

A Socio- Economic Study of Street Children In Nepal
(A Case study of Kalanki Area)

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO:
THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY, KIRTIPUR
FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PARTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER'S IN SOCIOLOGY

Submitted by:

NARAYANI SIGDEL

Reg. No. : 6-2-386-49-2004

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY, KIRTIPUR
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

2011

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY

KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is certify that Miss. Narayani Sigdel has completed this dissertation entitled “**A Socio –Economic Study of Street Children in Nepal**” (**A Case study of Kalanki Area**) under my supervision and guidance in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology. I, therefore, recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

Date:

.....

Dr. Sandhya Basnet

Associate Professor

Central Department of Sociology/anthropology

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Nepal

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY
KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

The dissertation entitled **“A Socio –Economic Study of Street Children in Nepal” (A Case study of Kalanki Area)** submitted by Miss. Narayani Sigdel has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology.

Dissertation Committee:

Head of the Department

Prof. Dr. Om Gurung

Supervisor

Dr. Sandhya Basnet

External Examiner

Mr. Pramod Bhatta

Date:.....

Acknowledgement

The problem of street children is universal phenomena. The number of street children has grown in recent decades because of widespread recession, political turmoil, increasing family disintegration, and growing urbanization. They could be orphaned or abandoned children or simply neglected or runways.

Because of the various reasons such as family causes, social causes and other causes forced children to be in the street. Though we all are not accepting street children socially and culturally but there must be some sense of human being in all of us. Many social organizations and service centers are mushrooming through out the country with a motto of support needy street children. Because of the lack of street child legislating it is extremely difficult to monitor the performance of such social centers and government organizations.

To provide help to needy street children at this time is very important at least to make aware parent's, NGOs, governmental organization and social centers.

This research would not have been possible with the help of a number of people. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my respected supervisor Dr. Sandhya Basnet for her valuable guidance, comments, criticism and suggestions.

I extend my warm gratitude to prof. Dr. Om Gurung, Head, Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology for his valuable suggestion during the preparation of the thesis. I would also like to thank all the teachers and administrative staff of central Department of Sociology/Anthropology for their help during study period.

I am thankful to the CWIN for their invaluable material, data and information related to the street children in Nepal. And I am equally

thankful to my respondents of Kalanki area whose willingness to share their experiences and information with me made this research possible.

I also wish to express my heartfelt respect and thanks to my parents and all my honorable friends for their love, inspiration encouragement and moral support in every step of my life. I am indebted to my friend Shailaja Devkota and my brother Dipendra Pokhrel for their inspiration, continuous support and encouragement through out my study.

Last but not the least, I express to thanks all those people who had been very kind and supportive to me during my field visit and study.

Narayani Sigdel

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Letter of Recommendation

Letter of Acceptance

Acknowledgement

Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

CHAPTER-ONE

Introduction1

1.1 Background1

1.2 Statement of Problems5

1.3 Objectives of the Study6

1.4 Significance of the Study6

1.5 Organization of the Study7

CHAPTER-TWO

Review of Literature8

2.1 Definition of a Child8

2.2 Definition of a Street Child or Children10

2.3 Situation of Children in Nepal13

2.4 Street Children in Kathmandu Valley15

2.5. Reason of Being Street Children.16

2.6 Reasons of Leaving Home17

2.7 Reason of children work, not work, in worst
form of child Labour.....18

2.8 Child Labour19

Conceptual Framework	24
----------------------------	----

CHAPTER-THREE

Methodology	25
--------------------------	-----------

3.1 Research Design	25
---------------------------	----

3.2 Rationale for the Selection of Study Area	25
---	----

3.3 Nature and Source of Data	26
-------------------------------------	----

3.4 Universe and Sample Size	26
------------------------------------	----

3.5 Data Collection Techniques	26
--------------------------------------	----

3.6 Data Analysis	27
-------------------------	----

3.7 Limitation of the Study	27
-----------------------------------	----

CHAPTER-FOUR

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Street Children	28
--	-----------

4.1 Social Characteristics	28
----------------------------------	----

4.1.1 Age and Sex Distribution of Street Children	28
---	----

4.1.2 Caste /Ethnic Composition of Street Children	29
--	----

4.1.3 Place of Origin of Street Children	31
--	----

4.1.4 Educational status of street children	32
---	----

4.1.5 Causes of not Joining/Continuing School	33
---	----

4.2 Working Background of Street Children	34
---	----

4.2.1 Type of Work	34
--------------------------	----

4.2.2 Working Hours	35
---------------------------	----

4.2.3 Income and Saving Pattern	37
---------------------------------------	----

4.2.4 Earning money Per Day	37
-----------------------------------	----

4.2.5 Expenditure Pattern	38
---------------------------------	----

4.2.6 Job Satisfaction	39
------------------------------	----

4.2.7 Sleep Areas	40
-------------------------	----

4.3 Parental Status of Street Children	40
--	----

4.3.1 Parental Occupation	41
---------------------------------	----

4.3.2 Fixed Property	42
----------------------------	----

4.3.3 Family income Sufficiency	42
4.3.4 Fooding Conditions of Street children Family	43
4.3.5 Type of Family of Street Children	44
4.3.6 Family Behavior Upon the Street Children	45
4.3.7 Love/Affection to the Children by Family Member ..	45
4.3.8 Contact With Family After Leaving Home	46
4.4 Health and Nutrition Status of Street children.....	47
4.4.1 Daily Food/Meal Situation	48
4.4.2 Health Situation	49
4.4.3 Treatment Pattern of street Children.....	49
4.4.4 Toxic Use Pattern of street Children.....	50

CHAPTER-FIVE

Causes of Leaving Home51

5.1 Causes of Being Street Child	51
5.1.1 Family Causes	52
5.1.2 Economic Causes	55
5.1.3 Other Causes	57

CHAPTER -SIX

Institutional Policies on Child Labour and its Implication in

Nepalese Context59

6.1 Introductions	59
6.2 The Child Rights	59
6.3 Legal Provision and Enforcement	60
6.3.1 The Labour Act, 1992 and the Labour Rules, 1993 ..	60
6.3.2 The Children's Act, 1992 and the Regulation on children, 1995	61
6.3.3 The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2000	61
6.4 The Government Initiatives	61

6.5 International Norms and Standards63

CHAPTER-SEVERN

Summary and Conclusions65

Summary65

Summary of findings65

Conclusions70

Bibliography

Questionnaires

List of Tables

Table 4.1: Age and Sex Distribution of Street Children	28
Table 4.2: Caste/Ethnic Composition of Street Children	30
Table 4.3: Birth place of Street Children	31
Table 4.4: Educational Status of street children.....	32
Table 4.5: Causes of not Joining or Continuing School	33
Table 4.6: Types of Work Done by Street Children.....	35
Table 4.7: Working Hours Distribution	36
Table 4.8: Earning Money Per Day	37
Table 4.9: Expenditure Pattern	38
Table 4.10: Job Satisfaction Pattern	39
Table 4.11: Sleep Location of Street Child	40
Table 4.12: Parental Occupation of Street Children	41
Table 4.13: Fixed Property	42
Table 4.14: Family Income Sufficiency of Street Children	43
Table 4.15: Fooding Condition	43
Table 4.16: Type of Family of Street Children	44
Table 4.17: Family Behavior Upon the Children	45
Table 4.18: Love/ Affection to the Children by Family Members	46
Table 4.19: Contact With Family After Leaving Home	47
Table 4.20: Meal Per Day Situation of Respondent	48
Table 4.21: Treatment Pattern	49
Table 4.22: Toxic Use Pattern of Respondent	50
Table 5.1: Causes of Street Child	51
Table 5.2: Causes of Being Street Children due to Family Problem	53
Table 5.3: Street Children due to Economic Causes	56
Table 5.4: Other Causes of Child Being onto Street	58

List of Figures

Figure 5.1: Causes of Street Child	52
Figure 5.2 Causes of Being Street Children due to Family Problem	55
Figure 5.3: Street Children due to Economic Causes	57
Figure 5.4: Other Causes of Child Being onto Street	58

CHAPTER-ONE

Introduction

1.1 Background

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

The children are an integral part of society and precious treasure of the world. We can not imagine the existence of society if there were no children around us. They are our source of hope, joy and inspiration. Hence, children are regarded as the future of the world, leaders of nation for development and future star of nation but no child can grow sufficiently without proper love, care and understanding. In each stage of childhood, a child, who is innocent, vulnerable, dependent and voiceless, needs the proper support of adult care, otherwise there is a chance for every child to be in danger. If they are not taken care properly and adequately will be hampered and their future will lead towards uncertainty.

Today's buds are the blooming flower of tomorrow; hence the children are the potential energy of the nation on whom the fate of a nation depends. Childhood is the most effective stage of human development and if one is deprived of the various opportunities in this stage he will not be able to attain proper development and can't lead best human life.

Due to the family problem, domestic violence natural disaster, murder qurelling and miss-guardianship, poverty and illiteracy, many of children are compelled to live miserable life, their innocence and basic rights are threatened and victimized by all sorts of exploitation.

Street children are those child who have devised their own language, the vocabulary of which expresses their own unique situation (**Voice of child workers 1993**). A street child is one whose home is the street and is unprotected and unsupervised. The concept of street children is broad which include children who live in all public and building temples. Street children are those who live in these areas and make their living themselves with no protector as guardian is consider as street children. (**UNICEF, 1996**)

ILO Stresses street children as a worst form of child labour which is not "teenagers" working for a few hours to earn additional pocket money; not children helping on family farms not young stars doing household works but children prematurely living adults lives, working long hours for wages under conditions to their health and to their physical and mental development, sometimes or after seperated from their families frequently deprived of meaningful educational and training opportunities that could open for them a better future. (**Report of the director General: 1983, ILO, P. 26**)

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

Street children are those who use the street as their permanent home spending majority of their time out their doing whatever is necessary for their own day to day survival. (**CWIN 1990**) UNICEF has defined street children as "Street children are those for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, i.e. unoccupied dwellings, wastelands etc) more than their family has become their real home a situation in

which there is no protection, supervision or direction from responsible adults.

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

i. Runaway children:

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

ii. Orphaned or Abandoned children:

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

iii. Squatter children:

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

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

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

But in the context of underdeveloped and developing countries, entire families are and may be also living permanently on the street. It confuses the UNICEF categorization of street children. So a survey

research conducted by UNESCO in India had categorized for the convenience on the basis of their contact with families.

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

a. Roofless

Who live and work on the street (i.e. abandoned building under bridges, bus stand in public parks), yet maintain occasional contacts with their families, who may live in the same or other city or in rural areas. They see the street as their homes and spend most of their lives on the streets, begging, selling household good, rag-picking, and scavenging waste materials, shining shoes or washing bike or cars to supplement their and their family income. They do often send money to their families.

b. Roofless Rootless

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

The popularity of the term ‘street children’ popularity in Nepali “Khate” increased significantly after the street Children’s National Convention which was held in Kathmandu in October 1993 for three days, which attracted significant coverage in the media. The issue

regarding street children in Urban Nepal received a tremendous amount of attention from development organizations and the media in the 1990s. The numbers of NGOs and INGOs offering various programs to the street children have certainly increased. However, the definition of street children still remains ambiguous and congested. (CWIN 1995)

1.2 Statement of Problems

Children are regarded as precious gift of the nature. Every child of this world has the right to live his/her childhood. A wonderful stage that comes only once in one's life. Childhood is the beginning of human development unfortunately, twenty percent of the world children are deprived from their childhood rights. They are over burdened. They not only suffer from the lack of food, shelter, love, health care and education but are also exploited and abused in different ways. Child labour exploitation, street children, children in debt bondage, children in jails, children of war and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation are the present forms of violation of the rights of the child.

Today's children are the pillars for bright future of the nation, but most of the children are at different level of risk and beyond the justice and protection in Nepal. It would be due to poverty, illiteracy and social environment. They are deprived of education and employed to work as third class labour some of them are discarded from the family and some of them forced to involve in prostitution.

The existence of street children is not a new phenomenon. However there are several organizations, NGO's and INGO's in Nepal which are associating for the investigation of exact scenario of street children. Nevertheless it has not been able to find the factual data related to this subject. In this situation appropriate policy can be formulated and misconception abound.

