

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Children are future of the nation. They are the beginner of every new generation. Childhood stage is the most effective stage of human development. So the type of life, a human being lives depend on the development period of children. A large number of working children are deprived in various ways and are in high risk. So these economically active children, are child labors and those children who are deprived, harassed and at risk, are very serious and challenging issues of Nepal currently (CWIN, 1998).

According to the national census of Nepal of 2001, there were 43.6% children in the age group between 5-17 years. This comprised 33% of the total population (5-17 years) of the country, where 18.5% are male and 28.5 % are female.. About 84% of the children lived in rural areas, among them higher number of children lived in Terai region, secondly in hilly region and thirdly in the mountain region.

Generally child labors are those workers who are below 14 years of age, deprived from minimum level of facilities, work long hours, get low wage and hamper their physical and mental development (ILO, 1999). Children, who are prematurely living adult's lives and getting training opportunities that could help to make their bright future, are the general but serious form of child labor. But, if the work is not harmful for their growth process, then it is known as child work, not child labor. According to The Children Act and Labor Act of Nepal (1992), the group of under the age of 16 years is considered as children, because below the age of 14 years children are strictly prohibited to work as labor. But the children aged between 14-16 years can work only for limited working hours. They can work 6 hours per day. If they work 3 hours continuously they should get a rest of minimum half hours.

Child labor exploitation is a serious problem of the developing countries like Nepal. Thus, the child work is a cause and effect of the exploitation, socio-economic and political structure of the world. Like others developing countries, the rural communities in Nepal are going through a painful period created by increasing social injustice, economic exploitation and backwardness. The growing magnetizations among the rural population, rural migration and urbanization have also contributed to increase in the migration of child labor exploitation (Pradhan, 1995).

Domestic child workers are one of the different forms of working sector of the child labor in Nepal. Domestic child labor/worker is defined internationally as children with or without wage. Domestic child workers are employed to perform domestic works such as washing dishes, cooking, clearing the house, looking after young children and other household activities (KC et al, 1997). And also domestic child worker are mostly migrants, almost half of them don't receive any though most of them receive room and clothing and some are allowed to attain school, but the majority working hours exceed recommended standards working hours (Luitel, 2000).

Domestic child worker, who are allowed and freed to visit their homes, do not go their home frequently. They work in house and they don't go to school. Most of them have parents and are left by parents, relatives or middle men as salary basis for work (Luitel, 2000).

Therefore it is important to know about their situation at present. This study attempts to describe and explore the socio economic condition and problems of Domestic child worker who are engaged in domestic works.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Generally childhood is a unique period in life field with happiness and joy. However many children experience great pain in child-hood. Due to poverty, lack of education

and awareness, exploitation and injustices in our society, many children are deprived of their fundamental rights. In addition, they are compelled to live wretched lives.

Domestic child worker is common and wide spread phenomena in Nepal. The subsistence economy can hardly support people for their livelihood. The rural people send their children to the urban centre hoping their better future on the one hand and for earning money to support their family on the other. Thus domestic child labor is not only the problem of an individual or a family but also the problem of the society.

Children are base for any country. They should be provided with health care, education and other important aspects of life. However, the majority of domestic child are living fearful and uncertain life. Most of the families are even unable to feed their children, so they send children to rich family, relatives or bigger cities to work as servant, with a prospect of better life. Most of the rural poor families leave their children when they can't afford basic food and education to live.

In Nepal child work has not been clearly defined yet and no national level study has been conducted about domestic child worker. Although the constitution of Interim Nepal 2063 ensures the child rights and has prohibited the child worker to work in factories, mines and other similar health hazards sector. The problem of domestic child worker is increasing day by day. Instead of improvement in the situation, the present condition of Nepalese children is far below from satisfactory level. Many domestic children are compelled to work by the rich family and exploited by them.

Most of the study conducted on domestic child worker suggests that the situation of children is getting much worse than ever before. Increasing poverty and ignorance are leading our society into extreme misery (ILO, 1999). This miserable condition of our country has affected every sector of the society and the children are its main victims. We all desire children to grow up into good citizen but there is a lack of proper opportunities for overall development of the country.

The use of domestic child worker is common from middle to higher level of families, especially in its affluent urban areas. However, specific information on the incidence of domestic child worker in urban and rural setting is lacking, though it is suspected that at least half of the domestic child worker may be working in urban centre. Ghorahi is one of the highly urbanized and situated at the central of Dang. Ghorahi is prone to domestic child worker because it has higher opportunities for business, jobs and for better life. In reality, they are not getting better life; instead, the employer, elite or house owner and family members, exploits them. Most of the female workers have to face many sexual harassment from the owner's family and local guys (CWIN, 1998). So Ghorahi Municipality has been selected as the study area to identify the problems of domestic child worker in domestic work. This study has attempted to find out the answers of the following research questions.

- ) What causes enforce them to do work as a child worker?
- ) By whom they became harassed?
- ) What kind of relationships do they have with their owners?
- ) What are the problems they faced?
- ) What is the socio-economic family background of the domestic child?

Therefore, many poor or rural children are working as child labor in different types of working sectors among which domestic child worker is one of them. So to conduct study of this situation of the domestic child worker is essential.

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

The general objective of this study is to find out actual information and true condition of the domestic child worker in the Ghorahi Municipality -11. Thus the specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- ) To find out the socio-economic characteristics of domestic child workers.
- ) To identify the reasons for working as domestic child workers and

- J) To analyze the working condition and their relations between house owner and family members.

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

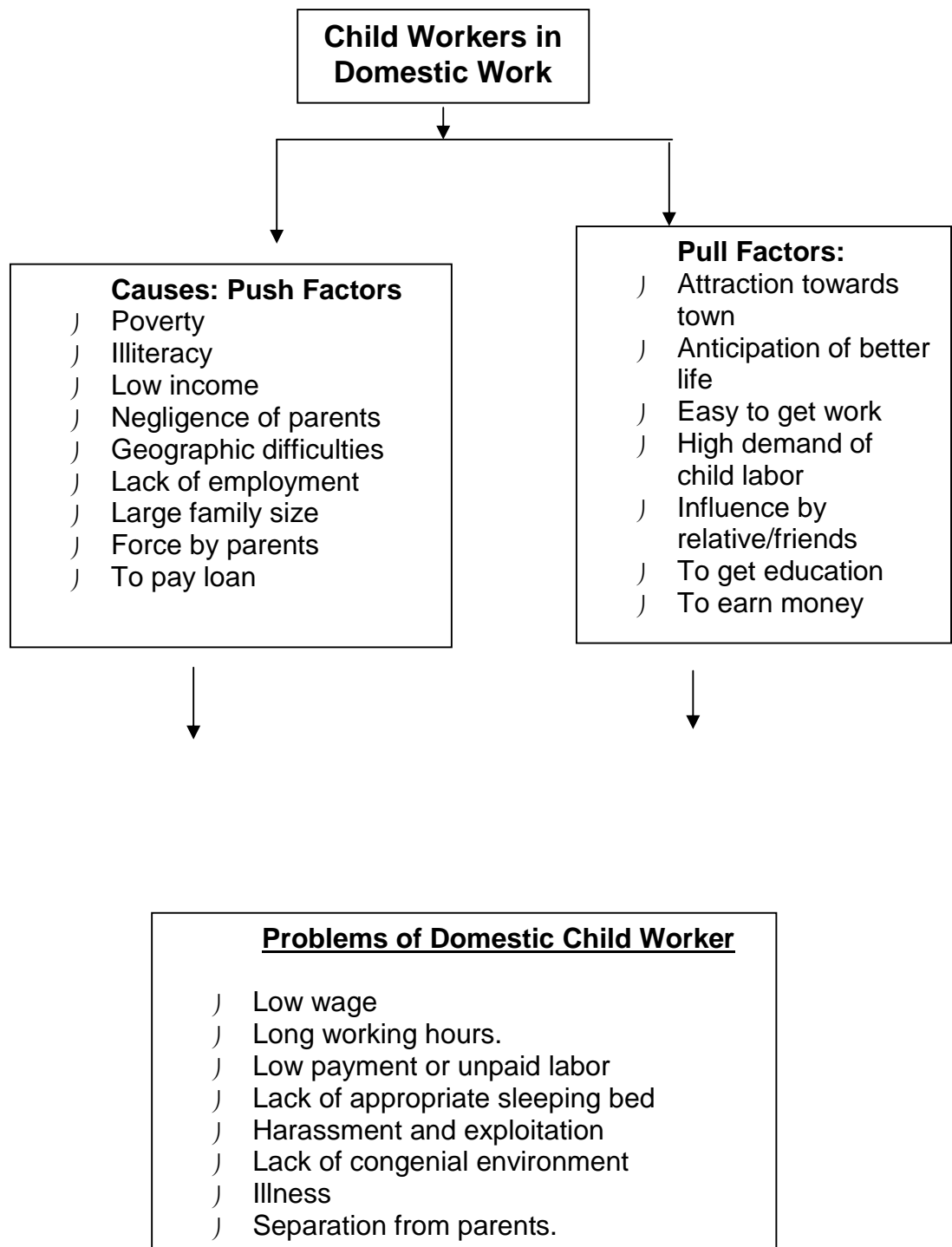
There are five major sector in Nepal identified as the absorbents of the major faction of child worker mainly agriculture, cottage industry, service, trade industry and construction (ILO/IPEC, 1996).

