

**A STUDY ON THE STREET CHILDREN OF POKHARA
SUB-METROPOLITAN CITY**

A Dissertation

**Submitted to the Department of Sociology/Anthropology,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara
*in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the
Master's Degree in Sociology***

By:

**INDIRA BHATTARAI (TIWARI)
Roll No. 94/061
T.U. Registration No. 1391
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
Department of Sociology/Anthropology,
Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara
Tribhuvan University**

April, 2012

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Miss. Indira Bhattari (Tiwari) has completed this dissertation entitled "**A Study on the Street Children of Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City**" under my supervision and guidance. I therefore, recommend and forward this dissertation for final approval and acceptance by the dissertation evaluation committee.

.....

Tej Prasad Subedi

Supervisor

Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Prithvi Narayan Campus

Pokhara

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This dissertation entitled "**A Study on the Street Children of Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City**" submitted to the department of Sociology/Anthropology Prithivi Narayan Campus, Pokhara by Indira Bhattarai (Tiwari) has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's Degree in Sociology by the undersigned members of the dissertation evaluation committee.

Dissertation Evaluation Committee:

.....
Dissertation Supervisor **Tej Prasad Subedi**
Supervisor
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Prithivi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

.....
Head of Department **Shanti Bhushal**
Chairperson
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Prithivi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

.....
External Examiner **Dr. Krishna K.C.**
External Examiner
Prithivi Narayan Campus, Pokhara

Date: .. 2012

RECOMMENDATION BY LANGUAGE EDITOR

This is to certify that I have gone through the draft of dissertation entitled "**A Study on the Street Children of Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City**" prepared by Miss Indira Bhattarai (Tiwari) as a language editor and made necessary corrections and improvement there in I have been impressed by her intelligible presentation of facts through the medium of plain and correct English.

Date:

.....

Bishwo Raj Adhikari

Reader

Department of English

Prithvi Narayan Campus

Language Editor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my supervisor Tej Parsad Sudedi owing to his guidance and also because he helped me very seriously to bring this dissertation in this form.

I would like to thank Mrs. Shanti Bhusal, Head of the department of Sociology/ Anthropology, Prithvi Naryan Campus, Pokhara as well as other faculty members for their help and kind regards.

I would like to thank for the staff of Jyoti Street project as well as child welfare scheme Nepal for their incredible support. I feel proud to give thanks to all respondents who gave me valuable information which helped me to complete this research work in due time. Thanks for key informant and thank to the staff western Regional library.

At last, I also appreciate and thank my husband (Deepak Raj Tiwari), my mother who helped me all the way from the beginning of the research. Because of her consistent responsive behavior, love and care, I was stress free from taking care of my 10 months little daughter and other daily home issues, my little brother and cousin also providing the reference. I also appreciate and thank my daughters and other family for their benevolent help and encouragement.

Finally, thanks to Sakuntala Kunwar of Kanchan Computer Sewa for taking care of typing and other computer works.

Date :

Indira Bhattarai (Tiwari)

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to explore the problem of street children in Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City with the specific objectives: to examine the overall status of street children in Pokhara in terms of their access to education, health and their lifestyle; to explore the factors pushing children on the street and to access the nature and magnitude of the problems of street children. Finally their socio-economic status is examined in the light of the indicators of the conceptual framework drawn in the study.

The exploratory research method is applied to explore the various aspects and variables of the topic of the study and similarly, the descriptive and quantitative methods are employed to describe and generalize the problem of the street children and possible opportunities to enhance their quality of life in all aspects. There are 231 street children in Pokhara. The selected areas are located from China Bridge to Chipledhunga via bus park Newroad. In total 90 street children have been found in selected areas. Among them 60 street children are taken for the study as sampled respondents by applying simple random sampling method through lottery system.

The results of the study are that most of the children are 11-15 in age group which are 43.33%. And the lowest percentage of the children are 16-18 in age group. The children have come from many ethnic group. Dalit has highest (50%) of street children. And the lowest (20%) of other group. Most of the children on the street are from Christian background because Christian afford them to eat and other enjoyable materials from church. The percentage of Christian, Hindu and Buddhist are 70%, 20% and 10% each respectively. From the study, most of the street children are from western development region. Majority of the children 33.33% are in Kaski district. The second majority of the children 15% are in Baglung and 10% are in Tanahun, Dhading and unknown districts. The lowest of the children 1.66% are in Gorkha and Parsa districts.

