

**LIVELIHOOD PATTERN OF STREET FOOD VENDORS:  
A Sociological Study of New Road and Ratna Park Area of Kathmandu**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the Central Department of Sociology  
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# CHAPTER - ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Among the different types of street vendor, large numbers of people are involved as foods vendors. They serve to the people by providing different food items with low price such as curry, tea, bread, fish, meat, mo.mo, choumin, chana chatpante etc. The street foods vendors are those people who sell pre-cooked, or cooked food on the spot can be defined as the street food vendors. Most of them come from the rural areas. Food vendors are common in many urban centres in Nepal. However, the process of its development and its combination in livelihoods are less understood. It is in this context that this study has been proposed for the study.

Generally, livelihood means the way of living of individuals and households. There are different options of livelihood. According to DFID (2001) livelihood strategies are the range and combination of activities and choices that are undertaken to achieve their livelihood goals or the way of using assets. It includes productive activities, investment strategies, reproductive choice and much more. Such choice mainly depends upon the human capital and natural capital. To some content, the choice is also shaped by the social norms and values. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with recover from stress and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future (DFID, 2001:7).

In the context of Nepal people are involve in self employed work such as agriculture, wage labour, different types of carvings, street vending of goods and services. Due to the rapid growth of population in the urban areas, many new types of livelihood options are developed. So rural people migrate to the nearest urban centre to find alternative ways to sustain their livelihood. Due to the regular movement of the people as well as lack of the employment opportunities in urban areas, they have started to engage in the different informal economic activities which use open urban resource such as street, road sides and open areas or bus park of urban areas where pedestrians flow is high (Poudel, 2013:12).

Except few modern commercial and residential areas of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, the sidewalks are lined by barbers, cobblers, vegetable vendors, fruit vendors, readymade cloth vendors, retail vendors (*Khudra/Naglo Pasale or Nagle*), tea vendors, *Chanachatpate/Panipuri/Maize (Makai)*, Chana and Badam vendors, newspapers hawkers and snack-foods vendor etc. On the street corners, even in some residential areas, there are many small kiosks or stalls that sell goods of every conceivable kind (Dahal, 2009:12).

It is natural for every country in the world that some part of that country is provided with every type of facilities as well as availability of various employment opportunities and higher living standard and this pocket of the country is categorized as “urban” sector. In the same country other parts are kept without many of these facilities and centred with limited employment opportunities with minimum subsistence level of income and is known as “rural” sector. In Nepal, nearly 82 percent of population live in rural areas while only 14 percent population living in urban areas (CBS, 2011:7). Expansion of urban population and area has no long history in Nepal. In 1971 Nepal's urban population was 3.9 percent of total population of the nation which become 6.4 percent in 1981, 9.2 percent in 1991 and 13.9 percent in 2001 with 3.23 in 1971, 7.55 in 1981, 5.89 in 1991 and 1.35 in 2011 annual growth rate (CBS, 2011:9).

The growth or expansion of the urban population has also increased the economic and commercial potentialities in the urban areas of Nepal, especially in Kathmandu valley. The increment of urban population triggered by recent political, social, economic crisis of the country, which led them to more dependent and scarcity of employment. Hence, people from different areas of nation including Kathmandu valley are involving in different economic activities within Kathmandu Metropolitan City. Some of them are involved in small – scale business informally using open resources such as street, road sides, open areas or where the pedestrians flow is high or in the different bus parks of the urban areas are known as Street Vendor. It refers to the temporary gathering of vendors of goods and services on dust at the side walk of the street, veranda and public places of the town, daily. As they are not supported by state and its institution, they are also regarded as Urban Informal Sector Entrepreneurs or Unorganized Sector. The informal

economy is seen as comprised of all forms of 'informal employment' – that is , employment without secure contracts, workers benefits, or social protection, both inside and outside informal enterprises, including self-employment in informal enterprises (small unregistered or unincorporated enterprises), and comprising of employers, own account operators, and unpaid family workers in informal enterprises (Poudel, 2013:15).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The study in livelihood is new concept in Nepal. Study on Street Vendor and their livelihood in changing urban scenario and their occupational vulnerability and sustainability is the burning issue of the modern urban morphology. Very few studies have been found on the street vendors' livelihood. So, there is need to study on the concept of livelihood strategies of street vendor within urban morphology.

Nepal is one of the least urbanized and dominantly people are residing in village. More than 80 percent of people are living in village and only about 17 percent are in urban areas (CBS, 2011:2). Subsistence type of agriculture is the dominant occupation of Nepalese society. While huge numbers of people have less productive land which is not even sufficient for their own consumption, which force them to move nearby urban centre for alternative source of income for sustaining their livelihood.

Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) is only one metropolitan city which is highly urbanized regarding other cities of the country. Population movement from various part of the nation including Kathmandu Valley to KMC is increasing day by day. But the lacking employment opportunities in KMC people try to find out different way to sustain their livelihood. And huge number of people is sustaining their livelihood by informally using urban open resources/open spaces such as roadsides, street, open areas, different Bus parks and Tampoo parks etc. So their occupation seems to without secure contracts, workers, benefits and social protection. Thus their occupation seems more vulnerable as being a street vendor. Because there is no legal and other required provision for their occupational sustainability (Poudel, 2014:18).

Beside other cities of the nation, KMC is becoming one of the major cities for such types of street activities. Except few modern residential areas most of the streets are lined by different types of street occupation. And some of the street vendors are vending their goods by carrying in cycle and other traditional mode of transportation such as Doko, carrying with Namlo, Kharpan and Thela etc. They provide materials and goods in convenient location and considerable prices for the middle and lower class residence of the KMC (Shakya and Shrestha, 2013:25).

In the recent years, due to their overwhelming or increased population and their unsystematic activities they are mainly considered as problem creators and trouble makers by many urban people and authorities. But by occupying the footpath and streets of the busy areas of the city are they really causing any great and obvious trouble and inconvenience to pedestrians, local shopkeeper and local residents and in the easy flow of traffic? Or are their effects negligible? Similarly whether the noise and dirt made by them during their business are really disturbing the local shopkeepers, local residents, pedestrians, customers and local authorities by polluting the environment of the city or whether they have left negligible effects on the environment of the city and its people? (Bhattarai, 2010:15)

But their contribution to the local residence those who are less capable for the maintaining their necessities and requirement for their family and their livelihood, and their contribution to boost up national economy is still negligible by the nation. When a locally self-sufficient community no longer remains so, then ups and downs evolve, and its members are compelled to change their livelihood strategies. The street vendor community of KMC is also changing their livelihood strategies with on going development process. Regular increment of population in KMC and their interest on street goods and materials (because of cheaper and reliable prices) cased boosting up street occupation. These are the issues of great concerns arising at present in the urban society with regards street vendors. But these issues have yet not analyzed properly (Paneru, 2014:12).

The vendors are from different caste, ethnicity and religious background and socio-economic background of the vendors is diverse. Some vendors have changed socio-economic condition by the vending. Due to the limited skill and low access to the resources majority of the vendors are occupying footpaths and streets of the busy city areas. In the absence of planned development the street food vendors cause troubles to pedestrians, local shopkeepers and local residents by displaying their selling goods and materials in the busy flow of traffic. They are also blaming for making noise and garbage during their business unlimitedly whole urban environment. Definitely, all the seasons and months are not favourable for the street occupation. So the income is not equal in all seasons what the level of income of the foods vendors is and its seasonality are important aspects. The vendors have also other problems which are facing now. The problem may be the air pollution, noise pollution and social problems. In this context some relevant research questions relate to the study of street snack vendors are as follows.

- a) What is the socio-economic background of street food vendors?
- b) What is the livelihood pattern of street food vendors?
- c) What are the problems being faced by street food vendors?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objectives of the study are to discuss the livelihood pattern of street snack vendors in Kathmandu-metropolitan city. The specific objectives of the study are as follow:

- a) To find out the socio-economic background of street food vendors;
- b) To explore the livelihood pattern of street food vendors
- c) To find out the problems being faced by street food vendors.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The haphazard development of vending shop has threatened the urban ecology and environmental quality of the city. Maintaining city environmental quality is one of the priorities of balanced development of the city as whole. The conservationist should have

some insight into the relative condition of existing vendor activities for formulization plan and policies for solving the environmental problem of city.

