

# Chapter One

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The child labor takes the value of child's awful position. The children are victimizing in the home, factory and hotels. The socio-economic condition of children is very bad and miserable.

Children are known as the future of the society. But they need proper education and guidance in their childhood because at this age they can be compared with wet clay, which can be given shapes as we like. In developing countries like Nepal, large part of such children is deprived of their rights of education and the right of childhood. The reasons are economic as well as lack of awareness of their parents. They are compelled to work within and outside their household for livelihood, which cause them to fall into misery for the whole life.

There are 218 million child laborers aged 5 -17 around the world today. That is one in seven children going work instead of going to school. They work in fields and factories, they sew footballs and t-shirts, they pick coffee and cocoa, they mine, they dig, and they fight in wars. They are trapped in poverty with little hope of escape. Sub-Saharan Africa has the greatest incidence of economically active children – 26.4% of all 5-14 year-olds, compared to 18.8% for Asia and the Pacific and 5.1% for Latin America (Strakova & Vondra, 2008).

However, many studies show that children's wages only contribute in a small way to a family's income, while the fact that the child misses out on education and the opportunity to individual development will hamper it for the rest of its life. Child Labour breeds poverty as it not only leaves the child and future adult without any tools to escape from the poverty trap, it also impacts negatively on society as a whole as it creates a whole group of people condemned to poverty (Strakova & Vondra, 2008).

It should be clear that the issue of child labour is very pertinent. The impact of the world-wide financial crisis will be felt very strongly in Sub-Saharan Africa, while the present food crisis is already leaving families, particularly in rural areas, without any means to find food. Environmental changes force families to leave their land and migrate to the city in search of food and work. All these calamities work together to increase the rate of child

labourers, particularly in Africa, as parents hope to increase their meager income with the slight contribution of their child's labour. It is therefore crucial to convince these parents that child labour does not fight poverty, but is in fact a means to perpetuate and even increase poverty for them and their children. It is at least equally crucial that local organizations, governments and international organizations devise innovative ways to keep children in schools or get them there (Strakova & Vondra, 2008).

ILO/IPEC (1996); as per ILO-IPEC's Survey in 1996, there are an estimated 83,000 children under the age of 18 working as domestic servants in Nepal. In Kathmandu Municipality, where around 18 out of 100 households employ a child domestic worker, there are some 22,000 children under the age of 15 working in this sector. According to a recently completed IPEC Rapid Assessment Survey, more than half (57%) of these are boys.

Often from large poor rural families, these young child domestics are invisible as they are mostly confined to the four walls of the household and often have very little contact with the outside world. At the beck and call of the employers on a 24-hour basis, these children are highly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

ILO –IPEC (2007), according to ILO-IPEC's report in 2007, in Nepal, 70,000 children are under the age of 18 work as domestic servants in home, restaurants and hotels. In Kathmandu Municipality itself approximately 50,000 children under age of 18 work as labor, with one in five households employing a child for an adult job. More than half of these workers are boys.

About half of the populations of Nepal are children under the age of 16, out of it; approximately 20% are under 6 years of age. Children of Nepal are growing in rich culture and spiritual traditions, but as another side of the coin, they are surviving in a very poor economic conditions and family environment (UNICEF, 2006).

Child domestic workers are a familiar sight throughout South Asia. Many of these children begin to work as early as at five years of age. Most child domestic workers are girls, as they are seen to be better suited to carry out household chores. Some of these children can earn a decent income if they find a kind and caring family who may even educate them or help them get married. The less fortunate, get no pay and live a life of hardship and misery. They are often locked inside the house, scolded, beaten and abused.

In situations of extreme poverty it is common for children to be sent to work at a very early age to help supplement the family's meager income. Work done by children becomes child labour when it is their primary occupation, denying them education and affecting their overall development. Such work can be exploitative and abusive and can ruin the child's prospects for a better future.

Child labour ranges from debt bondage to child domestic works, child sex work, child factory labour, many parents send children to work as a survival strategy. Children's earnings supplement the family income and sending children away means one less mouth to feed. Rapid urbanization creates a demand for child labour, and many rural children dream of a better life in the city. Thus, children flock to the city in search of employment.

Nepal is a state in transition, within increasing exposure to the outside world, modernization is catching up fast. Within the traditional society struggling to modernize, a wide range of social exploitation is to be found. Which some of these are rooted in the history of Nepal, others are appearing as a part of the drive towards development. Children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and it is imperative that their rights are protected. Nepal is one of the least developed countries in the world where poverty, social injustice and religious conservatism are every days reality. It is usually difficult to protect the rights of a majority of the adults, protecting children's rights despite all good, intentions is, therefore on uphill task.

Child labour is an emerging issue not only in urban areas but also in rural settings in Nepal. There are a substantial proportion of children in several sectors of economy and their contribution to the livelihood of households is substantial. Children are the earners of the family and their contribution remains critical. However, in a subsistence economy like Nepal, children's monetary contribution may be much lower as against their value of work in unpaid work sectors.

Poverty is the main causes of child labour around developing countries where a family is poor, everyone has to work even extra contribution help. But many children work because of the lack of their opportunities. School might be unavailable independent or just too expensive (UNDP, 1993).

In addition, Nepal is a state party of the international convention of human rights, the slavery convention and other instruments relating to women racial discrimination and torture. These instruments also contain provision regarding the protection and promotion of children's rights. The ratification

of the convention of the rights of the child coincided with the restoration of multiparty democracy in 1990.

Nepal's constitution 1990 has restored the multiparty system and provided for a parliamentary, the guarantee of human rights, the rule of law and an independent judiciary.

This constitution guarantees the right of protection against exploitation as a fundamental rights and duties. The prohibit practice of traffic in human beings, slavery, serfdom or forced labour in any term and its violation as punishable by law (article 20). It also has provisions regarding the education and welfare of children under the directive principle and policies of the state. But there only serve as guidelines and are not enforceable by any court. However, it is significant to note here that Nepal, together with all the other countries of south Asia, has not ratified ILO convention No. 138 of 1973, which provides a minimum age of employment probably for a good reason as a majority of these international instruments are based on the North American or European socio-economic realities and conception of childhood.

The new constitution the unconventional on the rights of the child and the above mentioned international instruments have been created binding obligation to Nepal to undertaken measures to implement these rights and welfare Act 1992. The children's Act has defined a child as a person who has not reached the age of 16.

This act has attempted to bring together provision relating to children in various legislation. This induces various legislation. This induces various other acts and amendments to the civil code (Muluki Ain). This shows that Nepal government's intentions and efforts are shown in the children's act. These recent efforts and some other efforts that the government is trying hard to create a climate for the implementation of children's rights. We can feel optimistic of the government's support. His Majesty's Government (HMG, Nepal) has formulated a ten year national programme. Action for children and Development (ACD) which has set national goals for 2001. this project will focus on issues like health, education, drinking water and sanitation is more than US\$ 1.1 billion at a current prices to implement the programme (Poudyal, 1995:28).

There are many children who are suffering in the lack of education, food or other basic needs. We have to see all the production of human being and evaluates the child labour activity and we see they are victimizes. In the

underdeveloped countries, the children are killed and died with starvation and lacking. So this study is focused on victimizes of children.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The children are exploited severely. They are in the miserable condition. But they are iron pillars of any country. Without the development of children, the nation is vacant or empty. There is no greenery. The healthy children should be in the nation or in every locality. But they are not developed as the nation wishes so, that they should not be exploited. They should be tied with love and affection. They should be free in their basic needs.

In our country we can see the lack of healthy children rather they have to face many dangerous situation and difficulties. In the lack of education the people produce many children and parents can not afford the basic needs and the children are sent to do labor to live the life. There are several sectors where the children are working. Some of the major sectors, in general, are based on the previous studies done by various organizations (annex- 1) and (annex-2) attached. In way many children are employed regularly in hotels, restaurants, homes and industries and any other places. Poor condition of children in society and economic status is by exploitation of children. This is the bad impact in society as well as in nation. The children are suffering and they are lacking loves, affection, moral education and other miserable situation. This is the problem of child's exploitation. This study has been focused on the future of children who are suffering labor in early age.

In February 1995, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the ministry of labour and ILO on the International Programme on Elimination of child labour "To promote condition to enable HMG to progressively prohibit restrict and regulate child labour with a view to its ultimate elimination and increases awareness of the national and international community of the consequences and solutions to the child labour problems" (ILO, 1995).

Children are the important parts of the society. Therefore, all issues concerning children are social issues. Child development is vital for the development of human resources of the country. They should be given a good care about their health, education with proper rearing. But the care becomes just reveres in the case of Nepal. A poor and under developed country majority of child population is deprived of basic necessities like

nutrition, shelter, clothing education and health care. Most of the people even are unable to feed their children too.

Childhood is the formative stage of human life. The development of the country depends upon the development of children. Child labor is the mark of disgrace for a society. The world of tomorrow will be a happy and comfortable place for man to live in only if the child population of today is endowed with good health youth mentally and physically. Instead of improvement in the situation, the present condition of Nepalese children is far from satisfactory. Many children are forced to work in different and hazardous conditions simply to sustain their own lives and that of their family. Available studies suggest that the situation of children is getting much worse than ever before.