The problem of the domestic child worker is associated with those children who vary in economic, social and geographical context. They are not terrible by birth, but they are made so by the society. Among the different forms of child labor, domestic child workers are mostly exploited in different reason and ways. The problem of domestic child worker is the consequences of many social and family issues such as social exclusion, family break ups, domestic violence, abuse and neglect at home, poverty, depressions, etc. (CWIN, 1998).

The first and foremost step to protect them is to bring up their exact information and situation to real picture and to hold up the attention of the concerned authorities. Child labor is being gradually recognized by concerned sectors as a problem. Although the number of the study on child labor has been conducted especially focusing on child labor working on carpet industries and other small-scale industries and hotels, there are only few number of studies on domestic child workers. Thus, it is expected that this study will be helpful to find out the exact situation of domestic child workers. Thus, this research would be helpful to search the remedies of problems faced by domestic child worker for concerned organization, academician and researcher. On the other hand, this study focus on child labor as a domestic servant, therefore, this study is typical in present situation. Moreover this study is expected to provide accurate information on child labor which might be helpful to those who are interested to conduct research in this field in future.

## 1.5 Conceptual Framework for the study

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework



On the basis of the theoretical and empirical review of the literature, the conceptual framework has been designed for the purpose of this study. The primary causes of domestic child worker are illiteracy, poverty, low income, geographic difficulties for

proper settlement and pressure from upper class people, negligence of parents, discriminatory behavior and big family. Therefore the primary consequences are the creation of low chance for education, bad health, dropout, social conflict, malnutrition etc.

### **1.5 Limitations of the study**

The study of domestic child worker is limited of Ghorahi Municipality-11 in Dang. The study has included the DCL of age 7-14 years of both sexes. Only 50 Dells have been selected using purposive or judgment sampling. This study was conducted in a small area. Therefore the findings may not be generalized and applicable in the context of whole Nepal or other part of the country.

### **1.6 Organization of the Study**

This study is organized into six chapters. The first chapter mainly focuses on the introduction of the study, which deals with statements of the problems, the objectives, significance, organization of the study and the limitation of the study. Chapter two presents the literature's review. The third chapter expresses the methods of the study. Chapter four expresses the socio-economic aspects of domestic child workers. Chapter five explains the causes of work and working condition of domestic child workers. Finally chapter six focuses to summarize and conclude.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 General Review**

Child labor has been recognized as a major social problem in Nepal. To address this problem many studies has been conducted to understand particular forms of child labor at the local and national level by various organization. Here, the researcher will try to review about the child labor related subjects.

Children are the future of the nation. These children are known as child labor or child workers because they work to support their family. The rapid growth of urbanization and the increasing demand for labor, particularly cheap and unpaid labor has resulted the large number of child-labor flow from the rural areas. Many children are being pushed into the labor market as a part of family survival strategy. Child-labor means "A person in an age group of 5-14 employed for hire or reward in a full time basis and included as a self employed child and child assisting his/her parent in their occupation for two or more hours. According to the UN convention on the right of the child, a child means "every child below the age of 18 years.

In Nepal according to the constitutions of 2047, "every person under 18 year is known as children." According to the Children Act of Nepal (2048), every people under the age of 18 is a child. According to the Children Act and Labor Act of Nepal (2048) the groups of children under the age of 16 years old are known as children. Below the age of 14 years children are restricted and prohibited to work as labors.

Child labor is a widespread phenomenon in Nepal. Child worker in Nepal has been increasing day by day. A series of laws and acts prohibit intolerable form of child work and protect child rights and have been working to eliminate problems method to child labor but no substantial improvements have been achieved so far. In fact, due to



economic stagnation, nature calamities and disease, internal conflict as well as implication of structural adjustment policy, child labor has emerged as a major social problem in Nepal. Thus, child labor is not only the problem of an individual or a family but also the problems of the society (Gurung Y.B.etal.1998).

According to research institute, there are still 8 hundred and 48 child labors in spite of several practices to eliminate child labour system. UNICEF Nepal found these child labours working here since long time. There are 84% of child labour in Dang and rest 16% are in other districts. There are 4 hundred 82 male and 3 hundred 66 female child labour in Ghorahi respectively.

Even literate person are involved in such a social crime. 57% of child labour work in business firm and industries, 25% are involved in farming where as 8% of child labour are found working as servant in the house of teachers and government officers and 1% are even found in the house of social worker.

As per UNICEF, there are 6 child labours under 6 year and 75,310 and 457 child labour under between the age of 6-10, 10-14, 10-18 respectively. They are working in various sectors in Dang district. Under them 1 hundred 87 workers are involved in cottage industries, 3 hundred 6 workers in manufacturing industries, 75 workers in transportation, 36 workers in Etta Bhatta, 29 workers in agriculture, 25 workers in hotel, 10 workers in still in industries, 9 workers in garage, 9 workers in street seller where as 1 hundred 61 in rest sectors.

Reflecting the fact that low economic standard is the main cause of child labour. Specialist suggests focusing on their good education along with providing employment to their parents.

There are 1 arab 15 crore child labour in whole World where as 21 lakh 40 thousand child labour in Nepal, who are involved in social crime directly. In this rate, there are more girls in comparison to boys labour. According to National labour research 48.4% labour work in rural and 20.8% child labour work in city area. Where as 27.7%, 51.3 and 24% are between the age of 5-9, 10-14 and 15-17 years respectively. (Naya Yugbodh National Daily)

## **2.2 Socio-economic Status of Domestic Child Worker**

Socio-economic status of domestic child labor in Nepal is vulnerable. DCWs are dominated socially and economically. The migration of children from rural to urban is a reflection of the poor socio-economic condition of rural people.

Children are dependent on their parents and guardians. Likewise, children between 0 - 14 years of age are more dependent on adults. Adults between 15 - 59 years of age are the ones taking on the responsibility of children. At the national level in our country, 72.69 percent children are dependent on their parents and adults. When we study the statistics on the district level, there is wide stratification between the most dependent and least dependent children. Statistics show that 94.47 percent of Pyuthan children are dependent on their parents and guardians, while only 39.99 percent of Manang children are dependent on their parents and guardians (CWIN,1998).

Study on domestic workers by Dhital (1991) shows that there are more than 30,000 domestic child workers in Nepal. Many of them are mentally tortured and physical abused especially the girls. Some of them are never paid and they work just for food and shelter. A recent rapid assessment carried out by IPEC in urban areas estimated those 55,000 children under the age of 18 works as domestic servants in Nepal. In Kathmandu municipality alone, an estimated 22,000 children under the age of 18 works in this sector with one, in five household employing a child for an adult job. More than half of these workers (57%) are boys, working long hours of little or no pay.

## **2.3 Childhood**

Childhood is the foundation of hopes for a better future. Childhood means more than just the time between birth and the attainment of adulthood. It refers to the state and condition of a child's life: to the quality of those years. As the most widely endorsed human rights treaty in history, the convention on the rights of the child, adopted by

the UN General Assembly in 1989 and ratified by all but two countries, in effect represents a global consensus on the terms of childhood.

There are 2.2 billion children living in the world and among them 1.9 billion children are living in developing countries (UNICEF, 2005).

To Boyden. (1990) indicates that official versions of childhood are based on the ideology that childhood is demarcated by a series of biological and psychological attributes and not social characteristics.

Childhood is a critical and sensitive period for developing youthful energy and idealism. In this period girls and boys should be prepared to become productive and confident adults, childhood represents unique chance to develop important behaviors and bolster income generating potentials. Improvements made today in education, training health services and nutrition for children should be considered strategic investment for the future (INSEC, 1996).

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Judith Ennew, (1994), also describes how international legislation is developed around a version of childhood that is based on "Middle class children is the north (and the south) who do go to school, play, live in increasing private families and are assumed to help less and not able to carry out adults tasks". It is because of this there is a carked difference between international rights legislation and the socio-economic realities of many children.