Among the different forms of child labours street children face various problems, which arise from different sectors. Their problems are related to their living and working. But these both problems have many other associated problems such as; developmental problems, health problems, educational problems etc. These problems are the burning issue for all developing countries including Nepal. So the growing number of street children is one of the greatest challenges for all advocates of development human rights activities and policy makers. By considering the problems of street children as burning issue the present study has tried to solve the following research questions:

1. What is the social-economic condition of street children?
2. What is their working background in the street?
3. What is their present situation in which they are surviving?
4. What are the influencing factors of children being onto street?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The problem of street children is universal and the problems associated with these children are various in economical, social and geographical ways. Street children are not good or bad by birth but they are made so by the society. They are made bad by the circumstances of their lives and their exposure to negative influences. So the general objective is to find the major problems of the street children and following are the specific objectives of this study.

1. To identify the socio-economic condition of street children.
2. To find out the root causes for being street children.
3. To analyze the institutional policies and program on child labour.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study helps to know about the current situation of street children of Kalanki area. The problems of street children are considered as most prominent but not new issues. They are compelled to work in

much more neglected area. They always suffer from various problems which further aggravated their worsening conditions. So the significance of this study are as follows:

1. This study helps to know about the current situation of the street children.
2. This study helps to know and provide essential message, lot of information about street children to all the people and also makes awareness and feel responsibilities toward the street children
3. Provides information about the street children who are living little bit far from the core area of the city.

1.5 Organization of the Study

This study is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction of the subject including background of the study. Statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study and organization of the study.

Similarly, various studies are made in the second chapter through review of literature in which definition of a child, definition of a street children or child, situation of children in Nepal, street children in Kathmandu valley, reason of being street children, reason of leaving home, reason of children work, not work and work in worst form of child labour and conceptual framework are included. The third chapter is about research methodology which includes research design, Rational for the selection of study area, Nature and source of data, universe and sample size, Data collection techniques, data analysis and Limitation of the study. The fourth chapter deals with socio-economic characteristics of street children. Fifth chapter presents the cause of leaving home of street children. The sixth chapter includes the institutional policies on child labour in the context of Nepal and the seventh and last chapter presents summary and conclusion.

CHAPTER-TWO

Review of Literature

2.1 Definition of a Child

Children have been entitled as the 'future stars' and the 'rising sun' in most of the societies. Every child has rights to childhood and should enjoy the same social protection. Children are our pillars of future society so they must be taken care of properly. **(Ranjitkar S., 1999)**

A child means every human being below the age of 18 years. **(UN Convention, 1989)** The law of Nepal says 'a child is that human being who is age below 16 years'

'Children are mankind's greatest treasure' Buddha proclaimed over two thousand five hundred years ago. Today children are crying for their urgent and basic need. The world of tomorrow will be happiest place to live, if the population of today care for mental and physical health of the children. If children are socially and economically deprived and have seen only exploitation then we can not be sure that their future is going to be. Happy on the hand, if the society encourages them with equality, freedom and dignity it can develop satisfactory adulthood **(UNICEF 1997)**

Every children desire loves from the parents and wants to be as them. Children are curious about anything new they see and also about their own bodies and the bodies of others. Their first responses to curiosity take the form of sensori motor exploration, later as a result of social pressures and punishment they respond by asking questions **(Hurlock E.B., 1981)**

As Nepal is the the state party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) the promotion and protection of the rights of children is one of the basic obligations of HMG/Nepal. The rights of children in Nepal are furthering protected under the Children's Act 1992 and Child

Labour (prevention and Regularization) Act 2000. HMG/Nepal has ratified the ILO Convention No.192 on 13 September 2001. Earlier the government has also ratified the optional protocols on Trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation and pornography and use of children in the arm struggle. The parliament unanimously passed the ratification. It is hoped that the ratification of the ILO Convention against Worst Forms of child Labour will bring about positive impacts in lives of children living and working in difficult circumstances. The Time-bound programme introduced by ILO in Nepal Last year has been trying to work towards setting up an environment where children are not exploited and are able to enjoy their childhood rights. Another positive step towards promoting child rights is an attempt from the government is considering increasing the age of children from 16 to 18 in accordance with Nepal's commitment to the CRC and ILO Convention No. 182, both of which consider any person under 18 as children. Issues of children concerning child sex abuse and exploitation, and the administration of juvenile justice were also addressed in the amendment. But it did not get through this year and is expected to be passed by the parliament in the forthcoming session. **(Pradhan G. and Tuladhar S., 2002)**

The UN Declaration on the Rights of the child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the child believe that in the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. The rights of the child shall be extended to all children without any social economic, cultural or political discrimination. Accordingly, children living and working in exceptionally difficult circumstance shall be provided special consideration. The rights of the child movement also advocate the protection and harmonious development of the child that are consistent with the good traditions and cultural values of different communities.

By providing safeguards against social injustice and economic exploitation the rights of the child movement re-affirms a commitment of promote social progress that will ensure justice, freedom and progress. Children occupy about a half of the total population of the country. Most of the children are living very vulnerable and backward lives owing to mass poverty and backwardness Issues of the rights of the children and their development are being raised strongly on one hand. While on the other, our children are struggling for mere survival under the most difficult circumstances of acute poverty, illiteracy, scarcity and backwardness. Hence, it is an utmost need to herald the message of the rights of the child in the rural and remote areas where a majority of children are deprived of their basic rights. **(Pradhan G., 1995)**

2.2 Definition of a Street Child or Children

‘Street children spend the nights anywhere in the streets, stay up late, get little sleep, are exposed to passers-by as abandoned, homeless, tramps, thieves or juvenile delinquents.’ **(Ennew J., 1994)**

Street Children are those children who have devised their own language, the vocabulary of which expresses their own unique situation. **(Voice of child workers, 1993)**

A street child is one whose home is the street and is unprotected and unsupervised. The concept of street children is broad which include children who live in all public land building tamaras. Street children are those who live in these areas and make their living themselves with no protector is guardian is consider as street children. **(UNICEF, 1996)**

Children ‘in the street’ are boys and girls who work (usually for their mothers) as vendors in the markets or at some other market-based economic activity (carrying bags, begging, hauling away garbage, and the like); these children retain some contact with their families and live,

however loosely, with some degree of parental (or adult) supervision. Children of the street 'in contrast, are mostly teenagers who have been orphaned or abandoned by or run away from families, and who consider the streets to be their home. True abandoned street children are too young to enter the legitimate labour force and too estranged from their families to participate in the family's economic activities; they pass their time by sniffing glue, 'hanging out', and participation in various forms of criminal activity. Thus, children in the streets are primarily market children and children of the streets are primarily abandoned children. The latter are truly homeless and (more to the point, perhaps) without families, the former are not (**wright, kaminsky and witting, 1993**)

On the survey of street children of Kathmandu shows that there are three kinds' street children in the street as Runaway children, Squatter children and Orphan children. Most of these children were engaged in rag picking, pottering, betting and stealing. They suffered from illnesses like scabies, cold, fever, headaches, diarrhea, dizziness tuberculosis and ENT infections. Because the children lacked adequate and hygienic food, they were malnourished. Some of them survived on food lying in the garbage bins. Schooling was unknown to them. Because they were indifferent about their future, they were not only indulging in gambling, smoking, and pick pocketing, but were also sometimes addicted to drinking and drugs. (**CWIN Survey, 1990**)

The habitual abode of the street kids in Kathmandu is the street pavements and the temple side. The number of children working and living in the street is about 500, of which 52 percent are minors below the age of 16. The street children have virtually no protection and care from their parents, and therefore, they have to manage the livelihood by themselves. They live mostly by rag picking; some of them are also involved in begging, street vending, pick pocketing, shoe shining,

rickshaw pulling and pottering. It is easy to encounter the kids mostly in the garbage dumping areas, dirty lanes, bus terminals and the tourist centres. The street kids in Kathmandu come from poor families, mainly from the nearby countryside. While the children in general are from abandoned homes, some of them still have families, and some are orphans commonly the street kids are harassed by local hooligans and are victims of humiliation and suspicion. Quite often they meet physical injury in the streets and also exposed to a variety of hazards, both moral and physical. For them, the future is uncertain and the past is a mystery. It is only the present in which they have learnt to struggle for survival **(CWIN, 1995)**

The most popular group the street children are rag pickers, called khate. They survive by collecting bits of plastic and garbage from the litter lying in the streets. They are one of the most neglected groups of children in Nepali society. Information on the place of origin, age group, ethnicity, family status, literacy rate and daily earnings of the khate children has been very well analyzed. If efforts are not made to improve the condition of these children, they could face even more serious problems and become a possible threat to society as whole. The problem of the Khate has been increasing with every passing day due to growing urbanization. The increasing migration, family breakdown, poverty in the village, attraction of the city, homelessness and landlessness have been pushing the rural population into cities and this has not only created a lot of unplanned settlement and squatter areas, but has also led to an increase in the number of street children. **(Pradhan G., 1998)**

In major cities, particularly on Kathmandu Valley, there are a large number of street children who work mainly as beggars and rag pickers. Government policies, in the past, have concentrated on development activities in Kathmandu, which increased rural migration into Kathmandu

and which in turn produced more street children. Some of these children have become addicted to alcohol and have resorted to gambling, pick pocketing and stealing to survive (**Jha H. B., 1999**)

“If you think of one year ahead, plant a seed.

If you think of ten years ahead, plant a tree.

If you think of hundred years ahead, educate children”

“Ending child labor through a meaningful educate” (**Pradhan G., 1999**)

The law prohibits Child labour and several other act. The Nepal children s Acts 1992 and Labour Act 1992 strictly prohibits employing or hiring child labour in the factories and risk areas. As is clear from observation and surveys, these acts are widely ignored. Labour of minors have been regularized rather than prohibited (**Country report of CWIN, 1998**)

2.3 Situation of Children in Nepal

In Nepal the concept of street children as currently understood had not in the late seventies. They were referred only as ‘child beggars’ and ‘working children’. When international year of the child committee Nepal conducted a study of child beggars and provided solution to the problem of these. Street children as a social group came to be recognized in Kathmandu only during late eighties, when outreach and advocacy programs were started by **NGO. (CWS/UNICEF, 1996)**

The problem of street children is universal. There are over 100 million children in the world. They are the reflection of a growing social tragedies in the world. The problem of street children is comparatively very high in those countries where there is rapid growth of urbanization trend. Cities like Bombay, Calcutta. Manila. Rio de/enario, Mexico city, Bangkok, Johannesburg and Nairobi are some of the burning examples of

street children problem in the world. The number of street children has grown in recent decades because of widespread recessions, Political turmoil, civil unrest, increasing family disintegration, natural disasters and growing urbanization.

Street children can be defined in various categories on the basis of the amount of time spent on the street, the job they take up for a living and their personal and family background. However, broadly speaking, the street children are those children who are completely street based. Working and living in the streets. They could be orphaned or abandoned children or simply neglected or runaways. They could be with or without family. They could be both local children of the urban areas or migrated one from the villages. They could have little or no contact with their respective families. But they invariably spend all their time in the streets for livelihood and shelter. Street children appear to fall into three main categories: fugitives from poverty in deprived rural areas, escapes from physical and mental abuse by family and step-parents and orphans. The children from the first group may often have to support their families in the squats as their parents may be unable to find work in the city as easily as their children.

Some general statistics on street children of Nepal is presented below:

- ❖ There are about 5000 children working and living in the streets of urban center of Nepal.
- ❖ The main cities in Nepal where street children are found are Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Pokhara, Dharan, Narayanghat, Butwal, Biratnagar, Birgunj, Nepalgunj etc.
- ❖ Street children are among the high risk and insecure groups and they are vulnerable to various forms of exploitation and abuses.

- ❖ Street children are not traditional phenomenon of our society. But it has been increasing every year as part of our urban reality.
- ❖ Street youths are gradually being exposed to the world of crime by the rampant use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
- ❖ There are few organizations working directly with street children for their socialization and social re-integration. **(Country report of CWIN 1998)**

2.4 Street Children in Kathmandu Valley

Kathmandu is also among those cities where urbanization growth is very high in last 30 years. Kathmandu, the “Living Legends” ha been converting into a “city of garbage” and “city of loosing beauty”. On the contrary Kathmandu has become a home for thousand of street children and working children. As life becomes harder in the countryside the number of urban child workers grows. Poor roads and communications isolate rural Nepal from urban centers and development initiatives are concerned in the Kathmandu valley. As population and the pressures on land and natural resources increase in the hills, the quality of life for the poor deteriorates. Natural disasters such as landslides and floods punish them further. The country’s urban population increased seven fold from 235275 in 1952 to 1.6 million in 2004. Everyday brings more immigrant families increasing the number of child workers and street children.

