the socio-economic dimension of delinquency and consideration of the strategies for the improvement of the situation. This study aims at answering the questions such as.

- What is socio-economic condition of the street children in Kathmandu?
- What are the main reasons of the migration of the street children?
- What are the reasons to be the street children and its consequences in their lives?
- What are the future aspirations of the street children?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of this study is to assess the socio-economic condition and nature of street children in Nepal. This study also explores the socio-economic and residential characteristics of the street children. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To find out the socio-economic condition of the street children in Kathmandu.
2. To explore the main reasons of the runaway/leaving home of the street children.
3. To examine its consequences in their life.
4. To highlight the future aspirations of the street children

1.4 Significance of the Study

Poverty is one of the main causes for children to go to the street. Street children are dominated by society as they are rag-picker. There are few studies carried out by some organizations that deal with street children and rag pickers in Nepal. A rag picker is not a beggar but works hard and considers rag picking a profession of choice. But the numbers of rag pickers are growing in the Kathmandu valley in comparison to other towns. They are often involved in illegal works with criminal gangs where they are used for drug, trafficking, sexual activities, pick-pocketing etc.

This study helps to get the information of the socio-economic background of the street children and it is expected to be useful for other researchers. This study is important for the policy makers donor agencies to support the

programmes for the street children, be useful for NGOs and INGOs and also to the students involved in this field.

1.5 Organization of the Study

This study is divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals with background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study respectively.

The second chapter deals with literature review and conceptual framework.

The third chapter is concerned with methodology of the study which includes, introduction, site selection, research design, sampling procedures and sample size, nature and sources of data, collection data and analysis and presentation.

Similarly, chapter four is socio-economic condition of street children which provides the socio-demographic characteristics of the street children; working condition of the street children and child right, governmental policy prevailing Nepalese and international standard and impact of legislation. Finally, the chapter five presents the summary of major findings, conclusion and recommendation.

CHAPTER - II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Child labour is a major social problem in the developing countries. Every child has an inherent right to justice, freedom and peace and deserves access to all kinds of basic human needs such as education, health care, protection, love and respect. The social commitment is thus a must for the over all social physical, emotional development as well as promotion and protection of the coming new generation.

The number of working children is growing with every passing day which is mainly due to the increment in population and migration from the rural to urban areas. These working street children are involved in begging rag picking, street vending, pick pocketing, shoe shining, cart pulling and pottering.

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

The problem of child labour remains a pressing problem in much of the world today. No country is out of this problem which has been originating from social problems, educational system and poverty. But the problem of child labour as faced attempt is made to review the related literature and to present a child labour in general and the street children in particular are reviewed.

Street children have been a kind of child labour which is one of the critical but neglected issues for a long time. It is a universal phenomenon that no country has been out of their problems. However, receiving a world wide attention is recent years is much greater, the problems have been still critical. It is due to the poverty, that compels parents to make children work for wages and the employer never hesitates to take advantage of it because of cheap labour (Manandhar, 1992).

The phenomenon of child labour which is the consequence of the exploitative systems operating at the national and international levels not only closes the

future of millions of children in the Third World countries, but it also drastically restricts the development prospects of these countries. The existence of child labour is a threat to the overall world development and to the solidarity and peace in the world.

Three concepts – child, work and labour – constitute a major debate in development literature. Though childhood differs from one context to another, from one culture to another, from rural to urban areas in Nepal, The Child Labour Act, 1992 defines a childhood to those children who are under 16 years of age. It explicitly states that those children who are under 14 should not be employed at the expense of their mental, spiritual and physical status. Children, under the age of 18, are also prohibited to work in the health hazardous work and work that is likely ‘to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development’ (Manandhar, 1992).

Child labour in the context of Nepal should not be defined in terms of paid and unpaid jobs. Rather, should be defined in terms of the nature of child labour: Abolitionists believe that any form of economic activity is detrimental to the development of children and hence child employment at a certain age should be prohibited. They see child labour and education as antithetical, and their intervention is to remove children from the labour market and enable them to attend school (Manandhar, 1992).

Abolitionists views to deal with the child labour in the context of rural Nepal may not fit. Firstly, the role of children to the livelihood of households should not be underestimated. Secondly, most children may do combined work and about in school simultaneously because of fragmentary nature of work. Finally, parents’ attitude towards education may be negative because of immediate economic hardship and illiteracy. Several studies from Nepal and other countries indicate that the main reasons for child labour are poverty,

discrimination of gender and caste/ethnicity, dysfunctional families, parents' illiteracy and unawareness towards children's education.

Poverty is both the cause and consequence of child labour. Extreme poverty and landlessness in rural areas are fuelling child labour not only in urban areas but also in rural areas as well (CWIN 1989; INSEC, 1996). The obvious causes of poverty include structural inequality in access to assets, education and health services and the absence of social security system in many developing countries.

The street for many of these children is not only their home but also their working place. These children are engaged in activities like pottering begging, guiding tourists, picking money in temples, peddling rickshaws petty vending vehicle clearing rag picking, construction work conductor etc. These children earn an amount varying between Rs. 25 and Rs. 120 per day. The human stories of the street children move one's heart. The recommendations given in the book for the improvement of the situation of the children are pragmatic (UNICEF, 1996).

Child welfare society (1996) in the publication entitled 'Situation analysis of street children in Nepal' explores the actual condition of street children. This book presents an account of the situation analysis of two kinds of street children in Nepal: (a) those that live and work in the street and (b) the others who live with their families but spend most of their time playing and working in street. It goes into details in analyzing the factors that compel the children to leave their homes and pass their hard life on the street. Many of those children desert their homes because of their abusive and alcoholic parents, maltreatment by step parents and also due to the attractions in the towns.

Most of these children fall in the age group of boys and sixteen years in the central development region, 86 percent of those children are males while the

remaining 14 percent girls. A little less than half (40%) of the children in this region were illiterate.

Child Hope Asia, presents an account in Asia describing the street children in Delhi of whom some are Nepales of the 1,000 street children in Kathmandu, 46 percent are refugees from Tibet and Bhutan.

Child labour, an integral part of Nepalese society, is the consequence of an exploitative socio-economic and political reality. The magnitude of the problem is very high and more transparent in South Asia. Exploitation of child in some parts of the world is so inhumane and intolerable. No sector of labour is completely free of child labour exploitation (CWIN 1998).

Millions of child labourers in the world are exploited by greedy employers. These children are deprived of their childhood. Though national governments have taken action in different areas to help them, the question is, will these policies help the children? (Enew, 2004).

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

CWIN (1990) studies on entitled “Lost childhood: survey research on the street children of Kathmandu”. The study found that the children were of three types; run away children, squatter children and orphan children. Most of those children were engaged in rag picking, pottering and stealing. They suffered from illnesses like scabies, cold, fever headaches, diarrhoea, dizziness, tuberculosis and ENT infections. Because the children lacked adequate and hygienic food, they were malnourished. Some of them survived on food lying in the garbage bins. Schooling was unknown to them. Because they were indifferent about their future, they were not only indulging in gambling, smoking and pick pocketing but were also sometimes addicted to drinking and drugs.

Pradhan (1992) wrote an article, “*KHATE*”: The street survivors’ problems and prospects, published in voice of child workers. The study is the features article on the street children of Kathmandu. The most popular group among the street children are rag-pickers called *KHATE*. They survive by collecting by bits of plastic and garbage from the litter lying in the streets. They are one of the most neglected groups of children in Nepalese society.

Manandhar (1992) studies on “Situation of street child in Nepal”, a paper presented to South Asian workshop on children, organized by Tata Institute of Social Service, Bombay, India in collaboration with International Association of schools of social work, Vienna, Austria by establishing a correlation between poverty and growth in the number of rag picker children are as those, “who spend about 5-6 hours each day in the garbage collection centre and go back every evening to their parents in slum areas.” The number of such children in the Kathmandu is quoted to be 400; of which 89 percent come from outside Kathmandu. The existing legal provision failed to be effective in addressing the problems of child rag pickers.