#### **2.4 Poverty and Child Labor**

UNICEF, 2005 report shows that more than half the world's children are suffering from extreme deprivation of poverty. 640 million children do not have adequate

shelter. 500 million children have no access to sanitation. 400 million children do not have access to safe water. 300 million children lack access to information. 270 million children have no access to health care services. 140 million children have never been to school. 90 million children are severely food deprived (UNICEF, 2005).

Poverty starts with children. It is said that if anyone wants to know the situation of a country, it can be known through the situation of children in that country. According to the National Policy Commission's Statistics, in Nepal, 38 percent (i.e., 90 lakh people) live under the marginalized poverty line. This means that they have not been able to meet their basic needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, education, and health. If we study the existing situation of poverty in our country, we find that people living in rural areas - due to geographical inaccessibility, discrimination and exploitation - are primarily survivors of poverty (CBS, 2003).

When we study the effects of poverty on children, children four years and older are the most negatively affected by poverty. Of those found to be highly affected by poverty, 23 percent are newborn children, 27 percent are children up to 1 year in age, and 37 percent are children up to 2 years in age, 47 percent are children up to 3 years of age, and 58 percent are children 4 years age and above. The statistics from the 2001 Census also included the situation of children deprived of basic rights. For this, they used child literacy, child economic activities, and child marriage as their main indicators. According to the census, among children between 10-14 years of age, 21.4 percent are illiterate, 20 percent are economically active, and 1.3 percent of children are literate (National status report on child rights, CWIN, 2002.)

Poverty plays an enormous role in the phenomenon of child labor. Disparate for money, poor families around the world are forced to push even young children to work to increase the family's overall income. "For poor families the small contribution of a child's income or assistance at home that allows the parents to work can make the difference between hunger and a bare sufficiency (CWISH, 2005).

GON (1998), observed that children if unable to get enough food in homes due to poor economic condition, they leave their home for search for jobs. Some children leave their homes to fulfill their personal needs and some to help their family economically. Therefore every year hundreds of children leave their homes for Kathmandu. The family is unable to maintain itself above the starvation level, makes its children work for wages of side the home

## **2.5 Children and Education**

In many countries, child labor is often the product of inadequate schools. Many children are channeled into jobs simply because there is no room for them in school. A 1994 survey by the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) found that in 14 of the world's developed nations, classrooms for first grade students had seating for only 40 percent of the pupils in that age group. Children in many developing countries say the schools are so rigid and the classes so uninspiring that they prefer to drop out, as early as age 10, to look for work (CWISH, 2005).

Education plays a very vital role for the prevention and control of child labor. In our context education plays a very significant role in combating child labor. It is said that a good education Act is better than other acts to prevent and control child labor.

A planned education program incorporating all types of education such as formal, informal, non- formal, vocational, semi vocational and pre- vocational education, should be introduced in problem areas.

Education in fact, is a process which will lead the children into safer, sounder and more peaceful atmosphere. For this, there is a great need for good education .Good education consists of many components including transparency, ethics, dynamism and self-reliance (CWIN, 1998).

According to CBS report for the year 2000 there are 25,927 primary schools in Nepal. Even if the children both in rural and urban area have access to education, the quality of the primary schools is very poor. Lack of quality and knowledge, well-trained teachers, materials, equipments children are not going to school for study in rural areas.

## **2.6 Children and Domestic Violence**

Women and children are extremely vulnerable to domestic violence due to the patriarchal nature of Nepali society. Though a serious issue, a domestic violence used to be a non-issue in Nepali society till few years back. However, it now manages to receive a great deal of attention.

Respect for children's right to life and survival is still a big challenge for Nepal. Innocent children are being targeted by various elements. Growing social anomalies, a lack of a feeling of responsibility towards children are causing fatal results in children's lives. This year, CWIN recorded 72 incidents of violence against children. Out of them 38 children were murdered due to family feuds and acrimony. This year, 34 infant killings were reported (CWIN, 2002).

## **2.7 Children and Workload**

The children do not get any leisure time and leave. Work all the time has been their daily life. They are not provided with any recreation and entertainment facilities. Their masers do not even consider them as human beings and do not think that children also have their own needs, aspiration and wants, such as leisure and entertainment instead they treated them as machines .Thus children working as domestic servants are surviving under the most difficult circumstances. Girls working in this sector often have to face sexual harassment and abuse (CWIN, 1998).

## **2.8 Problem of Domestic Child Worker**

As revealed by a study carried by CWIN 1995, the pioneer movement for the right of child working children in Nepal discloses the following problems.

- ) Low wage and long working hours.
- ) Lack of basic education opportunities
- ) Work at night
- ) Too young to work for children
- ) Economics exploitation by adults
- ) Separation from parents.
- ) Abuse and neglect
- ) Physical , mental emotional exploitation
- ) No rest or entertainment
- ) Not having their basic needs met
- ) Inappropriate child rearing atmosphere
- ) Lack of adequate parental love, care and understanding
- ) Lack of social security and attention
- ) Violations of child's rights law

Child labor exploitation is a reflection of the socio-economic reality of the country. The child labor is a cause and affect of the exploitative socio economic political structure of the world.

Child labor employment is prohibited in hazard conditions by the factory domestic child labor and factory workers Act 1949. Nepal has ratified the convention of the rights of the child and the ILO's minimum age employment conventions. (On the basic of these conventions, Nepal has adopted the labor act 1992 and child right act 1992 and has declared that employing children at the age of 14 is illegal. Problems of child labor are consequences of social injustice, economic exploitation and anti human development programs

## **2.9 Causes of Domestic Child Worker**

Child labor is a product of low living standards of the population resulting from the low level of income, illiterate and increasingly lack of means of subsistence, food, shelter and clothing and inadequate basic schooling and education. Thus the practices of child labor is considered on effective means of augmenting the current level of income among poor families so as to enhance, by and large, their economic well being (CDPS, 1997:3). Studies have indicated that poverty is the crux of the problem of child laboring in Nepal. There is a direct link between the poverty and child labor in Nepal. So poverty is the main reason for emergence of child labor in Nepal (CWIN, 1989, Suwal, et al, 1997)).

Even if some children realize that education is advantageous for their future life, either they do not have access to school or they can not afford to buy stationary and pay the fees. So children leave home with the hope of acquiring both an income and an education (K.C, et. al., 1997). Other studies claimed that the child labor problem in the urban areas of Nepal is aggregated by the arrival of children to these areas as migratory workers. Child worker usually leave home for a better life in the city. ILO 1998 report shows that about 605 children left home because of burden of work at home and no opportunity to go to school. Step- parents and maltreatment accounted for another 27% of child workers, about 245 children worked due to the death of an earning member of the family. Due to poor household 20-25% children goes to earn for family support.

Gurung YB et al (1998), attempts to explore reasons for children's leaving of their home at early ages including the forms of labors they enter in to insufficient or no food and land in the origin, lack of job, domestic violence and dislike of village are identified as the main reasons behind, migration poverty in the rural areas is the main factory of child migration.



CWIN 1989 conducted about the "study of the urban child labor in Nepal" shows that the cause of child labor was to support their family. The representation of child labor was growing with every passing day from the rural to urban. By supporting the above same reason of the child labor, Sattaur(1993) study mentioned that urban migrant has been increasing by rural poverty to help their families' financial support. This study describes unequal and injustice distribution system, illiterate and cultural tradition as the major causes of the child labor problem in Nepal.

The main cause of child labor is increase in poverty and population, which compelled them to seek job in different sector for them and their family's survival. As a result, the consequences of child labor have an adverse effect on the productivity capacity of the children themselves, even when they grow old. They are under paid, which makes them unable to meet their basic needs like housing and food (CDPS, 1997).

Major causes of child labor in Nepal are identified as poverty and financial pressure, unemployment, underemployment, family deprecation, lack of alternative, inadequacy of the education system, inadequate enforcement of legislation and prevalence of public attitudes (ILO 1995). Likewise major causes of child labor are food insufficiency and unemployment because of lack of land owned (Dahal, 1989).

Nepal is a rural agrarian country with persistent poverty, which is the most important reason for child worker .So they compel their children to work as a labor in employee to support financially and to solve the family problem (ILO 1998). Poverty has been reported as the leading reason for working outside work. Financial trouble has led children to be employed in industries (KC et. al, 1998) many parents cannot afford money for their children to study. Even if primary education in Nepal is so called free, it is not compulsory. Poor people are always busy solving hand to mouth problems, and they are ignorant of the advantage and the value of education. Children are weighted only from the economic perspective. Even if some children realize that education is advantageous for their future life, either they don't have access to school or they cannot afford to buy stationary and pay the fee. So child leave the home with

the hope of acquiring both income and education (KC, et. al., 1998) People with less land or no land means that they have insufficient food for their living are forced to domestic child labor.

