

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

Nepal is situated in the south of Asian continent and covers 0.03 percent of the earth and 0.3 percent of Asia. Nepal is land locked country between Republic China in the North and democratic India in the rest three directions. Nepal covers the area of 1,47,181km² and spreads over 885km East-West length and 193km North-South width, distance from the nearest sea (Indian Ocean) is 1126km. Geographically Nepal is divided in to three regions such as Mountain (35%), Hill (42%) and Terai (23%) at the altitude varying from 60m to 8,848m above the mean sea level. There are five development regions and 75 administrative districts. There are 2,598,970 hectare cultivable land and 973,722 hectare irrigated land in Nepal. According to 2011 census, the children population in age group 0-14 years is 9,248,246 which is 34.9 percent of the country's total population where 4,714,763 are male and remaining 4,533,483 are female.

Childhood is the formative stage of human life. The development of a country depends upon the development of children. Child laborers are among the world's most exploited workers. Hundreds of millions of children work in field and factories, on street corners and in garbage dumps all over the worlds. Most do some form of work from their earliest year, helping around the home or running errands. The term child labor implies exploitation that child are working long hours for low pay, sacrificing their education and their childhood (UNDP, 1993).

Children are future pillars of the nation, so their all round development is quite essential. Children are innocent, faultless and symbol of creatively. But in our society, the proper environment for them is not available in which they could grow happily rather they are ill-treated and exploited by bourgeois people. In Nepal children are facing various problems due to the backwardness. Poverty and illiteracy are the main causes of child labor in Nepal.

Nowadays, child labor in Nepal is being considered very seriously. It has deeply rooted in most part of the country. Traditionally, children in Nepal are involved in agriculture, domestication of animals, handicraft and other employments. Many children are compelled to migrate in town in search of employment. Following the tragic calamity in their native land hardship in their life, corrupted social relationship, children working in small towns and big cities are increasing continually. These working children are largely increasing in Kathmandu alone (CWIN, 2001).

Child exploitation is the reflection of the socio-economic reality of the country which is also a consequence of the feudal land holding system, which is still a bitter reality of many third world countries (Pradhan, 1998). Thus child labor is a cause and effect of the exploitative socio-economic and political structure of the world. Like other developing countries, the rural communities in Nepal are going through a painful period created by increasing social injustice, economic exploitation and backwardness. The growing migration among the rural population, rural migration and urbanization have also contributed to an increase in the magnitude of the child labor exploitation.

Children carry out a wide range of working activities and occupation in under developed countries for their own survival and to provide their households with economic support. Many of these activities limit or halt regular school attendance. They are often exploitation or hazardous or both in varying degrees and are performed under conditions which violate the provisions of the CRC(1989) in particular the rights to be protected “from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous to child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development”. In June 1999, the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor, and Recommendation No.190, which together calls for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor for all people under age of 18. The ILO minimum age convention (ILO convention no.138) and the minimum age recommendation (ILO convention no.196), both adopted in 1973; prohibit the employment of children less than 15 years of age (ILO/UNICEF, 2000:1).

Research conducted on child transport workers by CWIN and Plan Nepal in 2006 provides further evidence that child labor in transport sector is one of the worst forms of child labor. Mean working hours more than 12 hours a day, four hours more than legal for adults and six hours more than is legal for children's. Three out of four respondents reported that they were subjected to physical and psychological abuse at the hands of drivers and owners, traffic police, passenger and their elders. Harsh scolding was the dominant type of abuse. The study also showed that the occupational health and safety treats of the child transport workers are many. They run the risk of falling off of the vehicles, being insured, having a very heavy work load, being exposed to air pollution and dust, and facing sexual abuse and exploitation by drivers, owners and other adult/peers. The study found that there was no provision of life insurance (CWIN/Plan Nepal, 2006:45-49).

Children Act 1992 and labor Act 1992 of Nepal have specified the group of boys and girls under the age of 16 years as children. The interim constitution of Nepal, 2063 guarantees the right and protection against exploitation as a fundamental right and prohibits the practice of "traffic in human beings, slavery, forced labor in any form and violation of this is punishable by law (Article 22). It also has provision regarding the education and welfare of children under the directive principles and policies of the state, but these serve only as guidelines, i.e. the directive are not mandatory. The UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Children on 20 November 1989 stating that children need special care and legal protection. Article 32 of the Convention states, "The state partly shall recognize the rights of the child to educate and make primary education compulsory and free to all, secondary and higher education accessible to all while at the same time encouraging regular attendance and reducing dropouts rates". Nepal ratified the UN convention on the rights of the child in 1990. The interim constitution of Nepal, 2063 has incorporated child right as fundamental right in article 22(Adikhari, 2009, p. 141).

The worst forms of child labor are situation in which children work for more than nine hours a day, earn less than a maximum wage at no wage at all, work in conditions hazardous to health and safety, have no access to education, and work outside their family home. The urban transport sector is one of several sectors

classified as being the worst forms of child labor in Nepal and due to rapid urbanization, is a major social challenge. Children work on all types of vehicles-truck, buses, mini buses, jeeps and tempos—right across the country, particularly in the major urban centers as Kathmandu valley, Dharan, Biratnagar, Neapalgunj, Butwal and Pokhara (World Education, 2009).

Child labor has been widespread in Nepal for many centuries, mostly in rural areas as part of the normal process of socialization. In the countryside children always worked, and continue to work, long hours alongside their parents in the fields and at home. Although the participation rate for children in Nepal is estimated at about 40.4 per cent, there is a significant difference between that of girls (47.6 %) and that of boys (36.1 %). In Nepal, the majority of children are found working in the agricultural sector, followed by services, manufacturing and other sectors. They are mostly employed informally as domestic servants, porters, rag pickers or carpet factory workers, as well as in restaurants and in the transportation sector. Depending on the sector, children may have to work long hours, carry heavy loads and face the risk of sexual exploitation (NLFS, 2011).

Economic activity is vital for a country's economic development: the more extensive the economic activities, the greater the potential for generating employment for the economically active population, including child workers. In Nepal only about 3.1 million of the 7.7 million children aged 5-17 years were currently employed in 2008. Nearly 60 per cent of the total working child populations were economically inactive. About 3.1 million children who were employed, about 46 per cent were boys and 54 percent girls. In urban areas the number of boys and girls currently employed was equally divided, but in rural areas the number of employed girls was significantly higher (54 percent) than that of boys (46 percent) (NLFS, 2011, p. 33).

The last decade has been a decade of political turmoil and uncertainty for Nepal. There has been an armed conflict which has had an adverse impact on economic and social conditions in the country. During the conflict, thousands of people were displaced from their homes in rural areas, and the resulting increase in poverty has hurt women and children disproportionately. Maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the region, primarily because of the resources and the low status of women

as a priority for action. As a result of the depressed economy and increasing income inequality, child labor has become widespread in Nepal.

In Nepal, child labor is usually linked directly to family poverty. To meet the need for food and shelter in situation where adult family members are unemployed or underemployed or where there is no bread winner at all, children are compelled to work from early age. They migrate to cities in search of better living conditions and once there find they have little choice regarding the type, condition or quality of employment.

While poverty is the main cause of child labor, other significant reasons include (i) running away from home to escape perceived bad treatment; (ii) semi-feudal relationships in the countryside; (iii) enticements by middlemen; (iv) expectation of better economic opportunities, and (v) the absence of government policy making education compulsory (UNICEF, 1992). Other reasons also play a role, including the lack of access to education, dysfunctional families and domestic violence, armed conflict, social exclusion, the ineffective implementation of governmental rules and laws regarding child rights and protection, lack of parental awareness of worst forms of child labor, and the lack of alternative job opportunities (NEW ERA, 2012, p.1).

Every year hundreds of children leave their home to migrate to urban areas due to curiosity and poor economic conditions at home so they work as hotel/restaurants, carpet industry, construction, stone quarries, brick kilns, and micro bus and so on. The extent of exploitation of child labor is very high everywhere. The micro bus conductor/helper children have no alternative job and they stay period the owner's wishes. Children have to work early morning and late night. They do not get proper holiday and are exploited by their owners. This study has found that the condition of child labor, socio-economic and health conditions of the child laborers in micro bus of Kathmandu City.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Most of the developing countries in the world have faced child labor as a serious and widespread problem especially in South Asia and Africa and the situation is not different in Nepal. Many children are being pushed into the labor market as a part of

family survival strategy. Children are found to be working as an integral part of the family farming work force in the agriculture economy of Nepal.

Children are the foundation of future world. So it can be said that they are the rays of hope. So health, education, residence and healthy environment are the basic needs of every child. In the context of Nepal, thousands of children are struggling only for stomach.

Throughout the world, thousands of children are working as domestic helper, performing task such as cleaning, ironing, and cooking, minding children. In many countries this phenomenon is not only socially and culturally accepted but might be regarded positively as a protected and non stigmatized type of work especially for child.

The root cause of child domestic labor are multiple and multi-faced. Poverty and its feminization, social exclusion, lack of education, gender and ethnic discrimination, domestic violence, displacement, rural urban migration and loss of parents are just some of the multiple “push factor” for child domestic workers worldwide. Increasing social and economic disparities, debt bondage, the perception that the employers is simply as extended family and protected environment for the child, the increasing need for the women of the household to have a replacement at home that will enable more and more of them to enter the labors market and that the illusion that domestic service gives the child worker an opportunities for education are some of its pull factor.

The condition of child laborers engaged in micro bus is generally worse than in other employing agencies. The employers are well aware about their weakness and problem. So the employers prefer to take child as a laborer, because children are easy to handle in the way they like. The child labors play a supplementary role of adult labor. Children are cheaper, easily available, innocent, native willing, easy to control and exploit, and move reliable than adults. Children are such labor force that can be made to do any work for as much time in whatever wages the employers want them to give. In addition, employing children means a guarantee of stable work force as they can be exploited continuously for many years. There are the responds why the employers tend to hire children rather than adult laborers. They make the children

work from early morning to late hours at night. They are paid very normal wages. They are deprived form basic human and children rights, nutrients, entertainment, sports and they have no holiday or any leave. The misbehavior and harsh treatment against children from their employers make negative and immoral psychological impact in their mind; as a result their lives become miserable and sorrowful. Today's children are the citizen of tomorrow and future of nation. Child stage is the most effective stage of human development. But if they are deprived of 'basic child right' and 'good mental and physical development', they can't be qualified person for the development of a family, society and nation. Therefore, child labor is not the person of an individual or a family but it is the common problem of society, nation and 21st Century's globalize world.

A large number of child workers are involved in the transportation sector especially, in micro bus in Kathmandu city as a child helper/ conductor or helper of driver .This study is about the socio – economic condition of micro bus helper of Kathmandu city. Specifically this study will answer to the following questions.

-) What is the socio- economic background of the child helpers of micro bus represent?
-) What are the factors that forced them to join the present work?
-) What are the major problems faced by them?