Even though there has been on official record of street child population as yet, it has been estimated that there are about 800-900 street children in the Kathmandu valley and the number continues to grow. The ongoing conflict situation in the country has also contributed to the rise in street children in Kathmandu. Street children are normally mobile population. They roam from one part of the city to another. But generally they have made certain areas their base when they do their business and

sleep at night. The main area in Kathmandu that street children are usually found are Kalanki, Kalimati, New Road, Bir Hospital, Bag Bazaar, Annapurn, Thamal, Balaju, Maharajgunj, Gausala, Boudha, Airport, Baneshwor, Maitedevi, Gyaneshwor, Lagankhel, Koteshowor, Swoyembhu, Taku Sundhara etc.

Most of the street children come from the poor farmers or agriculture workers. The rest of the children's parents are involved in several low-income jobs such as construction labour, driving, small business, carpets and tailoring. Only a very few children belong to the middle class families. Regarding parental condition, most children have both or single parents. Some have step parents while a number of them are orphans.

The street children of Kathmandu seem to be a homogenous mixture of all places in Nepal. In fact, the street children in Kathmandu represented 62 of the 75 districts of Nepal. There are children from all five geographical divisions of Nepal- east, middle, Midwest, west and far west. Out of 1876 children (2003), only 16.79% were from the Kathmandu valley with only 11.45% from the Kathmandu city itself. Rest came from other districts, with 44.16% coming from the surrounding districts of Kathmandu. (CWIN Survey, 1990)

2.5 Reasons of Being Street Children

Children run away from home for various reasons and when they arrive in the city they walk around in search of work. Unfortunately they cannot easily find paid work and soon meet and join other children living and working on the street and so they begin their street life. Some children are recruited as restaurant workers, Tempo conductors, Rag pickers, hotel boys, domestic servants or carpet weavers where they have to work under severe conditions. Some girls are unable to put with how

they treated and therefor come to the street as an alternative. In some children are expelled if they fell sick and they go to the street to survive. Orphaned or abandoned children may become street children they have no one to support or care for the children.

Most of the children have both and single parent but due to economic crisis in family, they also use their children for economic activities in stead of sending school. The children who are having stepfather and mother, mostly children can not adjust with stepfather and mother because stepparents misbehave, scold and beat children. Due to lacking of psychiologically love from parents, most of the children are leaving home with lots of sadness.

A lot of children between the aged 5-17 years are migrating to Kathmandu. The majorities are aged 13-14 years, followed by those between 15-16 years. Among them, the majorities are Chhetris, followed by Tarnang and Sherpa, Magars, Brahmins, Newars and Artisans. Among all castes except Tamangs and Serpas, male predominate the females **(Yogendra B.G. / Prabha K.H.2000)**

Due to several socio-cultural, economic and psychological problem, every year about 700-1000 new children land on the street of Nepal. (CWIN Report, 1996). The children in the streets are even as young as 5 or 6 years old with no family to look after them and not aplace to stay. They hand out with groups and that is their real family. Survey done by CWIN reveals that most of them are abandoned or left by their parents or relatives, while others are either runways or driven away from their villages.

2.6 Reasons of Leaving Home

Lots of children are coming to street due to attraction to city life and neglected and abused by family members as well as people of

society. There are lot of reasons like economic, fooding and clothing and psychological crisis within the family for being neglected and abused by the family members. **(Pradhan G., Sainju B, 1990)**

2.7 Reasons of children work, not work and work in worst forms of child labour

Children work for predominantly economic and social reasons. Children work because their families are poor, mostly as a result of inadequate access to productive assets- be it skills, jobs credit or land. They work because they perceive that the rewards received from labour are greater than those from education and/or because the quality of education is inadequate. Children work because of parental preferences, or because of employer preferences. Children should not work because child labour hampers economic growth through the lack of a qualified and skilled adult labour force. Investing in education, on the other hand, can significantly reduce child labour by improving the quality of schools. Reducing the direct and indirect costs to families and thereby encouraging students to return to school. **(IPEC, 2001)** Children work in hazardous occupations because opportunities for choosing safer forms of work are limited. Moreover, there is often a lack of knowledge on the part of children. Parents employers and influential persons in a community, such as teacher's religions and community leaders about the risks to health and development of children. Ln some cases, the problems are social, political or cultural as much as economic. Children from communities on the margins of society are easy prey for organized crime gangs bent on trafficking human beings or exploiting them by way of prostitution. Children involved in war are mostly the victims of ethnic rivalry or the fight for control over natural resources. And children in bonded labour continue an age-old tradition of slavery. A programme

targeted at the worst forms will therefore need to be fine-tuned to respond to the activities that predominate in any context

2.8 Child Labour

By the definition of a child labour means 'A person in the age group of 5-14 years employed for hire or reward, on a full time basis and includes a self employed child and a child assisting his/her parents in their occupations for two or more hours a day and using children exploiting for economic benefit.' In other words, it's situation when a child is forced to work or exploited for economic benefit for his own survival or to support his/her family.

Child labour is a worldwide problem today. About 250 million children in the world are living under the exploitative and hazardous working condition. They are deprived of their rights of physical, social, emotional, spiritual development. They are deprived and denied of their rights to education. If no immediate measures are taken into account at present, there will be rather difficult situation in the future. **(Voice of child worker, 1989)**

It is useful to think about who defies child labour as a problem. For governments and international agencies it may be a problem because it is against the law or contrary to international standards. For parents and children it may be a problem if there is not enough work, or the pay is not good enough. Some children may enjoy work and not see it as a problem at all, until perhaps in later life they want to progress and find themselves held back by lack of education. For others work is so hard, so dull, and so dreary that the whole of their childhood is a problem because of it. **(Ennew J., 1994P 11)**

Child labour has been accepted as integral part of the Nepalese economy and society. For many children in Nepal, the workday starts at

dawn and extends late into the evening. Every day is a day of labour for these children; they are deprived of their basic rights to protection, participation and development. The seriousness of this issue requires that all available data be scrutinized and analyzed before recommendations for change can be made. The paucity of verifiable data on this issue, however, seriously hinders the objective assessment of the extent and impact of child labour in Nepal. **(ILO-1998)**

It is estimated that the agricultural sector absorbs as much as 96.1 percent of the 1.15 million economically active children of 10-14 years followed by those engaged in construction, transportation and communication workers (2 percent) and sales workers (1.6 percent). In Kathmandu valley, the carpet industry absorbs a large number of children whose average age is 13 years. Children of the number of children whose average age are 13 years. Children of the Bhote clan like the Tamang, Lama and Sherpa comprise 85 percent of the child labourers in the carpet industry. The remaining 15 percent come from the Newar, Chettri, Brahman and Magar communities. Child labourers in the carpet industry have migrated mainly from the Ramechhap, Kavre, Dolkha, Nuwalkot, Makawanpur, Sindhupalchok, Banke, Barida, Dang, Rasuwa and Sunsari Districts. **(Suwal B.R. 1998)**

Restaurants in Kathmandu also employ sizeable numbers of child workers with ages ranging from 7 to 14 years. Children are also employed as domestic servants in households, although there are no reliable statistics on their actual number. Estimated 30,000 bonded and semi-bonded child labourers are engaged in domestic services in Nepal.

Child labour remains a serious problem in the world today. According to revised estimates by the ILO's Bureau of statistics, the number of working children between the ages of 5 and 14 is at least 120 million. As may be expected given the prevailing economic conditions,

the overwhelming majorities of these are in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. But pockets of child labour also exist in many industrialized countries. Numerous children work in occupations and industries, which are plainly dangerous and hazardous. They are found in mines, in factories making glass dangles, matches and fireworks, in deep-sea-fishing, in commercial agriculture and so on. **(ILO-1998)**

Earlier estimates based on very limited statistical information obtained from about 100 countries indicated that there were 73 million working children between 10 and 14 years of age in these countries in 1995. However, recent experimental surveys carried out by the ILO's bureau of statistics in a number of countries indicate that this figure is a gross underestimation. They further indicate that even children below 10 years of age are at work in substantial numbers. The Bureau now estimates that, in the developing countries alone, there are at least 120 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 who are fully at work, and more than twice as many (or about 250 million) if those for whom work is a secondary activity are included. Of these, 61 per cent are found in Asia, 32 per cent in Africa, and 7 per cent in Latin America. Although Asia has the largest number of child workers, Africa has the highest incidence at around 40 per cent of children between 5 and 14 years old. Though primarily a developing country problem child labour also exists in many industrialized countries and is emerging in many East European and Asian countries, which are in transition to a market economy. There are, of course, considerable national differences in the incidence of child labour. A recent ILO survey of child labour in Ghana, India, Indonesia and Senegal found that 25 per cent of all children between 5 and 14 years of age had engaged in an economic activity and that around 33 per cent of the children did not attend school. **(ILO report- VI, 1998)**

Working children are disadvantaged in other ways as well, and there is evidence that the early involvement of children in work can have serious health and developmental consequences. A comparative study carried out over period of 17 years in India on both school-going children in agriculture, small-scale industries and the service sector showed that working children grow up shorter and lighter than school children. In studies carried out in Bombay the health of children working in hotels, restaurants, construction and elsewhere was found to be considerably inferior to that of a control group of children attending school. Symptoms included muscular chest and abdominal pain, headaches, dizziness, respiratory infections, diarrhea and worm infection. (Naisu U. and Parasuman S, 1985). Similar findings were observed in the carpet weaving industry in Mirzapur, India. Poor sanitation, overcrowding, inadequate ventilation and extreme temperatures in the working environment are aggravated by poor conditions and malnutrition in the living environment, thus making working children more susceptible to infectious diseases, injuries and other workplace-related ailments.

Most statistical surveys cover only children aged 10 and above. But many children begin work at an earlier age. Rural children, in particular girls, tend to begin their economic activity at an early stage, at 5, 6 or 7 years of age. In some countries, children under 10 years of age are estimated to account for 20 per cent of child labour in the rural areas and around 5 per cent in urban centers. Their number can be much higher in certain occupations and industries, for example, in domestic service and home-based industries. Children are also conspicuously present in scavenging and rag-picking or in marginal economic activities in the streets and are exposed to drugs, violence, criminal activities, physical and sexual abuse in many cities around the world.

Child labour, then, is a denial of the right to education and of the opportunity to reach full physical and psychological development. Worse still, many millions of children are found working throughout the world, trapped in forced labor, debt bondage, prostitution, pornography, and other kinds of work, which cause lasting damage and immediate dangers. Clearly, therefore, the design of a national policy aimed at the effective abolition of child labour must focus on a priority basis on the most vulnerable children and on the most intolerable forms of child labour. **(Bequele A and Myers W., 1995)**

Child labour has emerged as a major social problem in much of the Third World countries where rapid increase in population, economic stagnation; structural adjustment policy implications, drought, war and disease have decreased the ability of families to earn a decent living. As part of family survival strategy used to cope with financial pressures, more and more children are being pushed into the labour market. In terms of the size of the population involved, child labour is probably the issue that involves the largest number of children worldwide.

It is true child work has existed throughout history, but it was the employment of children in factories and mines spawned by the industrial revolution in Europe, which made it more conspicuous, hazardous and exploitative. Consequently, the public raised their voice against this practice, which led to legislation to raise the minimum age of employment and improve working conditions. The introduction of the system of factory inspections and compulsory primary education appeared to have ultimately led to the elimination of child labour from the organized workplace. A major factor, which contributed to the decline in child labour, was the formalization of economic activity into registered and discrete components of the public and private sectors and the technological advance, which required trained and mature worker. Thus,

in any attempt in abolishing child labour legislative measures and enforcement mechanisms alone are not adequate. Experience has shown that there is a complex interplay of many other factors, which need consideration. (IPEC/ILO, 1995)

Conceptual Framework

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

Street child is a kind of social problem and which need to be addressed to resolve in long term basis. This highlights the importance of the topic and thus it is believed that the conclusions drawn from the study to some extent will help to make people aware about the right of children and the planner to make plans and programs.

There are several reasons that influenced children being on to street. The root cause of being street child could be as shown in this figure

CHAPTER-THREE

Methodology

Research can not be conducted without applying methodology. Due to this reason the following methods for research used during the study time to make it more scientific and accurate.