The study is necessary to provide employments opportunities by exploring different livelihood options on the one hand and maintain environmental quality of the urban centres on the others. The results of this study will provide basis for the development of urban centres and people in sustained way. Thus, this study is helpful theoretically as well as empirically significance to the forthcoming researcher, government agencies and the community who are interested to accumulate knowledge of the street food vendors.

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

This dissertation is organized into different chapters with different dealings. The organization of this dissertation paper is presented as follows:

Chapter first gives introduction of the study. Similarly, objectives, statement of the problem, significance and organization of the study are included under this chapter.

Chapter second deals about the literature review focusing on the street vending and their livelihood pattern.

Chapter third is organized on methodology of the study. Methodology includes the study area, sample population, selection procedure, questionnaire design, and data analysis procedure.

Chapter fourth included socio-economic characteristics of street food vendors, which includes age and sex structure, family size, marital status, educational status, caste and ethnic group, assets of origin place, previous occupations, income vulnerability context of street food vendors, problem of the street food vendors and occupational sustainability.

Chapter fifth is the conclusive chapter. It gives the summary, findings and conclusion of the thesis.

## **CHAPTER - TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

People have different ways to adopt with their local environment in the different part of the world. Different models and approaches have been developed to address the issues adoptative livelihood pattern. Sustainable livelihood approach has been discussed by different scholars.

The Sustainable Livelihood (SL) idea was first introduced by the Brundtland Commission on Environment and Development as a way of linking socioeconomic and ecological consideration in a cohesive policy-relevant structure. The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) expanded the concept, especially in the context of Agenda 21, and advocated for the achievement of sustainable livelihoods as a broad goal for poverty eradication. It stated that sustainable livelihoods could serve as 'an integrating factors that allows policies to address 'development, sustainable resource management, and poverty eradication simultaneously' (UNDP. Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods: A Briefing Note Submitted to the Executive Committee, June 4, 1997; quoted in Krantz, 2001: 6).

Most of the discussion regarding SL so far has focused on rural areas or situation and marginalized or disadvantaged communities where people are farmers or make a living from some kind of primary self-managed production. In a classic 1992 paper, "Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Practical Concepts for the 21st Century", Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway proposed the following composite definition of a sustainable rural livelihood: (quoted in Krantz, 2001: 6)

"A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation: and which



contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term".

The sustainable livelihood approach comprises two elements: the sustainable livelihoods guiding principles and the sustainable livelihood framework. And these guiding principles are important for sustainable livelihood approach which is as follows;

- ) Put people at the centre of development (people-centred),
- ) Adopts a *holistic* view, including multiple actors and working across sectors, geographical areas and social groups,
- ) Seeks to understand the *dynamic* nature of livelihoods and the influences upon them,
- ) Tries to *build on the peoples' strengths* and opportunities, rather than focusing on their problems and needs,
- ) Emphasis the importance of *macro-micro* links and seeks to understand them.
- ) Points out the importance of *sustainability* to poverty reduction.

A livelihood comprises of capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term (Chambers and Conway, 1992:15).

They point out three interlinked concepts, equity and sustainability as the fundamental for sustainable livelihood. In addition, they further note that, each of them are both an end and means of sustainable livelihood. Capability refers to ability of an individual or household to cope with stresses and shocks and ability to find and make use of livelihood opportunities. Likewise, quality implies a less unequal distribution make use of livelihood opportunities. Likewise, quality implies a less unequal distribution of assets, capabilities and opportunities. The concept of equity place especial concern of the

enhancement of the most deprived ones, coming at ending the discrimination of any kind. Furthermore, sustainability refers to self sufficiency and self reliance.

## **2.2 Review of Empirical Studies**

One studies in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. On the street food vendors found out that rate of increasing urbanization had led to rapid growth of the street food vendor industry, but this sector is still treated as the informal sector in many countries (FAO Report, 2007). Therefore realizing there socio-economic and nutritional significance as well as their potential for health hazards, they strongly recommended that national authorities take early steps to recognize and upgrade its industry. They concluded that these street food vendors are as partners in urban food supply system. Therefore this report focused the direction of the research in the context of Nepal that has recently taken few steps in this field.

The order of the supreme court on more street food in New Delhi highlighted the issue of banning the street food vendor in New Delhi City in India (Batra, 2007). The study put the case that due to globalization of the world every city and town is marked by the overwhelming presence of the informal economy. Hawker and street vendor are the visible sector of the informal sector of the economy. The study pointed out that 93% of the Indian's work force is in the unorganized sector, which account for 63% of the country's GDP. Therefore there is dearth of the reliable data on the prevalence in the informal sector in urban areas. The study pointed out that the different studies which put this number at 65% in small towns to 46% in million plus cities. In any case, one can safely assume that over the workforce in urban area is earning livelihood in informal sector. Among them 15% are the street food vendors. Similarly she puts further that in New Delhi among the 40%, only 22% are employed in the organized sector where as there is no official data but figure round up between 3 to 4 lakhs working in the informal sector activities in the city. The study showed unlike many Master Plans of New Delhi have repeatedly made the provision for accommodating and regularizing hawker and vendor but there has been little effort on the part of the authorities to effective implement these provisions. There in this context the recent Supreme Court order banning cooked

street food in capital with the view to beautify the city for Common Wealth Games 2010. This is like punishing the victim instead of the perpetrator. There the report tried to emphasize that at the time when the economy has stopped creating jobs despite the entire noise about the 8% growth rate, the court order is bound to add a few lakh more to the list of the unemployed. Not only that it will kill the 500 year old great culinary tradition of street food of Delhi beside making the city further unsafe. Significantly, the order comes at a time when the government is considering allowing 100% FDI in retail selling of commercial units, removal of hawkers has the highest court of land put its weight firmly behind the Reliances, Walmart and McDonalds of world (Batra, 2007).

Sheik and Thomas, (2008:27) conducted a study on food choice of adolescents in relation to eating habits. Comparison was made between Asian and British originated adolescent. They found out that the food preference varies according to the age group and new types of style in food are characteristics of younger people. According to the study the images of food and dishes among Japanese female (above 12 year) children and adolescents have very different food preference. It was founded out that the age group between 9-18 years old prefer foods and fast food and in other hand it was found out that Asian were found eating more of Indian style and vegetarian food in fast food outlets as compared to other groups. Therefore the study concluded that the choice of food total depends upon the age group and the place of origin too.

Poudel (2013:28) studied small petty vendors and their activities in Pokhara town. His study analyzed the spatial distribution pattern of foot-path shops, its seasonal variation, and composition of goods sold and the socio-economic status of foot-path vendors. He selected 132 samples from five different locations of the centre and surrounding areas of Pokhara. He considered 15 items related to the foot-path shops including vegetables. He found out the representation of the vegetable seller occupied the highest position accounting for 19% of the total shops, he concluded that there is seasonal variation of the grocery shops.

Dahal (2009:34) studied the activities of the small entrepreneur in cities of Kathmandu-metropolitan. He stated that street hawkers were serving the poor and middle classes

people of the city and its peripheries selling varieties of good at relatively cheaper prices than register shopkeepers. At the same time the hawkers self employed being were assisting the government in solving the problem of unemployment and alleviating poverty. On the one hand, they were making unnecessary noise and dirt which disturbed the pedestrian and local residents, and considering them as the agent to worsen the look of the city beauty. He showed that some of the hawker was also being suffering from problems from pedestrians, customers and local authorities affecting their business. The author concluded that they are also important part of the city growth and suggested that instead of banning them, they should be rehabilitated or shifted to some other parts of the city.