ILO (1995) mentioned that child labour reflects a true image of the socio-economic reality of undeveloped countries. It highlights the pathetic condition of humans that still prevails in most of the third world countries. Due to poverty, lack of education, regional inequality in terms of income distribution and government's negligence, it has been seen for two decades that migration is uncontrolled phenomenon from rural to urban in search of work for survival. The migration of children and other labors has led to immense pressure on rising unemployment scenario globally. Moreover, it is also a consequence of the feudal land holding system, which still prevails in many third world countries and it is no exception with Nepal. The growing migration of the rural population to urban areas has also contributed to increase in the magnitude of child labour. Industries like carpet, garment, confectionery, brick kiln and stone quarry, especially in transport as a conductor employee many children work

although they are less expensive in comparison to other labour and they do not complain about the wages and facilities.

UNICEF (1996) stated that the street for many of these children is not only their home but also their working place. These children are engaged in activities like pottering begging, guiding tourists, picking money in temples, peddling rickshaws petty vending vehicle clearing rag picking, construction work temp conductor etc. These children earn an amount varying between Rs. 25 and Rs. 120 per day. The human stories of the street children move one's heart. The recommendations given in the book for the improvement of the situation of the children are pragmatic.

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CWIN (1998) studies on "Young Street Children in Kathmandu", published in voice of child workers is based on a survey of the rag pickers or garbage pickers in Kathmandu. Rag-picking, in fact, is a terribly unhygienic dangerous and destructive occupation for the growth and development of children. The poverty stricken rag picking children find it difficult to give up this occupation because there is virtually no alternative options to them.

CWIN (1998) studies on "A Study on Child Labour in Nepal, Kathmandu": The studies tried to understand the attitudinal aspects of the owner about giving employment and also the attitude of the children towards work. There are various factors governing the demand and supply of child workers. Low wages, lack of rules in regard to the termination of job and labour intensive production in most of the units are the major factors of the demand of child labour. On the other hand, low level of family education, larger family size, poor financial status of family and the lack of care, love and affection to the children increased the supply of child labour in the labour market. Enforcement of

minimum working conditions, compulsory education, skill development and income generating programmes targeting the parents / families and legal measures are the major recommendations for the improvement in the condition of the child labour.

Thapa (2001) in the publication entitled “Street Children in Nepal” explores the actual condition of street children. This book presents an account of the situation analysis of two kinds of street children in Nepal: (a) Those who live and work in the street and (b) the others who live with their families but spend most of their time playing and working in street. It goes into details in analyzing the factors that compel the children to leave their homes and pass their hard life on the street. Many of those children desert their homes because of their abusive and alcoholic parents, maltreatment by step parents and also due to the attractions of the towns.

Most of these children fall in the age group of fourteen and sixteen years in the central development region, 86 percent of those children are boys while the remaining 14 percent girls. A little less than half (40 percent) of the children in this region are illiterate.

ILO (2001) studies on “ situation of child rag pickers a rapid assessment” found that the main aim was to gather information on the hazardous condition taking children who work as rag pickers known as ‘KHETE’ in Nepalese slang and the manner in which these children are exploited. This study was intended to prove the details on the nature, process and problems of child rag picking including the perceptions and behaviour of these children towards education, work and society.

CWIN (2002) studies on “Alcohol and drug use among street children in Nepal”: is based on six urban centres of Nepal. The main aim of this study was to identify the impact of alcohol drugs and tobacco use on children’s lives. Poverty is both cause and consequences of children leaving home although the family and social circumstance emerge as important reasons.

The use of alcohol has become common among different caste/ethnic groups among gender and among all age groups in Nepal. Four types of alcohol were initiated; *Jand* or *Chhang*, home made alcohol (*Raski*) local alcohol and beer. The consequences of alcohol use can have a long lasting effect on children's drinking behaviour. Besides access to alcohol market to the children has become major threats in combating against substance abuse in Nepal.

Redd Barna-Nepal (2002) mentioned the "State of the rights of the child in Nepal 2002" published in cooperation with Redd Barna-Nepal is divided into five chapters, which gives an authoritative account of the conditions of children in Nepal. It is stated that the employment of children under the age of 19 is declared illegal. Yet most of the laws have not been implemented and child right violations have been taking place in the country. Rampant cases of child abuse, sexual exploitation, sexual violation and rape, trafficking, servitude and child migration are matters of concern. However, there has been progressive change in socio-cultural, political and economic attitudes of the people towards the problems of the children. As a result, Nepal has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO Minimum age of Employment Convention. The country adopted the Labour Act 1991 and children's Act 1992. The efforts made by certain NGOs and INGOs have brought about certain awareness in the society against the exploitation of children.

CWIN (2002) studied on "Glue sniffing among street children in the Kathmandu Valley". The main aim of this study was determining the prevalence of glue sniffing among rag pickers. The problem of rag picker is universal and comparatively very high in those countries where there is rapid growth of urbanization. Although new to Nepali society, glue sniffing is fast becoming an addiction among rag pickers and street children in Kathmandu. It has been seen as a 'debut' drug for rag pickers and street children. Rag pickers often those who do not even smoke or drink alcohol are using glue. This survey recommends that the business community and the

manufacturer of such adhesives should also be made aware of its ill effects on children and of the high chances of its abuse due to its availability.

Ennew (2004) also described how international legislation is developed around a version of childhood that is based on "Middle class children in the north (and the south) who do go to school, play, live in increasing private family and assumed to help less and not able to carry out adults tasks". Due to this there is a marked difference between international rights legislation and the socio-economic realities of many children said by F.E.Okada and N.S.Rana in "The Child Beggar in Kathmandu".

CBS (2008) stated that today's buds are the blooming flowers of tomorrow; hence the children are the potential energy of the nation on whom the fate of nation depends. The tender body and mind are nothing more than the mud in the hands of the potter so if we create proper environment for hidden development and prosperity, they will become what we want them to. The life of a human being to a far extent depends upon the development and exposure that one has got. The best period for such development is the childhood as children are the future of the nation. The development of a child includes good education, proper training timely orientation, nourishing food etc. In Nepal, 19 percent of the total children are not even getting the primary education 10 percent drop out rate in the primary level education. This shows the poor situation of education and the task of nourishing food. This is not the only situation of children but adult literacy rate is also very low, i.e. 54.1 percent describing the wider gender disparity.

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Amatya (2009) studies on “Socio-economic condition of street children in Kathmandu”; According to this report, the existence of child rag picker is a reflection of under development. Rag picking children are facing multi-varied problems within the socio-economic condition. Agriculture is the main occupation of the rag pickers family. More than 70 percent of people are still illiterate.

The majority of children leave school because of the poor economic conditions. Generally children leave their homes without any plan for their work. It is easy to start without investing money. According to this study nationwide campaign should be launched on both government and non-government level in order to draw the attention of the society as a whole to solve the miserable condition of rag picking children as research curve for the Nepalese society.

Andrew (2009) studies on “Margins street children in Asia and the pacific”; According to this report the circumstances and experiences of the street children overlap with several other categories of children such as trafficking children, migrant children and working children. There is also overlap with a rang of problems and difficulties controlling many children, including endemic