Child domestic workers are expected to perform a wide range of duties such as sweeping, washing, dusting, moping, and helping in the kitchen. Cooking, grinding spices and washing clothes. They are also on call by every family member for running errands, polishing shoes, fetching water, looking after the children and cleaning toilets.

The domestic child worker's working conditions. Domestic work is among the lowest respected, least regulated and poorest remunerated of all occupations, whether performed by adults or children. Many child domestic workers do not receive their pay; many are unpaid. The earnings of those who are paid are commonly given to parents or people often referred to as 'aunties' but whom in reality are unrelated and informal agents.

They have little freedom or free time. Girl domestic workers are especially at risk of physical and sexual abuse. They live in child domestic worker is cut off from her or his own family and has little opportunity to make friends and almost no social change with peers. Most domestic child workers work for more than 12 hours a day (ILO, 2007).

The problem of child labour as faced by the developing countries today has indeed taken a serious dimension. The exploitative socio-economic structures resulting in the marginalization of the poor have left them with no option but to adopt child labour as a survival strategy.

Child domestic labour is one of the most exploited terms of child labour because the practice in many cases is close to that of the practice of slavery. Most children are forced to take heavy burdens; they have extremely long working hours. They are at high risk of physical and sexual abuse and are away from their own family's environment. Many work for no

wages but merely in exchange for simple bread and lodging. It is rare that they have opportunities to attend school or even mix with friends. Their private lives are under the total control of employers to the extent that their public lives do not exist.

"A directory of 25 member NGOs of CRN WG" working in the field of rights and development of the children are given in that book. The children for whom to NGOs work are mostly street children, child labours (domestic labour and factory labour) girl child victims of prostitution and trafficking and railed children. Many of these organizations have also been creating public awareness through research, studies and information discrimination. Also these organizations support the children through literary classes, health training, skill development with contract centers and rehabilitation homes.

Pottering constitutes a major field of child labour in Nepal. Even in a capital city of Kathmandu, the child porters can be frequently located. They come mostly from the backward communities; study finds that 49 percent of the children are from Tamang, Lama, Bhote and other untouchable caste. These children lack of proper clothing and shoes. They carry Namlo made up of Jute rope used for supporting loads on the head. Their number is estimated at 550. Since pottering is physically exhaustive, only boys are engaged in this occupation.

CWIN/CWS/Concern (1998) study indicate that most of the children who are working as child labors in different sector of economics in Kathmandu valley are migrants originated from the adjoining districts of the total children. 92.1 percent among porters, 86.7 percent among tempo Khalasi, 95 percent among carpet weavers are reported to be migrants.

In most definition of domestic child labour a child is usually considered to be below 16 years age. Yet, as the new ILO convention stipulates that any person under the age of 18 years to be protected from employment in the worst forms of child labors, this study is considered any person aged below 18 years working in an employer's household as a domestic servant. The low status of domestic work continues to ensure that domestic servants have no legal rights no regulated terms and conditions of work and remain invisible in the employment sector. They remain isolated in their work place because of lack of opportunities to meet others. They are also alienated from the wider urban environment because of discrimination, stigmatization and sometimes even their own shame about the work they do. There are more girls working as child domestics than in any other area of child labour. Child domestic workers are predominantly female. The task expected or

demanded from them are open-ended or at best, ill defined, working hours is equally vague and often remuneration is not discussed clearly and openly. The child domestic relationship with their employers varies widely. In one extreme, she could be an integral member of the family, while she could also have position of total servitude and isolation. Domestic labour is an invisible form of torture and the children are still working under slavery like conditions.

The children of today are citizens of tomorrow in order to make any impact in the lives of their children. Policies need to be formulated based on the reality of the current socio-economic condition of the country. And this can happen by attempting to limit exploitation of child domestic worker and to promote their development through survival.

Protection (protection from exploitation, fair wage, compulsory education etc) and participation (20 forced employment against their wishes) views from the domestic child workers themselves, employers of such children and understanding their situation will help to develop policies which may limit exploitation which promoting areas that are beneficial to them.

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

The general objective of this research is to explore the socio-economic status of the domestic child labors. Including this the study is conducted to meet the following objectives.

- To analyze the present working condition of the child labors in the study area. .
- To find out the Condition of domestic child labors and their vulnerable working environment.

### **1.4 Rationale of the Study**

The publication asserts that the research on child labour is inadequate and insufficient data makes it difficult to assess the nature and extend of problem in this field. Moreover, the legislative measures failed to be fully enforced on account of the constraints of resources, staff and physical facilities. In practice there is a clear contradiction between the legal and constitutional provision prohibiting child labour and the actual situation, especially in the informal sector in which most of the child labour is engaged.



This study focus on the socio-economic status of domestic child labours. It is significant in the sense that research will explore one specific sector of child labour in Nepal. There are some studies and discussion papers have been published on the child labour but somehow those studies could not make the effective improvement on that matter. This study is going to focus on children's compulsion to work as a domestic labour and their socio-economic status.

The children of today are the nation builders of tomorrow and the fact of the country depends upon them. So their future is essential to be bright. But when they remain illiterate it will be burden to the country itself. So the detail study of child problem is essential to be done for the sake for their welfare. Child labour has been a source of exploitation for the employer. In future, it will be obstacles to the overall development of the country. A detail study is relating to the issues on child essential to eradicate the child labour.

- ) This small scale study confines itself to Lazimpat, Kathmanud Metropolitan city so the generalization of the research may not be equally applicable to the other part of Nepal. The specific case study which might not hold the general process happening in the context of child labour in other parts of Nepal.
- ) The research study presents only the child workers employed in domestic sector thus not cover another sectors.

This study only domestic child workers will surveyed through purposive sampling. Thus finding from this study will not be the whole representation of the domestic child laborers of the Lazimpat area of Kathmandu metropolitan city.

## **1.5 Organization of the Study**

The first chapter presents he introduction of study. Introduction contains the introduction of this project work. It's background, statement of the problem, the objective of the study, propose and rational of the study and the origination of the study paper.

The second chapter focuses on the review of the related literature from different types of the scholars, from journals, reports, books, research paper etc. The research methodology adopted for this study is described in chapter three. It gives the information of selection of the study area and samples. It also describes the method of data collection, source of data and

final methods of analyze the data. And at the end, it also limitation of the study is stated.

The fifth chapter named data presentation and analysis, contains the presentation and analyze of the data and information obtained from both primary and secondary sources.

Chapter five, the last chapter confines the whole study in a summary and concludes the study and recommends the ways to be followed for the further betterments of the approach applied that are based on the study and the findings from the analysis of the data and information.

At the end, references, questionnaire and annexes have been attached for ease of reference.

# Chapter Two

## Literature Review

### Review of Past Studies:

Child labour refers to the employment of children at regular and sustained labour. This practice is considered exploitative by many international organizations and is illegal in many countries. Child labour was utilized to varying extents through most of history, but entered public dispute with the advent of universal schooling, with changes in working conditions during the industrial revolution, and with the emergence of the concepts of workers' and children's rights.

In many developed countries, it is considered inappropriate or exploitative if a child below a certain age works (excluding household chores or school-related work). An employer is usually not permitted to hire a child below a certain minimum age. This minimum age depends on the country and the type of work involved. States ratifying the Minimum Age Convention adopted by the International Labour Organization in 1973, have adopted minimum ages varying from 14 to 16. Child labour laws in the United States set the minimum age to work in an establishment without restrictions and without parents' consent at age 16 ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child\\_labour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labour)).

Most of the people have studied on child labour issues in the world. Their findings are easily found in various books, research paper, seminar report, report of international institution, issue of journals and articles. The studies conducted in Nepal are very few in number. The outcomes of these studies are presented in various books and journals. Here attempts have been made to review and present some of them.

Child labour is still common in some parts of the world, and can be factory work, mining, prostitution, quarrying, agriculture, helping in the parents' business, having one's own small business (for example selling food), or doing odd jobs. Some children work as guides for tourists, sometimes combined with bringing in business for shops and restaurants (where they may also work as waiters). Other children are forced to do tedious and repetitive jobs such as: assembling boxes, polishing shoes, stocking a store's products, or cleaning. However, rather than in factories and sweatshops, most child labour occurs in the informal sector, "sellin many things on the streets, at work in agriculture or hidden away in houses – far from the reach of official labour inspectors and from media scrutiny." And all the

work that they did was done in all types of weather; and was also done for minimal pay. As long as there is family poverty there will be child labor.

According to UNICEF, there are an estimated 158 million children aged 5 to 14 in child labour worldwide, excluding child domestic labour. The UN and the ILO consider child labour exploitative, with the UN stipulating, in article 32 of the Convention on the Right of the Child that:

*... States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.* Although globally there is an estimated 250 million children working.