1.3 Objectives of the study

The overall objective of the study is to elicit the hidden facts and realities of the child laborers employed in micro bus of Kathmandu city. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

-) To identify the socio–economic condition of child laborers (micro bus helper).
-) To examine the present working and health conditions of child laborers.
-) To identify the root causes of child laborers.

1.4 Rational of the study

Several studies have been conducted on child labor in various sectors, but there are very few studies on child labor in micro bus. Therefore this study will be significant in different ways such as to search the remedies of problem facing in this field, and policy makers of NGO/INGO/GO and civil society may understand about the existence of problem in micro bus. It'll also help to the national and international organizations that are interested to know about this field. More over this study is accepted to provide accurate information on child labor, which might be helpful, those who are interested to conduct in this field in future.

1.5 Limitations of the study

Following are the major limitations of the study.

-) This study is based on the primary data collected in Kathmandu city. So, its results may not represent for the whole country.
-) This study is based on the child laborers less than 18 years of age in micro bus helper of Kathmandu city of Kathmandu district, using purposive sampling.
-) This study present only the child laborers employed in micro bus (blue micro bus and jumbo micro bus); so it does not cover child labourers in other transport.

1.6 Organization of the study

This study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is concerned with introduction of the study dealing with the objectives statement of the problem as well as rational of the study and limitation of the study. Chapter two deals with the review of literature relating child labor. The literatures are taken from relevant books, study reports, journals, different web sites and seminar papers relating to the child labor. The third chapter contains the research methodology of the study. In this chapter method of data collection, sample size, research design and selection of study area have been explained. The fourth and fifth chapters, consists of data presentation and analysis of demography and socio-economic characteristics such as family background, working condition and environment of the child laborers, income, profit, health status etc. These data show the profile of the child labors in terms of their age, caste/ethnicity and place of residence, wage. These two chapters are the key part of the study. Finally, chapter six summarizes the major findings of the study as well as conclusions and recommendations for further study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter an attempt is made to present a conceptual framework on child labor and the relevant literature pertaining to child labor in general.

2.1 Child labor: A global overview

Historically, the problem of child labor first appeared in the 16th century. This was further expanded in different forms and area in the 17th century and children were further exposed to high risk areas in the 18th and 19th century. In Germany, France and UK, the problem of child labor was obvious in factories, cotton mills, and glass and match making and brick kilns, whereas in Norway and Sweden, the problem existed in farming, herding and fishing. In France, a welfare act for child laborers was introduced in 1841 and in 1853. The Government of Germany introduced the first law regarding the health and safety of children and trade unions in Europe began to raise the issue of child labor as part and parcel of their movement. However, the implement actions of the laws were very poor. The developed countries not only Germany, UK, Norway, Sweden, France but also Japan, Portugal, Cyprus, Belgium and Malta and a serious child labor problem until less than fifty years ago. It has been observed that some countries are not yet free of the child labor problem because of different social problems, economic exploitation and family breakdown (Pradhan, 1995).

South Asia is a home to over 400 million children, one quarter of the world's children. The South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS) estimates involvement of at least 88 million children labor in the region, and other estimates range from 40 million to over 100 million. Even with such varying figures, it is clear that even the most conservative official estimates reveal that a substantial percentage of South Asia's children are affected by the problems associated with child labor (UNICEF, 1995).

The children in many countries in Asia share a common pain and problems of child labor in their everyday life, statistics have revealed that almost half of the world child labor problems exist in South Asia. Because of growing poverty famine, unfair

economic relations and social injustice, the children of these regions are forced to take on a major burden for survival. Despite many national, regional and international commitments to combat child labor, the situation of children in the SAARC region is far from satisfactory (Pradhan, 1995).

Child labor is one of the most pressing issues currently confronting South Asia. Despite growing international awareness of the problem, trends indicate that the number of children involved in child labor in certain sectors and geographical areas is increasing. Economic pressures of inflation and effects of structural adjustment programmes have placed more families in difficult situations. Export-oriented products such as hand-woven carpets rely on cheap child labor and have boomed in recent years.

Globally, approximately 250 million children of age group 5-14 work for livelihood in conditions of various degrees of exploitation. Among them, 120 million work full time regionally, 61 percent of all child labor in Asia over 80 million children in this region are working in the most difficult circumstances (NHDR, 1998).

The ILO estimates that 218 million children between the age of 5 and 17 worldwide are child laborers. This figure excludes children aged 12 years and above who work only a few hours a day in permitted light work as well as children aged 15 years and above who work in non-hazardous sectors. Of the 218 millions, 126 million children are involved in worst form of child labor as defined in ILO Convention no. 182. The largest number of child laborers aged 14 and younger—22 million—is in the Asia-Pacific Region (ILO, 2009).

According to the quadrennial global report on child labor released by the International Labor Organization in 2010, the picture is bleak; despite the fact that the number of child laborers declined slightly (from 222 million to 215 million over a period of five years), the pace of reduction has tapered off and 115 million children are still exposed to hazardous work worldwide. In Nepal the picture is similar; there has been a reduction overall, but it is uneven across sectors and estimated 1.6 million children aged 5-17 years are still engaged in hazardous work that interferes with their education or is harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

Millions of children work to help their families in ways that are neither harmful nor exploitative. However, UNICEF estimates that around 150 million children aged 5-14 in developing countries, about 16 per cent of all children in this age group, are involved in child labor. ILO estimates that throughout the world, around 215 million children under 18 work, many full-time. In Sub Saharan African 1 in 4 children aged 5-17 work, compared to 1 in 8 in Asia Pacific and 1 in 10 in Latin America. Although aggregate numbers suggest that more boys than girls are involved in child labor, many of the types of work girls are involved in are invisible. It is estimated that roughly 90 percent of children involved in domestic labor are girls. Even though the prevalence of child labor has been falling in recent years everywhere apart from Sub Saharan Africa where it is actually increasing with regard to children aged 5-14 it continues to harm the physical and mental development of children and adolescents and interfere with their education (UNICEF 2011 State of the World's Children).

2.2 Child labor in Nepal

In Nepal, child labor is usually linked directly to family poverty. To meet the need for food and shelter in situation where adult family members and unemployed or underemployed or where there is no bread winner at all, children are compelled to work from early age. They migrate to cities in search of better living conditions and once there find they have little choice regarding the type, condition or quality of employment.

While poverty is the main cause of child labor, other significant reason include (i) running away from home to escape perceive bad treatment; (ii) semi-feudal relationships in the country side; (iii) enticements by middlemen; (iv) expectation of better economic opportunities, and (v) the absence of the government policy making education compulsory (UNICEF,1992) . Other reason also plays a role, including the lack of access to education, dysfunctional families and domestic violence, armed conflict, social exclusion, the ineffective implementation of governmental rules and laws regarding child rights and protection, lack of parental awareness of worst form of child labor, and the lack of alternatives jobs opportunities (CWIN/Plan Nepal, 2006).

The worst forms of child labor are situation in which children work for more than nine hours a day, earn less than a maximum wage at no wage at all, work in

conditions hazardous to health and safety, have no access to education, and work outside their family home. The urban transport sector is one of several sectors classified as being the worst forms of child labor in Nepal and due to rapid urbanization, is a major social challenge. Children work on all types of vehicles-truck, buses, mini buses, jeeps and tempos—right across the country, particularly in the major urban centers as Kathmandu valley, Dharan, Biratnagar, Neapalgunj, Butwal and Pokahara. (World Education, 2009) Studies indicate in Nepal children work in factories and industries, mines and quarries, agriculture, domestic service, shop-keeping transportation, pottering, street vending, entertainment and circuses. In 1998, the central department of population studies and IOL estimated that of 6.2 million children aged 5-14 years in Nepal, 41.7 percent were working children's .Of them 25.5 percent worked and went to school while 16.1 percent only worked. A total of 26.6 percent were economically active but only 4.4 percent as paid workers (Adhikhari et al., 2012).

According to NLFS of 2008, 41 percent of children aged 5-14 years were working children (21 percent and 61 percent of those aged 5-9 years and 10-14 years respectively). The 2008 NLFS showed a decline: 37.8 percent of children aged 5-14 years worked (13.4 percent and 52.7 percent of those aged 5-9 and 10-14 years respectively) (NLFS, 2012). Based on the incidence of DCL (domestic child labor) among the surveyed house hold in 10 districts in Nepal is estimated at 172,101. In the urban areas and semi urban areas there are 62,579 and 48, 052 DCL at work and in rural areas there are 61.471 DCL employed. About 56 percent DCL are children below 14 years of age and the remaining 44 percent are between 14-18 years of age (Sharma et al, 2012, p. 39).

The brick kiln industry is the fast growing industries in Nepal on account of urbanization process and has become one of the most labor intensive industries. A study done by CWIN in 1991 estimated that there are about 2500 children working in the brick kilns Kathmandu valley alone. As far as ten industries are concerned according to CWIN (which conducted a survey in 13 estates in 1990) there are 1005 workers, of which 451(15 %) are children under 16 years of age (CWIN, 1991).

There is no national level survey study on child labor; therefore, it is a difficult task to present the accurate statistics on, child labor in Nepal. However, it is estimated that over 5 million children are involved directly or indirectly in different forms of work. Among them, largest numbers of working children are found in the agricultural sectors, followed by the service sector, industry, plantation, construction and other information sectors. In industry, the carpet government and brick kilns are the biggest employers of child labor in Nepal. Thousands of children are also found working in domestic service, restaurants shops and bars. According to the statistics, there are nearly 500,000 children in Nepal who have migrated from rural areas to urban areas. Among them, there are approximately 300,000 children labors in different kinds of jobs 5,000 street children are working in sex industry, including children trafficked into India and elsewhere for this purpose (CWIN,1995).

Child labor has been widespread in Nepal for many centuries, mostly in rural areas as part of the normal process of socialization. In the countryside children always worked, and continue to work, long hours alongside their parents in the fields and at home. Although the participation rate for children in Nepal is estimated at about 40.4 per cent, there is a significant difference between that of girls (47.6 per cent) and that of boys (36.1 per cent). In Nepal, the majority of children are found working in the agricultural sector, followed by services, manufacturing and other sectors. They are mostly employed informally as domestic servants, porters, rag pickers or carpet factory workers, as well as in restaurants and in the transportation sector. Depending on the sector, children may have to work long hours, carry heavy loads and face the risk of sexual exploitation (NLFS, 2008).

Economic activity is vital for a country's economic development: the more extensive the economic activities, the greater the potential for generating employment for the economically active population, including child workers. In Nepal only about 3.1 million of the 7.7 million children aged 5-17 years were currently employed in 2008. Nearly 60 per cent of the total working child populations were economically inactive; 3.1 million children who were employed, about 46 percent were boys and 54 per cent girls. In urban areas the number of boys and girls currently employed was equally divided, but in rural areas the number of employed girls was significantly higher (54 percent) than that of boys (46 percent) (NLFS, 2008).