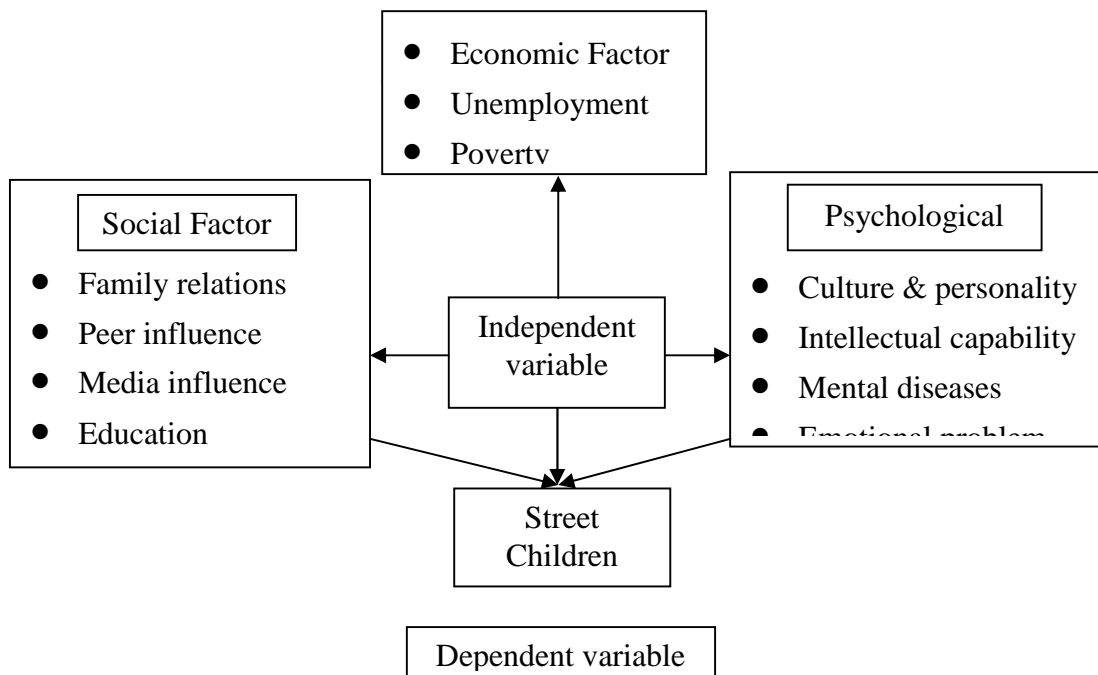
poverty domestic or sexual abuse and other violence, hazardous working conditions, exploitative labour substance abuse, conflict with law and juvenile justice and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Some street children are highly visible and have become the subject of public concern because they are out of place. In many countries in Asia and the Pacific provision for the street children has been developed mostly by non-government organizations (NGOs).

2.3 Conceptual Framework

The aim of the present study is to provide a systematic and empirical examination of socio-economic factors to emphasize the increasing street children in Kathmandu city. So the conceptual framework adopted for this study is as follows;

Figure - 1 Factors Increasing the Street Children



Social Factors: A child does only those things that he learns from the society. Family is the primary institution where a child begins to get socialized, so the family should have good and strong relationship with each member if family is itself suffering from bad condition like turmoil or broken home and loose

family ties, in such situation a child always feels insecure and cannot learn well. Parental care determines the nature of child. Like family, a child also learns from his friends or peer groups. If he meets bad companion, we cannot expect good behavior from him. Likewise education and media are also influencing on the personality of a child.

Economic Factors: Economic theory, basically Marxist one suggests that deviant behaviour is the result of inequalities of social and economic order in which an acquisitive society encourages aggression and discourages altruism. Children are forced to commit offences due to the lack of very basic requirements of life, forced to run away from their rural homes to urban areas due to the lack of food security. So unemployment and poverty are those kind of economic factors that challenge their survival and create tension in the family.

Psychological Factors: Individuals have different personality because certain universal traits link all humans. These common characteristics are not necessarily biologically based. They may also be the result of universal or nearly universal psychic experiences viz. birth itself, stage of psychological development; interaction with parent, siblings and others and experiences with other objects. The psychological factors viz. culture and personality, intellectual capability, emotional problem and mental diseases affect the degree/extent of the street children.

CHAPTER – III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To achieve the main objectives of the study, different research methodologies have been applied. To get necessary informations, formal as well as informal procedures have been used. To explore the hidden facts and realities of the street children, the following methodologies have been applied.

3.1 Rationale of Selection of the Study Area

Kathmandu is the largest and the capital city of Nepal. The number of the street children found in this city is larger than other cities. So Kathmandu is selected for case study. This study has concentrated in the main Junkyards and tourists areas of the Kathmandu Valley, Chabahil, New Baneshwor, Kalimati, Thamel, New Buspark, Balaju, Boudhanath, Purano Buspark, Bir Hospital, Shora Khutte, Samakhusi, and Pashupati area.

3.2 Research Design

The fundamental objective of this study is to investigate the hidden facts and the nature of the street children in Kathmandu. So, both explanatory and descriptive research methods have been used. The explanatory research design has been helpful in throwing light on their present situation. It also helps to analyze the aims of the main causes offending behaviour and the socio-economic determinants.

3.3 Universe and Sampling

As this study is intended to investigate the size of the street children in Kathmandu, all the street children in aggregate are the target population. Since, the street children are the most exploited persons in our society, so it is chosen for this study. It is not possible to cover all children scattered throughout the country. Due to scatter nature of the street children, cluster sampling is used based on the pre-determined clusters (as stated above). Since, the street

children are of mobile nature, every child is not interviewed in each cluster. Instead, systematic quota sampling is employed in each cluster. In this study, a sample 50 street children have been interviewed in different places; Chabhil, New Baneshwer, Kalimati, Thamel, New Buspark, Balaju, Boudhanath, Purano Buspark, Bir Hospital, Shora Khutee, Samakhusi and Pashupati area of Kathmandu by employing above motioned sampling techniques. However, especial efforts have been made to obtain the children aged between 5 and 14 years.

3.4 Nature and Sources of Data

In this study, both primary and secondary data have been used for collecting required informations. Primary data are collected by interviewing the street children during field visit.

The secondary data are obtained from different sources Published books, journals, periodicals, publication etc are the main sources of the secondary data.

- ▶ Publications and reports of different national and international organizations.
- ▶ Journals, research reports, newspaper and magazine.

3.5 Methods of Data Collection

(a) Interview Schedule

Structured questions have been used to get the detail informations about the street children. Since, the street children have no fixed living place they were interviewed where ever they were met. It was kept in mind that the target of the interview schedule (Survey format) is to obtain the personal and family characteristics, caste, education, personal details, work experience, income, saving, expenditure, health and hygiene, sexual harassment, attitude towards work and future aspirations.

3.6 Data Processing, editing, Presentation, Interpretation and Analysis

In this study both quantitative and qualitative analysis have been used. Existing rules and regulations, available documents and studies related to child labour and the street children have been reviewed. Similarly, studies on economic condition of the street children, reasons to be children on street and socio-economic changes have been analyzed. Discussions have been made on the existing policy and programme to protect and promote children.

This section describes characteristics of the 50 children who were interviewed for the purpose of the study. The description presented in this study helps to understand the street children's backgrounds and the factor in increasing the street children in Kathmandu, with every passing day. Many children have left home due to poverty, too much of work at home, maltreatment by step father/mother before finding out the life styles of the street children. It is necessary to know the place of the origin, age group, ethnicity, family status, educational status, daily earning of the street children. The quantitative data obtained from structured and semi-structured interviews have been processed first through validation, editing and coding. Secondly, these processed data have been presented in tabular form. Finally, the data have been interpreted with additional informations.

3.7 Limitations of the Study

This study includes the following limitations:

- This study will cover only the street children of the specific area of the Kathmandu Metropolitan City. So it can't be generalized to national level and all kinds of child labour.
- Time dimension and financial factors are also the limitations of this study.
- This study may not reveal the complete picture of the street children due to the lack of proper responses from them.

CHAPTER – IV

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF STREET CHILDREN

4.1 Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics

Nepal is famous for its cultural diversity. Likewise, the gap between the poor and the rich is unreasonably huge. There are so many factors that contribute to create such situation. The socio-cultural trend of this country is basically influenced by feudalistic norms and values. A large majority of people are uneducated and unconscious and are rooted with superstitions and conservative thought.

Most parents in the rural and urban areas who send their children to work not only for an additional income, but also to reduce the number of hungry stomachs to be fed. Such miserable condition of our country has affected each and every sector of the society and the children are its main victims. This section describes characteristics of the 50 children who were interviewed for the purpose of this study. The description presented below helps to understand the street children's backgrounds and the effects of the street living children, who are increasing, with every passing day. Many children have left home due to poverty, too much of work at home, maltreatment by step father/mother before finding out the life styles of the street children. It is necessary to know the place of the origin, age group, ethnicity, family status, educational status, daily earning of the street children.

4.1.1 Origin of the Street Children

In this study, the street children can be categorized into two groups in terms of migration and their residential status. The first category consists of the street children who have left their home of the villages and are living in town. They migrated to these places in search of job opportunities with close relatives or friends. These children came from poor families and their personal earnings is

very low. It means that it gives fewer burdens for their families to feed them. Hence they were encouraged by their families to work and earn.