3.1 Research Design

The researcher in this study has selected the research topic on street children at Kalanki of the Kathmandu valley. The study tries to cover the driven forces of child being street child. Why are they come to urban area? To cover all this aspects in short period of time and limited resources, the researcher has chosen “exploratory as well as descriptive” research design. Exploratory research design is used to investigate minimum acquaintance of street children and descriptive research design for describing and analyzing their major problem.

3.2 Rationale for the Selection of Study Area

The study area of this research had mainly focuses near on the east, west, north and south of Kalanki. Particularly in the eastern part Kalanki temple in the western part Satungal. Similarly in the northern part Baphal and finally in the southern part Khasi Bazar. These are the areas where most of the street children gather with more friends and it is easy to study them and their behaviour. For that reason Kalanki is the center point.

The researcher has chosen Kalanki and near of the Kalanki as a research study area. Normally Kalanki is considered as the gateway of the Kathmandu valley where we can see people from all districts of different ethnic groups. At the same time it is easy to the children to drop in Kalanki as the transit point who rung from their home /village. It is one of the rapidly developing areas in the Kathmandu valley where one can have

easy access of long and short distance transportation facility follow of passengers is significantly high and incoming and outgoing from and to the Kathmadu valley is tremendous. The pull factor of the Kathmendu valley is comparatively very high and therefore more numbers of people are attracted to the valley to find more opportunities.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

Both primary and secondary data are used to get required information. The primary data has been collected from the field by administering semi-structured close and open-ended questionnaires for interview. The secondary data has been collected from available materials such as books, journals, project reports and published articles.

3.4 Universe and Sample Size

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

3.5 Data Collection Techniques

Various sociological tools and techniques are used to collect data to obtain the answer of the research questions are as follows:

a. Interview

Mixed type interview method was applied to collect primary information from street child. The interview schedule have been prepares

on the basis of the study objectives. The set of questions for interview was semi- structured close, and open-ended has been used.

b. Observations

Non-participant observation has been used to analyze their behavior, physical condition, health condition, age group classification with whom they are extending their friendship fooding and clothing that they are using.

3.6 Data Analysis

This study used descriptive and analytical method for the data analysis on socio-economic background, their behavior, working background, age group and ethnic composition.

3.7 Limitation of the Study

The limitations of the research study are as follows:

- i. This study is only limited on the socio-economic aspect of the street children. But there are many other aspects too.
- ii. The study done over a short period of time and therefore has limitations in terms of time that is spent with each respondent interviewed.
- iii. This study includes only those children of Kalanki who are under 16 years of age.
- iv. Since this study is confined only within Kalanki of the Kathmandu valley, the result obtained from the study can not be generalized for all the other urban areas as well as the total street children of Nepal.

CHAPTER-FOUR

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Street Children

The previous chapters have already dealt with the theoretical background and method involved in the study of street children. This chapter aims at presenting respondents profile, background of street children which cover age of street children, sex, caste, education, type of family, family education, and family education with income, parental condition of children, love children by family members, parental occupation, family behavior and fixed property of the parents.

4.1 Social Characteristics

4.1.1 Age and Sex Distribution of Street Children

According to CBS Nepal, the people who are below the age of 16 are considered as children statistics shows that people of this age group covers significant part of a national population. The age between 10-16 years is a critical period for a child. This age is the period of socialization, self identity and self esteem. Due to various causes children in this age compelled to leave their home. So the study was concerned only the children below the age of 16 years. The age and sex distribution of respondent can be shown in table below:

Table 4.1
Age and Sex Distribution of Street Children

S.N.	Age group	No. of Respondent		Total	Percentage
		M	F		
1	5-8 years	11	02	13	26
2	9-12 years	13	02	15	30
3	13-16 years	22	00	22	44
Total		46	04	50	100

Source: Field survey 2011

Table No. 4.1 shows that out of 50 respondents 44% of street children aged between 13-16 years are migrating to Kathmandu for

survival and being street children. Other are under aged between 5-8 years that is 26% and 30% aged between 9-12 years. There are more male street children than female street children in the street. A majority of male that is 46 (92%) is living in the street and few percent of female street girls (8%) are living in the street.

The average age of street children in kalanki area is 13-16 years that means children in this age can have courage to go anywhere. And most of the children come when they felt bored and not getting love from family.

Table no 4.1 shows that there is a majority of boys. It shows that boys are haphazardly moving here and there without hesitation on the street in one hand and the number is considerably higher than the number of girls on the other. Girls are finding less in the street because most of girls feel to love “there should be shelter at home rather than at street” and concept of Nepalese girl in society as one night outside the home, the question arises in their character so while taking information also it is found that at first girls love to work as a domestic labour, hotel girls, and prostitute before being street girl.

4.1.2 Caste /Ethnic Composition of Street Children

Unity in diversity has been considered as the main characteristic feature of Nepal. Population wise, Brahmin and Chhetri are the most dominant population in the country. Due to the caste and ethnic diversity of the country, the street children in Kathmandu constitutes children from various caste/ethnic group such as Brahmin, Chhtri, Magar, Tamang, Tharu, Limbu, Pariyar and others. Which is shown in the table no. 4.2 below:

Table 4.2**Caste and Ethnic composition of Street Children**

S.N.	Caste /Ethnics	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Brahman	07	14
2	Chhetri	06	12
3	Magar	06	12
4	Tamang	08	16
5	Newar	03	06
6	Lower castes (Sarki, Nepali, Pode, Pariyar)	16	32
7	Don't Know	04	08
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey 2011

Table no 4.2 shows that majority children that are 32% of the street children are from lower caste of Sarki, Nepali, Pode and Pariyar in which 16% are from the caste of Tamang and 14% children are from the caste of Brahmin 12% children are from the origin of chhetri in which 12% are from Magar and 6% are from Newar and 8% children don't know their caste.

A majority of children that is 32% are coming from a caste of lower caste like sarki, Nepali, Pode, Pariyar. Reason that found it is due to caste discrimination in village area as untouchable for lower caste system in the society. Due to this caste discrimination most of children change their caste and put higher caste as karki in stead of Sarki, Pradhan instead of Pode etc. children come to Kathmandu with changing of their caste because children had been seen real practice of caste discrimination in village and the same condition they won't like to see in Kathmandu which was unadjustable for them.

4.1.3 Place of Origin of Street Children

The street children of Kalanki of the Kathmandu valley seem to be a homogeneous mixture of all places in Nepal but it is heterogeneous composition if we look at the ethnic background. In fact, the street children in Kahtmandu represent many districts of Nepal. There were children from all five development region of Nepal. Kathmandu is now gradually becoming a melting pot because the main attraction to all kinds of people such as job seeker, street child, migrants etc. Place of origin of the street child can be shown in the table below:

Table 4.3
Birth place of Street Children

S.N.	Region	No. of Respondent	Percentage %
1	Eastern development region	11	22
2	Western development region	08	16
3	Mid-western development region	04	08
4	Central development region	16	32
5	Far western development region	06	12
6	Don't know	05	10
	Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2011

Table No. 4.3 shows that a majority children that is 32% of children are migrated from the central development region shows there is more street children problems in the central development region. It is because of nearest region and place from children size and children face and direct contact with the people of Kathmandu. Mostly children are coming from district like Bhaktapur, Bara, Lalitpur, Chitwan, Dhading, Kavre, Makawanpur, Nuwakot, Sindupalchowk of the central development region of Nepal. 22% of the children are form the eastern

development region in which district like Bhojpur, Ilam, Morang, Okhaldunga etc. and 16% of children are from the western development region. A minimum number of children are found in Kalanki area from the mid western development region and the far western development region of Nepal. It is because Kathmandu is very far away from children's resident and less contact with the people of Kathmandu. The table shows 8% of the children are from the mid-western development region and 12% of the children are from the far western development region and 10% children do not know where they are from because they had been to Kathmandu when they were very small, mainly brought by relatives for admitting to the school and giving Jobs at home in Kathmandu.

4.1.4 Educational status of respondent

There are 48% of the street children illiterate or have not attended any school, 24% were literate but below three class. Only 16% were upto five classes and only 12% crossed the primary level which is shown in the table below.

Table 4.4
Educational Status of Respondent

S.N.	Education	No. of Respondent	Percent
1	Illiterate	24	48
2	Literate (below 3 class)	12	24
3	Literate (below-5 class)	08	16
4	Above 5 class	06	12
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey-2011

Table No. 4.4 shows that there are 48% of the street children are illiterate because most of the children dropped out from school due to

economic crisis in family and not paid school fee due to feeling of step daughter and son and not aware on education in the village. Similarly 24% of the children are only literate below 3 classes, 16% children are only below 5 class and 12% children are literate above 5 classes.

4.1.5 Causes of not Joining/Continuing School

Basic education is considered as a basic requirement of all. Most of the street children come from poor families who have a little or no land at all. Primary level education is free in Nepal even though parents of these families are compel to send their children to work rather than to school due to socio-economic condition like poverty, illiteracy, lack of adequate working and employment facilities for their survival. During the study, when they were asked to give the reason for not joining or not continuing school, they gave different reasons, which were mainly related with family condition and personal causes. The major causes according to the respondent is shown in the table below:

Table 4.5
Causes of not Joining or Continuing School

S.N.	Causes	No. of Respondent	percentage
1	Poverty	21	42
2	No school around	04	08
3	Not interested	05	10
4	Death of parents	09	18
5	Careless of parents	07	14
6	Other (influenced by friend, too much work at home)	04	08
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey 2011

Table No. 4.5 shows that majority of the street children (42%) were leaving school due to poverty. 18% respondent was far from school due to the death of parents which shows that they have not proper counseling

to the importance of education. 14% respondent was not joining the school due to the careless of parents. 10% respondent were not interested in schooling. 8% were far from school due to the lack of school around and remaining 8% replied other than the above causes.

4.2 Working Background of Street Children

Food is that basic requirement without which no one can survive. For the survival of life, street children compel to do anything, whatever and wherever they get, so the achievement of the street children is to use a number of places to live and make money. The principle source of income for them is begging, rag-picking and work in hotel or restaurant. Most of the children who are coming to urban areas with the aim of betterment of life hardly or rarely receive their working places. So they select the begging and rag-picking a source of income. These children who are not able to do even these two works must sleep in street without eating. They are working for their survival even though they are suffering from humiliation, negligence, abuse, exploitation and disease. In other words they are missing their entire childhood.

4.2.1 Type of Work

Being a worst form of labour street children occupies these works which are neglected from other, study in the field shows that children are working in different sector with or without payment. Normally they always exploited by others. So they commonly select the street as suitable places to get rid of their suffering. The major types of work on the basis of field study is shown in the table below:

Table 4.6
Types of Work Done by Respondent

S.N.	Type of work	No. of Respondent		Total	Percentage
		Boys	Girls		
1	In hotel/Restaurant	08	01	09	18
2	Begging	14	-	14	28
3	Rag-picking	12	-	12	24
4	Domestic work	03	03	06	12
5	Other	09	-	09	18
Total		46	04	50	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

The above table shows that among the 50 respondent a majority of the children are working as a beggar which was 28% most of these children aged 5 to 15 years are involved in these kind of jobs because it's easy and don't have to take and ask permission to beg with other. And also when children feel hungry at first in the street, they see and contact with other street children with begging for survival and learn how to beg from their friends. Rag picker covers 24% of the respondent as a second largest involvement of street children for their survival. Similarly 18% respondent were working in hotel/restaurant and 12% respondent were involved in domestic work. Girls were involved only in domestic work and hotel and restaurant for their security of life. 18% of respondent were in other works like selling papers, work shop cleaners, stealing and pick pocketing.

4.2.2 Working Hours

The present study shows that street children don't have punctual time period to collect money for their survival. They start to work whenever they need money. But it is found that they were compelled to

work on a continuous basis for the survival. The working hours of street children is shown in the table below:

Table 4.7
Working Hours Distribution

S.N.	Working hours	No. of Respondent	Percent
1	1-3 hours	08	16
2	4-6 hours	05	10
3	7-9 hours	12	24
4	10-12 hours	09	18
5	More than 12 hours	16	32
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

The table no. 4.7 shows that 16% children working 1-3 hours. 10% were, working 4-6 hours per day. 24% children working 7-9 hours. 18% children working 10-12 hours and 32% children working more than 12 hours.

Most of the children work more than 12 hours per day shows they are totally exploited by hotel owner, factory owner, domestic owner and other people. And instead of working they get only food and a place for sleeping.