In the 1990s every country in the world except for Somalia and the United States became a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Child, or CRC. However according to the United Nations Foundation Somalia signed the convention in 2002, the delay of the signing was believed to be due to Somalia not having a government to sign the convention. The CRC provides the strongest, most consistent international legal language prohibiting illegal child labour; however it does not make child labour illegal.

Poor families often rely on the labours of their children for survival, and sometimes it is their only source of income. This type of work is often hidden away because it is not always in the industrial sector. Child labour is employed in subsistence agriculture and in the urban informal sector; child domestic work is also important. In order to benefit children, child labor prohibition has to address the dual challenge of providing them with both short-term income and long-term prospects. Some youth rights groups, however, feel that prohibiting work below a certain age violates human rights, reducing children's options and leaving them subject to the whims of those with money.

In 1999 the Global March against Child Labour the movement began with a worldwide march when thousands of people marched together to jointly put forth the message against child labour. The march, which started on January 17, 1998, touched every corner of the globe, built immense awareness and led to high level of participation from the masses. This march finally culminated at the ILO Conference in Geneva. The voice of the marchers was heard and reflected in the draft of the ILO Convention against the worst forms of child labour. The following year, the Convention was unanimously adopted at the ILO Conference in Geneva. Today, with 169 countries having ratified the convention so far, it has become the fastest ratified convention in the history of ILO. A large role in this was played by the Global March through our member partners.

Child labour happens for 61% in Asia, 32% in Africa, and 7% in Latin America, 1% in US, Canada, Europe and other wealthy nations. In Asia, 22% of the workforce is children. In Latin America, 17% of the workforce is children. The proportion of child labourers varies a lot among countries and even regions inside those countries ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child\\_labour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labour)).

UNICEF 2007, in his study 'Global Movement for Children' described that children have the right to enjoy their childhood. Every child has the right to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment with protection and guidance from their guardians. When adults harm and exploit children it is the most horrible form of betrayal imaginable. Whether in the home, school, streets or workplace, a child is always a child and deserves a childhood free from exploitation and abuses.

UNICEF, (2005) in its study that millions of children all over the South Asia are being harmed everyday. An estimated 43 million children between the age of 5 and 14 are working in the region. Many of them are exploited by harsh forms of child labour. South Asia has been described as 'the most gender insensitive region in the world' (Mahabub-w-Hag (UNICEF, 2005) where girls are generally valued less than boys and are more vulnerable to discriminatory treatment. Girls are considered by too many to be highly disposable, temporary members of the family. Most of their works are invisible. Domestic labour is one of such invisible but widespread occupation for children in the region. Children from poorer and rural areas act as a reservoir for the informal urban labour market which is growing rapidly as a result of urbanization, stagnation in agricultural growth and decreasing employment opportunities in the formal sector. This has been resulted in increasing numbers of children, especially girls becoming engaged in domestic works. Estimated five million children work as child domestic in the region, over 80 percent of them are girls. These children are often at great risk of abusive working and living conditions. Child labour and exploitation are not only the results of poverty. They also perpetuate poverty. Without education many children find themselves without better opportunities later in life. Many of them in turn will look to their own children to help supplement the family's income. Women and girls bear the burden of poverty more.

International Labour Organization (ILO), a leading concerned organization, defines that the "most children work but all the works by children can not be considered as child labour. Child labour is something different – that young people are being exploited, or overworked, or deprived of their right to health or education – or just childhood". United Nations (1990) also defines child labour in the similar fashion. UNICEF points out that, at one end of the continuum, the work is beneficial, prompting or enhancing of child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, while at the other end, it is destructive or

exploitative. UNICEF adds that need to distinguish between beneficial and intolerable forms of child work is desirable (Extracted from Y.B. Gurung's study "The State of Child Labour in Nepal").

## **ILO and Its Legislation on Child Worker**

International Labour Organization in its initiation of improving the quality of workers had made a number of recommendations; some of them are reviewed here. Whereas the night work of young persons non-industrial occupations convention 1964, lays down the basis for legislative projection against the danger of night work in non-industrial occupation in which large number of young workers are engaged.

*"..... adopting appropriate legislative and administrative measures for restricting the night work of children and young people under eighteen who are engaged in domestic service".*

The employment of young people between 14-16 ages will be subject to special control and protection of the inspectorate of labors. For the protection of children workers there is a need of written contract of employment. There is need to mention the name, addresses, working hours, remuneration, holidays and facilities of child workers in the contract before they are appointed.

It would be desirable to ensure that seasonal workers and migrants for employment in hotels, restaurants and similar establishments should be engaged under individual written contracts of employment. It should be based n a model contract drawn up in co-operation by the representatives of the appropriate employers and worker organization and the competent authority of the country concerned. In accordance with the national practice:

- a. The full name of workers as well as the data and the place of birth, his family status, his place of residence and of recruitment.
- b. The nature of work and the place where it is to be performed.
- c. The occupation category in which he is performed.
- d. Remuneration for ordinary hours of work, overtime, night work and holidays and the medium for wage payment.
- e. Bonuses and allowances, if any....
- f. Conditions regarding food if is to be provided by the employer.

- g. The duration of contract as well as the conditions of renewal and denunciation of the contract. This was adopted in Hong Kong in 1975. It worked very successfully and effectively.

In many countries there is a restriction on child workers. Again there is a provision of strict control on the employment of young people between 14 and 16 ages. The exact written version was applied in Mounties, *"No people shall continue to employ a child or a younger person after receiving notification in writing from his parents or guardians that such appointment should be discontinued"*. In Nepal, there are no rules for the protection of child workers who are working in non-industrial occupation. It is indispensable to have some rigid rules to prevent children from working in and job, if anybody is aimed at doing welfare to them.

ILO/IPEC (1996), according to ILO-IPEC's last National Child Labour Survey (1996), about 42 percent of children from 5 to 14 years old work, representing some 2.6 million children out of 6.2 million.

### **Child Labour in Nepal :**

Child labour in Nepal is a widespread problem and can be found in many economic activities: in agriculture; in manual trades such as basket-making, sewing, iron smithy and weaving; and in industrial sectors such as brick-making, stone quarrying, carpet making and garment manufacturing. Large numbers of children are also exploited in the service and informal sectors – in domestic work, eating establishments, portering, ragpicking and in debt bondage, either because they have been given individually as collateral for debt, or because they are part of a bonded family.

Child Labour Situation – Nepal ([www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org); June 2009): Child labour remains a major economic and social phenomenon in Nepal. According to the National Child Labour Survey undertaken in 1997, 1.660 million children (26.6 percent) out of the total 6.225 million children aged between 5 and 14 years in the country are economically active.

- J Among the 1.660 million economically active children, boys (55 percent) outnumber girls (46 percent);
- J Many of these children do not go to schools (14.54 percent of the boys and 25.96 percent of the girls);
- J The large part (94.7 percent, 1.576 million) of the economically active children are engaged in the agriculture sector, mostly as unpaid family workers and

partly as forced labour attached to their parents under debt bondage or similar other exploitative labour. Besides agriculture, working children are mainly involved in the services sector (27,000) and communications and transportation sector (26,000) (5);

- J Based on several studies conducted under the IPEC Time-Bound Programme (TBP), it is estimated that there are 127,143 children working in the worst forms of child labour ..... as bonded labourers, ragpickers, porters, domestic workers , in mines, in the carpet sector, and being trafficked. According to the same studies, the children involved in these forms of child labour start working between the ages of 10 and 14. In addition, more than one-third of them are illiterate, and a majority is school dropouts, who have been brought to their present workplace by their parents or relatives. It also appears that they all come from landless and relatively large families. Finally, more than 80 percent of children trapped in the worst forms of child labour have migrated for work. With the exception of children bonded into agricultural labour and children working as long distance porters in the rural areas of Nepal, the vast majority of children work in urban areas.

Factors that generate child labour in Nepal can be summarized as follows:

- J On the demand side, while the society at large is aware of the ill effects of child labour, both to the individual child as well as to the nation, the existing societal attitude remains largely indifferent to it. Legal provisions on safeguarding child rights and preventing child labour are inadequate in enforcement and children continue to be hired as child labourers. In rural areas, children work mostly in the agricultural sector, while in urban areas, they can be found in almost all kinds of work requiring manual labour;
- J The supply side of this is characterized by illiteracy of the parents, lack of access to as well as low perceived value of education, disharmony and diminishing family support, subsistence livelihoods that push families, particularly in rural areas, to send their children to work;
- J The civil war is another factor contributing to child labour in Nepal. In rural areas, many families prefer to send their children to urban areas for fear of them being caught in the cross-fire, or becoming a victim of the security forces or Maoists. As a result, these children enter the child labour market and very often end up in the worst forms of child labour.



CWIN (2008) poverty and children 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 Planning Commission's Statistics in Nepal 39 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 facility. 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 (National Planning Commission:2008). The situation of poverty in urban area is 23 percent are new born children, 27 percent are children up to 1 year in age, 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 0-14 years of age, 11.4 percent are illiterate, 20 percent are economically active and 1.3 percent of children are literate.