The second category consists of those who are from squatter, whose family members have been living in near by towns. They had eventually left their homes because their parents punished them as they did not bring home a certain amount of money everyday.

In Nepal, many children are found to runaway and have left home with their own effort; some also enter towards the towns with their parents while some are escorted by middleman or brokers for employment in cities. The kinds of jobs available are cheap labour at households, hotels and restaurant, carpet factories, brick kilns, transportation, scavenging and so on. Generally, the respondents said that these were reasons for leaving home. Expectation of better life, too much work at home, maltreatment by the guardians, influence of friends and no schooling around are some of the reported reasons for they were driven away from their home and families.

Table 4.1: Place of the Street Children

Area	Number	Percent
Periphery of Kathmandu	20	40.0
East Hill	18	36.0
East Terai	3	6.0
West Hill	5	10.0
West Terai	4	8.0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

It has been clear that the place of the origin of the street children have the great majority from the periphery of Kathmandu, which is less developed and not far from the Kathmandu, which is 40.0 percent of the total 50 respondents. In this

way the 36.0 percent street children came from East Hill, which is second great majority of the street children. The 8.0 percent street children came from the West Terai, which is the least percentage of the total respondents. It shows that there is the majority of the street children runaway from hills as compared to the terai region because hill children are clever, Kathmandu is near for them and similarity of culture and language of Kathmandu dwellers.

4.1.2 Age Structure

Child age is the most effective stage of human development. The age from 5 to 14 is a critical period for child socialization and for the formation of the self identity and if one is deprived of the various opportunities, they will not be able to attain proper development and can not lead best human life. As shown in Table 4.2, out of the 50 children, 47 children (94.0) percent children are in the age limit of 5-13 years. During the survey, it was found that there was no child respondent below the age of 5. Above the 14 age group, 3 boys were found which covers the 6.0 percent of total 50 street children. This survey also revealed that most of the lower aged group children belonged to poor families. Due to lack of nourishing food, these children's physical growth is lower. So they seemed to be younger than their actual age.

It is clear to see that, the respondents have been divided into four groups based on their age structure i.e. 5-9, 10-12, 13-14 and above 15. Out of the total 50 respondents, 28.0 percent street children are 5-9 age group, 30.0 percent are in 10-12 age group, 36.0 percent are in 13-14 age groups, 6.0 percent are in above 15 age groups. Only 9 respondents are girls, four are 5-9 age groups, three are 10-12 and two are 13-14 age-groups.

Table 4.2: Distribution of Street Children by Age-group

Age-group	Boys	Girls	Total	Total percent
5-9	10	4	14	28.0
9-12	12	3	15	30.0
13-14	16	2	18	36.0
15+	3	-	3	6.0
Total	41	9	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.1.3 Caste/Ethnic Composition

The street children have come from many ethnic group such as Brahmin, Chhetri, Tamang, Magar, Giri, Newar, Kami, Majhi, Sarki, Chaudari etc which are presenting in the table 4.3. It can be seen that the street children who belong to the Chhetri and Tamang caste are 20.0 percent which is the majority. The Brahmins, Magar, Newar and Kami are 10.0 percent, 8.0 percent, 10.0 percent and equal in percent. 40.0 percent of the street children are Chhetri and Tamang from the total 50 respondents. The remaining castes are from other different communities like; Giri 4.0% Maghi 8.0% Sarki 6.0% and Chaudari 4.0%.

Table 4.3: Distribution of Street Children by Ethnicity and Sex

Ethnicity	Boys	Girls	Total	Total Percent
Chhetri	10	-	10	20.0
Brahmin	5	-	5	10.0
Tamang	7	3	10	20.0
Magar	4	-	4	8.0
Giri	2	-	2	4.0
Newar	5	-	5	10.0
Kami	1	4	5	10.0
Majhi	4	-	4	8.0
Sarki	1	2	3	6.0
Chaudhari	2	-	2	4.0
Total	41	9	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

4.1.4 Educational Status

Though Nepal had announced for the basic education to all by 2000 A.D., it has attained only the 54.1 percent literacy rate. At present, about 3.4 million children have enrolled in public and private primary school across the nation, which is 68 percent of the total population of the school aged children. Only 50 percent of children make it is class five, at least the 15 percent of children in class one are under age and the 24 percent of children of age group 6-10 years repeat at least one grade. Similarly, about 1.3 million children either repeat or drop out from grade one.

From the case studies of the 50 children, 40 percent children among those interviewed are illiterate. Many children are attending non formal education programs provided by different organizations in Kathmandu. Among those who had been to school before being the street children had studied only between grade 1 and 2 and about 12 percent of the total number of children had school education between grade 4 and 7 classes.

Children were willing to go to school. But they couldn't go to school because they are needed by their family as they are source of income which supplements their family's survival.

Table 4.4: Educational Status of Respondents

Level of education	Boys	Girls	Total	Total percent
Illiterate	16	4	20	40.0
Literate	7	3	10	20.0
Up to primary	12	2	14	28.0
Grade 6	3	-	3	6.0
Grade 7	2		2	4.0
Grade 8	1		1	2.0
Total	41	9	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

As shown in Table 4.4, 40.0 percent children of the total respondents are illiterate. They have not attended any school. 28.0 percent of the total 50 children have studied in primary school. However, 6.0 percent have acquired grade 6, 4 percent have grade 7, 2 percent have grade 8 and 20.0 percent of the total respondents are just literate respectively. During the survey period of this study, no one was found studying at school.

4.1.5 Causes of Not Joining /Continuing School

Most of these children come from poor families who are dependent on subsistence agriculture as their main source of income. Many of these families either have a little land or no land at all. The prevailing socio-economic condition i.e. poverty, illiteracy, lack of adequate working and employment facilities compel parents to send their children to work rather than to school for their survival.

During the survey, the level of education among child workers and their parents was very low. Although the primary level education is free in Nepal, other types of expenditures associated with schooling such as uniform school supplies etc, are beyond the reach of poor families.

Regarding the reasons for not joining and not continuing school, respondents gave different reasons. Broadly they are family related and personal causes.

From Table 4.5; 22.0 percent of the total respondents are not interested to join/continue their study, 24.0 percent are deprived because of the negligence of their parents, 6.0 percent children do not attain due to lack of any school around. Death of parents and father disserted causes 10.0 percent, 24.0 percent children are not joining school due to poverty and negligence of parents and 4.0 percent of the total respondent gave the other reason to the total respondents are not joining school.

**Table 4.5: Distribution of Children by Causes of not
Joining/Continuing to School**

Causes	Number	Percent
Father disserted	5	10.0
Poverty	12	24.0
Not interested	11	22.0
Death of parents	5	10.0
Negligence of parents	12	24.0
No school around	3	6.0
Other	2	4.0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

4.2 Family Status

Most child labourers have come from poverty stricken villages where poor parents have few opportunities for employment. The situation of landlessness, indebtness and poverty at home is forcefully pushing the rural poor to the cities with the hope to escape from growing tragedies. One of the reasons for children coming for work is believed to be family problems including violence at home and broken families.

Street children's family status is affected by various factors such as family structure, parent's education level and economic condition. The Nepalese society is male dominant society. On the other hand when one of the parents of a child especially, mother dies, then father will get secondly married. And discrepancy between own children and stepchildren arises. These children are badly treated by their stepmothers.

So, to understand the family status, this chapter tries to attempt the family milieu, such as parental status (alive or dead), education and overall awareness as well as their economic condition.

4.2.1 Type and Size of Family

Most of the children respondents are from nuclear families and very little from joint families. In most of the nuclear families, present of step parents (either step father or step mother) are observed in this survey. In a joint family, after death or absence of parents, children's care is taken by grand parents or uncles and aunts. Children cannot get perfect nurture and love as much as of their parents from their guardians.

Size of a family is influenced in general, by sociological reasons besides economic reasons. The poor families have normally high fertility rates and hence bigger family size. The bigger family size of street children might be due to the existence of joint family or step parents. Thus bigger family size means many mouths to eat and many pressing needs which might have pushed the children into street. Thus, the presence of step parents and the regular absence of father or mother has a negative impact on the economic, social and mental condition of the street children.