Children are economically, politically, socially exploited at all kind of work or occupation and also they are exploited physically, psychologically and sexually. 24% of children work 7 hours to 9 hours per day those children who are aged 13 years and above and little bit clever in working can take money according to working hours. 16% children work 1 to 3 hours per day for their survival which shows all most street children, most work more than 3 hours for the fulfillment of basic requirements.

4.2.3 Income and Saving Pattern

Income and saving of street children depends upon their types of work. Begging and rag-picking are the easiest and accessible types of work. They can get money according to their capacity as well as working time. Most of the children rarely save their income. If they save, can not protect from others. The causes of lack of saving are due to their habits of watching cinema, alcohol, drugs, smoking and other unnecessary spending. So some 10% of respondent was able to save about 30-40. Rupees per day but due to the lack of regular income they were not able to save. If they save, weren't interested to work anywhere. So, all most 90 % were found to be without saving. Aimless was also the factor due to which they were not interested to save their income.

4.2.4 Earning money Per Day

A majority street children that is 32% of the street children earn money less than Rs. 50 per day and 16% children earn only food in stead of working. 26% children earn Rs. 50 to 100, 14 % children earn 100 to 200 per day. This is shown in the table below:

Table 4.8
Earning Money Per Day

S.No.	Categories	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Only food	8	16
2	Less than RS. 50	16	32
3	Rs. 50 to Rs. 100	13	26
4	Rs. 100 to Rs. 200	7	14
5	More then Rs. 200	6	12
	Total	50	100

Source: field survey 2011

Most of the children earn less than Rs. 50 in the street when they involve at earning work for survival. The above table shows 32% of the

children are getting money less than Rs. 50 as per day. 14% of the children earn Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per day basically who mostly involve in pick pocketing, stealing etc. 16% children were earn nothing they only get food for survival shows these children totally exploited by owner and exploitative people in the street.

4.2.5 Expenditure Pattern

Most of the respondents were spending their earning for their survival. They considered street as their home, should not pay money or earnings for shelter, and rarely renewed cloth. They spend all most remaining money after food spent on drug and alcohol. Their earning and spending pattern shown in the table below:

Table 4.9
Expenditure Pattern

S.N.	Expenditure	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Food	22	44
2	Shelter	00	00
3	Clothes	08	16
4	Drug/Alcohol	11	22
5	Other (Medical, treatment, entertainment)	09	18
Total		50	100

Sources: Field survey, 2011

The table 4.9 shows that nearly half of the respondent 44% spent their earning for food 22% respondent spent their income for drug and alcohol which shows that they fulfill their food requirement by begging or from other ways and have more tendencies of drug and alcohol using. 18% respondent used their earning for other requirement whatever they

like. Remaining only 16% respondent used for clothes. Due to their nature none of them spent for their shelter, which shows that street as well as public building as their common shelter.

4.2.6 Job Satisfaction

Street children rarely get the suitable job opportunity according their age and requirement due to their nature. They generally pass their life by engaging in the neglected forms of work as, begging, rag-picking, cleaning, sweeping and other. Some children are satisfied and some are not satisfied for their working which is clarify by the table below:

Table 4.10
Job Satisfaction Pattern

S.N.	Reaction	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Satisfied	19	38
2	Not satisfied	31	62
	Total	50	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

In the survey, question had asked to pick out their perception regarding their jobs out of 50 respondent majority of them were not satisfied where 62% or 31 respondent were not satisfied, some of them were changed their work just before sometime even they also denied. Only 38% or 19 respondents were satisfied due to the fact that they didn't have access with next better one. Those who were not satisfied, they were searching for a better one to minimize the problem. But, who were satisfied, they argued that it was easy way to earn money and enjoy the life. They felt that they were enjoying freedom of life by escaping from the maltreatment and much work load at home. The respondent who denied the present work they came on the street due to death of parent, helplessness. poverty etc.

4.2.7 Sleep Areas

This is another big problem being faced by the street children. The night stay problem especially in the winter season is horrible. The study result of the 50 respondents are presented in the table below:

Table 4.11
Sleep Location of Street Child

S.N.	particulars	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Street	12	24
2	Mandirs	16	32
3	Dharmashala	07	14
4	Shelter at NGO's office	07	14
5	Others	08	16
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

Table No. 4.11 shows that according to the respondents, 32% of the street children manage to sleep in mandirs, followed by street 24%, Dharmashala 14%, shelter at NGO's which work for street child 14% and other in 16%.

4.3 Parental Status of Street Children

Family situation also determine the condition of the street children. Most of the children, who are in street, came from poor and deprived family. Some of them have huge family with having negligible resources and other some don't have one or both parents. Those who don't have these problems may caused by external forces to be into street. Some selected respondents family situation are tried to analyze in this study.

4.3.1 Parental Occupation

There are 35% of the children's parents are working as agriculture, 12% children's parents in a office, 28% are unemployed and 26% children's parents are involve in other works like porter, labour, domestic servent etc. which is shown in the table below:

Table 4.12
Parental Occupation of Street Children

S.N.	Occupation	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Agriculture	17	34
2	Office	06	12
3	Unemployment	14	28
4	Others (porter, labour, worker, domestic servant)	13	26
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey 2011

Table no. 4.12 shows that majority of parents are working in agriculture as a farmer in the village. It is because of a majority people are farmers either having their own land or hiring the land in Nepal. Only 12% of the parents are involving in office work and 28% of the parents are unemployed which shows there are lacking of education awareness and skills of jobs. 26% of the parents are working as a labour, porter, domestic worker etc. With low income shows parents are hardly surviving. So parents are using their children to involve in these jobs for income and children are going at risk situation due to economic problem in family for survival. It shows that there are not available of good jobs for parents because of not having uneducation and not aware on child health, child's future as well as parent's rolls towards the children.

4.3.2 Fixed Property

There are 32% of the children's family do have heir own house and 18% of the children's family have land. 10% of the children's family have bank balance and 40% of the children's family have other like pension, old age allowances etc. It can be shown in the table below:

Table 4.13
Fixed Property

S.N.	Property	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	House	16	32
2	Land	09	18
3	Bank balance	05	10
4	Others	20	40
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

Table No. 4.13 shows that 32% of the family has their own house. The table also shows that 18% of the family has land but most of these land are given by land owners which shows there is less income from these land work and difficult to survival. As a bank balance only 10% of the people are aware on banking as saving money for future. And other as getting pension, age allowances are only 40% in the village.

4.3.3 Family income Sufficiency

Among the various factors to increase street children it is also an important factor where most of the children compelled to leave their family due to the lack of sufficient income and resources. To find out the family situation of the respondent/ street children it was asked to them and mixed reaction was given by the respondents. This is shown in the table below:

Table 4.14

Family Income Sufficiency of Street Children

S.N.	Family income	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Sufficient	14	28
2	Not sufficient	24	48
3	Don't know	12	24
Total		50	100

Source: Filed survey, 2011

Table No. 4.14 shows that out of 50 respondent majority or 48% respondent didn't have sufficient family income that's why children leave home for the sake of sufficient food. Some 28% respondent had sufficient family income but they were leaved home due to maltreatment of parents or step parents and some were forced by friend to leave home. Remaining 24% didn't want to tell about their family income whether it is sufficient or not.

4.3.4 Fooding Conditions of Street Children's Family

There are 44% of the children's family have enough food for 3 months, 20% have enough food for 6 months, 14% children's family have enough food for 9 months, 16% children's family have enough for 12 months and 9% children's family do save each year in their family. It can be shown in the table below:

Table 4.15
Fooding Condition

S.N.	Categories	No. of Respondent	percentage
1	Enough for 3 months	22	44
2	Enough for 6 months	10	20
3	Enough for 9 months	07	14
4	Enough for 12 months	08	16
5	Surplus	03	06
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

The table no. 4.15 shows that most of the children do not have enough food for survival which shows they are surviving with poor fooding in their family. It is because of most of the family are working as a farmer in the village and they are exploited by landowners. They have land for working but lands are not their property. It is provided by land owner. They have to give some percent of production to the landowners. There are few percent who save food each year and 8% children have enough for 12 months which shows there is no problem in their family for fooding. It is because parents have jobs as well as they have their own land property in the village.

4.3.5 Type of Family of Street Children

Most of the children are coming to Kathmandu from joint family due to step father and mother involved in this family and misbehaving by step father and mother to the children and scolding and beating without any reasons. And other children are coming to Kathmandu as being street children as 12 from nuclear and also 10 from nobody that no father and no mother including no relatives.

Table 4.16

Type of Family of Street Children

S.N.	Type	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Nuclear	12	24
2	Joint	28	56
3	Nobody	10	20
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

Out of 50 respondents, 56% children from joint family, 24% children from nuclear family and also 20% children from nobody that is children do not have any family member, no father and no mother.

4.3.6 Family Behavior upon the Street Children

There are 44% of the street children getting bad behavior from the family, 32% are getting only well and 24% children are getting good behavior from the family which is shown in the table below:

Table 4.17

Family Behavior upon the Children

S.N.	Behavior	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Good	12	24
2	Well	16	32
3	Bad	22	44
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey 2011

Most of the children are suffering bad family behavior by the family member as always beaten by step father and mother scolding by parents with drunk, always involving in jobs rather than schooling. Which shows there should be lacking awareness program on child rights, parent's rolls towards the children, education and children health. And only 24% of the street children are getting good behavior by the family in which parents are good with socially and psychologically. Even do, they are in the street due to city attraction by their friends.

4.3.7 Love/Affection to the Children by Family Member

Out of 50 respondents, there are 40% of the street children get love from their mother, 24% children get love from their father, 22% children from sister and brother and 14% children are from other like uncle, uncle's brother, son and daughter which is shown in the table below:

Table 4.18

Love/ Affection to the Children by Family Members

S.N.	Member	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Father	12	24
2	Mother	20	40
3	Sister/Brother	11	22
4	Other	07	14
	Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2011

A majority children are getting love by mother at home which shows mothers are very good position in family than other members in relation to the street children. In this situation most of the fathers scold and beaten to the children with drunk at home and 24% of the children are getting love by father in which fathers are positive but due to step mother and alcoholic mothers, children are losing love and schooling opportunity. And 22% of the children are getting love by their sister and brother rather than parents. The table also shows 14% of the children are getting love by other like uncle, uncle sons and daughter, other friends in the society etc.

4.3.8 Contact With Family After Leaving Home

There are 28% of the street children do not have contact with their family and 16% children have contact only one time with the family. 14% children have contacts two times with the family, 24% children have three times and 18% children have contacts more than four times with the family which can be shown in the table below.

Table 4.19
Contact with Family After Leaving Home

S.N.	Categories	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	One time	08	16
2	Two times	07	14
3	Three times	12	24
4	More than four times	09	18
5	Never	14	28
	Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2011

The table no. 4.19 shows that 28% of the children have not contact with family after leaving home. It is because most of the children are new in the street and some children totally depressed with the family and do not want to go back to stay with the family. 30% of the children have contact with family only one to two times shows they are being habitation of city life. These kinds of children are mostly rehabilitated by the social organization and when children found there is same situation as caste discrimination, beaten, scold and misbehave by parents and other people in the village, again they leave home. It shows there is lacking of effective programs and trained social workers in the social organizations. 42% of the children have contact with family at least three or more than five times it show that they love family and they are in Kathmandu for the family.

4.4 Health and Nutrition Status of Respondent

Health and nutrition is most important for the betterment of human life. It can consider as a major problem of poor and deprived family. In general, street children are coming from these families to the street for the sake of sufficient food without any difficult effort. Due to their nature,

they rarely get sympathy and nutrition situation is found to be in miserable situation. To find out the deep reality regarding the health and nutrition status of the street children some effort had made in this study.

4.4.1 Daily Food/Meal Situation

Food shortage is the common problem of street children. They have not any time and schedule for eating that means they can eat wherever and whenever they get. If not they can be live one, two or more days without eating. At least two times a day is essential for the survival but all the children in the street can't get that much too. The existing situation of meal whether they are getting sufficiently or not is shown in the table below.

Table 4.20
Meal Per Day Situation of Respondent

S.N.	Meal per day	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Once a day	14	28
2	Twice a day	18	36
3	Thrice a day	09	18
4	More than three times a day	09	18
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

The table no. 4.20 shows that 28% respondent didn't have two times meal per day. So they are looking physically weak. Next 36% of respondent are hardly getting two times per day. Some 18% were getting three times per day that means they were a bit stronger and clever than others. Remaining 18% also were getting more than three times, per day, it means they are stronger, clever and had come in street before several years.