The Kathmandu Post (2008), the fundamental right of every child is to live a safe and happy life. But how many Nepali children really enjoy such rights? Violence of all forms targeted at children has posed a grave threat to our society, following the nine-year long Maoist insurgency that has displaced hundreds of children. As a result, incidents of children being sexually abused and exploited by their employers or by those who look after them in orphanages ever taken such incidents seriously. How many of the children displaced by the Maoist insurgency have been rehabilitated? Unfortunately, even when the culprits are identified there have been few arrests and even fewer prosecutions of the culprits.

CWIN (2008), an NGO stated that last year alone, there were 2866 cases of child labour, exploitation, child death and murders and missing children among others. These children suffered from serious physical abuse including rape, beating and AIDS. Many children continue to work in fields and sweatshops, brick factories and in private homes. They often work in dangerous and hazardous environments. They are not only deprived of their rights-education, health and recreation but are also aid or forced into labour by their parents or families because of actual poverty. Many children who feel insecure in their villages, especially in the Maoist-affected districts have entered urban areas in search of employment and security. Such minors are either given shelter by orphan centers or they work as domestic helpers to keep themselves a float.

CWIN (1992:5) in its article well presented the trafficking of girls of the Mahankal village of Sindupalchok district. The village consists of various ethnic groups,

including Tamang, Brahmin and Chhetri. The district is dominated by Tamang populations who are economically inactive and are deprived of education health and other facilities and other facilities certain unscrupulous elements exploited the situation by indulging in trafficking of young Tamang girls and seating them to various Indian brothers by giving them false promises of marriage and jobs. There is an increase in the magnitude of girls trafficking from this area. This article analyses the problems of child prostitution in Nepal. It is found that many of the child sex workers come from rural areas are lured or abducted and thrown into this profession. Some indulge in prostitution for their survival, while others follow their mothers' footsteps. There also are school and college girls who are sex workers in order to earn pocket money.

CWIN (2008:12) shows in his study a very grim picture of the child laborers, who occupy a significant part of the brief industry work force in Bhaktapur and Patan. In fact, brickwork is very hard and injurious to the health. The children as young as five or six, work very hard those above ten, work full time just like adults. In a normal six-acre brick factory, there are 150 to 200 laborers of those 35 to 40 percent are migrant laborers from India. Among the Nepali laborers, the percentage of child workers varies from 10 to 50 percent. The study also describes that all the jobs that the children does are hazardous for which they are paid very little. All the children except the toddlers work for more than 12 hours a day.

The social and economic background of the child laborers, including their working conditions living costs, attitudes and aspirations are thoroughly reviewed. Some of the areas in which the children work in difficult circumstances in Kathmandu are in hotels and tea shops, shoe, shining and repacking. They are working in such manufacturing industries as carpet factories, match factories, bide factories, bakeries, as news papers boys, street hawkers, porters and domestic servants (CWIN, 2008:55).

ILO/IPEC (1994) – In Nepal, more than 81 percent of the total population depends on agriculture. More than 90 percent live in rural areas. GNP per capita is US \$ 210.00 (PRB) 1998) and over 45 percent live below the poverty line. Literacy rate is only 40 percent. Child population was recorded as 6,660,756 (36%) in 1991. Agriculture system is still traditional and only in the subsistence level for the livelihood. Due to persistent poverty with overwhelming agricultural economy, children constitute an integral part of family workforce. They are engaged in workforce in both formal and informal sectors. Some studies found out that both boys and girls begin to work around six years of age and surprisingly spend a significant amount of their time on productive and household

activities. They specially help around home, running errands, or helping their parents on the family farm.

The major jobs children involved in are: agriculture, cottage industry, manufacture, plantation, domestic, catering, selling, manual labour, tourism and travel industries and others like repacking, prostitution, begging etc.(Suwal et al. 1997; Sattaur 1993; Bajracharya, 1999). Among these sectors, some are the most intolerable and exploitative forms that seem to be a social problem. Intolerable and exploitative forms of child labour include bonded child labour, forced labour, girl trafficking, use of child labour in domestic and industrial sectors and exploitation of child labour by carpet industries, street children etc.

Gurung (1999) – Migration of children is a way to risk exposure to health hazard as well as exploitation. Migration keeps children far away from parents and home without having love and care, which is necessary, at any rate, for child development. A considerable majority are found in urban areas, specially, cities in Kathmandu valley and the places where industries are located. Most of the children who were working as child labourers in Kathmandu valley were migrants and they were originated from the adjoining peripheral districts.

Another sector of high risk condition for child labour, especially for girls, is sexual abuse. Young girls are regularly subject to eve teasing, obscene remarks and sexual harassment and abuse, including rape by male coworkers, (masters or borkers) and management staff (CWIN 1993). Sexual abuse is also prevalent among the friends and low paying clients mainly in carpet factories and trafficking in young girls to brothels in Delhi, Bombay, etc., in India. The increase in the child sex trade is no doubt largely due to the internationalization of sex tourism, together with the false perception by many that there is less danger of infection from AIDS with younger partners (ILO 1998). Commercial sexual exploitation is one of the most brutal forms of violence against children. Child victims suffer from extreme physical, psychosocial and emotional abuse, which have lifelong and life-threatening consequences. They risk early pregnancy, maternal mortality and sexually transmitted diseases (ILO 1998).

Therefore, children working in several places may be prone to hazardous environment. Health and safety hazards in the working environment can be related to the nature of the works, eg. whether or not the work involves intrinsically hazardous process, to their exposure to hazardous substances and agents or to their exposure to poor working conditions (ILO 1998). Chemical, physical, biological and psychological hazards are often found in combination with the workplace which will be devastating for children, causing irreversible damage to their psychological hazards are often found in combination with the

workplace which will be devastating for children, causing irreversible damage to their psychological development, resulting in permanent disabilities with serious consequences for their adult lives (ILO 1998) and their development.

The sexual exploitation of children is on the rise in urban Nepal. Thousands of girl children are trafficked and forced into prostitution annually both domestically and abroad. There is also evidence that a considerable number of children under the age of 16 are being used in the six-year old insurgency movement affecting many parts of the country.

In this connection, all the literature reviewed above is slightly different from present study. This study evaluates the main problems of domestic child worker and their social status. For this study, child workers of Lazimpat area of Kathmandu Metropolitan city have been taken.

# Chapter Three

## Methodology

This chapter presents a brief discussion on the research methodology practiced in collecting and analyzing data needed for the present research work.

### 3.1 Rationale the Site Selection

The study took place in Lazimpat area of Kathmandu Metropolitan city of Kathmandu district in the central development region of Nepal.

Several groups of people from various caste/ethnicity, economy, and occupation and with different educational background are living in this study area. Basically, economically sound families are the resident of this area. It is obvious that in the Nepalese society, the people of good economic condition are recruiting children as servants in their houses. So, significant numbers of children are being found working as domestic servant in the area. Thus, this area was selected due to the availability of the samples for this study and another reason for selecting this area was that researcher himself is a resident of this area. So, it was helpful to conduct the research and get necessary help from the house owners.

### 3.2 Research Design

In this study, mostly two (descriptive and explorative) types of research methodology have been carried out. It is explorative because attempts have been made to explore the possible causes that are responsible for the children compose to work in the houses of well-off families as servants as well as their present socio-economic status. On the other hand, descriptive methods were applied to describe the age, sex caste/ethnicity religion of domestic child worker.

### 3.3 Universe and Sampling

The total number of households with having children as servants or help-hands of Lazimpat area of Kathmandu Metropolitan city is the universe of the study. No population census has been conducted yet by the government institutions and any other organizations relevant to the study. So, the actual size of universe has remained equal with respect numbers.

From the universe, only 50 domestic-child workers were selected by snowball sampling method.

### **3.4 Nature of Data**

Primary and secondary as well as quantitative and qualitative data were used to carry out the study. Primary data were enumerated by the researcher through direct field survey while secondary data were collected from the relevant sources i.e. already published books, newspapers, reports etc.

Quantitative and qualitative data were used to describe the socio-economic status of the domestic child laborers, living condition, attitude, etc. and to shows the age sex, caste/ethnic groups, religions, etc. of the respondents respectively.

### **3.5 Data Collection Techniques**

Different data collection tools such as interview schedules, questionnaires (Annex-1), observation; case study, etc. were used to enumerate information from the respondent during the field visit.

#### **I. Interview**

The set of questionnaire were used to collect some of the basic data in terms of personal identification, ethnicity/caste, age, sex, main occupation of their family, their previous experiences, and future desire, and educational background, major problems faced by them and about their situation. Structured, unstructured and close and open-ended questionnaire were used to collect wide range of information relevant to the study from respondents.

#### **II. Observation**

The working condition and behavior of the employers, physical appearance, living environment of domestic child workers, etc. was observed by semi-participant observation method during the field visit. This method helped to collect the more realistic information, which has become much helpful to assess and collect more realistic information.

#### **III Case Study**

Case study had been done with 4 domestic child workers of different caste to find out the holistic information of them. This method would become useful to unleash the superfine causes that enforce children to work in other houses and behavior and attitude of well-off family members towards their child-workers.