4.2.2 Parents Alive or Dead

The majority of the street, children have both parents alive. This, however, does not mean that the parents are living together as a family. They could be remarried or separated; the fact that most of the children have both parents certainly suggests that the parents have not carried out their responsibility of taking care of their children adequately. This suggests parental negligence as one of the factors behind children's moving into the street.

Table 4.6: Status of Parents Alive of Dead the Children by Sex

Status	Boys	Girls	Total
Father alive	25 (61.0)	6 (66.7)	31 (62.0)
Father dead	16 (39.0)	3 (33.3)	19 (38.0)
Total	41 (100)	9 (100)	50 (100)
Mother alive	26 (63.0)	5 (55.5)	31 (62.0)
Mother dead	15 (37.0)	4 (44.5)	19 (38.0)
Total	41 (100)	9 (100)	50 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

It is found that, 62.0 percent respondents have their father alive, and 38.0 percent children's father are dead out of the total respondents. 62.0 percent respondents have their mother alive and 38.0 percent children's mother are dead out of the total respondents. All the respondents of street children know about their parents alive or dead.

Either one or both of the parents' death leads to fulfill the vacancy by step parents which is one of the main reasons for driving children out of their home. This observation may not true in all cases because most of the respondents of this study are from the families whose parent are alive. But it is definite that the death of the any one of the parents brings stress and strain beyond the management of the child and the family dissolution may alienate the child and drive him/her away from the family sanctuary.

4.2.3 Parental Education

In developing countries like Nepal, illiteracy rate is high and is a serious drawback. The majority of parents are unable to read and write. There is a sharp difference in the literacy rate between father and mother. Out of the 75 respondents, it is reported that their fathers are literate and can read and write. But the literacy rate for their mother is low. In Nepal illiteracy has dropped from 76.50 percent in 1981 to only 60.40 percent in 1991 and 46.3 percent in

2001 (CBS, 2001). Although government's budget on education is high, the progress in literacy is very slow.

Among the 50 respondents, it is found that 40.0 percent of these children's parents are illiterate and only 40.0 percent are just literate. This table indicates that 12.0 percent parents of the respondents have the primary level education, the secondary level and above SLC are the 4.0 and 4.0 percent respectively.

Table 4.7: Distribution of Parent's Educational Status

Educational status	Number	Percent
Illiterate	20	40.0
Just literate	20	40.0
Primary	6	12.0
Secondary	2	4.0
Above SLC	2	4.0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.2.4 Family Livelihood and Occupation

Over 85 percent of the total population in Nepal live in rural areas and more than 80 percent of them are solely dependent on agriculture for their survival. So that, the major sources of income is agriculture followed by labour. The study supports the general assumption that the child labour is a result of poverty of the family. It is often a response to the basic requirement of the family.

Parental occupations of the street children are not always same. It is apparent from table 4.8 that the largest number of street children parent are farmer or dependent on cultivations, out of the 50 respondents, 20 (40.0%) are engaged in farming, 26.0 percent are in working as porter worker/driver. Similarly 5 (10.0%) are engaged as service and domestic servant and 2 (4.0%) percent are business person.

Table 4.8: Status of Parents Occupation

Occupation	No. of Parents	Percent
Agriculture	20	40.0
Service	5	10.0
Business	2	4.0
Porter / Worker / Driver	13	26.0
Domestic servant	5	10.0
Don't know	5	10.0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

From the above table, it has been clear that most of the parents are involving in low paying and less prestigious jobs and only few parents are involved in well paid job.

4.3 Family Income Sufficiency

Everyone in Nepal is poor, except a few professionals and business persons and perhaps some large landowners. This study supports to the general assumption that child labour is directly related to the poverty of the family. Most children are from the agriculture and households. The children of under employed or self employed poor parents therefore must work to contribute to their family's struggle for survival. Children are sent to work not to school abacuses the family needs the child's income. It is also true that the family income is not regular and is not sufficient to pay the cost of schooling their kids, sometimes the children are the only earners in the family.

Table 4.9: Distribution of Family Income Sufficiency

Family income	Number	Percent
Sufficient	5	10.0
Just sufficient	10	20.0
Insufficient	35	70.0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Table 4.9 shows that 10.0 percent of the street children’s family income is sufficient enough. That means sufficient enough to a certain level and style out of the total 50 respondents 20.0 percent children’s family income is just sufficient for their family survival that means tightly sufficient but no saving for education and health etc. As reported, 70.0 percent children’s family income is not sufficient for survival.

4.3.1 Family Income

From the Table 4.10, it can be reported that 20.0 percent of the street children’s family income is below Rs. 5000 per month. Out of the total 50 street children, 24.0 percent of them reported that their family’s income lies between Rs. 5000 to 8000 per month another 26.0 percent reported that their monthly family income is Rs. 8000 to 10000 and 20.0 percent respondents' family income is Rs. 10000-15000. This finding is surprising, 10.0 percent of the street children’s family income is above Rs. 15000 per month.

Table 4.10: Income Distribution of Street Children Family

Monthly Income Level Rs.	Number	Percent
Below 5000	10	20.0
5000-8000	12	24.0
8000-10000	13	26.0
10000-15000	10	20.0
Above 15000	5	10.0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

4.4 Working Condition Causes and Consequences

Nowadays the migration of children to the urban areas has been increasing tremendously and this has ultimately contributed to an overwhelming increment of the magnitude of child labour. In this way a majority of children are employed in informal sectors carpet and garment industries, confectionery, brick kilns, roads and building construction. Transportation and stone quarries and domestic services are major child labour employing agencies in Nepal. The reasons for this are that children are the cheap sources of labour.

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

4.4.1 Causes of Leaving Home

The magnitude of the problem of child labour has been rising over the years. There are many causes to increase the child labour. The main factor of increasing child labour is because of family poverty and unable to feed their food, cloth and shelter for everyone. All the members of family have to work

for living lack of others opportunities, like education, playground, good health and other facilities. And many children also work because their step mother or father do not accept them easily and they can not tolerate their domestic violence, so they have to run away from their home. It is the main factor of a child to be the street children. The three causal factors, poverty at home, problematic family relationship and the attraction of the city are the main causes of leaving home by these children.

Table 4.11, shows that 42.0 percent respondents have left their home due to the maltreatment/abuse, 24.0 percent of respondents have left their home due to the influenced by other. In this way 20.0 percent of the street children have left their home due to the expectation of better life. Death of parents and poverty have made them leave to 4.0 percent and 10.0 percent respectively. 42.0 percentages is the highest percent of the total respondents who have left home due to the cause of maltreatment.

Table 4.11: Distribution of Children Caused for Leaving Home

Causes	Boys	Girls	Total	Total percent
Maltreatment / abuse	19	2	21	42.0
Expectation of better life	9	1	10	20.0
Influenced by others	9	3	12	24.0
Death of parents	1	1	2	4.0
Poverty	3	2	5	10.0
Total	41	9	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.4.2 Causes of Leaving Previous Work

Child labour is so common for too many Nepalese that it is remarkable and therefore invisible. In common with other child migrants to the city, children who later went to the streets rarely choose their first job. Most of the respondents have been domestics with wealthy households, assistants in cheap restaurants, carpet weavers and assistants on bus or tempo. Many recounted

remarkable series of jobs prior to and between periods of work as “Khate”, the success appears to depend largely on the nature of boys' relationship with their employers where good report is established and the boys feel valued and secured as employees. Work can be a positive experience for children and support them for several months. Yet if such relationships are lacking, the boys look elsewhere for a source of livelihood. Most of the respondents of this study were employed before coming to street. Main reasons to quit their previous jobs are shown in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12: Reasons for Dissatisfaction with their Previous Job

Reason	Boys	Girls	Total	Percent
Less wage	9	5	14	28.0
Dislike job	6	2	8	16.0
Difficult work	15	1	16	32.0
Not getting salary	11	1	12	24.0
Total	41	9	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

From the table 4.12, 24 percent of the total respondents have left their pervious job due to not getting salary. Less wage is found to be the main factor for leaving jobs of 28.0 percent children, 16.0 percent of the total respondents have left their previous job because they disliked job. 32.0 percent children said that difficult work is the major cause of leaving their previous job.