Bhattarai (2010:24) has studied on Rickshaw Pulling as a way of earning livelihood, Birtamod in Jhapa. This research shows that a significant numbers of people within and out of country have got opportunity for sustaining their livelihood, besides the local people. But due to the high illiteracy, ignorance and downtrodden status they take very little interest on social events that take place in and around society. They move from their places of origin in search of employment opportunities in urban centres. At last, they end up being involved in various type of wage work (labour) a daily basis from early morning to late evening. Likewise 50 percent spouses are involved in other wage labour occupation and businesses. Due to lack of good infrastructure, Rickshaw Pullers face problem in their daily professional work. Most of them failed to manage and utilize their income property despite reasonable daily income. So, the livelihood strategies of Rickshaw Pullers have been found that there are no such better strategies of life. They spend life just on “earn and spend” system.

Basnet (2010:29) has studied about the changing survival strategies of the Cobblers living in Katunje village of Bhaktapur district. He studied on demographic, economic, cultural and natural condition of Sarki community and changing socio-cultural and environmental process of adaptation of the Sarki community of the study area. According to Basnet, cobblers from the study area have developed leather working through Bali system and agricultural technology to exploit their surrounding environmental, marketing and selling of the leather goods and Bali system has always been the main economic activity of the

cobblers. The secondary occupation of the cobblers is wage labour or agriculture. But the present, their traditional occupation of leather works and Bali system are decreasing because of imported leather goods establishment of leather factories, factory made shoes and free entrance of Indian leather workers. Consequently they have been employed in industrial sectors as wage labour, Nepalese army and police.

Sharma (2011:35) has studied about the livelihood strategies of the household in marginal community of urban periphery of Kathmandu and its impact on women. The majority of them are landless but some have very small land holding size. Most of the male and female are engaged in wage labour and small business of their own, Putuwar are living in an extremely poverty situation. The main reason for this is due to lack of education. They do not have enough finance to educate their children. They do not give any importance to education as their main priority is towards sustaining life. Thus, this vicious cycle of poverty is the main aggrandizer of the problems. It was found that some families are still engaged in traditional occupation i.e. selling of red soil. The wage is not enough to provide all the necessities of life. Wage labour at present is in a miserable condition in the urban areas as a result of influx of migrants from India and from different parts of Nepal due to unemployment as well as due to Maoist insurgency. Lastly he found that there has not been involved better strategy of life among Putuwar community, despite the fact that they are hard working and honest. As their life is just based on “earn and eat” system they are not concerned for their future as well as of their children.

Rajbansi (2011:22) has studied the livelihood pattern of marginal communities in Peri urban area of Nepal. In the context of significant socio-economic and environmental changes the major aim of this study is to identify sustainable livelihood patterns of marginal communities living in highland and lowland areas of Bajrayogini village, a peri-urban area of Kathmandu. As the poor and marginal communities face greater livelihood insecurity due to their lower level asset holdings, they have to seek alternative income sources for sustaining their livelihoods. For this they have to use their livelihood assets to interact with transformation of the existing structures and processes in the pursuit of livelihood objective. Therefore, this study will examine diverse livelihood strategies of various marginal communities belonging to different ethnic groups living in both the

highland and lowland areas of the study area. And this study also aims to assess the impact of local, national and global changes in the adoption process of new livelihood strategies.

Poudel (2013:29) have studied on livelihood and occupational vulnerability of street vegetable vendors of Kathmandu city. He mentioned that, economically weak, disadvantage group, poor and squatters are involved in this profession. Their daily income is very low and they aren't able to fulfil their needs for sustaining their livelihood in urban areas. In urban areas all the needs are bought with money and labouring is the only way to generate income in the urban and the ways of generating income for the unskilled uneducated people like street vegetable vendors are less in urban areas.

Although most of the respondents felt that their occupation was sustainable at the same time they also felt that their place of vending was vulnerable. But, it is true that for sustainability of their occupation they really need a place to sell their goods. At last he found that, street vegetable vendors are sustaining their livelihood in the street of Kathmandu by ignoring the authorities and they are coping with the shocks and seasonality by selling vegetables in convenient location with convenient prices.

Paneru (2014) conducted a study on food choice of adolescents in relation to eating habits. Comparison was made between Asian and British originated adolescent. They found out that the food preference varies according to the age group and new types of style in food are characteristics of younger people. According to the study the images of food and dishes among Japanese female (above 12 year) children and adolescents have very different food preference. It was founded out that the age group between 9-18 years old prefer foods and fast food and in other hand it was found out that Asian were found eating more of Indian style and vegetarian food in fast food out lets as compared to other groups. Therefore the study concluded that the choice of food total depends upon the age group and the place of origin too.

Rayamajhi (2014) in his study in the socio-economic condition of the newspaper in Kathmandu focused on the child labour cum child newspaper hawkers in the city. He found out that the number of the child labour are increasing rapidly in the city areas as it

was only confined to the rural areas only. Due to the hard ship and the economic crisis the rate of migration is growing toward the urban areas. According to his finding about the involvement of the children the number of the boy child are more compared to girl child and the predominant age group was 12 years old and they had excluded from many of the boys newspaper children were dropped out and some were those who never saw the face of school. Researcher Rayamajhi found out that they had come here to vend newspaper on the commission basis under low salary and he concluded that most of them are here due to the poverty. Therefore he further suggested that the government and civil societies should make some provision to educate and give them the better future.

Subedi and Pandey (2014) carried out a study on the livelihood strategies of Rai community in Arun Valley. They focused on the continuity and change in the livelihood strategies of the community along with the socio-economic and environmental changes, based on their fieldwork on Sitapati and Makalu two spatial locations of different altitudinal zones. They found that in both places household had gradually reduced land under *Khoriyas*, used more public resource for left-consumption and transformed *bari* (non irrigated slopping terraces) in to *Khet* (irrigated sloping terrace), This followed additional inputs in agriculture, adoption of multiple cropping and cropping diversification strategy. On the other hand, strategies such as wage labouring, pottering, brow wowing, crediting and livestock selling activities were the sequence of livelihood strategies adopted under pressure. They concluded that a specific sequence of change was found in land utilization pattern and conversion of land into more productive categories. The communities had also adopted several activities to fulfil their needs due to limited food supply and the agriculture was heavily dependent on nature.

Acharya (2014) has studied about the changing environment and livelihood pattern of ferrymen of Phewa, Pokhara. He found that about 48 percent of the spouses of ferryman are to be engaged in different occupation. Among them 50.9 percent are involved in agriculture works and animal husbandry followed by 14.5% each in shop and boating, 10.9 percent in hotel service and 1.8 percent in restaurant, boat making, tailoring and electrical works. He has mentioned a significant proportion of ferrymen are rowing boat in Phewa Lake for a long time. But improvement in living standard is not encouraging.

Shakya and Shrestha (2014) studied on the petty vending shops in Kathmandu and their access of the formal credit because of their illegitimacy. As such they were victims of various interest rates, which is like the water for the thirsty. So without the credits there is no survival of any kind of business will survive or flourish. So the vulnerable state of the vendor are not concerned any one but to put pressure to them by the authority as cause crowed to the traffic and making city untidy. Therefore researcher tried to make aware the concerned authority upon the state of this petty shop vendor.

Poudel (2014) studied small pretty vendors and their activities in Pokhara town. His study analyzed the spatial distribution pattern of foot-path shops, its seasonal variation, and composition of goods sold and the socio-economic status of foot-path vendors. He selected 132 samples from five different locations of the centre and surrounding areas of Pokhara. He considered 15 items related to the foot-path shops including vegetables. He found out the representation of the vegetable seller occupied the highest position accounting for 19% of the total shops, he concluded that there is seasonal variation of the grocery shops.



## **CHAPTER - THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Rationale Behind the Selection of the Study Area**

On the basis of following major characteristics, Kathmandu sub metropolitan city has been selected as the study site. First; it is highly occupied by street food vending groups. Second; within Kathmandu, two locations were selected those are New Road and Ratna Park area. These places are situated on a nice little plateau across the Ranipokhari and Kathmandu Durbar Square area. The places were purposefully selected. These areas were selected on the basis high dominance of static foods vendors for the study.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

To make a systematic study of the above mentioned problem and to attain the objectives of the present study, various research tools and techniques were applied. Present study is descriptive and analytical in nature. It attempt to describe different socio-political condition, urban environment and their sources of income, occupational sustainability and vulnerability that play significant role for changing livelihood of street vendor in changing urban scenario. All the primary as well as secondary information were analysed in different topics and required sections.