### **3.6 Data Analysis**

The collected data through various methods and techniques were put together, processed and classified into different groups. Those data were presented in tabular form using simple statistical tools, such as ratio, percentage, frequency, etc., and interpreted after deep analysis.

### **3.7 Limitation of the study**

This small-scale study confined itself to the Lazimpat area of Kathmandu Metropolitan city. So, the generalization of the research may be equally applicable in the other parts of Nepal.

The study presents only the child laborers employed in domestic sector thus it does not cover other sectors.

# Chapter Four

## Data Presentation and Analysis

### 4.1 Socio-Economic Characteristic of Domestic Child Labors

This chapter deals about the socio-economic condition, background and problems faced by the domestic child labors of the study area on the basis of the primary data collected by the researcher during the field visit

#### 4.1.1 Age and Sex Composition of Child Workers

The following table visualized the composition of child workers by age and sex:

**Table 4.1**  
**Composition of Child Labors by Age and Sex**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Age group</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	5-10	1	4	5	10
2	10-14	35	10	45	90
Total		36	14	50	100

Source: Field survey, August 2009

The above 4.1 table shows that the significant different in the girl child workers below and above the 10 years of age. Out of 15 respondents, only 5 respondents (10%) were from below they are of 10 years, in which there were 4 girls respondents and 1 boy respondent but the above age of 10 years, out of 45 respondents (90%), there were 35 boy respondents and only 5 girl respondents. The age groups of the sample universe were found to be 10% between five to ten years of age, while 90% were found to be between ten to fourteen years of age.



### 4.1.2 Ethnic / Caste Composition

The following table shows the ethnic composition of child workers.

**Table 4.2**  
**Child Labors by Ethnic Group**

S. No.	Ethnicity/ Caste	No. of respondents				Total respondents	Percentage
		Boys	No.	Girls	No.		
1	Chhetri	13	26	5	10	18	36
2	Brahmin	14	28	2	16	16	32
3	Tamang	2	4	3	5	5	10
4	Newar	3	6	1	4	4	8
5	Tharu	2	4	2	4	2	4
6	Magar	1	2	4	2	2	2
7	Rai	1	2	2	1	1	2
Total		36		14		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2009

Table 4.2 shows that the highest numbers of respondent (36%) were from Chhetri followed by Brahmin. Tamang, Newar and Tharu comprising of 32 percent, 10 percent, 8 percent and 8 percent respectively. The least 2 percent and second least 4 percent found from Magar and Rai respectively.

### 4.1.3 Place of Origin

Children from different districts come to the Capital in search of work and other opportunities. The following table No. 4. 3 shows that the distribution of respondents by their origin.

**Table 4.3****Child Labors distribution by place of Origin**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>No. of Child Labors</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Kaski	3	6
2	Sindhupalchowk	5	10
3	Kavreplanchowk	4	8
4	Okhaldhunga	1	2
5	Morang	3	6
6	Sarlahi	1	2
7	Syangja	1	2
8	Sunsari	3	6
9	Jhapa	2	4
10	Dolakha	2	4
11	Chitwan	4	8
12	Nuwakot	3	6
13	Bardia	1	2
14	Dhading	4	8
15	Kathmandu	4	8
16	Bhaktapur	2	4
17	Makwanpur	1	2
18	Tanahu	5	10
19	Gorkha	1	2
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table no. 4.3 provides the breakdown of the place of origin of the child labors. Interestingly, in our study area the child labors come to Kathmandu valley from 19 districts including Kathmandu and Bhaktapur districts. A total 54 percent of child workers come either from Kathmandu district itself or from the districts surroundings of Kathmandu. Such as Sindhpalchowk, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha and Makwanpur etc. the highest numbers each 10 percent deserved from Tanahun and Shindhupalchowk districts respectively. From the Far East districts, Jhapa, Sunsari and Mornang deserve 4 percent, 6 percent and 6 percent respectively.

#### 4.1.4 Assistance for Employment

Child workers were asked how they came to Kathmandu valley and became as domestic labors. Relatives are the primary source of assistance followed by the responding that they themselves came to Kathmandu valley including Kathmandu and Bhaktapur. Only 6 percent respondents mentioned that they came with the assistance of a villager or a broker signifying that, in the majority of cases. It is the family of the child him/herself who has opted to work as a domestic child worker. The following table portrays the real picture of domestic child workers transferred by various agents.

**Table 4.4**

#### **Sources of Transfer of Domestic Child Labors**

S. No.	Children they come with	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Villager/broker	3	6
2	Relatives	20	40
3	Parents	4	8
4	Ourselves	14	28
5	With the employer	9	18
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The highest numbers 48 percent came with relatives and lowest numbers 6 percent with villagers/brokers whereas parents, employers and their own interest constitute 28 percent, 8 percent and 18 percent respectively.

The following table throws light on availability of parents of domestic child workers.

**Table 4.5**  
**Respondents by Availability of Parents**

S. No	Availability of parents	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Both alive	38	76
2	Mother only	6	12
3	Father only	5	10
4	Both dead	1	2
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The above table 4.5 shows that the highest numbers 76% had both parents while 6 numbers (12%) had only mother and 5 numbers (10%) had father only. 2% ( 1 number) was orphan.

The figure shows that the death of father and mother was not the major factors contributing for the migration of the children to the city.

#### **4.1.5 Occupation of Child worker's Family**

Agriculture was the major occupation of 58 percent of the child workers' family. 32 percent were followed by manual labor. With this study we can believe that to the livelihood of the rural population of Nepal where agriculture is the major economic activity and other type of manual labor like pottering and construction works constitute the primary occupation of the rural people.

The table below visualizes the occupation of families of domestic child workers.

**Table 4.6**

**Occupation of Child Labor's Family**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>No. of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Agriculture	29	58
2	Labor	19	38
4	Others	2	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The above table shows that the highest numbers of domestic child workers' family were engaged in agriculture followed by 38 percent involved in labour and 4 percent engaged in other activities. Research found that most (58%) of domestic child labors families even being engaged in farming perhaps couldn't produce sufficient food to feed their family members and not able to fulfill their necessities as well.

The following table shows the condition and status of step-parents of domestic child workers

**Table 4.7**

**Status of step-parents of domestic child workers**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Stepmother	4	8
2	Stepfather	2	4
3	No stepparents	44	88
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The above table 4.7 clears that only 4 numbers (8%), 2 numbers (4%) of respondents had stepmother and stepfather respectively and 44 numbers (88%) were orphans.

It shows that existence of stepparents does not the major factor that plays dominant role for pushing children to the city.

## 4.2 Education Status of Sample Population

We emphasizing for the educational status of the domestic child labors because every child should get opportunity for primary education. Various researchers and policy makers are convinced that in order to eliminate child labor, a policy towards an implementation of compulsory primary schooling is the most important measure to take. In light of this, it is interesting to find out if the domestic child worker was going to school or had been to school and whether free and compulsory primary education in the country had any effect to the domestic child labors

## 4.3 Literacy Status of Sample Population

The following table shows the real picture of literary status of domestic child workers:

**Table 4.8**  
**Literacy Status of Child Labors**

S. No.	Literacy Rate	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Literate	34	68
2	Illiterate	16	32
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The above table 4.8 gives the literacy status of the children surveyed. A total 68 percent of the children were literate defined as the ability to read and write while 32 percent were illiterate. This figure is encouraging while more research in this aspect is necessary and it does point out that compulsory primary education is having some effect on literacy level. However, it does not seem to have been able to control child worker.

The following table shows the school enrollment condition of domestic child workers.

**Table 4.9**  
**Respondents by School Enrollment children**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Enrollment situation</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Current	16	47.06
2	Dropped out	18	52.94
Total		34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

According to the above table 4.9, out of the 34 literate respondents, only 47.06 percent of respondents were continuing their schooling while 52.94 percent were dropped out. Among the school-enrolled children, dropout rate of the child labour is high.

The following table throws light on the reasons for not enrolling domestic child workers in the schools.

**Table 4.10**  
**Reasons for not enrolling in School**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Reasons</b>	<b>No. of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Poor economic condition	14	41.18
2	Parents' ignorance	6	17.64
3	Work burden	5	14.7
4	Owner not interested	4	11.76
5	No response	5	14.72
Total		34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

According to the above table 4.10 shows that the highest numbers of respondents (41.18%) were not enrolled due to the poverty while 6 numbers (17.64%) due to parents' ignorance. Only 5 respondents (14.7%) had not joined due to the work burden and 4 numbers (11.76%) due to

owner's disinterest to join them to school. Almost 5 numbers could not show any response in this regards.

The following table shows the preference of domestic child workers for joining.

**Table 4.11**  
**Preference for Joining School**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Interest for joining school</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Yes	20	58.82
2	No.	14	41.18
Total		34	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The above table shows that out of 34 respondents only 20 numbers (58.82%) showed interest for joining school while 14 numbers (41.12%) did not show interest for joining school.

#### **4.4 Working Hour**

The Child Act, 2048 has prohibited children to work more than 6 hours. But, in domestic sector children generally have to work longer hours than the hours fixed by the Child Act, 2048. The following table 4.12 shows the respondents by working hours.