4.4.3 Types of Work

Most of the street children work either rag-picking and selling it on a junkyard or begging at tourist areas. To fulfill the immediate basic needs, except these two jobs, many children are engaged in different types of work such as small hotel, restaurant assistant, shoe shining bus/truck clearers, carpet weavers, thieving etc. These types of works depend upon the area where these children

live. For example, a street child at bus park works as a bus clearer, at official area does shoe shining job and at tourist areas does begging.

Among the 50 respondents, 20.0 percent were found to be doing rag-picking and selling it in a junkyard. 24.0 percent (12 children) were found as beggars. Similarly 18.0 percent were working as hotel/restaurant assistants where they can get food. 18.0 percent children were surviving by cleaning bus and truck. 10.0 percent of the children of the total respondents were selling paper and domestic work.

Table 4.13: Distribution of Types of Work Done by Street Children

Types of work	Boys	Girls	Total	Percent
Rag pickers	7	3	10	20.0
Hotel	9	-	9	18.0
Bus/truck cleaners	9	-	9	18.0
Beggars	10	2	12	24.0
Selling paper	5	-	5	10.0
Domestic work	1	4	5	10.0
Total	41	9	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.4.4 Working Hours

Most children in our country do work. Many children over five or six may help around the home. During the survey period, it was found that children were compelled to work on a regular or continuous basis to earn for themselves or for their families and as a result were deprived educationally and socially working hour of the street children, to extent, were dependent upon the work they did. It was found that a beggar had longer hours job than a rag-picker.

Furthermore, children's begging hour varied depending upon the area where they begged for example, a beggar near Pashupati temple begs from early morning until night but a beggar at the street does his job at evening. So the

working hour of street children depends up on many other factors. However, this study tries to present the working hour and number of children.

**Table 4.14: Distribution of Working Hours of the Street Children
(Per-day)**

Working hours	Number of children	Percent
3-5	18	36.0
6-8	20	40.0
9-12	10	20.0
12+	2	4.0
Total	50	100
Average working hour	5.86	

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 4.14 shows that 36.0 percent were found to be working 3 to 5 hours per day. About 40.0 percent worked 6 to 8 hour per day and 20.0 percent worked 9 to 12 hours per their work. Finally 4.0 percent were found to be engaged to 12 and over hours per day. The street children work in average 5.86 hours per day which is hard to bear for them in daily life.

4.4.5 Income Profile

Income level of street children depends up on the types of work they do. Begging is an easy type of work where as rag picking is of hard and risk type. The beggars of tourist area earn larger amount than all other children. The street children earn sufficient income for their daily food but they spend huge amount of their income in watching cinema, alcohol, smoking etc.

**Table 4.15: Distribution Status of Street Children of Their Cash
Income (Daily)**

Income less	Number	Percent
0-50	5	10.0
50-100	18	36.0
100-150	12	24.0
150-200	7	14.0
200+	8	16.0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Above table 4.15 shows that, 36.0 percent earn Rs. 50 to 100 per day. 24.0 percent earn Rs. 100 to 150 per day. 14 percent earn Rs. 150 to 200 per day. And 10.0 percent earn Rs. 0 to 50 to the total respondents per day but the minimum level income below 50 is found to be in the hands of beggars who beg near temple. It was found that 16.0 percent children earned more than Rs. 200 per day. The street children earn average Rs. 80 per day which is spent on food and clothing.

4.4.6 Income Level by Types of Work

Street children are engaged in various types of work such as rag picking begging selling papers, domestic work and hotel etc. The income level of street children depends up on the types of works. The principle sources of income for the street children are begging and rag picking. During the survey it was found that generally rag pickers earned much amount. They were found collecting scraps either early in the morning or from evening to mid night and selling them in a junkyard. But the beggars of tourist area had larger amount of income than all other children. The income level of beggars depends up on the area where they beg.

Table 4.16: Distribution of Children by Types of Work and Income Level

Income level → Types of work ↓	Below 50	50-100	100- 150	150- 200	200+	Total
Rag-pickers	1	2	4	5	3	15
Hotel	1	-	1	1	-	3
Bus/trick cleaners	1	1	1	1	-	4
Beggars	1	6	2	2	1	12
Selling paper	1	2	1	1	1	6
Domestic servant	2	2	2	1	1	8
Others	-	1	-	1	-	2
Total	7	14	11	12	6	50

Source: Field Survey 2012.

4.5 Expenditure Pattern

The working children, from very poor and illiterate families, have to work at the most congested dusty places. They also face problems like low payment, long working hours, inadequate shelter job insecurity, exploitation by adult and deprivation of the education and medical facilities. This is why almost all the children express their unwillingness to work in the street. So, they always face their economic problem, although it is expected that the street children usually earn sufficient income to cover their food cost after half a day's rag-picking but they spend their whole income from rag-picking in entertainment. So they have to barrow for food and clothes from the junkyard owner. Therefore, it is necessary to understand how children use the money they borrow as well as the benefits and cost of being indebted to the junkyard owner when poor weather conditions or illness prevent them working. Credit is necessary for food. However borrowed cash is more often spent on cinema tickets, tasty foods, alcohol, cigarettes and gambling with cards, marbles, and caramboard. The

phrase much repeated by boys. Money comes in goes quickly. They see their inability of resist spending money immediately.

Table 4.17: Main Items of Expenditure by Street Children

Expenditure	Boys	Girls	Total	Percent
Food	14	1	15	30.0
Smoking	5	-	5	10.0
Clothing	10	3	13	26.0
Alcohol	5	-	5	10.0
Entertainment	4	3	7	14.0
Medical treatment	1	2	3	6.0
Lost	2	-	2	4.0
Total	41	9	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

From the above table, it is cleared that the street children's expenditure on different items according to their priority basis. The main items of expenditure are food, clothing, smoking and entertainment of the total 50 respondents. 30.0 percent have incurred expenses on food. Almost 26.0 percent children have given the priority to spend on clothes. 14.0 percent children's expenses go on different types of entertainment. Other respondents, 10 percent in smoking, alcohol and medical treatment finally 4.0 percent children respondents about looting by local boys (so called dada). During the survey period it was found that these children did not worry about future and wanted to enjoy at present.

4.5.1 Saving Pattern

All the children were asked whether the earning was sufficient to their survival and could save some from the caring. The entire respondents who were interviewed, saved something from what they earned every day. But it was found that most of the street children did not labour hard like other working children. They were influenced by the bad atmosphere and had learnt all types

of bad habit. They earned and also spent immediately their earning. These children did not have any incentive to save. As explained earlier, drinking alcohol, smoking cigarette and watching film were the main areas of their enjoyment. They spent their money for sticking their mouths and noses into plaything bags inhaling the intoxicant. This is a new trend of getting highs as intoxicant as other drugs remain expensive and inaccessible to these street children.

Table 4.18: Distribution of Cash Saving Status (Daily)

Income Level Saving Pattern	Number	Percent
0-10	18	36.0
10-20	10	20.0
20-30	6	12.0
30-40	5	10.0
40-50	6	12.0
50+	5	10.0
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

From the above table 4.18, we can easily see that most of the children nearly did not save i.e. 36.0 percent of the total respondents surveyed children either did not save or save less than Rs. 10 per day. Beggars of tourist areas spent their huge amount of income in drug.

The rag pickers collect scraps in the morning and night. They spend their income in the day time either watching films. Playing cards or gambling. When asked, about the amount of their daily saving; 20.0 percent said between Rs. 10 to 20, 12.0 percent saved Rs. 20-30, 10.0 percent saved the Rs. 30-40 per day, 12 percent said their saving was nearly Rs 40-50 per day and remaining 10.0 percent reported that their daily saving was more than Rs. 50 out of the total 50 respondents. The average street children saving rate is only Rs. 17 per day.

This is too little. The question arises how they could support their family with a little income.