The main causes of child labor are poverty, illiteracy and lack of social awareness, socio-cultural exploitation and family disintegration, influenced by Modernization and urbanization, lack of effective enforcement of laws and capitalistic mode of production in industrial and commercial sectors etc. Poverty has been reported as the leading reason for working outside for non domestic work (CW/CCD, 1997). The second main reason was parents who compelled their child to be employed in industries with a hope to get financial support. (K.C, et. al, 1997)

Likewise (INSEC, 1996) survey concluded that 12% of child workers search for work, and 7% due to insufficiency of food are the most important reasons for leaving home and came to Katmandu due to parent's suggestion, 43% because of advice of friends , 6.5% due to dislike of home. The desire to be educated but the lack of adequate opportunity at home 6.55% is also an important cause for leaving home and to earn money and starting to work. The principal reasons why children leave home are found mainly from lack of love, care and parental guidance and violence in the family (CWS, 1996).

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Practice of child labor prevents children from going to school, resulting in a low school attendance rate and a low level of general and vocational education among children. As a result, the consequence of child labor has an adverse impact of the

productivity capacity of the children themselves, even when they grow older. They are underpaid, which makes them unable to meet their basic needs like shelter and food. Thus, the vicious cycle between underdevelopment and child labor is self-perpetuating (ibid).

Urbanization process is increasing in Nepal, where people have to face busy life. This situation creates high demand of domestic child labor in urban. On the other hand, children are cheap to employ (being paid only a fraction of their adults counterparts), docile, easily available as a work force and easier to manage than adults. The younger children cannot bargain for wages or facilities.

Family with bigger size contributes to child labor and many parents may face financial difficulties and so are compelled to send at least one child to work (CWIN, 1995). Due to increasing rates of family break up and consequent remarriage, many children are discriminated physically and mentally from their step parent or other family member. Children then run away to the towns and end up working in some form or another to survive. (ILO, vol.11, 1995).

IPEC (1995) also states that traditionally the caste system has exploited and discriminated. Children of "lower caste" or dalits families are forced to work in the worst work as well as their traditional occupation followed. Likewise, unequal power relationships in communities between landholders and tenants create difficulties in labor force.

At last, the above literature review shows that child labor as a growing problem in the world as well as in Nepal. More seriously, developing countries are victims of it. Children in low socio-economic status as well as deprived from minimum requirements are affected by the vicious problem of child labor. In Nepal, the vicious circle of poverty has paved the major way for entry of children in domestic child labor. This rapid increase of domestic child labor has several impacts on the socio-

economic development of the nation. The ultimate effort is seen in the economic status of the victim's family because entry of children in child labor doesn't improve the economic status of family but runs the whole family in long run.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The research design adopted in this study is exploratory as well as descriptive types. The fundamental objective of this study is to analyze the actual situation of domestic child worker in Ghorahi Municipality-11 of Dang. In this study the exploratory research design helps to know the socio-economic characteristics and to identify the causes of work of domestic child worker. On the other hand, the descriptive research design helped to describe and analyze the major working condition, problems of the domestic child worker and relation between domestic child worker and house owner. The data obtained through the design have been qualitative as well as quantitative in nature.

#### **3.2 Site Selection**

The study has been conducted at Ghorahi -11. Ghorahi is the district headquarters of Dang. So many child and poor family enter in the urban area either for opportunities or attraction of city. Many children are working as a domestic servant in the elite or rich family house. In this situation, it is very important to know that their condition of work, cause for work as domestic servant, and their relation with each other.

#### **3.3 Universe and Sampling**

A domestic child worker of Ghorahi-11 was the study area of the study. Universe of the study was the domestic child worker of Ghorahi. The purposive sampling method has been used to collect the information to match the research and availability of cases. Among the 11 wards of Ghorahi Municipality only ward number 11 has been selected to collect information about domestic child worker. The sample size of the study area represents the population of age between 7-14 years of 50 domestic child workers in which 20 boys and 30 girls are involved.

### **3.4 Nature and Source of Data**

The nature of the data is of two types like qualitative and quantitative. The data collected has been from the primary and secondary source. Both primary and secondary data has been used in this study for obtaining required information. Primary data were collected from the field by using the tools like questionnaire, observation and interviewing domestic child workers. The secondary data has been obtained from different related sources like published and unpublished books, research reports, journals, newspapers and magazines etc.

### **3.5 Tools of Data Collection**

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaire**

A set of questions were used to collect some of the basic data in terms of personal identification, ethnic/castes, age, main occupation of their family, their previous experiences, future desire, educational background major problem faced by them and about their happiness etc. So the questionnaire was filed through interviews with domestic child labors at the study areas. The data are collected under the major headings namely: name, age, sex, educational background, family, recreation, relation with employer etc.

Structured questionnaire has been used to get the detail information about domestic child worker. It has been kept in mind that the target of the questionnaire schedule was to obtain the personal and socio-economic characteristics, caste, origin, reason for work, income, health and schooling, sexual harassment, relation with each others, attitude towards work and future aspirations of the domestic child worker.

#### **3.5.2 Observation**

However the overall objective of the study is to find out and describe the socio-economic and working conditions of domestic child workers. Observation is one of the basic powerful techniques of data collection to document the present condition.

Information was collected through observation about their overall activities, working condition, physical appearance and behaviors of the owner member. Subsequently I observed many child workers cooking, washing, cleaning, sweeping, and weeping, being beaten and scolded by owner. Furthermore, the observation showed that most of the child workers were poor and unhappy.

### **3.5.3 Interview**

Interview is one of the major methods of obtaining information from respondents. This method also aims to collect information about qualitative facts such as ideas, feelings, views, behaviors which is very helpful to find out the truth. Key interview will be conducted with NGOs person and Social activist to collect information about the condition and problems of Domestic Child workers. The interview was conducted different child workers from different background and different caste, ethnicity, sex, age, class etc. Most of the interview was focus Brahmin, Chhetri, Magar, Tharu, etc.

### **3.6 Presentation and Analysis of Data**

Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used. Gathered data and information from various sources and methods were compiled and analyzed in two ways. Quantitative data were processed through editing, coding, processing, tabulation and finally data are analyzed and interpreted using Statistical method. And qualitative information has analyzed through logical comparative analysis.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DOMESTIC CHILD WORKER**

This chapter deals with the socio-economic aspects of domestic child worker including background, about its origin place and family background, and health situations. In particular, background and characteristics of respondents such as age, sex, caste/ethnicity, education and family status, place of origin and health situation of owner house are analyzed in this chapter.

Domestic Child worker reflects the poor socio-economic situation of the underdeveloped societies like Nepal. When agriculture is unable to subsist and there is only limited alternative employment in rural area, children enter the urban area for employment for better life. Some come with their own relatives and some by agent and friends.

#### **4.1 Background of the Respondents**

The background helps to understand of the domestic child workers to know more about their present conditions. Many child workers worked in owner's house due to poverty and maltreatment by step father/mother etc. Before finding out the condition of domestic worker, it is necessary to know about their age, sex, caste/ethnic and educational status.

##### **4.1.1 Caste/Ethnic Composition**

A wide diversity was found in the caste/ethnic composition of at the study site during the field work. Domestic child worker from different caste/ethnic groups such as Chhetri, Brahmin, Magar , Gurung and Tharu were found. Out of total 50 respondents, 20 are boys and 30 are girls. The highest present 40% domestic child labors are caste groups and 60 are ethnic groups. There is no other caste Dalit in this group. Table No. 1 shows that the distribution of domestic child workers by caste.



**Table: No 1 Percentage of Caste/Ethnic groups by Sex**

Caste/ethnic groups	Sex				
	Total Number of Boys	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Brahmin	6	30.0	3	10.0	18.0
Chhetri	5	25.0	6	20.0	22.0
Magar	6	30.0	9	30.0	30.0
Gurung	1	5.0	3	10.0	8.0
Tharu	2	10.0	9	30.0	6.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011

From above Table No.1, it can be seen that all the higher caste children are involved in the domestic child worker i.e.40% (Chhetri and Brahmin) but lower caste (Dalit) children are not involved because they are considered untouchable caste and are not allowed to enter the Brahmin house's kitchen. On the other hand, they don't like to work in domestic work in Brahmin's house themselves. So this reality has been matched as the study area where not even single dalit children are found as a domestic child worker.

#### **4.1.2 Age and Sex Composition**

Age is one of the important factors to be considered while analyzing the situation of domestic child worker. The age under 18 is very important period of child socialization and for the formation of the self identity and self- esteem. So, this situation is most striking for all in this regard. As already defined children are minor below the age of 17 years.