**Table 4.12**  
**Working hour of child worker as per respondents**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Working hours</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	4 and less	8	16
2	5 to 7	24	48
3	8 to 10	12	24
4	11 and more	6	12
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.



The highest numbers (48%) worked for 5 to 7 hours while the least numbers (12%) work for 11 and more hours each day. Out of the 50 respondents, total 12 percent worked for 8 to 10 hours while 16 percent respondents worked for 4 and less hours.

The following table shows that the behaved of employers towards the domestic child workers:

**Table 4.13**  
**Behavior of employer towards child worker**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Type of Treatment</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Good	12	24
2	Fair	28	56
3	Bad	10	20
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The above table (4.13) shows that the highest numbers (56%) were treated in a fair way while the least numbers (20%) were treated badly. Out of the 50 respondents a total 12 numbers (24%) were treated in good way.

## **4.5 Household Size**

Family is the most important institution for the socialization of children. It is also one of the important units of social structure of Nepal. The below table 4.14 visualizes the household size of the respondents.

**Table 4.14**  
**Household size of employers**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Family members</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Up to 4	15	30
2	5 to 7	24	48
3	8 to 10	9	18
4	More than 10	2	4
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The average family size of respondents is nearly equal to the national average household size (5.6%). The highest numbers of respondents (48%) were from the family of 5 to 7 members, followed by 15 numbers (30%) with the size of up to 4 members. Similarly, only 9 numbers (18%) were from the size of 8 to 10 members and 2 numbers (4%) of respondents were from the household size of more than 10 family members.

#### **4.6 Parents' Educational Background**

Parent's education assists to create conducive environment for the socialization of children during their upbringing. Educated parents can create the best environment for the better future of his children. Education has also taken as an indicator of the development by the UN. It is a vital and essential need of children to draw a line towards bright future.

**Table 4.15**  
**Education of respondents' parents**

S. No.	Education	Father		Mother	
		No.	%	No.	%
1	Illiterate	18	36	30	60
2	Literate only	14	28	10	20
3	Primary	8	16	6	12
4	Lower secondary	6	12	4	8
5	Secondary	4	8	-	-
6	SLC or above	-	-	-	-
Total		50	100	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

Table 4.15 shows the education of respondents' parents. The educational condition of the father is quite better than that of mother. Total 18 respondents' fathers were illiterate while the mother groups 30 in numbers. The number seems decreasing in both cases with the increasing in level. None of the respondents' parents had done SLC.

#### **4.7 Respondents by Maltreatment**

Maltreatment may be one of the major factors to draw back the children in future. It is quite common in the rural illiterate families. Children in Nepal have been produced only for the biological needs. Yet, they are given parental care that deserves child rights. Besides, they are maltreated from various ways in terms of education, health etc.

**Table 4.16**  
**Respondents by Maltreatment**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>No. of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Mother	4	8
2	Father	6	12
3	Stepmother/father	3	5
4	Sisters/brothers	4	8
5	Other members	5	10
6	None	28	56
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The table 4.16 shows the maltreatment of the respondents. The above figure visualizes that each 4 numbers (8%) were maltreated by mother and sisters/brothers respectively. Only 6 numbers (12%) were maltreated by father while 3 were maltreated by stepmother/stepfather. Similarly, a total 5 numbers were maltreated by other numbers and 28 numbers (56%) were not got such maltreatment.

#### **4.8 Reason for Joining up Domestic Work**

Children are the backbone of the future of nation. So development and prosperity of nation in future depend upon the children of today. If children are not provided the good environment for education and other activity the country can not well progress in future. In our country considerable numbers of children are working with their delicate hand throughout day, which adverse for the future prosperity.

The table 4.17 shows that the reasons of respondents for joining in domestic work.

**Table 4.17**  
**Reason for Joining up in Domestic Work**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Earning money & help for family	18	36
2	Getting study opportunity	16	32
3	Get relief of family members maltreatment	6	12
4	To see city life	5	10
5	Advice of friends	4	8
6	Domestic quarrel	1	2
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

It shows that the highest number (36%) and the second highest (32%) had joined the domestic work for family support by earning money and getting study opportunity respectively. Similarly, a total 6 number (12%), 5 numbers (10%) and 4 numbers (8%) had joined for being protected from family members maltreatment, to see city life and with the advice of friends respectively. The least number (2%) had joined to get relief from the domestic quarrel.

#### **4.9 Bringing Agent/Medium**

Children were found to have entered into the city and working in different sector through different agents. They are allured towards the city like Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur to get more jobs, facilities and opportunities. Though, they have nothing to do for their livelihood except domestic works in the house of rich people.

The table below shows the figure of respondents that they joining in the domestic work by the support of agent

**Table 4.18**

**Respondents joining domestic work by Agents through**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Agents</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Parents	4	8
2	Relatives	20	40
3	Employer	9	18
4	Self	12	24
5	Friends	5	10
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The highest numbers (40%) and the second highest numbers (24%) had joined in the work by relatives and themselves respectively. The least numbers (8%) and second least (10%) were joined by the help of parents and friends while 9 numbers (18%) and 5 numbers (10%) were joined by the help of employers.

#### **4.10 Compensation of Works**

There is a great variation in the mode of payment to child workers. Children, who are provided education, shelter and meal besides enumeration, are categorized by the unpaid status. The paid status is defined by the salary for compensation along with lodging and fooding. Mainly, the domestic children kept in the houses of the well off families giving them nominal salaries. Though, the work of domestic children spends 24 hours in the house owners. They do not assist their family as per their expectations.

**Table 4.19**

**Distribution by Compensation for Work**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Compensation status</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Paid	26	52
2	Unpaid	16	32
3	Not stated	8	16
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The table 4.19 shows the paid, unpaid and not stated status of child domestic workers. Total 26 numbers (52%) were paid for their work while 16 numbers (32%) were of unpaid status and 8 numbers (16%) could not give any information openly. According to the figure only 52% were paid by employer.

The table below 4.20 shows the distribution of the child domestic workers according to the amount of payment provided per month. It shows that the highest numbers (46.15%) were paid between Nrs. 500 to 700 followed by 23.07 percent and 15.38 percent with the payment between Nrs. 300 to 500 and Nrs. 700 to 900 respectively. Each 2 numbers (7.69%) were paid

**Table 4.20**

**Distribution by Amount of Wage**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Salary (Nrs.)</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Less than 300	2	7.69
2	300-500	6	23.07
3	500-700	12	46.15
4	700-900	4	15.38
5	900 and above	2	7.69
Total		26	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

salary between Nrs. 900 and above and also less than Nrs. 300 respectively.

The below table 4.21 shows the distribution of child workers by ownership.

**Table 4.21**

**Child workers distribution by ownership**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Parents	10	38.46
2	Self	12	46.15
3	Relatives	4	15.38
Total		26	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

It shows that the highest numbers (46.15%) received salary themselves followed by 10 numbers (38.46%) and 4 numbers (15.38%) with the salaries received by parents and relatives respectively.

#### **4.11 Food and Shelter**

Good living environment and good food is essential for the proper growth of children. The table below shows the following of child domestic workers.

**Table 4.22**

**Child workers distribution by quality of food**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Degree of quality of food</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Good	12	24
2	Normal	32	64
3	Bad	6	12
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.



It shows that the largest numbers (64%) had provided normal type of food while 12 members (24%) and 6 numbers (12%) had provided good and bad food respectively.

Below shows the distribution of respondents by sleeping place.

**Table 4.23**

**Child workers distribution by sleeping place**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Sleeping place</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Under the staircase	12	24
2	Passage way	8	16
3	Servant's room	14	28
4	Dining room	10	20
5	Sofa in living room	4	8
6	Bedroom of master's family	2	4
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The above table shows that the highest numbers (28%) were slept in servant's rooms followed by 24 percent, 20 percent and 16 percent in under the staircase, dining room and passageways respectively. Similarly, 4 numbers (8%) and 2 numbers (4%) used to sleep on the sofa in living room and bedroom of master's family respectively.

The following table 4.24 shows that the situation of child workers in terms of clothing supports from employers.

**Table 4.24**

**Respondents by clothing support from employer**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Pair of clothes per year</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Two	34	68
2	Three	12	24
3	More than three	4	8
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The table above shows that the two pairs of clothes had provided to 34 numbers (68%) followed by three pairs and more than three pairs to 12 numbers (24%) and 4 numbers (8%) respectively.

The following table prevails health condition of child workers.

**Table 4.25**

**Respondents by Illness**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Yes	32	64
2	No	18	36
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

As shown in the above table 4.25, out of the 50 respondents 32 numbers (64%) had ill while 18 numbers (36%) had not been ill after joining the work.

The following table visualizes the mode of treatment by child workers.