#### **3.3 Nature and Source of Data**

This study is based on primary information. However, available and relevant secondary information are also used whenever necessary. Primary data is collected from field survey whereas secondary information was collected from various published as well as unpublished documents. To generate data of socio-economic characteristics of foods sellers' interview survey method was adopted by administrating structured questionnaire. Similarly, other methods such as observation, key informants interview, focus group discussion were also used to collect essential qualitative and quantitative data.

### **3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure**

The areas New Road and Ratna Park area were purposefully selected. These areas are selected on the basis high dominance of static food vendors for the study. About 100 total food vendors are taken as universe, 27 from Ratna Park and 27 from New Road each, altogether 54 vendors were taken as sample unit from New Road and Ratna Park area through accidental sampling method.

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

The field work was carried out the second and third week of March and April, 2015.

#### **3.5.1 Interview Schedule**

As questionnaire survey is the prominent tool to collect information about individuals as well as households. A standardized questionnaire was used for the field survey. In this study, this tool was used to collect basic information about population structure, income expenditure and way of earning livelihood and socio-economic of street food vendors.

#### **3.5.2 Observation**

Observation can include everything from field research where one lives in another context. In this study, direct observation has been used to minimize the possibility of false and inaccurate information collection. This technique was used to gather information about vendors' day to day life, problems, selling pattern as not only as a researcher but also as a customer.

#### **3.5.3 Key Informant Interview**

Key Informant Interview is one of the major techniques for any qualitative analysis. Seven street vendors were selected as key informant to know their past and present livelihood and their occupational vulnerability as well as sustainability. Key informant was selected on the basis of their age and sex and their year of involvement in vending.

### **3.5.4 Case Study**

To acquire information about street food vendors and the livelihood the two case studies were conducted. The first one was an old vendor with more 15 years of experiences in this occupation. He expressed his experience since starting to now and mentioned about problems. Second one was Chairmen of Kathmandu Metropolitan city.

### **3.6 Data Processing and Analysis**

After finishing the field survey, the task of data processing was done both by manually and computer. The entire completed questionnaires were edited coded and transformed to the data code sheet. The data code sheet was manually constructed. All the data of code sheet have been tabulated with the help of computer.

The problems of vendors was presented analytically on the basis of field observation and focus group discussion as well as individual survey, livelihood pattern of the vendors has been qualitatively analyzed keeping consideration in the capabilities, assets and problems of the vendors. In this way qualitative information such as respondents personal feeling and experience were tried to present in box form and text.

### **3.9 Limitation of the Study**

There are more street vendors who sell different things to earn the livelihood but this study selects only the street food vendors who stay there continuously. To study the livelihood of other street vendors is out of the scope of this study. The study area is confined to New Road and Ratna Park of the Kathmandu-Metropolitan city. This study is limited these two areas because of time and budget. The study is based on descriptive research design. Due to mobile nature of street food vendors random sampling is not possible so, accidental sampling will be applied in this study. The problems of vendors will be presented descriptively on the basis of field observation as well as individual survey, livelihood pattern of the vendors will be qualitatively analyzed keeping consideration in the capabilities, assets and problems of the vendors. In this way qualitative information such as respondents personal feeling and experience will be tried to present in box form and text.

## **CHAPTER - FOUR**

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET FOOD VENDORS**

This chapter discusses the socio-economic status and its relevance with sustainable livelihoods. It tends to give an insight of their change in socio-economic status. The social status comprises the information like demography, education and decision role at family, health etc. The study on economic status comprises of the information regarding the occupation, income, consumption and expenditure pattern and information regarding to their current job.

Two locations New Road and Ratna Park are famous places in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. People move from other places to these places in order to earn more money for sustain their livelihood. Snack vendors from different areas of the country have centralized in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. These two places are political, economic and historic as well as tourist core of Kathmandu valley where a large number of people have been earning for their livelihood through snack vending. However, most of the snack vendors are migrant people. They have come from different geographical regions of the country.

#### **4.1 Socio-Cultural Condition of the Street Foods Vendors**

Street foods vendor means who sells foods in the street for livelihood. In Nepal, there are so many street vendors. Now days, street foods vendors are increasing in day by day because chaotic urbanization and poverty.

Street foods vendors have been developed in Kathmandu Metropolitan city because it is going to be high unemployment rate, poverty, high population growth and urbanization. There is not exact date when vending occupation was started in Kathmandu Metropolitan city. Generally street foods vendors (SFVs) have been developed when urbanization was developed. However, people have come valley from outer parts of valley to earn more money for sustain their livelihood. In Kathmandu valley, due to the

limited resources and industries people do not get good job so that they are involving in this occupation. In a few investments (6000–20000), people get more profit (monthly around 20000) from this occupation. Therefore, peoples are attracted in this occupation. The equipments of this occupation are box, stove, three wheeler vehicles, cooking pots, plates, spoons, paper etc. There are no any especial men powers for this occupation but some respondents are trained by home.

#### 4.1.1 Place of Origin

People move from one place to another in order to earn more money for sustain their livelihood. Food vendors from different areas of the country have centralized in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. Kathmandu is a political, economic and historic as well as tourist core of Nepal where a large number of SFVs have been earning their livelihood through food vending. However, most of the SFVs are migrant. They have come from different geographical regions of the country.

**Table 4.1: Origin Place of Street Food Vendors**

Place of origin	Region	Districts	No. of Respondent	Percent
Nepal	Mountain (7)	Dolakha	3	6
		Sindhupalchok	4	7
	Hill (28)	Ramechhap	2	4
		Palpa	2	4
		Tanahu	3	5
		Syanga	3	5
		Makawanpur	2	4
		Gorkha	2	4
		Kathmandu valley	5	9
		Kavre	4	7
		Nuwakot	3	6
		Sindhuli	2	4
	Tarai (14)	Bara	2	4
		Parsa	2	4
		Mahottari	3	5
		Saptari	2	4
		Sunsari	3	5
		Routahat	1	2
		Dhanusa	1	2
India (5)			5	9
Total			54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Out of 54 respondents 91 percent (49) respondents were from different district of the country and 9 percent (5) respondents were from Kathmandu valley and neighbouring country, India. Table 4.1 shows the Nepalese foods respondents are higher than Indian. In the case of Nepalese, majority of food vendors are from Hill regions and followed by Tarai. When, we deal on district basis street food vendors from Kathmandu valley, Kavre and Sindhupalchok districts are found in the largest number.

#### 4.1.2 Age and Sex Structure

Age and sex are important variables in population studies. The age of the sex characteristics of the food vendors living in core area of Kathmandu Metropolitan City are show in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2: Distribution of Food vendors by their Group**

Age Group	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
14- 20	4	15.38	2	7.14	6	11.11
20-30	4	15.38	5	17.86	9	16.67
30-40	9	34.62	13	46.43	22	40.74
40-50	6	23.08	5	17.86	11	20.37
50-60	3	11.54	2	7.14	5	9.26
> 60	0	0	1	3.57	1	1.85
Total	26	100	28	100	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The data pertaining to the age of the foods vendors show that the average age of respondents is 35. The minimum age of respondents is 18 while the maximum age is 66. The data shows the maximum numbers of the respondents are within the age group of 30-39 i.e. 41 percent.

The number of respondents by sex in different location is given Table 5.4. It shows that female is dominant gender with 28 respondents compared to male 26 respondents. The presence to the female respondents is high in the Ratna Park compared with other location compared to male vendor. This may be due to security reason. For example in

this location the city rule gives to vend of evening hours, which is odd hours for male vendor to work.