4.4.2 Health Situation

During the study period most of the street children complaint regarding their health problem. Due to the lack of clean and required nutrition food each of them were more or less suffered from different types of chronic disease, such as diarrhea, fever, gastric as well as dog bite, hit by vehicles and other. They commonly have less immune power because of less availability of required calories. As they don't have money for medical treatment they rarely found the donors to support them. So they lay on the street for a long time if they are infected. If they get money, rarely spent for treatment.

Out of 50 respondent 30 or 60% respondent were infected by one or more types of above mentioned disease. Only 20 or 40% respondent were not suffered from different disease but were not totally healthy.

4.4.3 Treatment Pattern of Children

Due to the lack of money they rarely go for treatment, if they go only the government hospital is in their access. The treatment pattern of respondent is shown in the table below:

Table 4.21
Treatment Pattern

S.N.	Treatment place	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Hospital	09	30.00
2	Clinic	04	13.33
3	Ayurvedic	04	13.33
4	No where others (private)	13	43.33
Total		30	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

Table no. 4.21 shows that among the 50 selected street child only 30 or 60% were infected by different disease. Out of infected 30 respondents majority or 43.33% infected were not accessed with treatment center. 30% of infected were accessed only with hospital. And

other 13.33% were preferred to clinic and Ayurvedic, it may be due to the support of external and internal support of organization.

4.4.4 Toxic Use Pattern of Children

Being street children, each of them often use these to get rid of tension. Most of the street children commonly use all most all type of toxic such as drug, alcohol, tobacco, smoke and other more. However they after use at least one thing regularly for the enjoyment? The toxic use habit of the respondent is shown in the table below:

Table 4.22

Toxic Use Pattern of Street Children

S.N.	Types of toxic	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Smoke	21	42
2	Tobacco	05	10
3	Alcohol	04	08
4	Glue	06	12
5	Drugs	09	18
6	Others	05	10
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

Table No. 4.22 shows that most of the street children were using at least one thing 42% respondents were using smoke regularly. Some 18% were glue users. 10% respondents were using tobacco. 12% respondent was using drugs and remaining 8% alcohol and 10% other respectively. It shows the commonness of narcotic use in the street children.

CHAPTER-FIVE

Causes of Leaving Home

This chapter presents causes of leaving home of street children, who are living in the street for a long time in the street with working for survival.

5.1 Causes of Being Street Child

Open-ended single question was asked to all respondents. The questions were “Why you become street children?” The response from all respondents were collected and which can be shown in the table below:

Table 5.1

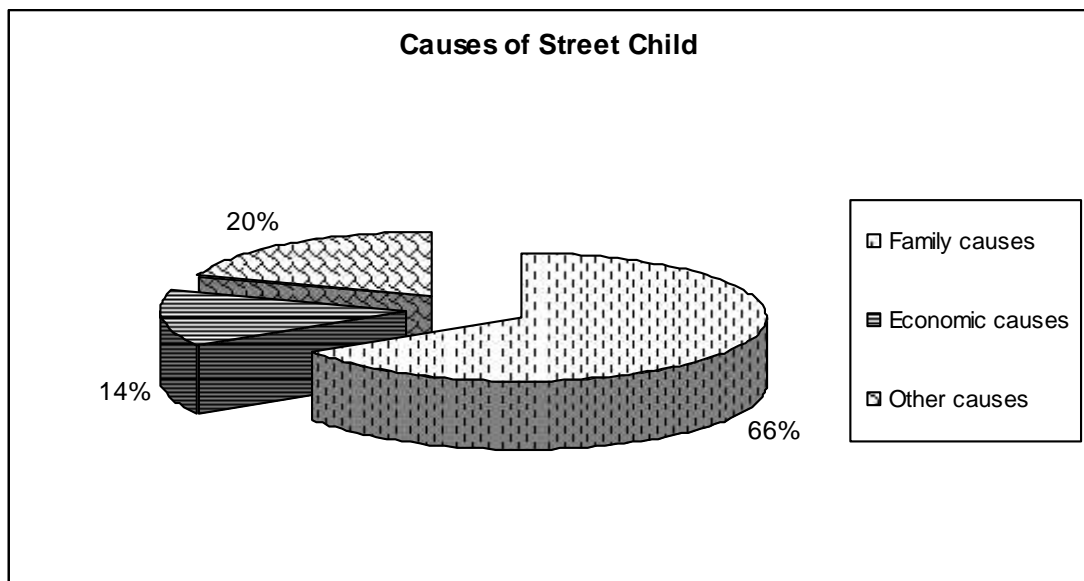
Causes of Street Child

S.N.	Causes	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Family causes	33	66
2	Economic causes	07	14
3	Other causes	10	20
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

The table 5.1 shows that among the 50 respondent a majority of children who leave their home due to the family causes has 66%. 14 % of children leave their home due to the economic causes, and remaining 20% children leave their home due to the other causes. It can be shown in the figure below:

Figure 5.1



Source: Table no 5.1

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

5.1.1 Family Causes

This is prime factor, which influences children being onto street. Due to lack of economic support and high level of poverty, parents will not in a position to support their family and then start taking alcohol. Intolerable situation can be created within family and the children try to be free from such environment of the home. The root causes as observed during survey are presented in the table below:

Table 5.2
Causes of Being Street Children due to Family Problem

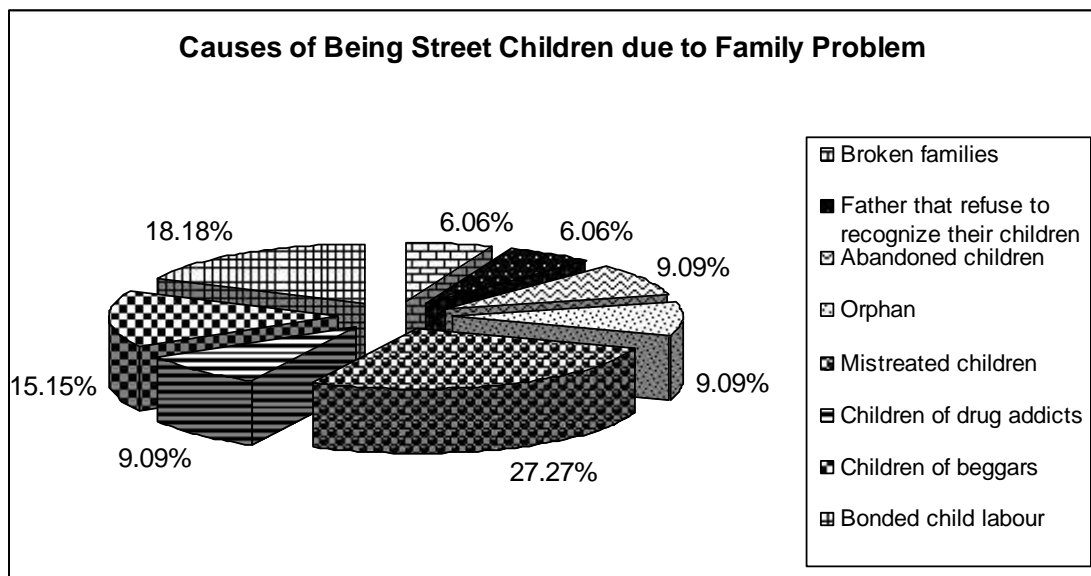
S.N.	Family Causes	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Broken families	02	6.06
2	Father that refuse to recognize their children	02	6.06
3	Abandoned children	03	9.09
4	Orphan	03	9.09
5	Mistreated children	09	27.27
6	Children of drug addicts	03	9.09
7	Children of beggars	05	15.15
8	Bonded child labour	06	18.18
Total		33	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

Table No. 5.2 shows that the root cause of the street children is due to mistreatment from their parents. 27.27% children are from those families where children are not treated with good environment. As a consequence, the children are so terrified that they may run away, even very far away, and never return. Abandoned children and orphan children are 9.09%. There are many cases of abandoned children and the reasons for these vary. This is quite common in unmarried boys and girls who gave birth and later on left them onto street when they are about 3/4 years of age. Above table shows that there are 9.09% orphan children onto the street. If a child is being raised by a grandmother the child will be orphaned again she dies. So there is no care for children and they are onto street. 6.06% children were onto street due to the broken families. This is a very frequent problem. A child had been rejected by their stepfather and stepmother and their both parents had disappeared.

Children who leave home due to bonded child labour were 18.18%. Bonded child labour takes place when a family receives an advance payment, which perhaps significantly low, to hand over a child-boy or girl to an employer. In most cases the child can not work off the debt, nor can the family raise enough money to buy the child back. In some cases, the labour is from generations, that is, a child's grandfather or great grandfather would provide the employer with a new worker often with no pay at all. They are asked just to accomplish what they have asked to be performed. It is a kind of Jail since they are innocent. It is therefore that have changed their mentality to leave the place and join with other street child onto street. Next 15.15% children are onto street due to beggar parents. Children whose parents are beggars are in danger of becoming like their parents. This prospect may seem too grim that the child may prefer to run away. They normally do not speak while begging from begging. It is quite common in beggar's family. Their parents ask them to beg and at the end of the day they have to give their parents what they have earned from begging. It is quite common for disabled child so they leave their home. Among the 33 respondents 9.09% children are onto street due to drug addiction. When parents are drug addicts, life can be unbearable for their children who may decide to go away unfortunately, drugs have been demystified for the child, who is at great risk of becoming an addicts too and will be very difficult to get treated. So it can be concluded that family problem is one of the root causes that drives child being onto street. It is also shown in the figure below:

Figure 5.2



Source: Table no 5.2

5.1.2 Economic Causes

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

The reasons of leaving their parenthood are discussed below:

J FAMINE

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

Poverty level in rural area is quite high where production is only sufficient for three month of year they normally struggle to find food. This may be differed from place to place.

- **A Child lives in extreme poverty in a slum**

This is quite common in urban areas. In Kathmandu valley we can see much family living around temples, riverbank with small hut etc. It is

extremely difficult to count the exact numbers in short duration and limited resources.

) **Child Workers**

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

) **Children That Are Deliberately “Lost” By Parents Incapable of Providing Minimal Requirements for Subsistence**

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

Street child due to economic causes is shown in the table below:

Table 5.3

Street Children due to Economic Causes

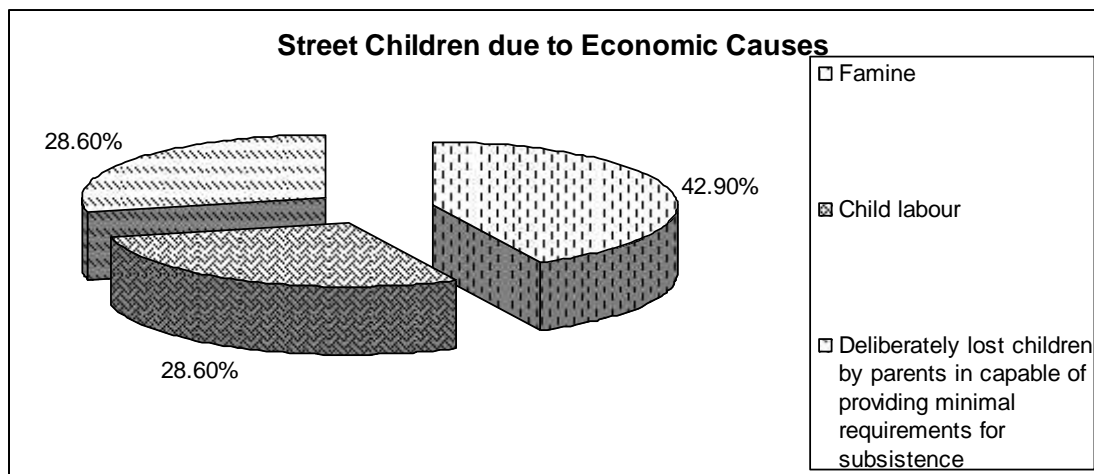
S.N.	Root economic causes	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Famine	03	42.9
2	Child labour	02	28.6
3	Deliberately lost children by parents in capable of providing minimal requirements for subsistence	02	28.6
Total		07	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

Table No. 5.3 shows that children are coming to the street due to various causes. Among them economic causes also a root causes being child onto street. Above table shows that there are 42.9% children were in

to street due to famine. 28.6% children are from child labours and deliberately lost children by parents in capable of providing minimal requirement for subsistence. The majority of street child is due to famine (42.9%). Poverty level in rural area is quite high where production is only sufficient for 3 months of a year; they normally struggle to find food so they leave their home. Child labours is also a causes which taken children onto street. Children who were far from home gradually stop going home and no longer need to. A child who is forced to work is usually well treated then the child generally escapes It is shown in the figure below:

Figure 5.3



Source: Table no 5.3

5.1.3 Other Causes

Besides above mentioned three causes there are some other reasons that forced children to be onto street. Here are the some causes found during study. Behaviour of their parents and social institutions and child's desire for independence, that drive them onto streets are the major causes that found in the study. Other causes of child being onto street are shown in the table below:

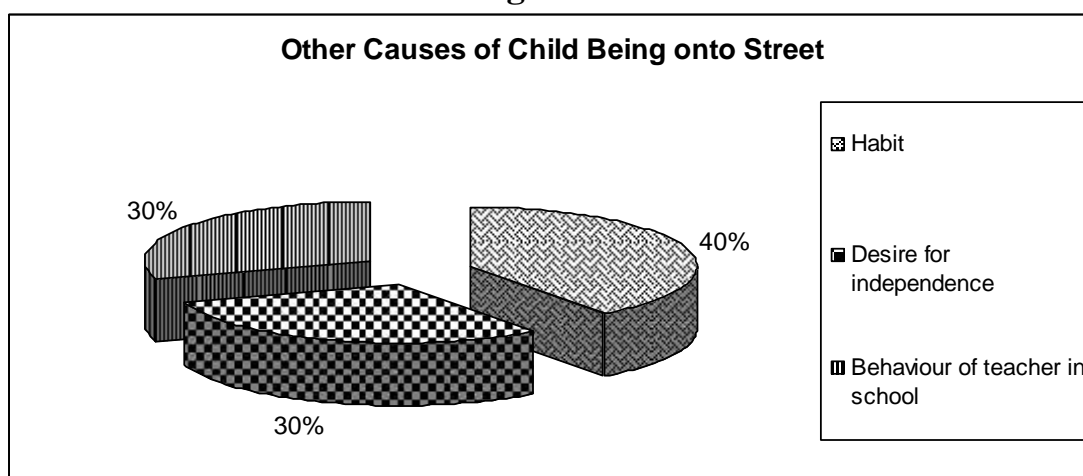
Table 5.4
Other Causes of Child Being onto Street

S.N.	Other causes	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Habit	04	40
2	Desire for independence	03	30
3	Behaviour of teacher in school	03	30
Total		10	100

Source: Field survey, 2011

Table No. 5.4 shows that habit of the child is the most influencing cause. About 40% of respondents are influenced by their habit. The reason could be they do have plenty of time where no one disturbs to carry out their plan as they wish to do so. Behaviour of teacher in school and desire of independence (30% each) is the other cause that influenced children to be onto street. Bonded child is one who wants to be free from their house owner. Teacher in school routinely used corporal punishment to maintain discipline and to punish children for poor academic performance. One of the respondents was saying that he was punished in front of his classmates that made him feel guilty and thus consequently left the school. He was saying that he is reluctant to rejoin school. The reason could be age factor. It can be shown in the figure below:

Figure 5.4



Source: Table no 5.4

CHAPTER -SIX

Institutional Policies on Child Labour and its Implication in Nepalese Context

6.1 Introductions

Street children are considered as worst from of child labour all over the world. The situation found to be more serious in case of developing and underdeveloped countries. Various policies and programs have been implemented for the protection of child rights in national as well as international level. But the situation is still deteriorates with the course of time in case of poor and scattered families. In case of Nepal, various policies and programs currently exist for the protection and promotion of child rights. Numbers of NGOs and INGOs with the special govermental support are working all over the major urban areas of this country. But the growth rate of street children has not been controlled in major urban areas. It may be due to the fact that the source of street children is poor and deprived families of rural area where the govermental policies and program can seldom find. Some of the important national and international policies are mentioned in this chapter.

6.2 The Child Rights

According to the UN Convention on the rights of the child there are four major rights of the child.

Right of survival: It is inherent rights of every child to live a safe and happy life which means every child should have a right for nutritious food and hygienic residence, clean environment clean drinking water and first aid service etc.

- **Right to Development:** According to this right, every child has a right to attain education, entertainment, sports activities and health

care facilities etc. which are indispensable to maintain reasonable quality of life.

- **Right to protection:** Every child deserves protection against discrimination, exploitation, misbehave and insulting behaviour, hazardous works and separation from the parents. There should be special arrangements for handicapped and disabled children.
- **Right of participation:** Every child has the right to have their opinions taken into account in decision affecting their own lives.

6.3 Legal Provision and Enforcement

In Nepal, there were no separate rules and acts until 1990 regarding the issues of children. After the restoration of democracy in Nepal, the government signed on the UN Convention on the rights of the child and consequently began to make necessary legislative arrangement. According to Nepal's Constitution (1990), the Labour act was adopted in 1992. Following this, the Labour Rules were amended in 1993. The children's Act was enacted in 1992 by addressing the UNCRC 1989. The common Law Code of 1963, the Foreign Employment Act of 1985, and the Human Trafficking Control Act of 1986 also restrict the use of child Labour and protect the healthy development of children.

6.3.1 The Labour Act, 1992 and the Labour Rules, 1993

This act prohibits the employment of children and provides various safeguards to minors defining children and minors. Such safeguards include restrictions on the operation of dangerous machines hazardous to an individual, health, prohibition of carrying excessive loads and performing night duty, a limitation on working hours (six hours per day), and minimum wage for children. After the adoption of the child Labour

(Prohibition and Regularization) Act, 2000, the child Labour Provision of the labour Act, 1992 was dismissed.

6.3.2 The Children's Act, 1992 and the Regulation on children, 1995

The children's Act, 1992 states that a Child under the age of 14 shall not be employed in any work as a labourer and engaged as a labourer against his will. It prohibits the employment of a child in environment harmful to his/her health or hazardous to his/her life. It also prohibits the guardian from engaging their children in work which requires more labour than his/her physical capacity, or which may go against his/her religious or cultural beliefs. The children's Act 1992 does not use the term "Street Children" but it is partially implied in the term "abandoned child" (Bewaris balak) defined as a child "who has no father, mother or any other member of his family to look after him: or who has been neglected by his father, mother or any other member of his family even though they exist: or who does not have any means of living".

6.3.3 The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2000

According to this Act, Children are prohibited to work less than 15 years of age and the regularization of work for children above 14 years in the worst forms of child labour. this act has already been put into effect.

6.4 The Government Initiatives

After 1990, the issue of child labour has been a subject of dispute and discussion. Different governmental and non-governmental organization have conducted various surveys and studies on the working and living conditions of children and developed various programmes to abolish child exploitation. The HMG/Nepal is committed for the well

being of child labourers. Continuous efforts have been made by the government to restrict the employment of children below a given age.

The Government has accepted the dual goal of ILO- the protection of child labour and the abolition of child labour. To ensure this the Government and the ILO signed a memorandum of understanding, extending the ILOs international programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) in Nepal.

The major steps taken by the Government for protection and abolition of Child Labour are:

- The deteriorating situation concerning child labour in Nepal is an issue of serious concern. The Government has taken the matter of child welfare and well being seriously.
- The promulgation of the new constitution of the kingdom of Nepal in November 1990, which contain clauses of special benefit to children, such as right to citizenship, equality, education, including in the mother tongue, right against exploitation and special protection for the disadvantaged such as disabled children and orphans are some another noteworthy steps towards the well being and protection of children.
- The declaration of the World Summit for Children's has a plan of action to improve the lives of children and comprises the goals for children and development for the 1990s. Nepal represented at the World Summit for children, signed the Summit Declaration and plan of action on 12 December 1990 and committed to develop and implement a ten years national programme of Action for the 1990s. the signing of the summit declaration and plan of Action made Nepal more committed to providing children a special focus in the national agenda, and a national programme of Action for children and Development for the 1990s was finalized by the NPC.

- It is a fact that legislation alone cannot bring the desired result to child labour. A national policy on child was therefore formulated in conjunction with legal measures to address the socio- economic issues bearing on child labour and to provide a framework for a concrete programme of action in the field of education, health, nutrition and integrated child development.
- After the ratification of the convention on the Right on the child, HMG/Nepal formulated a more comprehensive children's Act. 1992. This Act is for the establishment of central and district child welfare committees, i.e. each district will have at least one child welfare officer. Orphanages and childcare centers are to provide shelter for street children and orphaned or abandoned children.
- The promulgation of labour Act, 1992, is the culmination of HMG/Nepal, which prohibits the employment of children who have not completed their 14 years. The Act also regulates the conditions of work of minors and women engaged in permitted activities. It has provisions for penalties for those who violate the provisions of the Act.
- The HMG/ Nepal's endorsement of the Colombo resolution on children in September 1992 has geared to accelerate the progress in the broad to accelerate the progress in the broad areas of education, health and sanitation, and seeks to speed up the elimination on child labour.

6.5 International Norms and Standards

The adoption of legislation has been the most important approach to the problem of child labour. Regulation or legislation prohibiting the employment of children below a certain age specifying the conditions of work for minors have been introduced worldwide. For the abolition of

child labour and protection of child laborers, several norms and standards have been set by the UN General assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the child which stressed that “mankind owes to the child the best it has to give”. It also stated the child shall not be admitted to employment before an appropriate minimum age and that “he shall in no case be caused or permitted to engage in any occupation or employment which would prejudice his health or education or interfere with his physical, mental or moral development”.

Since 1919, the ILO has brought out over 20 conventions and recommendations on the abolition of child labor. The minimum age convention 1973 (No. 138) and minimum age recommendations 1973 (No. 146) are general in scope and principally over all economic sectors and employment.

According to the ILO Convention (No. 138) the minimum ages set are:

Table 6.1

The Minimum Age Limit

	General	Exception
Basic minimum age	15	14
Hazardous work	18	16
Light work	13-15	12-14

Source: ILO Convention, 1973

Thus, the minimum age limit of 15 does not apply for every country and for all type of work. Economically or educationally less developed country can specify a minimum age of 14 and it’s applicable to Nepal.

Chapter-Seven

Summary and Conclusions

This chapter presents summary, major findings and conclusions of the whole study of “socio economic condition of street children in Kalanki Area”. It presents major points about street children.

Summary

The problem of street children is universal. Because of high push and pull factor of urban areas, it is believe that the number of street could have been increasing order. Street children are the reflection of growing social tragedy in the world. The reason of increase in street child number is due to increasing family disintegration, growing urbanization, poverty etc.

The objective of this research study is to determine possible causes of being street child and their age wise composition, ethnic background and their life style.

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

Summary of findings

Out of 50 respondents only 4 were girls that mean only 8%. Remaining 46 or 92 % were boys. Based on the field observation and interview the following findings have been drawn but it could not be

generalized to other urban areas. The summary of findings of the study is briefly described here in:

Socio-economic characteristics of street children

The most influencing age wise population composition of street children is 13-16 years. The average age of street child is 13 years. 44% of street children aged between 13-16 years are migrating to Kathmandu for survival and being street children in the street. There are more male street children than female street children in the street. A majority of male that is 92% and few percent of female street girls (8%) are living in the street. Girls are finding less in the street because most of the girls feel to love there should shelter at home rather than street and concept of Nepaleses girls in society as one night outside means not good girl in the society. So as taking information also found that at first girls love to work as a domestic labourer, hotel girl, carpet labourer and prostitute before being street girls in the street.

There are 36% of children are coming from deprived caste like B.K., Pariyar. Reason that found to it is caste discrimination in village area as untouchable for lower caste system in the society and most of the low caste communities have considerable low economic status. Due to this caste discrimination most of children change their caste and put higher caste. Children come to Kathmandu with changing of their caste because children had been seen real practice of caste discrimination in village and the same condition. They won't like to see in Kathmandu which was unadjustable for them.

Most of the street children at Kalanki are from central development region (32%). It is because of nearest region and place for children 22%. children were from eastern development region 16% children were from western development region 12% from far western development region,

8% were from mid-western development region and 10% children do not know where they are from because they had been to Kathmandu when they were very small.

There are 48% of the street children are illiterate because most of the children dropped out from school due to economic crisis in family and not paid school fee due to feeling of step daughter and son and also not aware on education in the village. 42% of the street children leaving school due to poverty. And other children's were far from school due to the death of parents, no school around, negligence of parents.