**Table: No 2 Ages and Sex Composition**

Age below 10and Above 16	Sex of Respondents				
	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Below-10 years	1	5.0	3	10.0	8.0
10-13	10	50.0	12	40.0	44.0
13-16	8	40.0	9	30.0	34.0
16 above	1	5.0	6	20.0	14.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011

The table No 2 shows that the age of domestic child workers ranges from 5 to 17 years, of which 40 percent are boys and 60 percent are girls. The age group of 11-13 constituted the highest percent i.e. 50 percent of boys and 40 percent of girls. Total 8 percent of domestic child workers are below 10 years of age. According to distribution on the basis of age and sex, 5 percent of boys and 10 percent of girls are below 10 years of age.

#### **4.1.3 Educational Status**

Each and every child has right to get education but many of domestic child workers don't get educational facility. Education is the light of knowledge and right of child. Without education child can not achieve liberty and better life also. They have always been the hunter of exploitation and oppression. Because of poverty, many parents can not afford the child to provide education, so child dropout their education.

In this study fewer domestic worker were studying in primary to lower secondary grades prior to be employed, which means that higher percent age of domestic child

workers were school dropouts. Table 3 shows the educational status of domestic child workers.

The table No 3 shows that total 8 percent of domestic child workers are illiterate and total 24 percent of child workers are literate. Among them, 5% of boys are illiterate whereas girls exceed in percentage of illiteracy and goes to 10%. The highest percentage i.e. (40%) of boys and also 40 % of girls have completed the primary level of education followed by 35 percent of boys have lower secondary level of education. 10% of girls have lower secondary level of education.

**Table:No 3 Education Status of Domestic Child Workers by Sex**

Education status	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Illiterate	1	5.0	3	10.0	8.0
Literate	3	15.0	9	30.0	24.0
Primary level	8	40.0	12	40.0	40.0
Lower secondary	7	35.0	3	10.0	20.0
Secondary	1	5.0	3	10.0	8.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

#### **4.2 About Origin Place and Family Background.**

Origin place and family backgrounds are most important factors for domestic child workers. Insufficient land brings the family down to the crops, successive draughts, and tenant farming drive them to urban areas in search of employment. People are compelled to leave their village due to low economic status and unfavorable political environment. Thus, Dang, the central District of Rapti zone has become the center of

attraction as all kinds of facilities of the availability of job opportunity; good schools, colleges, hospital etc. are available. In case of domestic child workers, they have also come from different districts to central District for working opportunities to support their family economically and to fulfill their needs and make their life better. Dang has provided working opportunities for these children in different sector

#### 4.2.1. Place of Birth

Most of the domestic child workers were from neighbor district of Dang of Nepal. Based on the domestic child worker's birth place, the data presented below reveals their place of origin.

**Table: No 4 Distribution of Place of Birth by District**

Place of Birth or District	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Rolpa	6	30.0	6	20.0	24.0
Salyan	5	25.0	3	10.0	16.0
Pyuthan		-	3	10.0	6.0
Bardia		-	3	10.0	6.0
Dang		-	6	20.0	12.0
Rukum	3	15.0	3	10.0	12.0
Argakhachi	4	20.0	3	10.0	14.0
Surkhet	2	10.0	3	10.0	10.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey2011.

Out of total, most of domestic child workers are migrant from other district, Rolpa, Pyuthan, argakhachi, Rukum, Bardia etc. This data shows that most of the domestic child workers have come from the neighbor district because of nearness and the contact with the broker, relative and friends.

#### 4.2.2. Family Status

Family status is one of the leading factors why many children are pushed into domestic work. Family is the shelter for the children. Good family has a good access in all aspects. In the process of child socialization family is one of the most important and crucial institution. Family plays an important role to mould a child. The future of child depends on his/her parent's presence and support.

Many of the children are involved as domestic child workers against their will due to either family pressure or family conflict. In the family where the children have either stepmother or stepfather are more likely to join the labor force in their early age.

**Table: No 5 Family Status of Domestic Child Worker by**

Status of Parents	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Both parents alive	7	35.0	9	30.0	32.0
Only father alive	1	5.0	3	10.0	8.0
Only mother alive	3	15.0	3	10.0	12.0
Step father	-	-	3	10.0	6.0
Step mother	3	15.0	3	10.0	12.0
None	6	30.0	9	30.0	30.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Table No 5 shows the distribution of domestic child worker by their family status. Majority of the respondents (32%) have their both parents alive. Similarly (8%) have father only followed by (12%) respondents with mother only. This entails that girls are forced to be engaged in labor force in presence of parents where as more boys are engaged in labor force due to demise of at least one of the parents. Table 5 also shows

that total percentage of step father is 6% and stepmother is 12%.However, 30% of respondents dint have any step-parents. This table shows that forms and causes of domestic child worker are different. Some came at domestic work because of stepmother and stepfather. On the other hand, some came because of poverty and low economic conditions.

### **Case Study 1**

#### **Dorna Kumari Paudel**

*Dorna Kumari 16, who is called Gita in her employer's house, came from Arghachakhi districtl. Though her mother is alive, her father remarried another women while she was one and haft years old. Her mother did not get financial or other kinds of support from her husband. When she reached 10 years, she came to Dang with her mother and worked in one of the house in Ghorahi-11 as a household child labor. After 1 year she left there, due to stale food and always abusing and other misbehaviors of the mistress. Since last 6 months, she is working in present employer's house. She is satisfied with her situation in this house. She does all house chores such as coking, washing, cleaning, sweeping, weeding, etc.*

*She is embarrassed to clean utensils at late night. She wakes up at 6 am and goes to bed at 9 pm. She has to sleep on the Palang with mat, blanket and quilt. She bathes twice a week and changes clean clothes. She gets enough food of same quality that her employer's family eats. She listens to radio and watches TV. She sits on the floor while watching television. She plays with the employer's children when she is free. Once she fell ill. But recovered soon, after the treatment with the help of her employer. Illiterate Gita earns Rs. 400 in a month. But she gives her half earning (Rs.200) to her mother due to poor economic condition and rest Rs. 200 she keeps herself. In spite of this, Dorna is quite happy with the environment of this house she has been never treated badly by her employer.*

**Table: No 6 Distribution of Domestic Child Worker by Family Size**

Family size of Parents	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
0-4	2	10.0	6	20.0	16.0
4-6	4	20.0	3	10.0	14.0
6-8	10	50.0	12	40.0	44.0
8-above	4	20.0	9	30.0	26.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Table No. 6 shows the size of domestic child worker's families. Highest percent of respondents i.e. 44% belongs to families of 6-8 members followed by 26 percent of the respondents above 8 members in the family. Compared to girls domestic child workers, 50 percent of boy's domestic child workers are from families with more than 6 members and above.

#### **4.2.3 Family Occupation**

Family occupation always determines to make the good or bad life of the children. In this table we can see the highest percent of child workers have come from the agricultural family occupation and wage labor is the second occupation. It looked that most of the domestic child worker has entered at Dang as domestic workers to earn money, and for schooling because of their low economic family condition after being not afforded by parents.

**Table:No 7 Status of Parental/Family Occupation**

Occupation	Total No of respondents parents	percentage
Agriculture	18	36.0
Porter/worker	6	12.0
Wage labor	11	22.0
Driver	6	12.0
Small business	5	10.0
Do not know	4	8.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Table No 7 shows the family occupation of domestic child worker. Out of 50 respondents' parents, 36 percents were engaged in agriculture. 10 percent of parents were in small business in their own origin place. 22 percent of the total 50 respondents were wage labors and mainly engaged in wage labor activities. Similarly 12 percent were involved in porter and drivers. And 8 percent of domestic child workers didn't knows about their parent's job. Thus, from table No 7 it is clear that most of the parents are involved in low paying and less prestigious jobs.

#### **4.2.4 Food Sufficiency for Family Survival**

Domestic child worker/labors family are poor children who were also asked weather the production from the own or rented land was enough for the whole year. Fulfilling the basic requirements of the households is the obligation of the family. The children of the under or unemployed families therefore, must have to work for the family's survival. From the study of parental occupation, majority of the family do not receive regular wage. So, these families are financially unsecured .Under these



circumstances, poverty normally would not allow them for schooling and even sufficient food for their livelihood. Thus, insufficient family income is also deep root cause to leave children to domestic work.

**Table:No 8 Food Sufficient for Family Survival**

Food sufficient	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Sufficient	3	15.0	3	10.0	12.0
Just sufficient	5	25.0	6	20.0	22.0
Insufficient	10	50.0	15	50.0	50.0
Do not know	2	10.0	6	20.0	16.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

On the above table, 12.0 percent domestic child workers reported that food is sufficient for the whole year. Similarly, 22.0 percent of children reported that there is food just sufficient, whereas 50 percent of children reported for insufficient of family survival from the family's occupation.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### WORKING CONDITION OF THE DOMESTIC CHILD WORKERS

This chapter mainly deals about causes of work and working conditions of the domestic child workers in the study area. In particular, cause of work, working conditions, health situations, and relationship with owners and family, future aspiration are included in this study.