The last decade has been a decade of political turmoil and uncertainty for Nepal. There has been an armed conflict which has had an adverse impact on economic and social conditions in the country. During the conflict, thousands of people were displaced from their homes in rural areas, and the resulting increase in poverty has hurt women and children disproportionately. Maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the region, primarily because of the resources and the low status of women as a priority for action. As a result of the depressed economy and increasing income inequality, child labor has become widespread in Nepal.

There is not enough data or authoritative information to determine the exact magnitude of child labor problem all over the nation. Moreover, estimates of the number and incidence of child labor in Nepal are very wide. It is mainly due to lack of reliable information on the overall distribution of economically active population by age and the concentration of child workers in the informal sector where a large number of children are believed to be working furthermore, as child work under the age of 14 is legally prohibited in Nepal, there is a tendency to conceal the data on the child laborers both in formal and informal sectors. However, several field studies found that a large number of children are working under bondage both in the urban and rural areas. It is estimated that, of the 2.6 million working children (5- 18 years) in Nepal, 1.7 million participated economic activities. This comprises of 26.7 percent of the total children in the country, overwhelming majority of the economically active children do the works based on agriculture (95.0%) and the rest 5.3 percent in nonagricultural work (Suwal et al., 1997).

In general, economic activities of children involved all types of activities of an economic nature except housekeeping in parents/guardians' home. Housekeeping activities of children were classified as non-economic activities. In particular, the total number of economic activities is equal to the number of children involved in paid and unpaid activities paid activities of the children refer to activities for which they are paid either in cash or kind, but the work may be either regular or seasonal. In contrast unpaid activities of children are those activities in which they are not directly paid in any form. This basically refers to activities of the children in household forms and other household enterprises.

Children's activities are examined with references to various household as well as individual characteristics. The household characteristics involved in the analysis are current place of residence, ecological zone, development region, educational level of household head, principle occupation of household head, family-size, principal occupation of household head and size of household land holding. Similarly, the individual characteristics of the child involved in the analysis are age, sex and their current school attendance status.

2.3 Legal provision on child labor

Nepal's interim Constitution seeks to protect the interests of children by conferring on them certain fundamental rights and imposing for their benefit certain directive principles and State policies. In addition, a number of laws contain important provisions for the protection of interests of children and child laborers. The Child labor Act 1992 imposes a sanction of up to three months in prison for employing an underage child. Employing children in dangerous work or against their will is punishable by up to one year in prison. The Child labor Act was amended in 1999 to make it more abuse-specific, especially in relation to sexual abuse. The law prohibits children from involvement in the sale, distribution, or trafficking of alcohols or drugs. Meanwhile, the Government of Nepal has ratified ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182, as well as other relevant conventions that set age standards for children's admissions to work on the basis of occupation. However, these legislations alone do not seem to be sufficient to address the complexities of child labor situation in Nepal.

2.3.1 National perspective

In recent years there has been growing international concern about child labor. The International Labor Organization has been consistently pressing its member States to protect the rights and interests of children for the past several years. The 1990 Constitution of Nepal therefore seeks to protect children by conferring on them certain fundamental rights and by imposing for their benefit certain directive principles and state policies. The State has pledged to make the necessary arrangements to safeguard the rights and interests of children, to ensure that they are not exploited and to introduce free education. In addition to the Constitution, a number of laws contain important provisions for the protection and advancement of

the interests of children and child workers. These laws set the minimum age for employment at 14 years and prohibit children under 16 years of age from engaging in such occupations as tourism, carpet weaving, factory work, mining or other forms of hazardous work that can be harmful to their health or life. However, the laws generally cover only the formal sector, which leaves the majority of children who are employed in the informal sector without any legal protection.

The Child Labor Act 1992 imposes a sanction of up to three months in prison for employing an underage child. Employing children in dangerous work or against their will is punishable by up to one year in prison. The Child Labor Act provides for fines to be imposed on employers who violate labor laws. It prohibits trafficking in persons and imposes up to 20 years in prison for violations of the law. It also prohibits the use of children in immoral professions, including the taking and distribution of pornographic photographs.

The law banning the Kamaiya system in 2002 forbids keeping or employing any person as a bonded laborer and cancels all unpaid loans or bonds between creditors and Kamaiya laborers. The law prohibits the involvement of children in the sale, distribution or trafficking of alcohol and drugs. The Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) and child welfare officers have the responsibility of enforcing child rights legislation. The Ministry of Labor and Transport Management (MOLT) is responsible for enforcing child labor legislation. A recent study reports that, despite legal protection, the resources devoted to enforcement of child labor laws are limited and that the Ministry of Labor employs too few inspectors to address the problem effectively. The Child Labor Act was amended in 1999 to make it more abuse-specific, specifically in relation to sexual abuse. This new Act lists specific occupations as constituting hazardous work and prohibits the employment of children below 16 years of age in such activities. Although there are a number of other legal provisions restricting child labor and trafficking, none of them seem to have been very effective in curtailing child labor in the country.

The children's Act 1992 was issued to safeguard the interest of the children and contains a number of provisions on child labor. The act defines a child to be a human being below the age of 16 years and states that a child who has not attained the age of 14 shall not be employed in any work as a laborer and shall not be engaged as a laborer against his will. The act further prohibits engaging a child in work which is likely to be harmful to his health or hazardous to his life.

The children's rules (1995) prescribe the functions of central child welfare board and the district child welfare boards. The functions of the central welfare board include the following:

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

To assists and encourage national and international non-governmental organizations, foreign governments and international agencies to undertake activities for the protection and development of children.

The interim constitution of Nepal, 2063 has incorporate child right as fundamental right (article no.22) which is mentioned as follow:

Rights of the child:

- (1) Every child shall have the right to his or her identity and name.
- (2) Every child shall have the right to nurture, basic health and social security.
- (3) Every child shall have the right against physical, mental or another form of exploitation. Such exploitative act shall be punishable by law; and any child so treated shall be given such compensation as may be determined by law.
- (4) The helpless, orphan, mentally retarded, conflict victim, displaced, vulnerable and street children shall have the right to get special facilities from the State for their well-ascertained future.
- (5) No minor shall be employed to work in any factory, mine or engaged in any similar other hazardous work or used in army, police or conflict

2.3.2 Nepal's international commitments

On September 1990 Nepal has ratified the convention on the rights of the child adopted on 20 November 1989 by the UN General assembly. Similarly, HMG Nepal endorsed the declaration on the survival, protection and development of children and undertook to “work for special protection of the working child and for the abolition of illegal child labor” of the world summit for children held at the United Nations in New York on 29-30 September 1990. As a member of the south Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), Nepal has signed the Colombo Resolution. In accordance with this resolution, His Majesty's Government of Nepal is obliged to work for the following goals.

-) Basic education: Access to, and enrolment in primary education for at least 80 percent of boys and 75 percent of girls and completion of primary education by at least 50 percent of girls as well as boys by 1995.
-) Progressive and accelerated elimination of child labor.

Furthermore, Nepal has ratified ILO convention 18, June, 1999 for elimination of worst and hazardous form of child labor.

2.4 Causes and consequence of child labor

In the context of child labor, it has many causes and consequence closed link with a range of social, culture and economic factors. We can easily say that child labor is product of low level of income, illiteracy and lack of provide to basic needs (food, shelter, clothes).

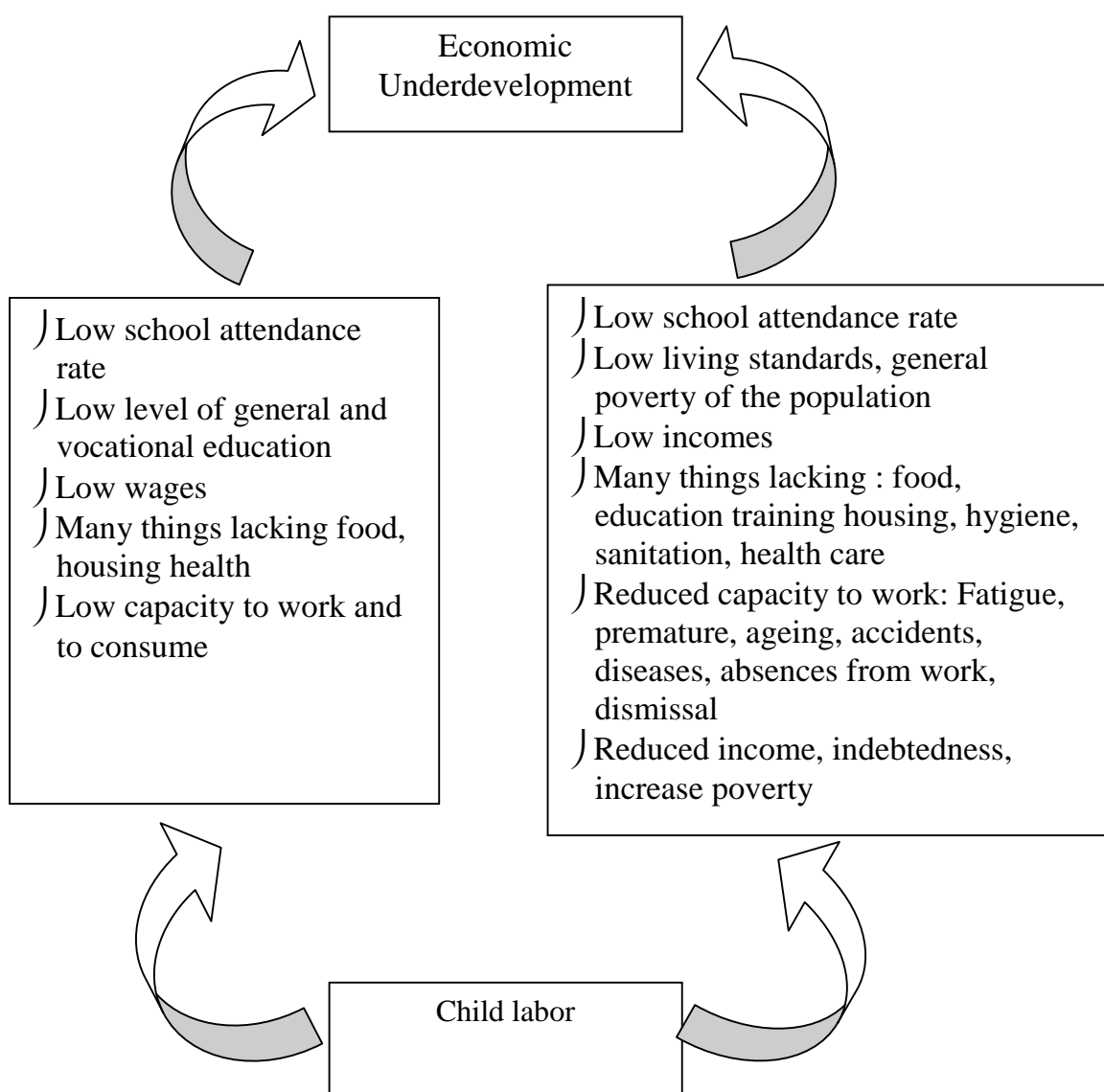
The vast majority of children are pushed into work that is often damaging to their development by the three key factors: the exploitation of poverty, the absence of education and the restrictions of tradition (UNICEF, 1976) child labor is not accidental. The market demand for child labor determines children's employment at various enterprises and industries. Children are employed because they are docile, obedient and hired at cheaper rates than adults and dispersed easily if labor demands fluctuate. They involve long term investment of the part of industry in terms of insurance and social security or other benefits (UNICEF/EAPRO, 1994).