#### 4.1.3 Family Size

Size of the family within the nuclear and joint family may vary to a great extent. Though nuclear families are also large in size, comparatively extended families have larger numbers of members. The family background is considered as the main basis of economic activities of the people. The number of respondents by size of family is given in table 4.3

**Table 4.3: Family Size of the Street Food vendors**

No. of family members	No. of family	Percent
1-4	14	27
5-9	29	53
Above 10	11	20
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

According to this study, the majority of the respondents (53) percent have 5-9 members in their family followed by 27 percent with 1-4 members. This indicates that majority of the respondents have joint family structure. During field survey, the researcher had asked about the reason of their joint family, they had replied that they do not have enough property to share.

#### 4.1.4 Marital Status

Marriage is a social phenomenon which can be different in performance, the custom and tradition of the community but the means is same. This is the important part of the social system. Table 4.4 gives the detail account of the marital status of the respondent. Many are married (67 percent) who seem to be more committed and responsible toward the family. There are only (30) percent of the unmarried members in a group and in this study area there are no separated but (3) percent of the window respondents.

**Table 4.4: Gender and Martial Status of Street Food vendors**

Married Status	Respondent		Total	Percent
	Female	Male		
Married	15	21	36	67
Unmarried	2	14	16	30
Window/widower	2	-	2	3
Total	19	35	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

#### 4.1.5 Educational Status

Educational attainment plays pivot role in the betterment of livelihood and occupation. It enriches human capital which provides knowledge about different sectors to make peoples well being. It becomes necessary to focus about the educational attainment of the street food vendors. In this study education level of respondents were summarized into three categories (i) illiterate, (ii) literate, (iii) higher education. Most of the respondents are illiterate, few of them are literate and two are higher educated. Educational background of street food vendors is not satisfactory.

**Table 4.5: Educational Status of Food vendors by Caste/Ethnicity**

Education level	No. of food vendor with caste/ethnicity							
	Brahmin/Chhetri	Percent	Janjati	Percent	Dalit	Percent	Total	Percent
Literate	10	59	11	38	3	38	24	44.44
Illiterate	5	29	10	62	5	62	20	37.04
Higher education	2	12	8	6	0	0	10	18.52
Total	17	100	29	100	8	100	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4.5 shows the educational background by their caste and ethnic background. SFVs of the Brahmin/Chhetri are more educated then other caste and ethnicity. Only two SFVs of Brahmin/Chhetri have completed SLC and no other castes have access in higher



education. It is because Brahmin/Chhetri is at forefront in socio-economic status. Among the literate, SFVs of Dalit are in the greater number (59%). Similarly, among the literate ones, highest proportion of SFVs has gone primary levels education. The level of education of the people engaged is foods respondents are rather low. Most of them are illiterate. In terms of caste/ethnic Janjati are involved most.

The education status of SFVs shows that higher castes are more educational but the overall education attainment is low. Most of the food vendors reported that they are deprived of education in their childhood mainly due to poor economic status, early marriage and family problem in the household. Beside these, the educational status of respondents is not satisfactory.

### **Case Study-1**

Different things such economy, lack of school, custom plays role of being illiterate or poor education status. Box 1 presents a case of dropping of school.

#### **Box 1: Cause of Dropout of School**

Kuber Tamang, 35 years old from Sindhupalchok has completed the study of class five. He was very interested in study. After completing five, he started grade six. He said that he was good in studying. So, he himself collected all the books of grade six from his friend except English book. For this, he asked money to buy English book to his parents but his parents wanted that he would help them in domestic activities. They did not pay him any money. He revolted against his family. He not only left school but also home and family at the age of eleven years. Therefore, the main reason for dropout school was financial.

Source: Field Survey, 2017

#### **4.1.6 Caste/Ethnic Group**

It is obvious that the respondent of the study are from the different ethnic group in this study i.e. high caste (Brahmin/Cheetri), Janjati and lower caste (Dalit). They are the different ethnic community living in the Kathmandu Metropolitan city mainly

concentrated at core area of Kathmandu Metropolitan city. Various caste/ethnic groups were observed within the survey period, is shown in table 6.

**Table 4.6: Distribution of Street Food vendors by their Caste/ Ethnic Group**

Caste/Ethnicity	Respondent No.	Percent
Janjati	29	54
Brahmin/Chhetri	17	31
Dalit	8	15
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The Table 4.6 and figure 4.1 show that the majority of the food vendors are from Janjati in study area shares 54 percent followed by Brahmin/Chhetri with 31 percent and the least proportion is Dalit which covers 15 percent. It is conducted that the dominance of food vendors were of Janjati because they do any works without any hesitation.

#### **4.1.7 Assets of Origin Place**

Assets at the origin place play the vital role to run livelihood. So, it is necessary to discuss about physical property at their home place discuss.

**Table 4.7: Land Ownership**

Land holding size (in Ropani)	No. of Respondents	
	Total	Percent
Landless	4	7
Only Ghaderi	8	15
Less than 5 Ropani	8	15
5-10 Ropani	9	17
10-15 Ropani	12	22
Above 15 Ropani	13	24
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The Table 4.7 reveals that out of total respondents 24 percent were found having land size more than the 15 ropani. Seventeen percent respondents having land size of 5-10 ropani, 22 percent having 10-15 ropani and 7 percent have no land at all. Respondent having land size below 5 ropani and Gharedi only were found in equal numbers (15%).

#### 4.1.8 House Ownership Pattern

Majority of the SFVs are migrants as well as poor and are living in a rented room. Most of them started that their living place was surrounding area where they were working.

**Table 4.8: Distribution of Food vendors by Their Accommodation**

Accommodation	Number of Respondents	Percent
Rent	51	94
Own House	3	6
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From table 4.8, out of total 54 street food vendors, 94 percent are living in rented room because majority of respondents came outside Kathmandu and only 3 SFVs i.e. 6 percent have their own home in the city. Among those who are living in rented room, the average rent is NRs. 4500 per month.

**Table 4.9: Distribution of Food vendors by Their Living Arrangement**

Living arrangement	No. of Respondents	Percent
With whole family	22	41
With children	12	22
Alone	16	30
With friends	4	7
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Of the total 54 respondents, 94 percent SFVs are living in rented room and only 6 percent are living in own house. 30 percent SFVs are living alone and there is no one to look after

them. They have faced great problem especially during illness. About 41 percent are living with their whole family and 22 percent with children and spouse. There SFVs have been adopted as kept friend by living together in a rented room.

## **4.2 Economic Condition of the Street Foods vendors**

### **4.2.1 Previous Occupations**

All the respondents considered street food vending as an occupation and sustain their livelihood but before street food vending as livelihood strategy many of respondents had performed different occupation which is tabulated in the following table 10.

**Table 4.10: Previous Occupations of Street Foods vendors**

Occupation	No. of respondents	Percent
Farming	13	24
Wage labour	10	19
Service	6	11
Student	5	9
Business	15	28
Others	5	9
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4.10 shows before starting the vending business, the most of the respondents found to have been involved in business which was comprising 28 percent followed by 24 percent in farming. Similarly, 19 percent were wage labour and 9 percent students were involved in vending occupation. The respondents who had others types of livelihoods were included under helper, watchman, tailoring and carpenter.

### **4.2.2 Reason for Choosing this Occupation**

People should do any economic activities to fulfil the need of individual and households. Most of the respondents have selected this occupation within this broad category of cause. The street vendors choose the occupation of food selling, as it offers no load of investment to handling the occupation, no barrier for the illiterate ones, and for others flexible thing is main attraction for the part time involvements. Furthermore, for the unskilled migrants are attracted to this occupation as only general number and ability to transact goods for money is sufficient to involve in this occupation. It is very easy to

conduct. Some of the street food vendors said that poverty and unemployment is the major part for choosing this occupation.

#### 4.2.3 Working Pattern

All government and non-government sector offers a limited time for work. The working hours in the context of the SFVs is being analyzed here.

**Table 4.11: Distribution of Food vendors by their Working Pattern**

Hours/days	Respondents	
	No.	Percent
Below 3	5	9
3-6	26	48
6-9	17	32
Above 9	6	11
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4.11 and figure 4.2 shows that among the street food vendors only 9 percent have to work for below 3 hours per day and 48 percent have to work 3 to 6 hour per day. The difference exists because the working hours for the SFVs are not defined as the street occupation comes in the informal sector of work. Besides that street occupation is considered as the easiest work so the time spent in this is nearly counted.