#### 5.1 Causes of Work

Poverty is one of the major causes for children being engaged in domestic child worker force. Almost all the domestic child workers represent low level of income of families and no land holding at all. On the other hand, family's conflicts also cause domestic work for child workers. Having established previously that parents are instrumental in sending their children to work as domestic child labor, and hope to critically examine their reasons for doing so. The respondents were questioned about the composition of their family, family status and assets. Family income, stepparents, and own idea are the main reasons for working.

**Table: No 9 Distribution of Cause for Working**

Reason for working	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Poverty	10	50.0	3	10.0	26.0
To pay loan	1	5.0	-	-	2.0
Force by parents	5	25.0	15	50.0	40.0
Influenced by others	3	15.0	6	20.0	18.0
Expectation of better life	1	5.0	6	20.0	14.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

Table No 9 shows that there is difference between boys and girls regarding reasons for working as domestic child worker. As shown, boys (50%) and girls (10%) are engaged in domestic child work due to poverty. Similarly, out of total, 40.0 percents are involved in due to parent's force whereas 25 Percent of boys and 50 percent girls are involved in domestic child work due to force of parent's. From the data it is clear that poverty is the main cause for domestic child wor

## **Case Study - 2**

### **Bharat K.C.**

*Bharat K.C. is working in one of the houses of Ghorahi Manakamana Tole as household child Worker. He is now 12 years old. He came Ghorahi of 2 years ago from Salyan district by sister with the intention of earning money. According to him, there are eight members in his family. His parents are alive and they are surviving by working in the field of landowner or doing wage labor.*

*He is working at present house from 1 year. Bharat changed many houses as household child labour because of the problem of beating and abusing from cruel employer. Since one year, he has not gone his home and his family didn't also come to meet him. But he has visited his sister who is living in Tulsipur.*

*His daily life is not different from other household child Worker such as bringing milk, cleaning utensil, washing clothes, cleaning floor, looking after the offspring of the employer. He feels burden for washing children's stool. He wakes up at 6 am and goes to bed at 9 pm. He has to sleep on the floor of room using low types of bedding materials. He bathes twice a month and has very few clean clothes to change. Although he eats enough food but mostly gets stale food eat. Bharat is unknown about the person who keeps his earning. Once Bharat fell ill but recovered slowly after treatment with the help of his employer. He does not listen to the radio, but watches TV and plays with neighboring child labors at his free times without giving information to his employers. Bharat is studying present in class two. But he gets very little time to get engaged in study at home.*

## 5.2 Types of Work of Domestic Child Worker.

Domestic child workers don't have any fixed work schedule. They do kitchen work, dish washing, baby caring, cloth washing, house clearing etc. Table 10 shows the types of work of domestic child work.

**Table: No 10 Distribution of Types of Work, Cause for Working**

Types of work	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Cooking and cleaning	10	50.0	15	50.0	50.0
Washing clothes	8	40.0	9	30.0	34.0
Baby care	-	-	6	20.0	12.0
Watching house	2	10.0	-	-	4.0
Total	20	10.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011.

As shown above, total 50 percent of children are employed for kitchen work. Similarly 34 percent of total child workers are engaged in washing clothes, motors and cleaning children followed by 12 percent of girls are engaged only for baby care. Baby care is not done by boy children. 4 percent are engaged in watching house and helping others works. Highest percent of boys i.e. 40% are employed for washing clothes where as 30 % of girls are employed for washing clothes. It seems that all domestic child workers involved in entire household works. Especially only the girls are kept for the baby care purpose.

## 5.3 Entry into the Domestic Work

Yet the motivation comes mostly from the parents. It entails whether they joined by their personal interest or by any other forces.

**Table: No 11 Distribution of Labor Force**

Who brought into labor force	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
By parents	5	25.0	6	20.0	22.0
By relatives	8	40.0	12	40.0	40.0
By own/ourselves	1	5.0	3	10.0	8.0
By house owners	5	25.0	6	20.0	22.0
By middle men	1	5.0	3	10.0	8.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table No.11 shows that highest percent of children's (40%) were brought into domestic labor force by relatives, followed by parents (22.0%), friends or self (8%), house owners (22%) and middle men (8%). Table No 11 shows that 50 percent of girls were taken by relatives into labor force. Comparatively 40 percent of boys, engaged in the labor force were brought by relatives. So, it seems that all the children are brought to work from the parents and relatives.

#### **5.4 Working Condition of the Domestic Child Labor**

In particular, working condition of work, working hours earning activities, living condition etc are analyzed in this sub- chapter.

##### **5.4.1 Working Hours**

Generally working hours for domestic child workers are higher. It can be said that they have no better status. The working hour per day varies from below 6 hours a day to more than 10 hours.

**Table: No 12 Distribution of Domestic Child Worker by Working Hour**

Working hours	No. of Respondents	%
0- 6	3	6.0
6-7	15	30.0
7-8	20	40.0
8 above	12	24.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011

Table No. 12 shows that 40 percent domestic child labors work for 7-8 hours a day, followed by 30 percent who work per for 6-7 hours. As shown, 24 percent are worked for above 8 hours per day. The table No 12 shows that many domestic child workers are forced to work for longer time. So their worked load depends upon the owner family size and freedom.

#### **5.4.2. Earning Status of Domestic Child Worker**

Children are cheap labor and they are compelled to work more than adults. They work hard, but in return the payment is found to be very low ranging from less than 500 to more than 2000 per month and higher of them are unpaid domestic child labor that gets only food, cloths and education facilities.

**Table: No. 13 Earning Status of Domestic Child Worker**

Monthly Income	No. of respondents	%
0- 1000	12	24.0
1000-1500	20	40.0
1500-2000	8	16.0
Only food	4	8.0
Food /clothes/education	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Table No 13 shows that only a very little children .i.e. 16 percent get 1500-2000 rupees as salary and but a large 40 percent get monthly Rs.1000-1500 salary from the work. Similarly, 12% of respondents are getting only for food, clothing and education facilities from the work.

### 5.4.3. Sleeping Place

Domestic child workers have to spend nights in poor and unhygienic place. They often get separate room for them.

**Table:No 14 Distribution of Domestic Child Worker by Sleeping Place**

Separate room	No. of respondents	%
Yes	40	80.0
No	10	20.0
Total	50	100.0
Place of sleeping		
On the bed	34	68.0
On the floor	16	32.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

**Case Study - 3**  
**Mira Chaudhari**

*Mira Chaudhari, household children labour in Ghorahi-II utshaha tole. She came from Deukhuri when she was 10 years old. Mira is the eldest daughter in the family, with three brothers and one sister. During her stay at this house, she had never visited her home. But she used to weep sometimes because of homesickness. Mira does not know about her monthly earnings till now. She has a great desire to learn sewing and knitting but there is no opportunity for her. Now she is working in a Brahmin house. There are four persons in the family and both employer admistresses are jobholders. She does the entire household chores as cooking, washing and cleaning.*

*She feels hardship for washing utensils at late night. She wakes up at 4 am and goes to bed at 10 pm. She has to sleep on the Palang with mat, blanket and quilt. She bathes weekly and changes clean clothes. She gets medicine from her employer whenever needed. She sometimes listens to the radio; watch TV but does not play.*

Table No.14 shows that in the study area, majority of children i.e. 80% of total domestic child workers have got their separate room for their rest. There is difference between boys and girls. Girls children have got at least one separate room but boys have got a few separate rooms. Majority of children i.e. 68% of total domestic child workers sleep on the bed.

Similarly, 32 percent of children sleep on the floor. Majority girls have got separate bed but they sleep with in household family member's room or other place.

### **5.5. Health Condition of Domestic Child Worker.**

Health aspect is a crucial factor for everyone. The study also attempts to explore the health condition of child workers. Because of unhealthy working environment and dirty work, they are likely to meet disease



**Table: No 15 Distribution of Health Status of Domestic Child Worker**

Types of Illness	No. of Respondents	%
Cold cough	10	20.0
Fever	20	40.0
Skin problem	4	8.0
Diarrhea	6	12.0
others/no	10	20.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Most of the workers suffered from fever. Researcher has tried to describe about the health problem of the domestic child workers at the period of their involvement in the owner's house which they faced in working period. The table No 15 show that highest number of the children suffered from fever, 20 percent of child workers faced cough and cold, 12 percent of them suffered from diarrhea. About 20 percent children were suffered from other diseases where as few child were away from diseases.