Major cause of child labor in Nepal are identified as object poverty and financial unemployment, family disruption, lack of alternatives, inadequate education system, poverty, discrimination of gender and caste/ethnicity, dysfunctional families, parent illiteracy, unawareness towards children's education, unbalance development of the country and weak enforcement of laws relating to child labor. So these factors push children into labor market (CWIN, 2001).

Practice of child labor prevents children from going to school, resulting in a low school attendance rate and a low level of general and vocational education among children. As a result, the consequence of child labor has an adverse impact on the productivity capacity of the children themselves, even when they reach adulthood. They are under paid, which makes them unable to meet their requirement of housing and food. Thus, the vicious circle between under development and child labor is self-perpetuating (CDPS, 1997).

Rural to urban migration can be considered a primary causing factor for the rising number of working children in micro bus helpless migrant children are the major sources of labor. The mobile population increased dramatically and the need for micro bus along highways to serve travels was realized.

Figure 1: Vicious circle of underdevelopment and child labor



Source: ILO, 1994.

2.5 Education and child labor

Education is very important in shaping the lives of the children, and in Nepal it is compulsory for all children up to the lower secondary level. Nevertheless, a large number of children do not attend school, as many parents cannot afford the cost of education. Although primary education is free, poor people are still often unaware of the advantages and value of education, even if this is slowly changing. In some rural areas, children tend to be considered very much from the economic perspective, and

many parents prefer to them to work as laborers rather than send them to school to study. In this way, children help to supplement the family income for its day-to-day survival. Even though some children may realize that education an advantage for their future, they do not have access to a school or cannot afford to pay for stationery and fees. They either stay behind at home to assist the parents in their household activities or work as child laborers to make their living.

Education is the major fundamental right of every child in Nepal. In Nepal majority of children still stay out of school due to various reasons. Many families cannot offer to send their children to school and are ignorant of this. Even though primary level education has been declared free, children still have to pay for registration and exam fees. Another aspect is that the current education system is not productive and people are not able to justify outcomes of sending their children to school. Thousands of children who are involved in one or other kind of labor are also denied their right to education (CWIN, 2002).

Child labors are not only over work but are socially and economically employed. They are easy targets for exploitation because most of them are illiterate, uneducated and unaware of the danger inherent in their labor. Some NGOs have organized special workshops for the teachers who are conducting non – formal education (NFE) programmers in their particular field, to improve their teaching and counseling skills. Integrated programmers which include compensated such as literacy classes, income generating programmers, health and sanitation activities are gaining popularity. But there is a lack of appropriate tools to tackle the shortage of shelter, job, insecurity, exploitation by the adult, and deprivation of education and medical facilities as by most of Nepal's impoverished children's (ILO,1999).

The brighter future programs was designed to eliminate child labor through education; it ran from 2002 to 2009 with support from the united state department of labor and matching support from UNICEF, the world food program, and private donors. Over eight years, the project provided educational and other support to the total 43,219 children working in the worst form of child labor in Nepal and to 72,140 children at risk. Literature on the program abdicable at world education (2009) demonstrates that the program's NGO partner had little experience working with children from the

transport sector. Research revealed that while most child transport workers had gone to school, One-third was illiterate or barely literate because their job required that they be constantly on the move. Since live in rehabilitation center and shelters were full, the program designers anticipated that children's would be willing to make use of drop in open learning centers. They were wrong, however: through child transport workers expressed an interest in pursuing their education; they were unwilling to risk losing their jobs for the opportunity to attend non formal education programs. Instead, they wished to be reintegrated with their family and to return to their old school or to participated in the vocational training despite the fact that many were too young for this sort of instruction. To handle these disparate interests, two strates were adopted: and(i) providing in kind scholarship to children able and willing to return to school, and (ii)supporting vocational training or apprenticeship for older children of legal working age (NEW ERA, 2012, p. 16).

2.6 Micro bus and child labor

Micro bus is a four wheelers small shape public vehicle, popular in underdeveloped countries. Micro bus is more popular in town area of Nepal .Thousands of micro bus is used in Kathmandu valley as a public transport service. Many children evolved as a child labor in micro bus. The children who are working as a conductor or child helper in micro bus most of them spend their night in vehicles and suffer various problems (CWIN, 2000).

Child labor in Nepal is being considered very seriously nowadays. It has deeply rooted in most part of the country. Despite Nepal's commitment to several international, regional and national human rights instruments to protect children's rights, innumerable Nepali children are deprived form their fundamental rights, also adopting the positive approach towards laws and regulations from government. Many children compelled to migrate in town in search of employment are increasing in small and big cities. It is heavy in Kathmandu alone (CWIN, 2003).

About 12,000 children are trafficked every year from Nepal. The local history implies that trafficking has long been associated with poverty, social exclusion and ignorance, as well as with the practice of slavery and the bondage labor system. Trafficking of girls seldom takes place before the onset of puberty, about age thirteen (ILO, 2001).

In rural economy of Nepal amidst social injustice and economic backwardness, children have played a significant role in the family subsistence: fetching water, fuel wood, herding cattle, caring for siblings and helping parents in farm and of farm jobs are very common. In the changing context of urbanization, many children work outside their homes to support the family income. Child migration thus is on the increase (TU/CDPS, 2000).

Child labor is a humanitarian issue, however, in practice; socio-economic conditions of the large majority of the children of today's developing countries are very tragic. They have been the victims of the prevailing social, economic and political system that exploit and suppress them. In many instances, children are seen as a source of cheap labor to augment profit/incomes in various enterprises and families. As a result, many children in today's developing countries are being deprived of their right to education and compelled to join labor force (CDPS, 2003).

Research conducted on child transports workers by CWIN and plan Nepal in 2006 provides further evidence that child labor in transport sector is one of the worst forms of child labor. Men working hours more than 12 hours a day, four hours more than legal for adults and six hours more than are legal for children's. Three out of four respondents reported that they were subjected to physical and psychological abuse at the hands of drivers and owners, traffic police, passenger and their elders. Harsh scolding was the dominant type of abuse. The study also showed that the occupational health and safety treats of the child transport workers are many. They run the risk of falling off of the vehicles, being insured, having a very heavy work load, being exposed to air pollution and dust, and facing sexual abuse and exploitation by drivers, owners and other adult/peers. The study found that there was no provision of life insurance (NEW ERA, 2012, p. 1-5).

In 2002 child workers in Nepal concerned center (CWIN) conducted a study of children working in the transport sector which suggest that both pull and push factors are at play: the pulls are increasing urbanization and consumerism, which attract the large number of children to urban areas, and the pushes include poverty, family problems lack of access to schooling, social exclusion, lack of work opportunities in rural areas. According to the CWIN study the danger from traffic, exposure to

pollution, and poor living arrangement put the child transport workers at risk for the health problems and the sexual and physical abuse. In 2005, CWIN conducted a study which estimates that there were 2,193 child transport workers in the Kathmandu valley, 28 percent of whom were under the legal working age of 14.

World education and its partners in the brighter future programs (2002-2009) targeted children aged 8-14 who are already involved in or at risk of becoming involved in the worst forms of child labor. World education defines a child transport workers as any child under 18 who assists in the operation of public or private transportation services for cash or kind or as apprentices in the transport sector. It notes that they load and unload goods, collect fares from passengers and give the signal about the traffic situation while on the road. Not only are these children's deprived of their basic rights but they are also exposed to highly hazardous situation. They are vulnerable to the accident and because of their exposure to a highly polluted environment may suffer chronic health problems and see their healthy growth hampered (world education, 2009).

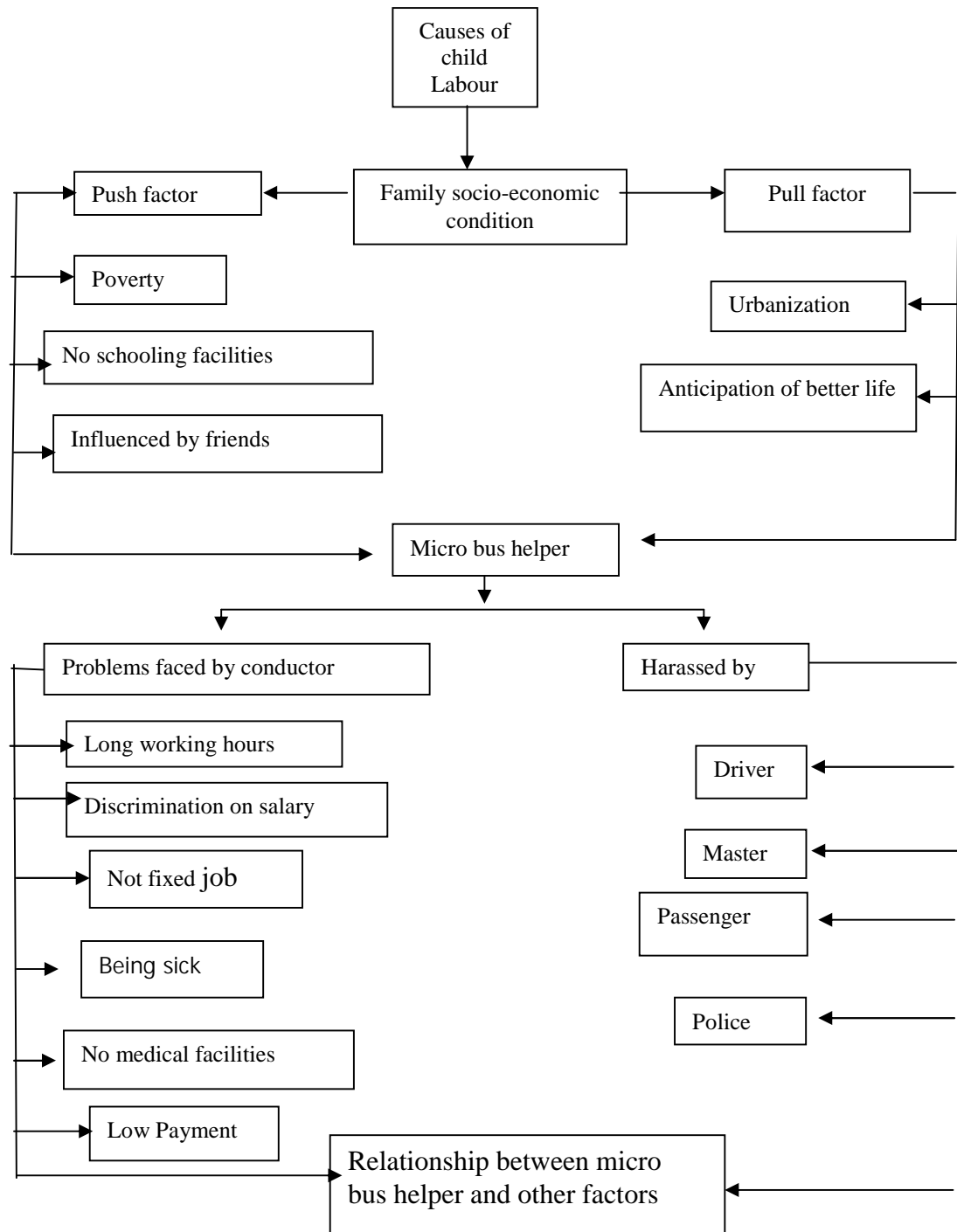
According to 2011 census, the children population in age group 0-14 years is 92,48,246 which is 34.9 percent of the country's total population. Where 47,14,763 are male and remaining 45,33,483 are female. Most of the children whose age is 10-14 years are economically active but they do not get basic facilities and their condition is very miserable.