Many factors are associated with disserving street children when asked about the reason of not saving, different answers were found. The major factor was being robbed by others. And the other main reason was not 'enough'. Beside these factors 'Fear of police' "no idea" and "not interested to save" were the other main reasons of not saving.

4.6 Sexual Harassment and Exploitation

Child labour is a widespread phenomenon in both the developed and developing countries. A majority of our children live very miserable condition every day. They need protection and security. The burden of the child is his / her innocence. The child's innocence attracts the predator innocence makes the child vulnerable. For many children, the reality of childhood is altogether different. Due to family problems, domestic violence, poverty and illiteracy, many children are compelled to live miserable life. Their innocence and basic rights are threatened and victimized by all sorts of exploitation. Children are not only made overworked but are socially and economically exploited. They are easy targets for exploitation because most of them are illiterate, uneducated and unaware of the dangers inherent in their labour. The majority of the children have to work long hours under very difficult circumstances. The average working period per day is 12 hours for which they are woefully underpaid.

The problem of child labour engaged in different sectors varies. There has been a growing tendency among child labours particularly among the street children to become addicted to smoking, drugs and alcohol and to get engaged in stealing and pick pocketing. The problem of children working under hazardous condition is increasing. Many social evils and crimes are being generated because of child labour.

Table 4.19: Distribution Status of Street Children’s Harassment

By	Number	Percent
Seniors	14	28.0
Tourist	10	20.0
Police	14	28.0
Local boys (dada)	12	24.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

From the above table 4.19, it clearly explores the harassment faced by street children. They are harassed and abused in different ways by different persons. 28.0 percent of the total respondents are harassed and abused by the senior street boys. 28.0 percent are harassed by the police. Out of the total respondents, 24.0 percent are harassed by local boys (generally called dada of that locality). And 20.0 percent told that they are harassed frequently by tourists through taking photos.

4.7 Future Aspirations

In the context of Nepal, the condition of Nepalese children is in poor stage which is definitely getting worse day by day. Most of the children are at different level of risk and their future is completely abyss. Children in Nepal, which is one of the poorest countries, are underdeveloped in every division due to poverty, illiteracy, traditional creed and social environment. They are deprived of education and implied to work as labourers. Some of them are discarded from the family and some of them are forced to involve in prostitution.

Boys’ desires to make such radical changes in their lives can be understood in the light of their apprenticeships to street life and the implications of being labelled as ‘Khaté’. In case of ‘Khaté’ the work ‘occupation’ can be replaced with social identity. Although the social identify ascribed to ‘Khaté’ is based

on the idea about their current activities, without which they can't fulfil their ration. Family, such relationship may be critical in some boys, attempts to move off the streets. It should be remembered that many boys leave home due poverty of family. Like their relatives, boys may have seen their departures as opportunities to address these social stigmas by bringing money and good report into the family.

The respondents were asked that if they were given a choice what kind of work they would most likely choose. From the table 4.20, 24.0 percent boys wanted to be drivers because, they took it as a cheap and affordable job. They were fond of visiting, they hated living alone. Street children can easily know how to drive vehicles without studying or taking any formal education. They can follow it rather than the other jobs. And 6.0 percent professed to be good persons by undertaking higher studies. Among them 6.0 percent children wanted to earn money. They said if someone has sufficient money, automatically, he is a great person and 10.0 percent have not decided yet about their future plan. 8.0 percent wanted to become a master and army. 4 percent boy's ambition was to become an engineer, and 6 percent dancer. Only 2.0 percent boy's ambition was to become doctor and 8 percent of the total respondent's ambition was to become the police.

Table 4.20: Future Plans of Street Children

Plans	Boys	Girls	Total	Percent
To become good person	11	-	3	6.0
Driver	23	2	12	24.0
Master	8	-	4	8.0
Engineer	3	-	2	4.0
Artist	8	2	5	10.0
Dancer	4	2	3	6.0
Army	5	-	4	8.0
Police	3	1	4	8.0
Doctor	2	-	1	2.0
Not decided	10	2	5	10.0
To earn money	6	-	3	6.0
Job	5	-	4	8.0
Total	41	9	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

From the respondents opinion, it is fairly clear that khate's work is not considered to be attractive. Although, some children's dream of becoming an engineer and the police officer etc, they clearly know that it can't be achievable for them. The street children in their upper teens and above speak eloquently of their wish to find alternative jobs and places to live. The criticism, they receive from the general public acquires and extra urgency amongst older boys, for it confronts them with the fact that changes must occurs before they will be regarded as respectable adults. They are acutely conscious of a tension between what is easy and lucrative now, and what is desired for the future. However, for boys in their mid teens, and below, benefit from the lucrative and unstructured nature of 'Khate'; work. There is a detectable ambivalence in their statements about doing something else.

CHAPTER - V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The field survey, which forms the basis of this study, covered 50 street children of the Kathmandu metropolitan city. This study is based on a survey of 41 street boys and 9 street girls who were interviewed at different places of Kathmandu.

In this study, an attempt is made to identify the major factors of children to be in street and the conditions under which they are surviving and steps taken by the governmental and non governmental agencies. The overall objective of this study is to assess the extent and nature of the use of street child in Nepal. This study also explores the socio-economic and residential characteristics of street children. The specific objectives are: a) to find out the socio-economic status of street children in Kathmandu, b) to find out the main causes of the migration of street children and c) to examine the causes to be street children and its consequences in their life. There is a lack of information on child labour in Nepal. The study utilizing both quantitative and qualitative information data has attempted to provide some important aspects of the child labour situations especially, of the street children of Kathmandu.

Most of the working children were between 12 to 14 years of age and there were children as young as 7-8 years old also working and living with their parents. Majority of the child workers were from Tamang and Chhetri. There were a few child workers who have been recruited locally. 40.0 percent of the total children were illiterate and 20.0 percent street children were literate. Educational attainment of the literate children ranged from class 1 to 6. There was no relationship between the cast and extent of street children. Street children were associated with different types of ethnic group. Different factors are associated with illiteracy such as distortion by parents, and negligence by

parents. Abusive steps taken by the family may be one of the reasons to run away from home. However the urban attractions and pull factors of urban facilities are also the reason to be a child on the street in Kathmandu.

As for the respondents, most of the children came from the agricultural households 40.0 percent, wage workers 26.0 percent, domestic servant 10.0 percent and others 10.0 percent. The families of 50.0 percent children were generating sufficient income for family survival where as the families of 20.0 percent were earning just sufficient and 30.0 percent were earning insufficient income. 61.0 percent children's father was alive where as 39.0 percent were dead. And 63.0 percent children's mothers were alive and 37.0 percent were dead. Illiteracy of parent was very high because only 4.0 percent children's parents were found getting the SLC level education where as 40.0 percent were totally illiterate.

Most of the street children's job was rag-picking and begging. Out of the total respondents, 20.0 percent and 24.0 percent children were engaged as rag-picking and beggars respectively. 10.0 percent were engaged as selling paper. Income level of street children depends upon their types of work. Begging is an easy type of work where as rag-picking is of hard and risky type. But rag-pickers earn higher amount income in comparison of other types of work.

Street children were exploited and harassed in various ways by various persons. 24.0 percent were harassed by local boys, 28.0 percent were harassed by police and 10.0 percent children were harassed by tourist and 28.0 percent were by seniors. Most of the street children were involved in sexual activity but they didn't want to talk about it.

Street children's future dreams were different. Although, they could not afford it because, it was not achievable for them. But they have some incentive to do a good work. If they are supported, they can do other prestigious work. Most of them wanted to join government service such as army, police or master. Some

did not have specific plan as such but want to be a driver. Health status of the child workers was very poor. Children as well as adults had the same simple food mostly low quantity rice and lentil. Most working children had their meals two times a day and some of them three times a day. Fever, cough, diarrhea, headache, back pain and chest pain were major forms of sickness to them.

Form the case studies of the total street children, it was found that all the children came to work because of the poverty at home. Illiteracy, large family size and landlessness were other factors, which had pushed them to come to work. Children were willing to go to school. But they could not go to school because they were needed by their family as they were the source of income which supplements their family's survival.