The study found that most of the child respondents suffered from fever and were medically treated. Among the treated children, they reported that doctor's bill was paid by owners. At the illness time, owner members helped for the treatment. A few child workers got no help for treatment.

## **5.6 Helping Conditions**

**Table: No 16 Distribution of Helping Conditions**

Helper	No. of Respondents	%
House owner	13	26.0
Owner's members	16	32.0
Self sufficient	6	12.0
No help	15	30.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Table No. 16 clearly show the distribution for helping conditions. Out of total 50 sick respondents, 32 percent respondents got help by owner's family members. Followed by 12 percent self sufficient, 26 percent house owner and 30 percent child dint get any help when they were ill.

## **5.6 Sexual Harassment and Exploitation**

It is very difficult to find out the sexual exploitation but we read many causes of sexual exploitation of child worker in newspaper and NGO's report .Likewise the researcher also found sexual exploitation among domestic child workers.

Girls are highly exploited and victimized in various form. However, the degree of sexual exploitation to a domestic worker is unknown because of data lacking. And it is not an easy work to find out the actual data. Girls were harassed and abused by various aspects at working time. Domestic child workers have to face sexual harassment and exploitation from the various persons during the work and especially when they are alone.

## **5.7 Relationship Status**

### **5.7.1 Relationship with Family**

Human relation is the main aspect of the sociological study. So here under the researcher has tried to mention about their relationships with different persons. Domestic child worker is a widely pervasive problem. Though parents have love and sympathy for their children, they are bound to labor of all factors responsible for domestic child worker/labor. Stepfather, stepmother is one of the major factors. Greater part of the stepmother, father is enacting problem of domestic child worker /labor, also seems to be no less a significant factor that poverty is a root causes of domestic child worker labor. Thus, stepmother seems to be a primary cause of domestic child worker.

Similarly, relationship with step parents is important factor for influencing the magnitude of domestic child workers. In most cases, children with step-parents are

forced to enter into labor force because of unhealthy relationship with step-parents. Therefore, it can be said that ill relationship with step parents has caused many children to join the domestic child work.

**Table No. 17: Relationship with Parents**

Relation status	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30%	Total no. of %
Good	5	25.0	12	40.0	34.0
Normal	9	45.0	9	30.0	36.0
Bad	6	30.0	9	30.0	30.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

According to the respondents, 34.0 percent of children have a good relationship with family. Among them, 25.0% of boys and 40 % of respondents are girls. Similarly 36.0 percent children have normal relation with step- parents and 30.0 percent have a poor relationship with family.

### 5.7.2 Relation with Owner's Family

Relationship with owner's family members is also crucial factors for the domestic child workers. Majority of children don't have a good relationship with owner and owner's family members. The poor relationship with owner's family situation have resulted a punishment to the domestic workers. Therefore domestic child workers were unsecured by the owner's family.

**Table No. 18; Distribution of Domestic Child Worker by Owner Relationship**

Relation status	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20%	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30%	Total no. of %
Good	10	50	15	50.0	50.0
Normal	5	25.0	9	30.0	28.0
Bad	1	5.0	3	10.0	8.0
Don't know	4	20.0	3	10.0	14.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011

Among the 50 respondents, 50 percent of children have established good relationship with family owners. Similarly 28 percent have a normal relationship and 8 percent have a poor relationship with owner’s family. Subsequently 14 percent didn’t respond about relationship with their owner.

### 5.8 Job Satisfaction

Children were asked whether they are satisfied with their present job or not. This question helped to know the attitude of children towards their current job and satisfaction with it.

**Table No. 19: Satisfaction of Current Job**

Satisfaction	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Satisfaction	5	25.0	12	40.0	34.0
Indifferent	6	30.0	9	30.0	30.0
Not Satisfied	9	45.0	9	30.0	36.0
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2011.

Table No.19: shows the perception of domestic child labors about their current job. About 34.0 percent of the respondents reported that they were satisfied with current job where boys were 25 percent and girls were 40 percent. However, out of total 50 children respondent, 32 percent reported indifferent from these types of work. There is gender differential in current job. Higher percent of female children (40.0%) were satisfied with jobs.

Table No.19 shows that 36.0 percent children reported that they were not satisfied due to long working hours, hard work, punishment, low salary, and no time to read.

### 5.8.1 Not Satisfying with Current Job

**Table No. 20: Not Satisfying with Current Job**

Job	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Hard work	5	25.0	12	40.00	34.00
salary	8	40.0	12	40.00	40.00
Other	7	35.0	6	20.00	26.00
Total	20	100.0	30	100.00	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Table no 20 shows that their work was not of their interest. They were paid low, and employer's behavior was bad, which was the main reason for dissatisfaction with current job. 34% of total respondents were dissatisfied with their job due to hard work whereas 40% of respondents were paid low salary. There were 26% of respondents who said there were other reasons for dissatisfaction of job.

### 5.9 Major Problems for Domestic Child Labor at Current Situation

Various Problems are faced by domestic worker in owner's family. According to the respondent, they are facing different problems at working condition and bed time. Most of the respondents were living an unsecured life.

**Table No. 21: Distribution of the Types of Problems**

Types of Problems	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
Return home	3	15.0	6	17.0	18.0
Sleeping time	4	20.0	3	13.0	14.00
Clothing	7	35.0	6	24.0	26.00
Read & write or schooling	2	10.0	3	10.0	10.00
watching movie/serial	4	20.0	12	36.0	32.00
Total	20	100.0	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Table No 21 shows that their problems mostly occur to return back to home, to sleep on time, to wear new clothes, to read and write or go to school and watch movies and serials.

Table No. 21 indicates that the majority of the respondents face the problems to watch movies/serials. Out of total 28.0 percent of respondents are not allowed to see movies or serials with owner's family. 26.00 percent of respondents are not bought nice dresses for visits. Subsequently, 18.00 percent of respondents have the problem of returning home and 14.00 percent of children had the problem of sleeping on scheduled time in owner's house. Similarly only 10.0 percent children have a schooling problem in owner's house.

### 5.10 Future Aspiration of Domestic Child Worker

The life of domestic child worker is uncertain and unpredictable. It is full of confusion. In fact, they pass their days with a hope of better future. Another aspect of child perception on work is their future intention to work. Majority of the children intend to change current work and don't to know what they will do next. They do not know how to change current work and what was being done. In fact, boys desired to be vehicle driver in future whereas girls wanted to be part of vocational job like tailoring, beauty parlor etc.

**Table No. 22: Future Aspiration of Domestic Child Labor**

Aspiration	Total Number of Boys=20	Boys N=20 %	Total Number of Girls=30	Girls N=30 %	Total no. of %
To Make good person	2	10.0	6	20.0	16.0
Driver	7	35.0	3	10.0	20.0
Change work	1	5.0	9	30.0	20.0
Earning money	6	30.0	3	10.0	18.0
Not decided	-	-	3	10.0	6.00
Don't know	4	20.0	6	20.0	20.0
Total	20	100.	30	100.0	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2011.

Table No. 22 shows that 20.00 percent of domestic child worker want to change their work and same as 20 percent of children don't know what they will do in future. About 6.00 percent of children asked, didn't have any plan yet. Similarly, 20.00 percent want to be driver and 18.00 percent of the respondent wants to earn money in future.

## **CHAPTER- VI**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

#### **6.1 Summary**

This study was carried out on the situation analysis of the domestic child workers below 17 years of age in Ghorahi municipality city. This study was focused on the socio economic status of the child labor, reason for work as domestic child and relation between house owner family and others.

The findings are based on the structured interviews of 50 children where 20 are boy and 30 are girl age between 5-17 years working currently as domestic child worker in Dang. The field survey, which is covered mainly 11 ward of Ghorahi Municipality city. In the field survey, purposive sampling technique and descriptive research design is adopted. However, a few case studies were also conducted to collect more reliable information in the past and present situation.

Children are the future pillars of society. They are future citizens of the country. Many children are compelled to work in difficult condition as child workers to support their family and themselves also. The problem of domestic child worker is serious. Domestic Child worker/labor often works in harmful and dangerous condition. Their mental, physical and social developments are also threatened. Domestic Child labor is a result of poverty, parent's ignorance, family breakdown, social injustice, economic exploitation, etc. Now a day the migration of children to urban areas is in increasing trend and this has led to the increase of children in urban areas as a cheap source of labor.