Most of the children are coming to Kathmandu from joint family due to step father and mother involved in this family and misbehaving by step father and mother to the children and scolding and beating without any reasons. There are 35% of the children's parents are working at agriculture 12% children's parents are working in a office. 28% children's parents are unemployment and 26% childrens parents are working as a porter, labour, worker, domestic servant with low money shows parents are hardly surviving from that low income. So parents are using their children to involve in these jobs for income and children are going at risk situation due to economic problem in family for survival. There are 32% of the children's family do have house and only 10% of the people are aware on banking as saving money. And remaining 40% are getting pension, age allowances in the village. Out of 50 respondent a majority children are getting love by mother at home are only 40% which shows mother are very good in family than other with related to the street children. Most of the respondent was not in touch with their family and some were partially in touched with their family.

Health and working condition of street children

In case of health and nutrition most of the respondent was passing their miserable situation. Due to the lack of sufficient food in one hand and rarely cleaning tendency on other. Their health was found to be deteriorate. About 36% were rarely getting 2 times per day meal. Majority of the respondent (60%) were suffering from at least one or more disease. Remaining 40% also were not totally free from disease infection. All most 43% children were not able to get medical treatment anywhere. Some of them used to want to traditional doctor if they found. All most children were using at least one thing. 42% children used to smoke regularly and remaining 58% children were using tobacco, alcohol, glue, drugs and others. It shows the worsening health situation.

A majority of the children work as a beggar and rag picking in which 28% of the children as begging due to new children in Kathmandu, unaware about city life, not clever and strong for searching good jobs in Kathmandu. Most of the children aged 5 to 13 years are involved in these kinds of jobs because it's easy and don't have to take and ask permission to beg with other.

There are 32% of the children are working more than 12 hours per day. Which shows that they are totally exploited by hotel owner, factory owner, domestic owner and other political people and instead of working they get only food and a place for sleeping. Children are economically politically socially exploited at their all kind of work or occupation and also they are exploited physically, psychologically and sexually. Most of the children are earn less than Rs. 50 in the street when they involve at earning work for survival. And only 12% children earn more than Rs. 200 per day. They can get money according to their capacity as well as working time also. Most of the children rarely save their income. Only 10 % of respondent was able to save about 30-40 Rupess per day but due to

the lack of regular income they were not able to save. The causes of lack of their saving are their habits of watching cinema, alcohol, drugs, smoking and other unnecessary spending. Most of the respondent were spending their earning for their survival. 44% children spent their earning for food and 22% children spent their income for drug and alcohol. They considered street as their home, should not pay money or earnings for shelter so they spend all most remaining money for their food.

Most of the children do not like or happy or they dissatisfaction with their working or occupation in the street. Children know themselves they are exploited by other people physically, sexually, psychologically, socially and politically. Even they are working for survival. There are 62% of the children are working as unhappy and dissatisfaction and feeling bad about their job in the street. Among the 50 respondents 24% were manage to sleep in the street. The majoring of street children are used to sleep in mandirs are 32%.

Cause of leaving home

The study depicts that there are three categories of cause that influence child being onto street. They are family causes, economic causes and other causes. The study reveled that the most influencing causes is family causes (66%) followed by economic cause (14%) and (20%) other causes. In the family causes group mistreated children (27.27%) is the root cause noted during field study. Children of beggars and bonded child labour is the other root cause of the family problems. Famine and poverty (42.9%) is the most influencing root causes as found in the economic causes. Despite of these causes habit (40%) desire for independence and behavior of teachers in school (30% each) is the other causes of child being onto street.

Street children are considered as worst form of child labour all over the world. This situation found to be more serious in case of developing and underdeveloped countries. Various policies and programs have been implemented for the protection of child rights in national as well as international level. In the case of Nepal various policies and programs currently exist for the protection and promotion of child rights. But the growth rate of street children has not been controlled. The law prohibited child labour and several other act. The Nepal children is Act 1992 and labour act 1992 strictly prohibits employing or hiring child labour in the factories and risk areas. As is clear from observation and surveys. These act are widely ignored.

However the rights of the child should not undermine by the powerful and responsible authority. Various national an international rules and regulations have been formed for the protection and preservation of child rights. Each of them must be dedicated for the control and removal of street children and their burning problems.

Conclusion

A majority of the street children are migration the aged between 13 to 16 years to Kathmandu for survival and being street children in the street. There are more male street children then female street children n the street most of the children are coming to Kathmandu from joint family due to step father and step mother involved in this family and misbehaving by step father and mother to the children and scolding and beating without any reasons. Lower ethnic background street children are higher than the other background. Due to this caste discrimination most of children change their caste and put higher caste as Karki instead of Sarki, Pradhan instead of Poda etc. most of the children are illetrac.

Due to uneducated family most of children are not getting schooling opportunity and children are not getting schooling opportunity and children are also not serious as getting of schooling single parnts at home and getting mostly love by mother at home. Mostly parents asre working as a farmer in the village and only few have their own lands for working.

Most of the children are leaving home due to misbehavior by parents with drunk and involving children at risk jobs for earning money in stead of giving love and schooling for the child's future and betterment due to misbehavior by step father and stepmother, city attraction by their friends. Most of the children do not have contact with family after leaving home. Mostly children are migrated from the central development region.

Due to various causes like family violence, parental alcoholism, poverty, personal reason, social cause, economic cause children are compelled to live on street, street children are going at risk situation, there should be certain creative good programs for the children spent their on the creative programs.

Bibliography

- Bequele A and Myers W, (1995) '**First things First in child labour: Eliminating work detrimental to children**' ILO Geneva.
- Country report of CWIN (1998), '**State of the rights of the child in Nepal**', Indreni offset press, Bagbazzar, Kathmandu Nepal.
- CWIN (1990) '**Lost childhood, survey Research on street children of Kathmandu**', Kathmandu : CWIN
- CWIN (1995), '**Voice of child workers**', CWIN Nepal.
- CWIN survey, (1990) Lost childhood '**Survey Research on street children of Kathmandu**', Indreni offset press, Bagbazzar, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CWIN, (1996) '**State of the Right of the child in Nepal**' Indreni offset press, Bagbazzar, Kathmandu Nepal.
- CWS/UNICEF 1996, '**Situation analysis of street children in Nepal**', UNICEF Nepal.
- Ennew J (1994) '**Street and working children**' save the children many Datchelor House, London.
- Ennew J (1994-P11) '**street and working children**' save the children mary Datchelor House, London.
- Hurlock E.B. (1991), '**Development psychology**' (A Life span approach) 5th edition Tata Mcgraw-hill publishing company LTD. New Delhi.
- ILO (1983), "**Nepalma Sram viruddhako Rastriya Karya Yojanako Ruprekha**", International Labour Organization, Kathmandu : ILO

- ILO report- VI (1998) **Child labour targeting The Intolerable**, International labour conference 86th session, international labour office, Geneva.
- IPEC 2001 '**Eliminating the Worst forms of child Labour: an integrated and time bound approach**' A guide for governments, employers, workers, Donors and other Stakeholders, Nepal, International Labour office, Geneva, Switzerland.
- IPEC/ILO (1995) An overview and a proposed plan of Action '**Child labour in Nepal**' volume II, International Labour office, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Jha H.B. (1999), '**Annotated Bibliography on child labour in Nepal**', International labour organization international programme on the elimination of child labour (ILO/IPEC) and foundation for economic and social change (FESC) creative press p. Ltd Kamaladi Kathmandu Nepal.
- Naisu U. and Parasuman. S, (1985), '**Health situation of working children in Greater Bombay**' unit for child and Youth Research, Tata Institute of social Sciences mimeographed.
- Pradhan G. (1998), '**State of the rights of The child in Nepal**', Indreni offset press, Bagbazzar, Kathmandu Nepal.
- Pradhan G. (1999), **Voice of child worker**, issue no.28 Nov CWIN Kathmandu.
- Pradhan G. 1995 The 25th edition of the '**Voice of child worker**' issue no. 28 Nov CWIN Kathmandu.
- Pradhan G. and Tuladhar S. (2002) CWIN National Report '**The State of the rights of the child in Nepal**' Kantipur offset press Bagbazar, Nepal.

Pradhan G/Sainju B., (1990) Lost childhood '**Survey Research on street children of Kathmandu**' Indreni offset press, Bagbazzar, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Ranjitkar S. (1999), '**Juvenile Delinquency in Kathmandu**' Ranjitkar, Kathmandu Nepal.

Suwal B.R. and et al, (1998) **Child labour situation in Nepal**, Kathmandu; central Department of population studies, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu Nepal.

UNESCO (2001), '**Education for street and working children in India**', New Delhi: UNESCO.

UNICEF (1994), '**Children at work**' A Report on the UNICEF and ILO/IPEC work shop on child labour and street children, Bangkok, Thailand : UNICEF.

UNICEF (1996), '**situation analysis of street children in Nepal**' unicef Nepal.

UNICEF (1997), '**State of the world childrn's reports**' UNICEF Kathmandu Nepal.

Voice of child Wokers, (issue no. 19 and 20 may- sep 1996) CWIN Kathmandu Nepal.

Voice of child workers (1989) CWIN Kathmandu Nepal.

Wright, JD, Kaminsky. D and Writing, M. (1993), '**Health and Social conditions of street children in Honduras**' American Journal of the Diseases of children, Vol 147, 279-28s3 America.

Yogendra B. G/ Prabha K.H. 2000 far away from home. '**Survey study on child migrant workers in the Kathmandu Valley**', Indreni offset press bagbazzar, Kathmandu Nepal.

**A Socio –Economic Study of Street Children in Nepal” (A Case study
of Kalanki Area)
Questionnaires**

A. Personal profile

1. Name:
2. Age:
3. Sex:
4. Ethnic group:
5. Education:
6. Birth place (district):

B. Social status

1. What type of family do you have?
2. How your family behave upon you
 - i. Good
 - ii. Well
 - iii. Bad
3. Usually who loves you in your family?
 - i. Father
 - ii. Mother
 - iii. Sister/brother
 - iv. other
4. Have you contact with your family after leaving home? If yes, How many times?
 - i. One time
 - ii. Two times
 - iii. Three times
 - iv. More than four times
 - v. Never
5. What is the causes of not joining school?
 - i. Poverty
 - ii. No School around
 - iii. Thrice a day
 - iv. Death of Parents
 - v. Negligence of Parents
 - vi. Other
6. How many times you take meal per day?
 - i. once a day
 - ii. Twice a day
 - iii. Thrice a day
 - iv. More than three times
7. Have you ever been ill?
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No

if yes what was your illness?

- i. Diarrania ii. Fever iii. Nail Prick iv. Dog bite
- v. Hit by vehicles v. others

8. Where did you go for medical treatment?

- i. Hospital ii. Clinic
- iii. Ayurvedic iv. No where other (Private)

9. Have you taken each or any of the following?

- i. smoke ii. Tobacco iii. Alcohol
- iv. Glue v. Drugs iv. Others

10. What are the causes that you are not joining or continuing school?

c. Economic status

1. What is your parent's occupation?

- i. Agriculture ii. Office iii. Unemployment
- iv. Others (porter, labour, worker, domestic servant)

2. Does your family have such type of fixed property?

- i. House ii. Land iii. Bank Balance iv. Others

If yes, does it sufficient to feed your family?

3. Does your family income sufficient to feed your family?

- i. sufficient ii. Not sufficient iii. Don't know

4. What is a condition of fooding at your home?

- i. Enough for 3 months
- ii. Enough for 6 months
- iii. Enough for 9 months
- iv. Enough for 12 months
- v. Surplus

D. Working Background

1. Are you working somewhere?

i. Yes ii. No

2. What type of work you do?

i. In hotel/Restaurants ii. Beggaring iii. Rag picking

iv. Domestic work v. Other

3. How many hours do you work per day?

1. 1-3 hr ii. 4-6 hr iii. 7-9 hr iv. 10-12 hr v. More than 12 hr

4. How much money you earn per day?

i. Only food

ii. less than Rs 50

iii. Rs 50 – Rs 100

iv. Rs 100- Rs 200

v. More than Rs 200

5. Do you save money?

i. Yes ii. No

If yes, How much _____

6. For what purpose you spent your earnings?

i. Food ii. Shelter iii. Clothes iv. Drug/ Alcohol v. Other

(Medical treatment)

7. Are you satisfied with your present work and income?

i. Yes ii. No

If not, Why _____

8. How do you manage to sleep in night time?

i. Street ii. Mandir iii. Dharmashala iv. Shelter at NGO's

vi. Others

9. What are the causes that had driven you to be on street?