5.2 Conclusion

Today, child labour is a burning issue in the world. Many NGOs and INGOs are putting their effort to reduce the number of street children and to enhance their status. Socio-economic status of children in developed countries have already declared the child right and started to extend it in developing counties by giving technical and financial support. In recent years, these organizations have started to participate into different seminars and conferences at international level as well as the launched many awareness programmes.

This study is expected to be or great importance in the context of the study area that is selected. The data are collected using structured questionnaire. This study has utilized both quantitative and qualitative data using observation and group discussion. It has tried to provide a new dimensions and perspective on child labour in Nepal. In this context, efforts are made to understand the societal facts about child labour.

From the survey, it was found that 40.0 percent of street children were farmers, 26.0 percent were workers and 10.0 percent were domestic servants. It shows that all the parents of street children did work and face hand to mouth

problems. So the children were sent to work not to school because the family needed the child income. On the other hand, 40.0 percent of these children's parents were found illiterate and 40.0 percent were found just literate which may indicate that parents had little known about their child rights and development. Single parent or step parent were another factor of child to be street children.

Overall discussions led to the conclusion that poverty and illiteracy of parents are the major factors to develop the child labour in Nepal. In this context, maltreatment cum abuse, which is trusted open the children by parents or family, cannot be denied to encourage the child labour in Nepal. Summary the following are the causes of children working as the street child labour:

- Poor economic conditions of the family.
- Lack of sufficient land and food.
- Necessity to work.
- Inaccessibility of school.
- Influence by friends and middleman
- Large family size.

The overall working conditions of the street children was far from satisfactory specially the working and living conditions. Hygiene and sanitation had no meaning. The working places were found full of dust and smoke therefore, the situation of living conditions were hazardous to all the workers and especially dangerous for child workers as they were more venerable than adults.

In Nepal, there are several laws, which can be implemented to protect children from child labour exploitation, they are not implemented effectively. Most directly relevant are the labour and the children's Act. The former leaves it too much to the discretion of child labour inspectors to decide whether to raid illegal factories. Their role is passive rather than proactive, they are not obliged to inspect premises regularly, but await complaints. There is need for further

social mobilization and public campaign on the issue of children and their rights for survival, protection and development.

Education, training and apprenticeship are other set of policies. The extension and application of universal compulsory education and the provision of training and apprenticeship schemes can reduce the number of out-of-school children as well as provide other opportunities for skill acquisition and later employment.

In addition, there is a third set of complementary policy. This consists of measures which address and lead to better working conditions. Such measures include the adoption, application and enforcement of protective, legal instruments for improvements of the work environment and the provision of welfare facilities.

There are many social problems threatening children's rights. No doubt the political commitment of the country on the child is being gradually strong. For the last, few years, some NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies have started creating awareness against child exploitation in Nepal. Nepal has already adopted the first historic child law in the country, children's Act, 1992 based on the UN Convention on the Child Rights. Nepal has made various commitments in the national and international arena for the cause of children following the democratic government set up. With the change in political atmosphere, issues of children are being raised quite often and a number of seminars, symposiums, meetings and rallies are being organized on different issues on children. But the problem itself has not yet been tackled properly, though child labour would have been abolished through the economic prosperity, rapid spread of schooling facilities and strict enforcement to anti child labour laws. The necessity of today is to protect working children from exploitation, abuses, improper influences and hazardous conditions, prejudicial to their physical, mental, emotional, social, and moral development. And it is universally recognized that children are not simply small adults, they deserve special consideration and treatment.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the finding of the present study, the following recommendations are given:

The present national economic crisis should be eradicated by introducing appropriate economic planning, policies and programmes aimed to alleviate poverty and unemployment problems for the overall development of living standards. Alternative sources of income for adults should be identified, so that, they may become less dependent on their children's earnings. For example, soft loans should enable them set up their own economic ventures. Initiatives should be targeted at agrarian reforms and industrial diversification.

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, Interim Constitution of the Nepal, 2063 must be implemented and enforced effectively. The civil society must enforce the government for implementation of rules and regulation effectively.

Mobile health services should be provided for the street children. Free health clinic should be available for their present and future well-being. Different medical teams should be mobilized.

To strengthen and expand the protective net of the laws regulating child labour, there is a must for increased collaborations and co-operation between the governmental, local and other authorities in non-governmental sectors.

Rehabilitation center should be formed by government to improve the overall quality of life of the street children. The center 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, mobilize support and concern for underprivileged victimized. Children, conduct

information drive about different issues affecting children and encourage collective action for their growth and development.

Free training, such as mechanical, carpentry cooking etc. should be provided by the NGOs/INGOS and CBOs in order to develop the street children's skills in some other safe income generating occupations.

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Socio-Economic Condition of Street Children

A Sociological Study on Street Children in Kathmandu Metropolitan City

Personal Details

1. Name :
2. Age
3. Sex (A) Male (B) Female
4. Ethnicity / caste
5. Working area
6. Address (Birth Place):

1. Family Background

7. Do you have a family? (a) Yes (b) No
8. Do you live with your family? (a) Yes (b) No
9. What is your parent's occupation?
 - (a) Agriculture (b) Service
 - (c) Business (d) Porter / worker / driver
 - (e) Domestic servant (f) other
10. Do your parents earn sufficient income for family's survival?
 - (a) Sufficient (b) Insufficient
 - (c) Just sufficient (d) don't know
11. Relation between parents?
 - (a) Good (b) No so good
 - (c) Separate (d) Divorced
12. Relation between other family member?
 - (a) Good (b) Bad (c) Not so good

2. Economic Earning and Family Support

13. How much your parents earn monthly?
 - (a) Below 5000 Rs. (b) 5000-8000 Rs.
 - (c) 8000-10000 Rs. (d) 10000-15000 Rs.
 - (e) Above 15000

14. Do you save money? (a) Yes (b) No
 if yes, how much ?
 Per-day _____ Month _____ Year _____ if; Not why?
 (a) No idea (b) Loss
 (c) Fear of Police (d) Robbed by others.
15. Where do you use your income?
 (a) Food (b) Clothing
 (c) Alcohol (d) Lost
 (e) Smoking (g) Medical treatment (h) other
16. Have you ever used any substances? Yes/No if yes which of the following?
 (a) Cigarette (b) Tobacco (c) Alcohol (d) Marijuana (e) Others
17. Do you have to support your family? (a) Yes (b) No
 If yes, how much?
 Rs. Day/ Month/ Year.
18. Are you satisfied with your present work? (a) Yes (b) No
 If yes, why?
 If No, why?

3. Educational Status

19. Have you ever been to school?
 (a) Yes (b) No
20. What is a cause for not joining School?
 (a) Poverty (b) No school around
 (c) Not interested (d) Death of parent
 (e) Negligence of parent (f) Other specifies
21. Do you want to rejoin school?
 (a) Yes (b) No
22. Education: (a) Literate (b) Illiterate
 If literate, (a) Primary (b) Lower secondary (c) secondary

4. Working Condition

23. Are you currently working? (a) Yes (b) No

24. What type of work do you do?
25. How many hours do you work per day?
 (a) 1-5 hours (b) 5-8 hours
 (c) 9-12 hours (d) 12 above
26. How much money do you earn daily?
 (a) 0-50 Rs. (b) 50-100 Rs.
 (c) 100-150 Rs. (d) 150-200 Rs. (e) Rs. 200+
27. Who brought you here?
 (a) Broker (b) Parent / step parent
 (c) Self (d) Friends (e) Others
28. How long have you been working on the streets?
 (a) 6 months (b) 1 Year (d) More than 1 year

5. Residential Problems

29. Have you faced any kind of problems on the street?
 Yes/No if yes, what kind of problem?
 Who gave you the most problems?
 (a) Police (b) Bullies
 (c) Community (d) Others
30. What is the main cause which made you to do this work?
 (a) Domestic violence (b) Lack of food
 (c) Abuse & exploitation (d) Deprivation from education

6. Living Condition

31. Where do you live/stay at night?.....
 (a) Street (b) Bus park
 (c) Footpath (d) Others.....
32. Do you work at night?
 (a) Yes (b) No
33. If yes, you do, What/where do you do?

7. Health and Nutrition

34. How many meals per day do you have?
 (a) One meal (b) Two meal