Not all work done by children should be classified as child labor that is to be targeted for elimination. Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as being something positive. This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and to the welfare of their families; they provide them with skills and experience, and help to prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

2.7 Conceptual framework

Based on the review of literature made above the following conceptual framework is designed for this study.

Figure 2: Conceptual framework



(Source: Child labor in safa tempo at Kathmandu valley, Anil Jabegu, p.24, figure No. 2.1)

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals about the procedures adopted for the present study. It describes research design, selection of the study area, nature and sources of data, sample size, tools of data collection (interview) and method of data analysis. The research design of the study

3.1 Research design

The research design of the study is descriptive in nature. Descriptive design has been adopted to describe the experience of the child labor. It has tried to describe socio economic condition, demography and working condition of micro bus child laborers.

3.2 Study area

The study was carried out in different parts of Kathmandu city of Kathmandu district. For the present study, Panga Dobato of Kirtipur, Kalanki buspark and Ratnapark from Kathmandu city was chosen because that place are center root of micro bus and found more children's.

3.3 Nature and source of data

This study is based on both primary and secondary data. The data needed or this study has been derived mainly from primary sources during the field survey with the help of schedule questionnaire. This is the main component of the study. And the secondary data are obtained from different sources such as books, journal, report, magazines and other sources.

3.4 Sample size

The data are generated by using non-probability sampling technique. Out of the total child laborers employed in micro bus of Kathmandu, only 125 samples of child workers were selected purposively.

3.5 Tools and data collection

For the study, data has collected through direct interview method. Interview was conducted using semi structure questionnaire. All the questionnaires were pre-coded. Among the questionnaires most of are structured question and some are unstructured or open ended questionnaires.

3.6 Method of data analysis

The collected primary data were analyzed using SPSS software of the computer. Data was tabulated under the different headings and subheadings, according to the objective of the research. Data are presented in the form of table.

3.7 Operational definition

Micro bus helper:

The term “Helper “ implies personal assistance of a driver who is employed for helping the driver, collecting fares, calling passenger, checking and washing the vehicle and minor repairs of the vehicles who is popularly known as Khalashi in local term. Here conductor helper of micro bus and Khalashi are used for same person.

Micro bus:

Micro bus is a four wheelers small shape public vehicle. Here blue color and white color jumbo (Hiace) are considered as a micro bus where blue color micro bus passenger seat is only 12 and 22 passenger seat in jumbo micro bus.

Child labor:

Person aged less than 18 years who work for the sake of economic benefits either for own or family survival.

Family size:

Number of members in the family.

Parent's occupation:

Type of work for livelihood taken by the family members.

Age at entering into the work:

Age from which the child involved into work.

CHAPTER FOUR

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter deals with the background features of the micro bus child laborers and their families. The analysis presented below helps to introduce demographic characteristics of Micro bus. Child labor such as their age, place of origin, family size, parental status, landholding situation and socio-economic background of the family.

4.1 Demographic characteristics

4.1.1 Distribution of interviewed child labor by age

Children are the source of inspiration and hope for society. From the child development perspective, age under the 18 is a very important period of child socialization and for the formation of the self identify and self esteem. So this situation is much striking for all in this regard. Table 1 presents the information of micro bus child labor under the different age groups.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by age

Age(in year)	Number	Percent
Below 15	34	27.2
15-17	91	72.8
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 1 reveals that 72.8 percent of child labor belongs to the age of 15-17 years and 27.2 percent of child laborers belong to lowest of child laborers below the age 15 years. It can be concluded that the high age of child laborers is 15-17 years that contains three fourth (72.8%) of the total.

4.1.2 Place of origin

People from low economic status are compelled to leave their place of origin due to various conditions through they are entirely interested. In the sectors of child laborers migration, mostly they are found to be departed from their village to town desiring to strengthen their family economic condition.

Table 2: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by place of origin

Development region	Number	Percent
Eastern	12	9.6
Central	85	68.0
Western	20	16.0
Mid- western	4	3.2
Far- western	4	3.2
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

From the survey at Kathmandu city, it was found that children were migrated to this city from all five development region. The highest 68.0 percent of child labor originated from central development region. It is followed by western development region (16%). Similarly 9.6 percent are from eastern development region and 3.2 percent are from mid western and far western development region.

4.1.3 Family size

Family is the biological and psychological unit of husband, wife & their children. Family is influenced by general socio-cultural and economic reasons. Poor families normally have higher fertility rates as well as bigger family size means hands to mouth problem, that is why, pushed the children to work into the labor market.

Table 3: Distribution of child laborers by family size

Family size	Number	Percent
0-4	7	5.6
5-9	110	88.0
10-14	8	6.4
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

In total, 88.0 percent of the micro bus conductor child labor belongs to the families having 5 to 9 members. It is followed by those child laborers (6.4%) that have 10 to 14 members in the family and 5.6 percent have 0-4 members. In my research I found lowest member is 4 and highest family member is 13. Thus, we conclude that many child labor belong to 5 to 9 members.

4.1.4 Parental status

Family is the most important and effective institution in the process of child socialization. That is why, it's very necessary to know about their family background or parental status, which are involving as a child labor in Micro bus. Table 4 presents the parents status of child laborers in Micro bus.

Table 4: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by parental status

Parents status	Number	Percent
Both living	90	72.0
Both death	1	0.8
Only father alive	16	12.8
Only mother alive	18	14.4
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

From the Table 4, it is clearly shows that the majority of child laborers (72.0%) have their both parents, alive. Only 0.8 percent children are from the family that both died,

12.8 percent children are having father only. Likewise, 14.4 percent children are having mother only.

4.1.5 Housing condition

The housing condition also determinants the health and security of a person. When the micro bus child laborers were asked about their families housing condition, most of the respondent told they have their own house. The result is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by ownership of house by their family

Own house	Number	Percent
Yes	114	91.2
No	11	8.8
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 5 shows that out of the total respondents, most of the micro bus child laborers (91.2%) families have their own house and about 8.8 percent of the child laborers families don't have their own house.

4.1.6 Step father/mother of child laborers

In family, step father and mother play vital role for causes of child ran away and their involvement in the labor because of the neglect and torture in the family. Table 6 presents distribution of child laborers according to their step father and mother.

Table 6: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by step father and mother

Step father and mother	Number	Percent
Yes	30	24.0
No	95	76.0
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 6 reveals that 24.0 percent child laborers have step father or mother. But 76.0 percent have their own father or mother or none.

4.1.7 Land sufficiency for food

Nepal is a poor country and also found poor people except some professional, business man and some land owners. So to fulfill the hand to mouth problem the children have to work.

Table 7 reveals that majority (64.8%) of the child laborers families do not have sufficient land to food the family. Only 35.2 percent child laborers reported that their families have sufficient land to food this family. Those who have not sufficient land, 33.3 percent of child labor reported that their land is only sufficient for 1-3 month, 37.0 percent reported 4-6 month, 24.7 percent reported 7-9 month and 4.9 percent reported 10-12 month.

Table 7: Distribution of child laborers by the sufficiency of land for food

Sufficient land	Number	Percent
Yes	44	35.2
No	81	64.8
Total	125	100.0
If no, number of months		
1-3 months	27	33.3
4-6 months	30	37.0
7-9 months	20	24.7
10-12 months	4	4.9
Total	81	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.1.8 Arrival in Kathmandu city

Due to different reasons like poverty, natural calamities, conflict and many others reasons the children migrated to Kathmandu city and started to work in different sectors. Some of them came with parents, friends and relative whereas some of them were run away from the house in their own way or without permission of guardians.

Table: 8 Distribution of the child labores by the person who accompanies to come to Kathmandu city

Arrival with	Number	Percent
Come with parents	17	13.6
Come with relatives	51	40.8
Come with friends	30	24.0
Run away from home	18	14.4
Neighborhood	7	5.6
Others	2	1.6
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

In the case of migration of children from their home to Kathmandu city, the Table 8 shows that majority (40.8%) came with relatives in search of better life. Similarly 24.0 percent came with friends, 14.4 percent came in Kathmandu by runaway, 13.6 percent came with parents, 5.6 came with neighborhood and 1.6 percent came in Kathmandu city with others.

4.1.9 Living status with family

Family is important for children to care and it helps to develop socio and psychological behavior. The Table 9 shows 3.2 percent children only living with family and remaining are living with others. Here, family means living with parents (father or mother or both).

Table: 9 Distribution of child labor by living with family

Living with family	Number	Percent
Yes	4	3.2
No	121	96.8
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.2 Socio-economic characteristics

This sub-chapter deals with the socio-economic aspects of the family relating to cast/ethnicity, religion, parents occupation educational status and so on.

4.2.1 Caste/Ethnic composition

Even though discrimination on the basis of caste/ethnic has been formally outlawed by the legal court of 1963, the cast still exerts a significant influenced over Nepali society. The cast composition of child labors in the study area has wide diversities..

Table 10: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by caste/ethnicity

Caste	Number	Percent
Brahman	15	12.0
Chhettri	27	21.6
Janjati	75	60.0
Dalit	5	4.0
Madhasi	3	2.4
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 10 shows that the highest 60.0 percent of child labors belong to Janjati, 21.6 percent is followed by Chhettri. Similarly 12.0 percent are Brahman. Dalit and Madhesi are below 5 percent.