#### 4.2.4 Source of Investment

From the analysis of the source of investment or the tending pattern of respondents. All of the respondents have not received any loans for their business, those who have not received any loans belong to the migrants who have sold their live-stocks or who have some case in hand while they leave their hometown or the few local traditional respondents who are well off. In this vendor there is no load of investment to handling the occupation and little money started it. All of the SFVs have their own source of investment.

**Table 4.12: Source of Investment**

Source	Respondents	
	No.	Percent
Own	43	80
Loan	11	20
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

#### 4.2.5 Income

Naturally, street business which needs less investment, respondents earn less than other business. It is also true that livelihood of urban is different from the rural livelihoods. In urban areas, people need to buy everything to sustain their livelihood. Labouring (any kinds of work to generate income) is the main way of people to earn money that is unskilled and uneducated. Street foods vendors have same condition. They do not have any skill and education to get job in formal sectors. So they must earn from food vending to sustain them and their family. Their income per month ranges from Rs. 8000-15000.

**Table 4.13: Monthly Income of vendors**

Monthly Income (Rs.)	No. of Respondents	
	Total	Percent
Less than 8000	11	20
8000-10000	7	13
10000-12000	18	33
12000-15000	8	15
Above 15000	10	19
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4.13 concluded that the food vendors do not have equal monthly income. Most of food vendor earn Rs 10000-12000 per month with share 33 percent of total respondents.

This is followed by the monthly profit of Rs. less than Rs. 8000 which comprises 20 percent of the total SFVs. Similarly, 19 percent SFVs have monthly income of above 15000. A few SFVs (13%) earn Rs. 8000-10000 per month. It was observed from the questionnaire survey that 90 percent of the respondents were involved in food selling as their primary occupation and only 10 percent of the Respondents involve in other extra occupations such as, office peers, contraction worker, and agriculture sector.

#### 4.2.6 Expenditure

The expenditure patterns of the vendor same with low level of people. Most of the respondents spend their income for shelter, food, clothes and schooling for their children. Monthly expenditure is another important factor for financial capital in livelihood. To increase monthly income more difficult then to minimize monthly expenditure. So upon monthly expenditure they are able to control within a certain limitation. To share room and kitchen with more friends is the main strategy adopted to minimize the expenditure. Monthly expenditure of street vendors within study area is shown in the table 4.14.

**Table 4.14: Monthly Expenditure of Street Food vendors**

Expenditure Rs.	Types of Respondents	
	Total	Percent
Below 5000	8	15
5000-6000	17	31
6000-7000	7	13
7000-8000	12	22
Above 8000	10	19
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4.14 shows that 15 percent of the respondents spend below Rs. 5000 per month. This is followed by the respondents spending Rs. 5000-6000 which covers 31 percent. Similarly 13 percent of respondents spend between 6000-7000 and remaining spend monthly Rs.7000-8000 and above Rs. 8000 which covers 19 percent.

#### 4.2.7 Saving Pattern

Saving is the important component for the livelihood analysis because such saving helps people to make a living in the time of economic shocks. Sometimes such saving also supports them for daily food in time of difficulties (rainy days; illness, strike etc.). This saving is achieved only after fulfilling all the monthly expenditure because of the individual in income and expenditure their monthly saving also varied which is reported in the Table 4.14.

**Table 4.15: Monthly Saving of Street Food vendors**

Saving Rs.	Types of Respondents	
	Total	Percent
Below 2000	15	28
2000-3000	7	13
3000-4000	9	17
4000-5000	9	17
5000-6000	8	14
Above 6000	6	11
Total	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From the analysis of the monthly saving pattern of the street vendors, suggest that there are majority, which involves 28 percent of the total respondents have saving below Rs 2000 per month. Of total 54 respondents 11 percent have saved above Rs. 6000 per month. Similarly, the saving pattern shows that of the total respondent 17 percent save Rs. 3000-4000 and 4000-5000 per month both. According to the table there are greater variations in the exists the wide variety of economic classes which ranges from the poorest groups living subsistence economy which is predominant to the richer classes who are able to save more than monthly Rs. 10000 after paying for all the expenses. The box 2 shows a case of saving pattern of a vendor.



## Case Study-2

### Box 2: Monthly Saving by Babita

Babita Dahal, 45 years of age from Nuwakot has been involved in this occupation since 20 years. She is here alone in the rented house. She transacts daily profit Rs. 700 and spends Rs. 200. Thus her saving is daily Rs. 500 on average (monthly saving 15000) on the bank. This indicates that the monthly income is to Rs. 15000 on average.

Source: Field Survey, 2017

### 4.3 Problem of the Street Food vendors

Different types of the problems have been faced by the respondents. Most of their problems are related to the threat of authority, lack of adequate investment, problem of toilets, objections for vending space by house owners, pedestrians and vehicles and perishable nature of goods. Being, an unregistered and mobile nature the urban street food vendors are considered as problem creators. On the one hand they are not educated and unskilled which creates problem for them in finding job at formal sectors. And on the other hand, their presences have no legal provisions, allocated space for vending and positive thinking of public agencies. Thus street food vendors are facing many problems in performing their business in the street. Box 3 summarizes the problems of street food vendors.

## Case Study-3

### Box 3: Situation Observed During Field Survey

During the course of field survey, the researcher fortunately got change to observe three distinct situation faced by street food vendors.

#### **Situation : 1**

At New Road when researcher reached to conducts survey a female throwing stone at one of the mobile street food vendors. When the researcher asked him and found the cause of that he was standing in front of her shop with full basket of food and cycle and her shop is beloved.

#### **Situation : 2**

At Ratna Park, a conflict was observed between vendors and pedestrian. A pedestrian

who had drunk pick up one of the foods items to test and vendors stop him doing so. Then the drunkards scald him. There was situation of dual between. But other vendors and pedestrians made understanding between them and possible dual was over.

**Situation : 3**

A group of young rowdy boys with four members roaming across the street who pick up foods item from basket of vendors with testing manner when vendors oppose them, they were ready for fight.

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4.16 reveals the number and percent of respondents reporting different problem extenuated during vendor. Weakly 25 percent of respondents considered that local authorities were the major sources to their problems. About 50 percent reported pedestrians are the major sources of problems. During the field survey, it was found that 15 percent respondent have suffered from wholesaler. They blamed that the wholesaler do not behave equal among the respondents from Tarai, India and Hill. There seems racial discrimination. Most of the wholesale owners were from Indian or Tarai origin. Most of Hill vendors blamed that they gave them low equality goods in comparison to those originated from Tarai or India. In addition 6 percent respondent had suffered from local shop owners.

**Table 4.16: Problem by Location**

Problem by	Location			Total	
	New Road	Ratna Park	Bus Park	No.	Percent
Local Authorities	6	4	3	13	25
Pedestrians	11	11	6	28	50
Wholesale market	2	4	2	8	15
No problem	1	1	1	2	4
Local shopkeeper	0	0	2	3	6
Total	20	20	14	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The conflict between street vendors and Municipal police has reduced after the change in political scenario. But recently, the municipality again announce to band the illegal establishment vendoring on footpath. Thus, it becomes the same as it was in the past problem of the pedestrian and street people faced by Madeshi and Indian people are high. Hill native people are no so much affected by them. In the wholesale market hill native people suffer because the most of the wholesale owners are either Madeshi or Indian. The wholesalers do not give much time to select goods. Respondents have to choose goods seeing through cursory observation only. Sometimes rotten goods have to be sold because there is no provision of exchange.