Children have been working in different fields as child labors. The existence and exploitation of child labor in each sector is of different nature. It has become one of the most exploitative forms of child worker. In this sector, Domestic child workers are poorly paid. They are deprived of schooling, playing, recreational and emotional support from family and friends. They are treated poorly and abused both physically



and mentally. They work from early morning to late night without being provided sufficient food and without affection from their employers, but however being the domestic child worker are safe under the shade of a family. Of course, they do the work for the owner's family but they also get education, training, money, food, shelter and clothes. In other word it can be said the domestic child workers and the employer is mutually dependent on each other. Shortly it can be named as symbiosis process. The dark side is that there is lack of information on household child labor in Nepal, though it is a very crucial issue today.

Child labor is one of the serious problems and widespread phenomenon in Nepal. By law the Children are restricted and prohibited to work as laborers. In fact due to economic stagnation, natural calamities and disease, internal conflict, as well as implication of structural adjustment policy, child labor has emerged as a major social problem in Nepal. The rural people send their children to the urban center hoping their better future in one hand and earning of those children that support other family on the other hand.

Poverty is the crux problem of child labor in Nepal. Major causes of child labor in Nepal are identified as poverty and financial pressure, unemployment, family deprecation, lack of alternative, inadequacy of the education system and inadequate enforcement of legislation. Likewise major causes/reasons of child labor are food insufficiency, lack of owned land, unequal land distributions, illiteracy, ignorance, lack of legal enforcement existing behind child worker/labor.

**The major findings of the study can be summarized as follows:**

Most of the Domestic child worker was between the ages of 10-17 years. This is the age most favored by the employers.

Out Of the 50 Domestic child workers interviewed 30 were girls and 20 were boys. A majority of Domestic child worker were from ethnic/caste groups and poor economic background.

The number of child worker's family who were engaged on agriculture were found to be 18, whereas child worker's family engaged on wage labor were 11, similarly child worker's family engaged as porter noticed to be 6. Most of those families had little area of land or no land at all.

Out Of the total of 50 Domestic child workers, 16 respondent Child workers slept on floor by using bedding materials, whereas 34 respondent Child workers slept on bed. The health factor of most of the respondent was poor. Among sick children, most of them were medically treated by their owners. Only few didn't get medical support from their owner. Among the sick child labors, only 35 no of Respondent got medicine at the time of sickness by the doctor's check. But others could not get help from their employers.

In the scenario of education of domestic child workers, the finding shows that the highest percentage i.e. 40% of domestic child workers has the primary level education. Adversely, the lowest percentage i.e. 8% of domestic child workers has the secondary level of education. As a conclusion, the report shows that most of the domestic child workers are illiterate or little literate.

Among 50 domestic child workers, most of the respondent i.e. 20 domestic child workers reported that they worked for 7-8 hours a day, followed by 15 domestic child worker who reported to have worked for 6-7 hours a day. There were only 3 respondents who reported to have worked for below 6 hours a day whereas 12 respondents reported to have worked for more than 8 hours a day.

In the context of distribution of the type of the problems, different problems were faced by domestic child workers in different degree. The majority of respondent i.e. 26% of domestic child workers dint get good clothing followed by 32% of domestic

child workers who were not allowed to watch television, movies and serials. Furthermore, 10% of domestic child workers were deprived of schooling and 14% of domestic child workers faced the problem of sleeping schedule. The highest percentage i.e. 40% of girls faced the problem of being unable to watch movies, serials whereas highest percentages of boys i.e. 35% were not provided with good clothing.

In the context of distribution of types of work, there were different natures of work done by domestic child workers. The majority percentage i.e. 50% of respondents was involved in kitchen work (cleaning and cooking). However, the least percentage i.e. 4% of domestic child workers was involved in watching house. Most of the boys and also the girls were involved in kitchen activities and washing clothes. Interestingly, no boys were engaged in baby caring whereas 20% of girls were involved in baby caring.

## **6.2. Conclusion**

Child labor is a burning issue of Nepal. According to the constitution of Nepalese Act 2047, every citizen before the age of 18 years is known as children. Child labor is a serious problem because has great influences on the society. Due to poverty, illiterate and hand to mouth problems, majority of poor family child shift to the town as a domestic child workers. Children, both girls and boys from different caste/ethnicity and various districts of Nepal have come to work as household child workers in Dang.

Although most of the children in this study were between 10-17 years of age, there were some children of only 8 years old who had also come to work as worker. At such an early age children are normally not given major responsibilities of any work in our societies. Generally, childhood is considered to be a time-period for children's socialization and self-identity formation. Given this, it is urged that steps should be taken to protect working children and enable them to improve their life standard through access to educational opportunities in particular.

Domestic Child worker in the present study performed all types of household chores including cooking, cleaning, washing and shopping. They did most of the work without any hesitation. They worked for an average of 15 hours a day. It would very difficult to reduce the incidence of Domestic child labors in Nepal without improving the economic situation of their poverty stricken families. It would be better to capitalize the potentiality of employed and unemployed adults instead of putting children to work. One of the best alternatives that could reduce the work burden on children might be an effective compulsory education for children.

The remuneration of child workers under study was not satisfactory in comparison to their workload .They were still compelled to work in order to survive and support their poor families.

The overall condition for the sample of Domestic child workers in terms of food, shelter, health, etc. was found to be dissatisfactory. They were often served with stale and left food and many reported that they were sleeping in the floor, corridor and under stairs. Sick child workers were treated either with their own money (earned as wages) or sometimes employers brought medicines for the sick children without consulting physicians.

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## ANNEX- I

### QUESTIONNAIRE SCHEDULE FOR THE STUDY

#### A. Personal Information

Name:.....Sex:.....Age(Completed yrs.):.....

Caste/ethnicity:..... Address:.....

#### B. About the Origin Place and Family Background

1. Where did you get your birth?

District.....VDC/Municipality.....Do not know.....

2. Do you have your home in your village?

a. Yes                      b. No

3. Do you have your own parents?

Father: a. Yes              b. No

Mother: a. Yes            b. No

4. Do you have also step parents?

a. Yes                      b. No

5. If yes which one you have?

a. Step father            b. Step mother

6. How many members are in your family?

.....

7. How is your association with your Father/mother?

a. Good                    b. Bad    c. Normal

8. What is the occupation of your family?

a. Agriculture            b. Services              c. Small business

d. Porter/worker        e. Driver                f. Security guard

g. Wage labor            h. Do not know

9. Does your parent earn sufficient for family's survival?

a. Sufficient            b. Just sufficient        c. Insufficient            d. Do not know

C. Education, Health and Migration

1. Can you read and write?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
2. If yes, Grade.....
3. At present time are you going to school?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
4. If no, reason for not joining school,
  - a. Negligence of house owner
  - b. Busy at work
  - c. Not interested
  - d. Do not know
5. How did you come here?
  - a. With my parents
  - b. With relatives
  - c. With house owner
  - d. With middle men
  - e. Self
6. Have you been suffered from illness/injury while you were working?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
7. If yes, from what types of illness/injury?
  - a. Cold coughs
  - b. Fever
  - c. Skin problem
  - d. Diarrhea
  - e. other.....
8. Who helped you at that time?
  - a. House owner
  - b. Owner's member
  - c. Self sufficient
  - d. No help
9. Have you faced any sexual harassment since working here?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Do not know
10. If yes, what types of harassment?  
.....
11. Who harassed to you?
  - a. House owner
  - b. Owner's son/daughter
  - c. Local boy/girl
  - d. others.....



D. Reason for Work and Working Condition

1. How many places did you work in?
  - a. One
  - b. Two
  - c. Three
  - d. Four and above
2. What types of work have to do here?
  - a. Cooking & cleaning
  - b. washing clothes
  - c. Baby care
  - d. Other.....
3. What reason you are doing these types of work?
  - a. Poverty
  - b. To pay loan
  - c. Forced by parents
  - d. Expectation of better life
  - e. Influenced by other
  - f. Others.....
4. How many hours you have to work in a day?  
.....
5. What do you get from this type of work?
  - a. Only lodging footing
  - b. Owner pay for parents
  - c. Parent took loan
  - d. Schooling
6. Do you have separate sleeping room?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
7. What is the place of your sleeping?
  - a. On the bed
  - b. On the floor
  - c. Others.....
8. How is your relation with your owner's family?
  - a. Good
  - b. Normal
  - c. Bad
  - d. Do not know
9. Do you get punishment from your master's family?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
10. If yes who does this the most?
11. Can you go home?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
12. If no how long it has been

a. Days..... b. Month.....c. Years.....

13. Are you satisfied with this job?

a. Satisfied b. Indifferent c. Not satisfied

14. If not satisfied why?

.....

15 Who keeps your earning?

a. Parents b. Masters  
c. Relatives c. Yourselfes

16. Would you like to leave these types of work?

a. Yes b. No

17. If yes what do you want to do new?

a. Go back home b. Study  
c. Do other work d. Other.....

18. What will you like to do in future?

Thank you!