4.2.2 Religious composition

Most of the people in Nepal follow Hinduism. So, the data obtain also shows more percentage of Hindu respondents. The religious composition of child laborers is shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Distribution of micro bus child labor by religion

Religion	Number	Percent
Hindu	74	59.2
Buddhist	35	28.0
Christian	14	11.2
Muslim	2	1.6
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

In Table 11 reveals that the majority 59.2 percent of the respondent are Hindus. About 28.0 percent are Buddhist, 11.2 percent are Christian and 1.6 percent is Muslim.

4.2.3 Parental education

Parental education is one of the most important factors for the children's future. It is believed that children's education starts from their home. If the parents are educated they usually try to educate their children. It is because educated people are aware of the benefit of education. Therefore illiteracy and general ignorance are perhaps the two indirect factor responsible for the wide spread use of child labor in different sectors of the country.

Table 12 reveals that 57.6 percent of micro bus child laborers both parents are illiterate, 16.0 percent are both literate, 26.4 percents father only literate. It can be concluded that more than fifty percent child laborers parents are illiterate.

Table 12: Distribution of child laborers by parental education

Parental Education	Number	Percent
Both literacy	20	16.0
Both illiteracy	72	57.6
Literate father only	33	26.4
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.2.4 Parental occupations

Parental occupation plays a vital role for the career development of children. Occupation is necessary for maintaining the quality of life. Thus the occupation of children's parents is one of the most important factors to determine the development of the children. Table 13 shows the distribution of child laborers according to the occupation of their parents.

Table 13: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by parental occupation

Occupation	Number	Percent
Agriculture	67	53.6
Service	4	3.2
Wage labor	32	25.6
Business	22	17.6
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 13 shows that the majority, i.e. 53.6 percent of respondent reported that parent's occupation are agriculture. Another 25.6 percent reported their parents do wage labor and 3.2 percent respondents parents' do service and 17.6 percent reported their parents involve in small type of business.

4.2.5 Educational status of children

Education is one of the basic rights of the children. Every child should have get chance of education. Education is very important in shaping the lives of the children, and in Nepal it is compulsory for all children up to the lower secondary level. Nevertheless, a large number of children do not attend school, as many parents cannot afford the cost of education. Table 14 shows the educational status of children who are engaged in micro bus as a labor.

Table 14: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by literacy status

Literacy status	Number	Percent
Literate	70	56.0
Illiterate	55	44.0
Total	125	100.0
Level		
Primary	34	48.6
Lower secondary	29	41.4
Secondary	7	10.0
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 14 shows that 56.0 percent child laborers are literate while only 44.0 percent are illiterate. Out of the literate child laborers 48.6 percent have completed primary level of education. About 41.4 percent have completed lower secondary level and only 10 percent of child laborers have completed the secondary level. This shows that more than half child laborers are also getting education and we conclude that the child who are involved in micro bus all are not illiterate and those who are getting education they complete only primary level education.

4.2.6 Schooling attendance status

Schooling is the very important for better life. The Table 15 shows that 94.3 percent children do not involve in school now. But 5.7 percent children are going to school still now.

Table 15: Distribution of child labor by current attendance status

Current attendance status	Number	Percent
Yes	4	5.7
No	66	94.3
Total	70	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.2.7 Reason for not going or dropping out school

Table 16 shows the highest 43.6 percent children are not involving in non schooling due the poor economic condition, 14.5 percent reported due to working load, 20 percent reported self not interested, 14.5 percent reported parents did not sent to school and 7.3 percent reported others. Thus, we conclude that many children are deprived to get education due to their parent's poor economic condition.

Table 16: Distribution of micro bus child laborers according to reasons for never-joint or dropped out from school

Reason for not going school	Number	Percent
Poor economic condition	24	43.6
Working load	8	14.5
Self not interested	11	20.0
Parents did not send school	8	14.5
Others	4	7.3
Total	55	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.2.8 Interest for further education

Survey found that many children are positive towards education. They want to go to school and have education to make better future through they are well acquitted with the importance of education in human life. They are compelled to drop-out their schooling due to various reasons. The Table 17 shows that whether micro bus child laborers are interested towards education or not.

Table 17: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by interest for further education

Interested for education	Number	Percent
Yes	12	18.2
No	54	81.8
Total	66	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

In this regard, the structured interview was able to explain attitude of micro bus child laborers towards education. About 17 percent reported that they were interested for further education, if anybody is ready to help them. On the other hand, 81.8 percent child laborers reported that they were not interested for further education.

4.2.9 Reason for living home

The migration of child labor from rural to urban areas has increased tremendously in these days due to poverty, lack of job opportunities and in the quest of having a better livelihood when agriculture income, which is the main source of income of most of villagers, is not sufficient to sustain large families. Rural families migrate to urban areas because there is hardly any employment opportunity in the villages. This is to say, some of children come in the urban areas along with their family members.

Children are normally under the protection of their parents/ family members who help to provide their basic needs such as food, shelter, leisure, affection, education etc. When the guardians/parents become unable to fulfill their responsibilities due to various reasons, children run away from their home without the consent of their parents/ family members.

Table 18: Distribution of child labor by reasons for leaving home

Leaving home	Number	Percent
Family poverty	43	34.4
Influenced by friends	38	30.4
Family will	16	12.8
Displaced due to conflict	10	8.0
Run away	2	1.6
Others	16	12.8
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The Table 18 shows that, the main reasons for leaving home were family poverty that accounts for 34.4 percent. This is followed by influence by friends 34.4 percent, 12.8

percent by family will, displaced due to conflict is 8.0 percent, 1.6 percent by run away and others (12.8%) also made up important causes for leaving home.

4.2.10 First age of leaving home

Child labor who are engaged in Micro bus. They left home in different ages. Table 19 shows that 46.4 percent of child laborers first age of leaving home is 8-13 years and 53.6 percent of child labor at the age of 14-16.

Table 19: Distribution of micro bus child laborers first age of leaving home

First age of leaving home	Number	Percent
8-13	58	46.4
14-16	67	53.6
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.2.11 Parents behaviors during home

Parents' behavior is a very important to children for leave home. Table 20 shows that, 72.0 percent of the respondent experienced good behavior on them, 24.8 percent experienced normal behaviors whereas only 3.2 percent respondent reported that bad behaviors of parents during home which compelled them to leave home.

Table 20: Distribution of child laborers by parent's behavior at home

Behavior of parents	Number	Percent
Good	90	72.0
Normal	31	24.8
Bad	4	3.2
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.2.12 Family contact

Table 21 shows that the distribution of child laborers according to family contact after joining the job in micro bus. The Table shows that about less than fifty percent the child laborers parents (i.e. 44.8%) visited them after joining jobs in micro bus and rest more than fifty percent (i.e.55.2%) have not visited them. Among them, some are currently joined. This job and some are escaped from home and their parents don't know about them.

Table 21: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by family contact

Parents visiting	Number	Percent
Yes	56	44.8
No	69	55.2
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

4.2.13 Time duration

After arriving in Kathmandu city, the children in general search job for survival. Some of them have contact to their friends and relation for job and some of them get job with their own effort. The Table 22 presents the duration of the child as since as how long have been in micro bus.

Table 22: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by duration of time

Duration of time	Number	Percent
Before 6 months	80	64.0
6-12 months	17	13.6
13-18 months	12	9.6
19-24 months	14	11.2
Above 24	2	1.6
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The Table 22 shows that most of the child workers (64.0%) have been working as a conductor before 6 month, 13.6 percent child labor are 6-12 months, 1.6 percent children's are staying in this city above 24 months.

4.2.14 Mistreatment/Abuse

In the question about mistreatment /abuse, 72.8 percent of children states that they have been mistreat. The proportion of mistreatment is higher (72.8%). Only 27.2 percent children do not face any mistreatment behavior.

Table 23: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by mistreating/ abuse

Mistreating	Number	Percent
Yes	91	72.8
No	34	27.2
Total	125	100.0
Harassed by		
Driver	18	19.8
Passenger	38	41.8
Others	35	38.5
Total	91	100.0
Types of mistreat		
Too much work	10	10.9
No food/ not providing money on time	7	7.7
Abuse verbally	70	76.9
Others	4	4.4
Total	91	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 23 shows that drivers, passengers and others are harassed to children. About 41.8 percent children are harassed by passenger, 38.5 percent are harassed by others (traffic police, owner, local boys, and senior friends) and 19.8 percent are mistreated by driver. When they are asked about types of mistreatment 10.9 percent children explained about the heavy work, 76.9 percent children are abused verbally, 7.7 percent children explained that they do not get money on time and 4.4 percent children are abused by other factors.

CHAPTER FIVE

WORKING AND HEALTH CONDITIONS

This chapter deals with the working conditions and environment of child laborers. This chapter also deals with the health conditions of children and food availability and sleeping places.

5.1 Working condition

Child labor engaged in micro bus work with no written employment agreement between the employer and employee. They generally have to work long hours and excess work load which affects the children's physical and mental condition.

5.1.1 Working hours

Table 24 shows that 21.6 percent of the child labors have to work for 10-13 hours and 78.4 percent of the child labor has to work for 14-17 hour.

Table 24: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by working hours

Working hour	Number	Percent
10-13	27	21.6
14-17	98	78.4
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.2 Off time or Holiday

From the Table 25, it is found that most of the children are involved in 10-17 hours per day.

Table 25: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by off time/holiday

Holidays	Number	Percent
Yes	78	62.4
No	47	37.6
Total	125	100.0
Holiday in Dashain and Tihar		
Yes	46	36.8
No	79	63.2
Total	125	100.0
Get salary for holiday		
Yes	0	0
No	125	100.0
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 25 shows that 62.4 children get free time or holiday and rest of them 36.6 replied that they did not get rest time or holiday. Children's are working on monthly basis, daily basis and even tip basis (as certain hour). When they were asked about holiday in a week for free time, most of them told it depends upon conductor needs. Similarly they are asked about getting holidays for Dashain and Tihar, 63.2 percent children's say no and remaining 36.8 percent children's say 'yes' but it is also depend on their interest . And no one can get salary in holiday.

5.1.3 Perception towards job

Among the total respondent, more than one-half (51.2%) of the children expressed their satisfaction with their present working life. The reason behind their satisfaction were family poverty, must have to work for their livelihood, death of earning family members etc, about 48 percent are not satisfied with their job. The reason for dissatisfied over jobs is presented in Table 26.

Among the dissatisfaction of their current job, most of the children 63.9 percent reported that they are dissatisfied with too much work, 14.8 percent are complaining

that they have low salary, 13.1 percent reported no chance of study and 8.2 percent complaining

Table 26: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by perception towards current job

Current job perception	Number	Percent
Yes	64	51.2
No	61	48.8
Total	125	100.0
Reason for dissatisfaction		
Not chance of study	8	13.1
Low salary	9	14.8
Too much work	39	63.9
Others	5	8.2
Total	61	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.4 Previous work experience

Some child labors are newly involved in this work and some have work in other sectors before coming in this micro bus. The Table 27 shows that 29.6 percent have the experience of other sectors and 70.4 percent children's have no experience in previous work.