**Table 4.26**

**Respondent by mode of treatment**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Visit to doctor	6	18.75
2	Hospitalization	2	6.25
3	Normal	18	56.25
4	Natural	4	12.50
5	Ayurvedic	2	6.25
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

As shown in above table 4.26, out of the 32 ill children, 18 numbers (56.25%) had been well after normal treatment while 6 numbers (18.75%) and 2 numbers (6.25%) who were hospitalized, had been well after the visit to doctor and taking medicine. Similarly 4 numbers (12.5%) and 2 numbers (6.25%) were recovered after the natural treatment and Ayurvedic treatment respectively.

## **4.12 Recreation**

Recreation is one of the essential things to activate and refresh children. Watching TV, playing indoor and outdoor games and listening radio and playing music etc. are the means of entertainment in the urban areas. The following table 4.27 shows the availability of time for play.

**Table 4.27**

**Respondents by free time for playing**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Free Time</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Yes	18	36
2	No	32	64
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The above table 4.27 shows that 18 numbers (36%) had free time for playing while 32 numbers (64%) had not free time for playing.

The following table portrays the access to watching TV for domestic child worker.

**Table 4.28**

**Access to watch TV for Domestic Workers**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Access to TV</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Yes	46	92
2	No	4	8
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The table shows that 46 numbers (92%) had access to watching TV while it was not applicable for 4 numbers (8%).

### **4.13 Respondent's Attitude Towards Present Job**

Personal feelings at the present job and ambition of respondents have been discussed in the following tables.

**Table 4.29**

**Feeling at Present Job**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Feeling</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Satisfaction	31	62
2	Dissatisfaction	19	38
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

As shown on table above that out of the 50 respondents, 31 numbers (62%) were satisfied and 19 numbers (38%) were dissatisfied with the present job.

The table below shows the reasons for satisfaction of child workers.

**Table 4.30**

**Reason for Satisfaction**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Reasons</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Continuing education	14	45.16
2	Better environment than home	8	25.8
3	Good behavior of owner	6	19.35
4	Good earning and clothing	3	9.68
Total		31	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

As shown on the table that the highest numbers (45.16%) were satisfied for continuing education followed by 25.8 percent, 19.35 percent and 9.68 percent due to the better environment, good behavior of owner and good earning and clothing respectively.

The following table shows the reasons for dissatisfaction of child workers.

**Table 4.31**  
**Reason for Dissatisfaction**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Reasons</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Low wage	5	26.32
2	Bad behavior	4	21.05
3	Over workload	3	15.79
4	Lack of holidays	2	10.53
5	No education	3	15.79
6	Home sickness	2	10.53
Total		19	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

As shown on table 4.31, out of the 19 unsatisfied respondents, the highest numbers (26.32%) were dissatisfied due to the low wages followed by the 4 numbers (21.05%) with the bad behavior of employers and their family members. Each 3 numbers (15.79%) showed their dissatisfaction due to the over workload and no education respectively. The least numbers (10.53%) each dissatisfied due to the lack of holidays and homesickness.

The following table shows the future aims of child workers.

**Table 4.32**  
**Respondent by Future Aim**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Aims</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	To go to Arab for earning	8	16
2	Army/Policeman	14	28
3	Teacher	10	20
4	Driver	13	26
5	Shopkeeper	2	4
6	Singer and dancer	2	4
7	Not interesting	1	2
Total		50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The table above 4.32 shows that the largest numbers (28%) and the second largest numbers (26%) had aimed to be army/policemen and teacher in future while 10 numbers (20%) and 8 numbers (16%) had aimed to be shopkeeper, singer and dancer in future while the least numbers (2%) had no clear aim for future.

## Chapter Six

### Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

#### 6.1 Summary

Nepal is a poor country where population is increasing rapidly. With the growth of population a number of problems are arising rampantly. Among the numbers of problem, child worker is being a serious problem. Thousands of children are engaged in different sectors full time works, most of which are mental retarding, physically harmful and risky too. Among the different sector domestic child labor is one, which has consumed one-fourth of the total child labor. This sector seems to be providing satisfactory working condition outwardly but is more mental torturing, long hours working, unhygienic and harmful for proper physical growth if looked into deeply.

In-depth study of domestic child labor/worker is essential to be carried out as it can explore the cause and factors lying behind it. The main objective of the study is to find out the socio-economic condition and background of the domestic child worker and problems faced by them. Both exploratory as well as descriptive research method have been used to carry out the study coinciding with the objectives. Primary and secondary data and qualitative and quantitative data have been practiced to do the study reliably. Lazimpat area is a residential area of elites where domestic child worker is found in all the houses. Researcher herself was a long term temporary resident of this locality, so it became more convenient for the researcher to do research in the target area. Almost 50 child workers were selected by purposively random sampling method to accomplish the research work.

The mixed questionnaire schedules were prepared to take interview among the literate respondents. Equally, interview schedule was fixed for those who are illiterate. All the collected data have been classified, tabulated and analyzed in various forms. Significant different was found in the girl child workers below and above the 10 years of age.

Viewing the ethnic composition in Nepal, there is majority of Chhetri caste comprising of 36 percent followed by Brahmin, Tamang, Newar and Tharu comprising of 32 percent, 10 percent, 8 percent and 8 percent respectively



whereas there is minority of Rai caste comprising of 4 percent followed by magar caste comprising of 2 percent.

Of the total almost 76 percent were found to have parents while 12 percent found to have only mother and 10 percent were found to have father. Only 2 percent child workers were found orphan.

Scratching the literacy status of the domestic child workers, research has prevailed that a total 68 percent children were found literate while 32 percent were found illiterate.

In terms of working hours only 48 percent children found to have worked for 5 to 7 hours while 12 percent children work for more than 11 hours every day but others were found in moderate state. treated well by their employers. 20 children were found badly treated by their employers during the working hours whereas 24 percent children were found very good treated by their employers in their work place.

Out of the total 34 non-school children, only 58.82 percent showed their interest to join school while 41.18 percent were found pessimistic to join school. The major reasons behind this are:

- 1) Employers do not press them to go to school and children do not understand the importance of education.
- 2) Afraid of humiliation by classmates and even teacher
- 3) Doubled or tripled responsibilities such as; whole household works have to carry out before school and work again after school without rest.

Regarding the income of domestic child workers, total 7.60 percent were found paid more than Nrs. 900 each month while the highest number 46.15 percent deserves Nrs. 500 to 700 every month. However, 7.69 percent were found paid only less than Nrs. 300. The figure visualizes that there is big gap between the salary ranges for equal hour workers.

Out of the total 50 respondents 62 percent children were found satisfied with their present job while 38 percent children were found dissatisfied with their present job. The major factors to make them dissatisfied are less salary base, maltreatment from the master, not salary release in time, no future opportunities, more working hours and tight time schedule with heavy work load.

In terms of measuring the attitude of children, a total 28 percent children have expressed their interest to be army/policemen followed by driver, teacher, go to foreign country, shopkeeper, singer and dancer and aimless in future comprising of 26 percent, 20 percent, 16 percent, 4 percent, 4 percent and 2 respectively.

The figure portrays that situation of domestic child workers in Nepal seen worse and it is rushing towards negative directions.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

There are several factors responsible for being labourers. They may be from both demand and supply or push or pull sides. Both sides may be equally responsible for the problems of child labour. Child Labour is closely connected with migration. Migration of the children in search of employment is also a major way of being child labourer in Nepal. Children leaving home and living away from parents and home are an easy way of being exploited by masters. It is because children are physically as well as psychologically weak. They have no bargaining power to their employment.

As Nepal is a less developed country with poverty, lack of access to resources has been another root cause of child labour. Poor households need money which their children can earn and children commonly contribute around 20-25 percent of family income, since poor households spend the bulk of income on food in Nepal. Land distribution pattern is also a responsible factor for the poverty. Many families do not have subsistence level of land. People with lack of land directly mean that they have insufficient food for their living.

In addition, parents' suggestion and domestic problems are also important for leaving home and becoming child labour. Both reasons may have two sides, that is, poverty and family problems. Parents suggest or enforce their children to go for work even far from home when they do not have sufficient resources for livelihood and when they have serious problems within the family or family disruption. Family problems may be from the death of parent(s) or introduction of stepmother or stepfather at home that consequent as maltreatment from the stepparents to the children. In this case, biological parent(s) may advise child to go to the work.

Because of all reasons, Nepal is facing the problems of child labor as a major crisis. If it is not stopped formulating effective policies to minimize and alleviate the issues associated with it. The situation will be further

aggravated in the future. Poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness, maltreatment etc. have been approved in the study as major factors for promoting child labor. Government and like-minded agencies in time should formulate policies and planning giving such focus on pushing factors. Legal provision should be made broader which could allow children to work in a light way so that they could join school independently. Policies should be made to follow strictly for child rights and to protect them.

The concerned agencies, government offices, parents, like-minded agencies should take initiatives to for the well being of child rights and protection for their holistic development.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

The domestic child workers in Nepal have become big headache for government and child-based agencies. This is the time to think seriously about the child rights and child protection. For the right decision in right time should be made from various angles for the well being of children. The following significant clues are recommended for the further correction and improvements in terms of domestic child workers.