#### **4.3.1 Vulnerability Context of Street Food vendors**

Vulnerability context is that circumstances which have a direct effect upon peoples' assets and options that are open to them into them in pursuit of beneficial livelihood outcomes. In this chapter, vulnerability context is used to represent the situation and factor which disorder the livelihood options of the street food vendors in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. The vulnerability context frames the external environments in which people exist. These vendors do not have their own place to run their occupation. They are using public place for the vendorings, especially open space and street. All the street food vendors concentrate in the places where the flow of pedestrians and vehicles is very high. As a result, their working place is not environmentally suitable for health as well other reasons. There are some external factors which causes fluctuations in their regular income. Due to the different causes, the occupation through which they are earning their living is not secure and sustainable. This vulnerability has more to do with vendoring place rather than income. The occupational vulnerability of the street vendors is high. Therefore, living in urban setting becomes very difficult for them. Vulnerability varies from individual to individual because of lack of equal accesses to livelihood assets and skill or knowledge they possess. Vulnerability is not a unique phenomenon but it is a combination of different factors that creates obstacles in the pursuit of livelihood activities.

The one hand, they are welcomed as street food vendors since they offer us nutrient items of reasonable price. On the other hand, people also feel that they have no right to be part

of city and no right the use of public space privately. Likewise, together with the pot holed roads, the garbage and pollution, city dweller also feel that they contribute to the ugly look of the city. They also destroyed beauty of urban areas. In fast growing cities vending no more remains an unnoticed activity. It is a major source of conflicts between city managers and planners on one hand and large number of vendors on the other. In this context, it would be rational to explore the real problems of vending in city like Kathmandu. It helps to understand the context within which the activity occurs and the problem associated with it.

### 4.3.2 Seasonality

Seasonality is the core of vulnerability context through which hindrances are aroused in pursuit of livelihood. In this study, seasonality is also used to indicate the situation which fluctuate daily activities and income of street food vendors. Sometime, they are able to earn more their expectation but situation does not always favour them. Different kinds of seasonality through which, their daily earning keeps on fluctuating thought out the years which includes in Table 4.17.

**Table 4.17: Seasonality and Economic Impact**

Season	Human response	Efficiency	Economic impact
Winter season (Dec. – Feb.)	People prefer food due to hot	Increasing earning decrease working load, most goods would be sold	Increase daily earning
Summer season (march – may)	people don't use more food items	Increasing working load of goods decreasing earning	Decreasing the earning
Before Dashian and Tihar, customary festival of Kathmandu valley	Movement of people increasing in the city	Increasing amount of selling	Increasing daily earnings
Holiday	Decrease the flow of pedestrians in nodal points	Decrease the business and income	Decrease the daily incomes
Banda and strike	Irritating to all people and decreasing flow of pedestrians	Decrease the selling	Less earning

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4.17 show that the vulnerability context of seasonality is not always native for the food vendors. Sometimes, due to the seasonal change they are able to increase their earning and their income rapidly decreases. So, their daily earning is not constant through out the year. In term of earning, there is positive relation between the income and flow of pedestrians. The components which are major cause of seasonality for their earning are natural season and cultural (festival) noise. In natural seasonality winter has positive role and summer has negative context in the case of street food vendors. Summer season has low ratio of income except the daily of raining. For the street food vendors, economic vulnerability becomes low in winter due to high preference to foods in cold season. Cultural season like feast and festival also causes fluctuation in their daily earning. Before Dashian and Tihar, and customary feast and festival of Kathmandu city has highly positive relation in term of income. These Dashian and Tihar are most favoured cultural season of street foods vendors. They have earned highest amount during there period. Most of the important festival of Tarai and Indian native like "Chhath' and 'Holi', vendors who belongs to that region or community go to celebrate festivals. At that time, due to decreased numbers of the vendors also decrease competition and increase income of remaining vendors. Dashian and Tihar are great festival to people of Hindu community and respondents who do not belong to that community earn much more at that time due to the lack of competition and festival.

**Table 4.18: Income by Months**

<b>Months</b>	<b>Income (per family in Rs.)</b>
January	9000
February	8000
March	8000
April	7500
May	7000
June	5000
July	7000
August	6000
September	7000
October	7000
November	8000
December	10000

Source: Field Survey, 2017

### 4.3.3 Occupational Sustainability

To sustain life occupation should be sustainable. Although, street foods vendors have been facing problems while doing their occupation most of them think their occupation is sustainable and while some of the respondents are not sure about their vendoring. Table 4.19 shows the responds number of events about sustainability of their occupation or work.

Even of the worst situation they do not want to quiet their occupation instead they are ready to face the problems that 44 percent respondent replied that their copulation is sustainable. This is followed by not sure which share 30 percent. Only 26 percent said that street food vendoring is not sustainable to their livelihood in their urban setting because there is a lost of uncertainly (not permanent place, Banda, rain) in open street.

**Table 4.19: Occupational Sustainability**

Location	No	Not sure	Yes	Total
New Road	4	6	10	20
Ratna Park	7	4	9	20
Bus Park	3	6	5	14
Total	14	16	24	54
Percent	26	30	44	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

### 4.3.4 Sustainability of Vendoring Place

Livelihood of street foods vendors depends upon an urban open space i.e., footpath. In this section, footpath is discussed under vulnerability context which is taken as common asset of street food vendors. On the one hand, the main purpose of the footpath is easy walking for the pedestrians. On the other hand, it was occupied by street vendors because it was most appropriate place for those people who do not have access to private stall or shutters for selling food. So large numbers of people are earning their livelihood due to lack of alternative job.

As has been mentioned already most of street food vendors indicated that their occupation was sustainable but when talked about their vendoring place they were doubtful and sceptical about sustainability of their vendoring places sustainability. They were worried due to illegally occupying vendoring place which is always their sources of being exploitation. The bitter reaction of the pedestrians' vehicle owner or drivers and municipal authorities are their matters of tension. The city was unsystematically developed and the open spaces were not enough for vendoring and respondents were growing day to day.

**Table 4.20: Sustainability of Vendoring Place**

vendors Response	New Road	Ratna Park	Bus Park	Total	Percent
Not	12	8	7	27	50
Not Sure	3	4	3	10	19
Sure	5	8	4	17	31
Total	20	20	14	54	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From table 4.20, of the total respondents 50 percent believed that their vendoring place was not sustainable. 17 respondents felt that their vendoring place was sustainable. And only 19 percent were in confusion on whether their vendoring place was long lasting or not.

Whatever rule and regulation of Metropolitan city and whatever comment from other side all of them were some how aware that the municipal authorities would not allow to carry out their work in these places for long time. But they give may allow for some specific time. This time will be after 5 P.M. or 5-8 A.M.

#### **4.3.5 Challenges Faced by Street Food vendors**

The vulnerability context defines the specific frame conditions which determine the opportunities of an individual or community. The vulnerability context affects the life of communities, but communities themselves cannot influence the vulnerability context. The vulnerability context consists of long-term *trends* (climate, national politics and

economic condition) and short-term sudden *shocks* (sudden price fluctuations, violence and fighting).

Occupational vulnerability and challenges faced by street food vendors is also related to political situation seasonality and political instability are key factors which effects daily earning of their groups. Due to political instability "strike" and "Banda" becomes the common elements of Nepali politics. Such activities of street food vendors are badly disturbed especially at location like nodal point: New Road and Ratna Park. These ultimately result into loss of income of these street food vendors. Thus, vulnerability is further reinforced.

The problem of street vegetable vendor is definitely one, which cries for a solution for the simple reason that it involves human beings and their basic needs. Although the problem appears mind-boggling and intractable, it is not beyond limited and temporary solutions, at least in parts of city.

On the one hand, we welcome SFVs who offer us the necessities of life at our doorstep and at reasonable prices. On the other hand, we feel that they have no rights to be part or our city space. Like the pot-holed roads, the garbage and pollution, we feel that they too contribute to the bad look of the city, that they destroy the urban areas.

Understanding the ground situation as it prevails today in terms of the varying perceptions of the vendors, police and municipal authorities, their legal and professional obligations, the human and socio-economic considerations, which is needed a common platform and strategy. It would help to sort out the problems of the vendors and the different agencies in the larger public interest. There is a definite need to identify each and every vendor, whatever their mode of operation, in the sub metropolitan city and to give them some kind of identity through verification In this context, to explore the real functioning of vending in a city may help us understood the context within which the activity occurs and the conflict arises.