Table 27: Distribution of child labor by previous work experience

Previous work experience	Number	Percent
Yes	37	29.6
No	88	70.4
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.5 Reason for leaving last job

A question on reason for leave last job was asked to all the respondents (who had worked before) to know the perception about their previous work. The main reason for leave last job is due to heavy work and difficulty. The Table 28 shows that 40.5 percent leave due to heavy work, 24.3 percent leave due to difficulty, and 16.2 are not interested, and 13.5 percent are due to beating of their owner and 5.4 percent due to verbal abuse.

Table 28: Distribution of child labor by reason for leaving last job

Reason for leaving last job	Number	Percent
Difficult	9	24.3
Heavy work	15	40.5
Not interest	6	16.2
Beating	5	13.5
Verbal abuse	2	5.4
Total	37	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.6 Health status of micro bus child laborers

Health is wealth for everybody. Good health is the most essential part of life in every human being. An unhealthy person can do nothing to his/her family and country as well. So in the case of study of human beings, it is necessary to know about their health condition. Table 29 shows the health condition of micro bus child laborers.

Table 29: Distribution of child laborers according to types of illness during work

Illness	Number	Percent
Yes	96	76.8
No	29	23.2
Total	125	100.0
Types of illness		
Cold	20	21.3
Cough	12	12.8
Hand pain	8	8.5
Head ache	36	38.3
Throat pain	16	17.0
Fever	2	2.1
Total	94	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 29 reveals that the majority of child laborers 76.8 percent, suffered illness during work while 23.2 percent respondents reported they have not become illness during work, because they are currently joined the present job. Many child laborers are suffered from different disease. According to Table, 17.0 percent respondents reported that they were suffered from throat pain during work. Similarly 38.3 percent suffered from headache, 21.3 percent respondents suffered from coldness, 12.8 percent respondents suffered from coughs, 8.5 percent respondents suffered from hand pain. Only 2.1 percent suffered from fever. So we conclude that most of child laborers illness problem is headache.

5.1.7 Reason for illness or injury

Health is one of the fundamental rights of the children but due to the poverty they are involved in 3D (difficult, dangerous and dirty) work. The Table 30 shows that about 33 percent children reported that the reasons for illness or injury is pollution, 30.4 percent children told about too much wok, 22.9 percent children reported that coldness is the man problem of illness and only 4.2 percent children told about other reason.

Table 30: Distribution of child labors by reason for illness or injury

Reason for illness	Number	Percent
Too much work	33	30.4
Coldness	22	22.9
Pollution	32	33.3
Others	4	4.2
Total	96	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.8 Have bad habit

Habit is an important thing for human life. It is affected by social environment for good or bad habit. It is found that social environment of micro bus boys are not good. About 45 percent of them have bad habit and 54.4 percent of them have no bad habit. Out of them 54 percent used to alcohol, 28 percent play cards and 17.6 percent of them used to smoke.

Table 31: Distribution for child labor by bad habit

Bad habit	Number	Percent
Yes	57	45.6
No	68	54.4
Total	125	100.0
Types of bad habit		
Alcohol	31	54.4
Playing cards	16	28.0
Smoking	10	17.6
Total	57	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.9 Mode of payment

The salary scale of micro bus boys is very low in the proportion of their working hours a day. As informed by them most of the employer are involved both daily salary and monthly wage and remaining are involved in either daily salary or monthly salary. The Table 32 shows that 67.2 percent are getting salary in both monthly and daily, 16.8 percent are getting in monthly, 14.4 percent are getting in daily and 1.6 percent are getting in other ways (per hour in tip).

Table 32: Distribution of child laborers by mode of payment

Paying system	Number	Percent
Daily salary	18	14.4
Monthly	21	16.8
Both	84	67.2
Others	2	1.6
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.10 Monthly earning

Money is an important to fulfill basic needs and other activities. Children's who are involved in micro bus, their salary is very low. Some children are found working only for food and accommodation with little money along with these children provided some pocket money however amount is not fixed. It depends on employer bargaining.

Table 33: Distribution of child laborers by salary in month

Salary in month (RS)	Number	Percent
1000 -2000	32	25.6
3000-4000	45	36.0
5000-6000	48	38.0
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

The Table 33 shows that 38.0 percent children salary is 5000-6000, 36percent children salary is 3000-4000 and 25percent children salary is 1000-2000. Children who are involved in long time in this job and who knows the driver/owner/senior boy, their salary is high whereas those who are involved in this field just now, their salary is low and some children do not work monthly continuously that's why their salary is low.

5.1.11 Saving

The Table 34 shows that 63.2 percent children do not save money because they spent their for food, clothes, shelter, entertainment, health care etc and 36.8 percent children save the money because some of them live with the driver, parents and relatives.

Table 34: Distribution of child laborers by saving

Save money	Number	Percent
Yes	46	36.8
No	79	63.2
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.12 Helping and solving problem during illness

At attempt was made to know about the person who supported financially and other human help during the sickness and other problem faced by respondent child laborers.

Table 35: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by the helped and solving problem during illness

Helping in illness	Number	Percent
Employer	87	90.6
Parents	3	3.1
Friends	2	2.1
None	2	2.1
Others	2	2.1
Total	96	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Table 35 shows that majority of micro bus child laborers 90.6 percent reported that if they suffered from illness then employer helps them. Another 3.1 percent reported that they get help from their parents and 2.1 percent reported that they get help from friends or other person and none.

5.1.13 Daily food intake

Food is the basic needs of all human beings. Without proper and good food health of the children may be worst. Table 36 shows that the majority of micro bus child laborers 91.2 percent reported they get enough food. Only 8.8 percent reported they do not get enough food.

Table 36: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by food condition

Daily food intake	Number	Percent
Yes	114	91.2
No	11	8.8
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.14 Place of sleeping

Place of sleeping is very important to take rest at night as well as day. Children's need separate room but they have not got it. Some of them sleep in the bus, some on the floor, some on bed .The Table 37 shows that 48.8 percent children sleep on the floor, 44.8 percent sleep on bed and rest of 6.4 percent children sleep on the seat of the bus.

Table 37: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by sleeping place

Place of sleeping	Frequency	Percent
On the floor	61	48.8
On the bed	56	44.8
On the seat of bus	8	6.4
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.15 Entertainment

Entertainment is also one of the fundamental rights of children. Most of the children are getting chance for entertainment by various sources T.V., cinema, radio, cassette, and travelling, using mobile are the main sources of entertainment of child laborers. Table 38 shows that the majority of micro bus child laborers, 28.9 percent are reported that their main source of entertainment is cinema, 24.8 percent reported travelling while 19.8 percent reported radio/cassette and 18.2 percent reported that they get entertainment by talking, 5.0 percent told mobile and 3.3 percent reported that TV is the source of entertainment.

Table 38: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by their source of entertainment

Source of entertainment	Number	Percent
TV	4	3.3
Cinema	35	28.9
Radio/cassette	24	19.8
Travel	30	24.8
Talking	22	18.2
Mobile	6	5.0
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.16 Preference of micro

Child laborers are from different districts and remote areas. They are engaged in micro bus to settle their personal problems. Their preference is different to each other. Some wants to give continuity to their works, some others wants go back to their home and some wants to join alternate job for more benefit and income.

Table 39 shows that most of the children laborers, 51.2 percent want to continue the present work while 17.6 percent respondents reported that wants to join alternative job for better expectation. And 24.0 percent respondents reported that they want go back to home because of various causes.

Table 39: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by their preference

Preference	Number	Percent
Go back to home	30	24.0
Continue this work	64	51.2
Join alternative work	22	17.6
Others	9	7.2
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.17 Future ambition of child laborers

Different people have their own ambition so as child labor have also their own future ambition. Table 40 shows that 48.0 percent child labor reported that they want to be a driver in the future, 34.4 percent want to go abroad, 8.0 percent want to involve in business , 4.8 percent child labor told they don't know, 3.2 percent want to learn and 1.6 percent want back to home for re study.

Table 40: Distribution of micro bus child laborers future ambition

Future ambition	Number	Percent
To be driver	60	48.0
To go abroad	43	34.4
Learn	4	3.2
Don't know	6	4.8
Business	10	8.0
Back to home for re study	2	1.6
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

5.1.18 Knowledge of child rights

Nowadays Nepal also concerns the right of child. It is the main issue in the present days. Many NGO/INGO/Go give more concern about child right. Many law and plan have been made about child rights. The following table shows children's knowledge about the child rights. Table 41 shows that most of the child laborers (63.2%) have not any knowledge of child right while rest 36.8 percent respondent have knowledge about the child rights.

Form the Table, 43.5 percent children reported child right is a 'respect to child', 21.7 percent children told the answer of 'our right'. Similarly 17.4 percent children said the 'right to learn', 8.7 percent children reported 'freedom' and 'providing food and education' and 'right to play' are told by 43 percent children

Table 41: Distribution of micro bus child laborers by knowledge of child rights

Knowledge of child right	Number	Percent
Yes	46	36.8
No	79	63.2
Total	125	100.0
What is child right?		
Respect to child	20	43.5
Right to learn	8	17.4
Providing food and education	2	4.3
Our right	10	21.7
Right to play	2	4.3
Freedom	4	8.7
Total	46	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDY

6.1 Summary

Child labor is a burning issue in Nepal. Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. For many children in Nepal, the workday starts early in the morning and extends late in the evening. Children are deprived from basic needs like food, education, cloths, shelter, and entertainment. They have suffered from abuse, exploitation, neglect, habilitation and disease and they are missing their normal childhood.

The existence of child labor is not a new phenomenon. Children are found to engage in almost all the sectors of employment. In Nepal, poverty, illiteracy, unhealthy and unemployment are the prevailing characteristics which are effecting each and every sectors of human lives including child, where children are forced to work and there is virtually no sector in which children are not employed. From such kind of involvement, not only they have been deprived of basic necessities but also suffered from abuse, exploitation, neglect, humiliation and disease and as a result they miss their normal childhood. However, this study is based on child laborers employed in micro bus of Kathmandu city, one of the major areas of child labor but there have been few researches and studies in this field.

The major findings of this study are summarized as follows.

- All of the respondents are under the age group of 18, maximum 72.8 percent respondent 15-17 years of age.
- Majority of the micro bus child laborers i.e. 72.0 percent have their both parents alive and only 0.8 percent followed both death only.
- Majority of the micro bus child laborers 88.0 percent are from families having in the range 5 to 9 members in the family.
- Most of the child laborers of micro bus, 76.0 percent have no step parents and the rest 24.0 percent have step parents.