As the street children have left home due to various reason but some of them are in contact and some are out of contact with their family. Only 45% children are in contact with their family and 55% children are out of contact or no response with their family. Form the study we found that 80% of street children

are literate but nobody had completed even primary education and 20% of the children are never attended in any school and other instructions. The main reasons behind not completing even primary level of education are lack of interest and run away from home.

It has been deduced that 70% of children are giving importance to their health and 30% of children are not giving importance to their health. In total, 40% of children have a habit of taking bath once a week. Only 5% of the children are taking bath twice a month and 20%, 35% children are taking bath twice a week and once a month each respectively. Likewise, 80% of children don't have a habit of brushing whereas 20% of children have a habit of brushing. Another 70% of children have a habit of hand washing before having meal and 30% have not a habit of hand washing before meal.

From the study, we decide that most of 25% children left home due to poverty. Only 5% of the children left home due to the death of mother. Lack of love and affection and having companion with street boys are 21.66%. During the survey, when they were asked to give the reasons to stop attending or not continuing school. In total 56.66% children are run away from home. And 20%, 13.33%, 5%, 3.33% and 1.66% children stop attending school while unable to pay cost, other reason, lack of interest, migration and discrimination each respectively.

The survey report exhibit that majority of the street children have both parents alive. And 10%, 20% and 15% children have father only, have mother only and have no parents each respectively. Children are interested to come to the street despite living in small family.

Most of the street children are from big family size. The largest number of parents of the street children were wage labours. Total 755 of children's family income is not sufficient enough to a certain level and style. Street children have different kind of bad habit. In total 86.66% children have habit of dendrite sniffing. Most of the street children are in the occupation of street rage-picking, begging, working in hotel restaurant and vehicle cleaner etc and their average income is Rs. 100 per day. Though they earn very nominal amount of money some of them use to save their earning as well. Total 20.66% of the respondents have a saving habit. All of them spend their earning for food and cigarette/alcohol and most of them are habitual with dendrite sniffing which needs to be minimized giving them other opportunity or engaged them in other creative activities.

As street children have been their life in street and they have to go through different circumstances and problems. They use to make different places as their shelter. Significant street children use to sleep in front of shop with friends. They fell cold in the winter season as they don't proper bed to sleep. Most of the street children feel problem of rain and coldness in their residency. This can prove that they don't have safe and secure place to sleep and life is very strong and painful for them. There is no arrangement form the government to improve their sleeping condition.

Even if the street children live in street, but they also have their own future plans. From the study we find that 61.6% street children want to give up living in the street whereas 38.33 want to stay on the street as they get free life despite various problems. Most of them want in different sector. Most of them want to become a driver which is 18.33% in future, 15% children want to become a doctor and social worker, 8.33% children want to become a police/army and cook in future, 5% children want to become a rich people, educated person, garages worker and electrician, 3.33% want to become a pilot. Only 1.66% children want to become a hotel owner and 10% children want to go abroad.

From the study it is explored that street life is full of problems, challenges, difficulties and hardships. Every-day they have to fight with hurdles, obstacles and risky circumstances in the street. The main factors that force children to leave home is the influence of the peers that children who have lived and worked in the city influencing their peers in their rural homes, poor economic situation of the family, change in family structure and social relations and attraction towards city life. Once children come to the street they don't want to return home as they don't want to lose freedom.

Education status of street children is very worse. Some of the children have never been to school even if the government has its policy of free education up to secondary level. Health status of the street children is also very fragile as they don't get hygienic food to eat. They also don't give preference to their own cleanliness.

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ACRONYMS

ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBOs	:	Community Based Organization
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDB	:	Children's Development Bank
CPCS	:	Child Protection Center and Services
CSC	:	Consortium for Street Children
CSFC	:	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
CWIN	:	Child Work in Nepal
CWS	:	Child Welfare Scheme
CWSN	:	Child Welfare Scheme Nepal
CWSUK	:	Child Welfare Scheme UK
HIV	:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organization
IPEC	:	International Programme or the Elimination of Child Labour
NGO	:	Non- Government Organization
NPC	:	National Planning commission
PCCI	:	Pokhara Chamber of Commerce and Industry
SAS Nepal	:	Society of Aware Students Nepal
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TOLI	:	Team Organizing Local Institute
TU	:	Tribhuvan University
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	:	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
WHO	:	World Health Organization