#### 4.3.5.1 Problem of Respondent

Being and unregistered and mobile profession of the urban street food vendor is considered s problem creator and polluting urban environment. On the one hand, they are not much educated and skilled, which create problems for finding a job and on the other hand there is not legal provision, allocated space for vending and positive understanding with public agencies. Thus, they are facing so many problems while performing their business in the street. Following table try to show about vendor's condition whether they are facing any problem or not;

**Table 4.21: Respondent Problem**

Selling Location	Respondent problem			Total
	No	Not exactly	Yes	
Ratna Park	4	2	14	20
New Road	4	0	16	20
Bus Park	0	0	14	14
Total	8	2	44	54
Percentage	13.79	3.45	82.76	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4.21 reveals that 82.76% of the respondents are facing problem while vending food in the street. According to their response most of all locations have considered that they have problems. Likewise, 13.79% respondents are expressed that they have not facing problems for their business. And only 3.45% respondents are not sure that whether they have problems or not. After discussion with them researcher felt that newly established respondents were suspicious toward researcher and tried to avoid giving exact answer with the question whether they have problem or not.

Realizing their true problems researcher first ask the question about responsible for the creation of problems of street food vendor before asking about the types of problem itself. Although research have been derived various feelings from the responsible persons such as respondents himself, pedestrian and metropolitan police etc., but the numeric information are collected only from the street food vendor.

**Table 4.22: Problem Created by**

Problem created by	Selling Location			Total	Percentage
	Ratna Park	New Road	Bus Park		
No problem	5	3	0	8	17.2
Authorities	12	15	12	39	72.4
Local shopkeeper	0	0	2	2	3.4
Pedestrians	1	0	0	1	1.7
Rowdy people	2	2	0	4	5.2
Total	20	20	14	54	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

From Table 4.22, 72.4% of respondents considered that authorities are the major source for their problem. Likewise, 5.2% considered rowdy people, 3.4% considered pedestrians and 17.2% answered that they have not any problem as well as no any source for their problem.

Most of the respondents believed that authorities are the main responsible for creating their problem but some local shopkeepers and pedestrians are also contributing to boost up their problem.

**Table 4.23: Types of Problem**

Types of problems	Selling Location			Total	Percentage
	Ratna Park	New Road	Bus Park		
No problem	5	3	0	8	17.2
Cheating or theft	1	0	0	1	1.7
Disturbances	2	2	0	4	6.9
Force out to quit the place	4	10	5	19	32.8
Harassments	1	1	1	3	5.2
Thrown away selling materials	4	4	8	16	31.0
Others	3	0	0	3	5.2
Total	20	20	14	54	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2017

According to table 4.23, 32.8% of respondents expressed that 'force out to quit the place' is the main problem. Likewise 31.0% of respondents considered the problem is 'thrown away selling materials', 6.9% felt 'disturbance', 5.2% felt 'harassments', 1.7% felt 'no

problem' and 5.2% of respondents felt that problem is not allowed to sell vegetable in daytime which is plotted as 'other' types of problem.

## **CHAPTER- FIVE**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Summary**

The present study on "Livelihood pattern of street food vendors: A sociological study of Ratna Park and New Road area of Kathmandu) was carried out to examine the development process, socio-economic characteristics and in the context of sustainable livelihood. A total of 54 vendors were selected from New Road and Ratna Park for interview. 91 percent were from within country and only 9 percent from India specially from Bihar. The specific objectives of the study are; to find out the socio- economic background of street food vendors; to find out the s livelihood pattern of street food vendors and to find out the problems being faced by street food vendors. Among internal in migrant largest proportion was from the Hill region. 37.04 percent respondents were illiterate. Majority of these respondents were aged between 15-30 age groups. Street food vendors (SFVs) work long hours in general and it is more so in the case of mobile ones. Healthy climatic environment makes easy to run street vending under open sky and long hours.

Although they were using public space most of them had to pay tax for it. Fifty four percent respondents used to pay some amount directly or indirectly for using space. Among the respondents majority used bicycle and it also minimized their transport cost. Other means such as Thela, Bucket are also used as their mode of selling. All SFVs live in rented accommodation. While some live in a single room shared their room with others. About 41 percent respondents shared their room with whole family. 94 percent of the respondents like in rented room.

Their monthly income ranged between NRs. 8000-15000. All of them were able to save some amount after fulfilling their necessities in the city. After adopting this occupation, they were not able to achieve dramatic improvement in their livelihood but they are not unhappy. There is heavy fluctuation in their daily income. In winter income their earning

far higher than in the summer days. During feast and festivals their daily income also increases.

Various reasons were given for their leaving of home place. Among them, family problems, natural hazard, large family size, joint family, and social networking are some of the factors leading to come to city and engage in food vending. The low investment, easy to handle, sense of freedom and profitable income were other factors noted by the vendors. Despite its positive aspects there are some external factors such as perishable nature of goods and illegal occupation of space internal factors like poor social like discrimination by place of origin place which make their occupation vulnerable. Although, street food vendors are considered as problem creators and agent in degrading the urban environment, traffic connection, unplanned disposal of wastes, pollution of food dust since open their livelihood security should not be overlooked before only decision to dismiss their employment.

Out of 54 respondents 91 percent (49) respondents were from different district of the country and 9 percent (5) respondents were from Kathmandu valley and neighbouring country, India. The study found that among the street food vendors only 9 percent have to work for below 3 hours per day and 48 percent have to work 3 to 6 hour per day. The data pertaining to the age of the foods vendors show that the average age of respondents is 35. The minimum age of respondents is 18 while the maximum age is 66. The data shows the maximum numbers of the vendors are within the age group of 30-39 i.e. 41 percent. The education status of SFVs shows that higher castes are more educational but the overall education attainment is low. Most of the food vendors reported that they are deprived of education in their childhood mainly due to poor economic status, early marriage and family problem in the household. Beside these, the educational status of respondents is not satisfactory. Out of the total 54 respondents, 94 percent SFVs are living in rented room and only 6 percent are living in own house. 30 percent SFVs are living alone and there is no one to look after them. They have faced great problem especially during illness.

Most of food vendor earn Rs 10000-12000 per month with share 33 percent of total respondents. This is followed by the monthly profit of Rs. less than Rs. 8000 which comprises 20 percent of the total SFVs. Similarly, 19 percent SFVs have monthly income of above 15000. A few SFVs (13%) earn Rs. 8000-10000 per month. It was observed from the questionnaire survey that 90 percent of the respondents were involved in food selling as their primary occupation and only 10 percent of the respondents involve in other extra occupations such as, office pears, contraction worker, and agriculture sector.

Out of total 54 respondents 11 percent have saved above Rs. 8000 per month. Similarly, the saving pattern shows that of the total respondent 17 percent save Rs. 3000-4000 and 4000-5000 per month both. According to the table there are greater variations in the exists the wide variety of economic classes which ranges from the poorest groups living subsistence economy which is predominant to the richer classes who are able to save more than monthly Rs. 10000 after paying for all the expenses. Cultural season like feast and festival also causes fluctuation in their daily earning. Before Dashian and Tihar, and customary feast and festival of Kathmandu city has highly positive relation in term of income. These Dashian and Tihar are most favoured cultural season of street foods vendors.

Vending business in the city has become a part of the socio-economic fabric due to the heavy increase of population and migration from within and outside the country. Street food vending is newly emerging activity in Nepal. They may have learnt from Indian vendors. Nepalese, especially hill people are learning phases of street food vending. Food vending has more potential among all street vending. It unplanned vendoring is prohibited by the cities such as Kathmandu, Kathmandu etc. Most of the food vendors maintaining their life better than their previous occupation. There is not much more difference between food vendors and other vendors in their livelihood status but there is slight difference in handling their business activities. Street food vendors spend whole day under open sky. It is risky for their health condition. They do not care how long they have to work. They only run after money and customers. They spend 8-10 hours in a day on street. It is not easy and their compulsion. No one choose street if there is alternative. Life on the street is more miserable through it seem worthy in terms of income.

## 5.2 Conclusion

Street food vending is common in the urban area. So it opens a new sector for employment and reducing poverty. This sector also provides food to the consumers with low price than other hotel and restaurant.

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