- 35.2 percent of micro bus child laborers reported that they have sufficient land and 64.8 percent reported that they have no sufficient land in their village.
- The majority of child laborers of Micro bus, 91.2 percent are having house and only 8.8 percent have no own house.
- The significant percent of child laborers 72.0 percent reported that their parental behaviors are good, 24.8 percent normal and about 3.2 percent reported that have bad behavior of parents.
- Majority of the child laborers belong to different caste/ethnicity group. The highest 60 percent of child labors belong to Janjati, 21.6 percent is followed by Chhettri. Similarly 12.0 percent are Brahman. Dalit and Madhesi are below 5 percent.
- Majority of child laborers 53.6 percent reported that their parental occupation is agriculture, 24.6 percent parents are wage labor, and 3.2 percent are engaged in services.
- Overall majority of micro bus child laborers 59.2 percent are Hindu, 28.0 percent are Buddhist, 1.6 percent are Muslim and 11.2 percent Christian.
- The majority of the child laborers 56.0 percent are literate and 44.0 percent are found as illiterate. Among them 48.0 percent have attended primary education, 41.4 percent have lower secondary and 10 percent have secondary education.
- A considerable majority 18.2 percent reported that they were interested for further education, if anybody is ready to help them.
- About 43.0 percent child laborers left school due to poor economic condition; 14.5 percent because of working load while 20.0 percent left school because of their unwillingness and for 14.5 percent parents did not send to school.
- Most of the child laborers 51.2 percent are satisfied with the work while 48.8 percent child are not satisfied because of low salary, not chance of study, too much hard work and rude employer.

- About 62 percent micro bus child laborers get rest time as holiday while 37.6 percent don't get it.
- Child laborers are engaged in this sector for income. About 25 percent are paid Rs.1000-2000 per month, and another 36.0 percent are paid Rs.3000-4000, and 38.0 percent get 5000-6000.
- Three fourth of the child laborers 76.8 suffered from illness during work and 23.2 percent reported they have not been illness during work. Those who suffer from illness they have the problem of the head ache i.e 38.3 percent.
- About 90 percent child laborers are helped by employer during the illness.
- About 91 percent micro bus child laborers get enough food but 8.8 percent children do not get proper food.
- More than 50 percent (54.4percent) children have no bad habit but less than 50 percent (45.6 percent) have bad habit. Among them who have bad habit they already use to alcohol which is more than 50 percent(54.4 percent)
- Most of the child laborers 48.8 percent sleep on the floor, 44.8 percent are on the bed and 6.4 percent are on the seat of the bus.
- Majority of micro bus child laborers 63.2 percent do not know about the child right while 36.8 percent know about child rights among them who know about child right, 43.5 percent say 'respect to child' is a child right.

6.2 Conclusions

The extreme household poverty is the leading cause of child labor in general and micro bus child laborers in particular. However, other factors like large family size, lack of schooling facility, process of modernization, migration, family disharmony, lack of proper love and care etc. contribute children to enter into labor market from their early age.

In Nepal, every sectors of employment do not act from child workers and gradually this trend has been growing. The present study shows child laborers in micro bus working under hazardous and exploitative condition as well as unhealthy working

environment. As the study explored, a majority of children have preferred work than education because they failed to distinguish between the two. This is where awareness has failed on the other hand; it was found that, children have to support their family due to the poor economic condition. As a result, they have to leave school or they cannot go to study.

Most of the families of the child laborers are depended on the agriculture even through majority of them are unable to survive upon it. On the other hand, they have not sufficient land to cultivate. There are very few opportunities and struggle for existence among poor families is bound to create frustration and tensions within the family. As an ultimate choice, parents are under compulsion to let their children go anywhere that offers at least food and shelter. As a result children come with friends, neighborhood of the village or run away from home to search a job. Sometimes, not only children but also the family migrates for work from one place to another place. Such family cannot survive easily in the city, which leads to compromise their children work in micro bus in nominal wages.

At last it is conducted that the child workers in micro bus are one of the worst forms of child labor. It is not only the extreme household poverty but also parent's illiteracy, lack of schooling facilities, lack of employment opportunities and weak legal enforcement are also the contribution factors for children to be engaged on such labor.

The necessity of today is, to protect working children from exploitation abuses, improper influence, illiteracy, ignorance and hazardous condition to develop their physical mental, social and moral development.

Generally, in most of the studies, illiterate child worker are found more than the literate child workers. But, in my case study, I found vice-versa.

6.3 Recommendation for further study

Many articles, reports, thesis and books have been written on the area of child laborers. But there is a huge gap in the research as child labor in micro bus, and more research is needed in this topic. The results of this study do not cover the situation of micro bus child laborers in all urban centers in Nepal. The study therefore should be conducted in additional urban centers with different characteristics to help understand overall attributes and incidents of micro bus child laborers in urban Nepal.

Even in the study area, the information from the side of the parents of micro bus child laborers has not been explored. Detailed information like attitudes and perceptions of parents and employers are necessary to invoke the reality behind the cause of being child laborers. So future research should be focused on the information from the side of parents, too.

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION STUDIES
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL

CHILD LABOUR SITUATION IN NEPAL
(A CASE STUDY OF THE MICRO BUS CONDUCTOR OF KATHMANDU CITY)

Serial Number of Respondent: _____
 Name of the Child: _____
 Route: _____
 Place of interview: _____
 Date of interview: _____

Place of working: _____
 Caste/Ethnicity: _____
 Religion: _____
 Completed Age: _____
 Time _____

Questionnaire

Group A: Family Background

S.N.	Questions	Response Category	Code	Code Skip
1	How many members are in your family?	_____		
2	Do you have your parents?	Both living Both death..... Only father alive Only mother alive	1 2 3 4	
3	Do you have step father/mother?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
4	Number of siblings?	No. of brothers..... No. of sisters.....		
5	What is the main source of income of your family?	Agriculture Service..... Wage labour..... Business Foreign employment..... Others _____	1 2 3 4 5	
6	Is it sufficient land to feed food for your family?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	08
7	If no, how many months, it's sufficient?	1-3 months..... 4-6 months..... 7-9 months..... 10-12 months.....	1 2 3 4	
8	Does your family have own house?	Yes No.....	1 2	
9	What was your parent's behavior towards you when you were in home?	Good..... Normal..... Bad.....	1 2 3	

Group B: Educational Status

10	Are your parents literate?	Both literate Both illiterate Literate father only..... Literate mother only.....	1 2 3 4	
11	Have you ever gone to school?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	13
12	If yes, then up to which class did you pass?	Class _____		
13	If not, why did not you join school?	Poor economic condition..... Working load..... Self not interested School is too year Parents did not sent to school..... Other (specify) _____	1 2 3 4 5 6	
14	Are you going to school now?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	16
15	If no, do you want to rejoin the school now?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	

Group C: Reason for leaving home

16	Which district is your place of birth?	_____		
17	If this district where is your birth place?	Town..... VDC.....		
18	Who have come with you have?	Come with parents..... Come with relatives..... Come with friends..... Run away from home..... Others _____	1 2 3 4	
19	Where is your family living now?(District)	_____		
20	Are you living with your family?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	22
21	With whom are you staying?	Friend..... Brother..... Sister..... Alone..... Other specific _____	1 2 3 4	
22	How old were you when you left your house first time?	Specify _____		
23	How long have you been living in this municipality?	Specify _____		
24	What is the main reason of leaving home?	Family poverty Influence by friends Family's will..... Expectation of better life..... Displaced due to conflict Run away..... Others _____	1 2 3 4 5 6	
25	Do you parents visit you?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
26	Have you visit home after join this job?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
27	Is your family happy with you?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	

Group D: Working Condition at work

28	Did you work elsewhere?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	30
29	If yes, why did you leave the last job?	_____		
30	How many hours you have to work per day?	_____		
31	What O' Clock you start a work?	_____		
32	What O' Clock you finish a work?	_____		
33	Do you get rest time?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
34	How many hours do you get rest time during a day?	Half hour..... One hour..... One and half hour..... Two hours..... Others _____	1 2 3 4	
35	Do you get a holiday in a week?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
36	Do you get a holiday in a Dashain and Tihar?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
37	Do you get a Salary of holiday?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	

38	Are you satisfied with this work?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	40
39	If not why?	Not chance of study..... Low salary Too much work..... Others	1 2 3	
40	What do you like most regarding this work?		
41	What do you dislike most regarding this work?		
42	How do you get pay?	Daily salary..... Monthly Both..... Others	1 2 3	
43	How much money do you get in a month?		
44	Do you save the money?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
45	How do you spend your earned money?	Lodging..... Fooding..... Dress..... Healthcare..... Entertainment..... All of the above.....	1 2 3 4 5 6	
46	Are you harassed by someone?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	49
47	If yes by Whom?	Driver..... Master..... Police..... Passenger..... Others	1 2 3 4	
48	What does he make you?	Want to too much work..... No food/locked inside..... Pay poorly..... Abuse sexually..... Abuse verbally..... Others	1 2 3 4 5	
49	Does you face any kinds of sexual harassment since working here?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	51
50	If yes how?		
51	Does your driver mistreat to you?	Yes No.....	1 2	53
52	If yes, what type of mistreat?	Scolding Slapping..... Severe beating..... Others (specify)	1 2 3	
53	Does your master mistreat to you?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	55
54	If yes, what type of mistreat?	Scolding Slapping..... Severe beating..... Others (specify).....	1 2 3	

Group E: Health Condition

55	Have you ever been illness/injury associated with your occupation?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	60
56	If yes, from what type of illness/ injury?	Specify		
57	What was the reason for illness injury?	Too much work..... Coldness..... Hotness..... Pollution..... Others (specify).....	1 2 3 4	
58	Did you have to take medical treatment to care illness/injury	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
59	Who helped in the condition?(Financial support)	Employer Parents..... Friends..... None Others.....	1 2 3 4	
60	Have you been forced to work while were you sick?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
61	Have you bad habit?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	63
62	If yes what type of?	Alcohol..... Playing Cards Smoking..... Others.....	1 2 3 4	

Group F: Food and Shelter

63	Which house do you live?	Rent house..... Master house..... Driver house..... Own house..... Others.....	1 2 3 4	
64	Do you get enough food daily?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
65	Where do you usually sleep?	Have separate room..... In the bus..... Others (specify)	1 2	
66	What is place of your sleeping?	On the floor..... On the bed..... On the sit of the bus..... Others (specify).....	1 2 3	

Group G: Entertainment

67	Do you get time to play?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
68	What is the source of your entertainment?	T.V..... Cinema..... Radio/Cassette..... Others.....	1 2 3	

Group H: Future Ambition and Preference

69	What do you prefer?	Go Back to home Continue this work..... Join alternate work..... Others.....	1 2 3	
70	What is your future ambition?	Specify.....		
71	Do you know about child rights?	Yes..... No.....	1 2	
72	If yes, what are they?	Specify.....		