1. Considering the legal provision of the country it is necessary to enforce the existing laws and implement it strictly in terms of child rights and protection.
2. The main cause of migration of children towards city is poverty. Therefore, the poverty reduction or income generating program should be launched in the hilly districts from where the children have been migrating in huge numbers. Equally, child based agencies should focus their program in the remote or rural areas of the country by which lifestyle of children can be changed.
3. Saving/welfare schemes for children should be explored to motivate and to involve them for income generation activities through the help of their employers.
4. The government should take more responsibility for the child labour problem and implement successful child labour prevention program at a national level.
5. The government and civil society need to work together to increase efforts to improve literacy among parents.

6. Policies should be made to follow strictly for child rights and to protect them throughout the government and non-government sectors.
7. The government & civil society need to work together to make schools more child-friendly, improve sanitary conditions and provide more extra-curricular activities like sports etc.

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# Questionnaire

Master's Name:

Date:

Address:

Ward No.:

Name of the Child:

Home Address:

Ward No.:

VDC:

District:

Zone:

## **1. Personal Background**

Migrated or Local:

Sex:      a. Male                      b. Female

Age: Below 8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15 and 16 (please make a circle)

Ethnic Groups:

- a. Tamang      b. Magar      c. Sherpa      d. Rai  
e. Gurung      f. Newar      g. Chhetri      h. Brahamin

Migrated or local in both cases .....

How did you come here?

- a. came with villager  
b. came with parent  
c. came with relative  
d. came with self decision (with or without permission)  
e. if brought by the broker, how many children were brought with you?

## **2. Family Background**

Father's Name:

- a. dead                      b. alive c. served



- d. don't know
- e. others

If alive:

- a. living together
- b. living separately

Mother's Name:

- a. dead
- b. alive
- c. served
- d. don't know
- e. others

If alive:

- a. living together
- b. living separately

If dead or deserted stepfather or step mother .....

Parent's occupation

- a. agriculture
- b. porter
- c. domestic
- d. unemployed
- e. other

No of sister: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 (please make a circle in the right figure)

No of brother: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 (please make a circle in the right figure)

Child rank in order

### 3. Education

3.1 a. literate b. illiterate

3.2 School:

- a. school dropped
- b. never been
- c. school going
- d. willing to join school

3.3 If school going do they support you?

- a. masters
- b. parents
- c. self

3.4 If dropped or never joined school what was the reason?

- a. poverty
- b. parent's illiteracy
- c. parent's negligence
- d. master's negligence

3.5 Do you want to continue or join the school?

- a. yes
- b. no

3.6 Does your master want to send you to school?

- a. yes
- b. no

#### 4. Working Condition

Nature of work

- a. cooking
- b. cleaning
- c. cooking and cleaning
- d. washing dishes and clothes
- e. sitting with baby
- f. shopping
- g. all in all
- h. others

Working status

- a. Part time
- b. full time

If part time

- a. evening only
- b. morning only
- c. day time only
- d. night only

Working hours

- a. 2-4 hours
- b. 4-6 hours
- c. more than that

Working period

- a. 6 months or less
- b. one years or less
- c. 2 years or less
- d. 3 years or above

#### 5. Education

Working hours

Morning wake of

Time: 5 am

- a. 12 hours or less
- c. more than 14 hours

Night bed

Time: 10 pm

- b. 14 hours or less
- d. others

If you worked previously any of those please specify

- a. domestic/hotel
- b. rag picking
- c. agriculture
- d. carpet

If you have already been worked as domestic worker please mentioned the same and address of the previous master.

.....

If any of 5.2, why did you leave your previous work?

- a. low payment
- b. sexual harassment
- c. master's misbehave
- d. not paid on time
- e. not given proper salary
- f. no holiday break
- g. became sick
- h. others

## 6. Earnings

Wages paid or unpaid.

.....

If unpaid, please specify the reason

.....

If paid, who get payment?

- a. parents
- b. self

Monthly salary under.

- a. under Nrs. 100
- b. Nrs. 200
- c. Nrs. 300
- d. Nrs. 400
- e. NRs. 500
- f. NRs.600
- g. more

Daily average earnings.

- a. Nrs. 05-10
- b. Nrs. 11-15
- c. Nrs. 16-20
- d. Nrs. 21-25
- e. Nrs. 26-30
- f. Nrs. 31-35
- g. above Rs. 35
- h. others

Do you or your parents owe any kind of loan to your master?

- a. yes
- b. no

If yes, how much?

.....

Wage payment pattern.

- a. daily
- b. weekly
- c. monthly
- d. after completion of work
- e. none
- f. others

Who keeps your earnings percent?  
a. brother      b. sister      c. owner himself  
d. myself      e. others

Do you have bank balance?  
a. yes      b. no.

Do you have to pay to the bank?  
a. yes      b. no.

Whether the earning is sufficient?  
a. yes      b. no

## 7. Recreation

Do you play games?  
a. yes      b. no

Does your master provide any kind of recreational materials?  
a. yes      b. no.

If yes specify.

.....

Do you have access of TV?  
a. yes      b. no

If yes, where do you watch?  
a. at master's house      b. other's house

While you watch TV at master's house where do you sit?  
a. Inside the room on the chair  
b. Inside the room on the floor  
c. Just stand sticking to the wall  
d. Outside the room at the gate

Do you have to work more over here then you did at home and previous owner's house?  
a. yes      b. no

Why? .....

Does any of your master's family treat you badly sometimes?

- a. yes
- b. no.

If yes who does this mostly?

- a. master
- b. mistress
- c. son & daughter of the house
- d. others

In what way they misbehave you?

- a. beating
- b. pulling hair
- c. abusing all the time
- d. heavy workload
- e. others

Do you steal sometimes?

- a. yes
- b. no

If yes what way?.....

What your master did at that time?

.....

Who loves you the most?

- a. master
- b. mistress
- c. son & daughter
- d. neighbor
- e. others

Relation with family?

.....

How often you visit your home village in a year?

- a. once
- b. twice
- c. thrice
- d. four
- e. if more than that.....

Are they happy that your work here?

- a. yes
- b. no
- c. don't know

Parent's education

- a. literate
- b. illiterate

## 8. Health and Personal

Have you ever been sick since working here?

- a. yes
- b. no

If yes, specify the nature of sickness.

.....

For how long?

- a. 2-3 days
- b. one week
- c. two weeks
- d. more than two weeks

How did you get better?

- a. hospitalized
- b. natural treatment
- c. consulted with doctor
- d. others

Who helped you?

- a. master
- b. relatives
- c. friends
- d. neighbors

How many times you take bath in a month?

- a. one
- b. two
- c. three
- d. four
- e. never

## 9. Food and shelter

Arrangement of shelter with?

- a. own family (rented/no-rented)
- b. relative (rented room)
- c. all the owner's house
- d. others

Where do you sleep specify the place

- a. on the floor
- b. on the bed

Do you use mattress and blankets?

- a. yes
- b. no

What about ventilation?

- a. good
- b. fair
- c. poor
- d. no ventilation

How do you manage for food?

- a. house owner
- b. self managed

## Annex - 3

### Case Study – 1

Shahili Maya has been working as a domestic labor for 2 years. Born 12 years ago in Dhading, she is the youngest daughter of the family and her family had a very hard time to bring up the children. They were very poor owning just a little plot of land, not enough production even for three months to the family. She lost her father when she was an infant. Her widow mother has to take care of whole family after her husband death. So all the children in the family started working as an early age.

Shahili Maya was just 6 years old when she lost her mother too. The family then dispersed with all the children going to work in the different places. Shalhili Maya came to Kathmandu with her uncle and she started to work a rich family of the Lazimpat area. Her wage was settled Nrs. 400 per month with food.

She has to work in that house too much early morning to late evening. At first she was given the job of washing the dishes and clothes, cleaning the house occasionally. After a while, she had to work on cooking and shopping too. Altogether, she had a very heavy workload upon her shoulder. This made her life worse by the continuous load of such activities. She had to face physical and mental torture from her employers, who did not treat her like a human being and punished her physically for small mistakes very badly.

Shahili Maya says, "She was beaten and pulled at her hair for breaking a glass or spilling some water. And, they were equally cruel in the scolding; the words hurt deeply in her heart." But she had no alternative and was compelled to bear on all this misbehavior. What did she get in return? Nothing, when she showed her braveness herself to ask for money. She was kicked out without a single penny. Long ago, the employers had paid some amount of the money to her uncle, who brought her to work. This was all the employers paid in exchange of her continuous labor for whole years. After being kicked out, she found herself a job in the neighbor's house in the same place, which is her present work place, and it is not very much better.

She has the same work load, looking after children, washing, cleaning and other household works and keeps her on her toes for about 12 hours a

day. Her salary was Nrs. 300 again, which is paid to her promptly enough. But she feels that it is just too pay for her work.

Her present employer has not assaulted Shahili Maya so far. Though, she has to listen to the harsh words of the mistress. And, she has to problems going for shopping. "The hoodlums on the streets make crude remarks". She says- "My ear burns every time I walk to and from the shops". Shahili Maya has not thought about her future. Hard work and low pay, exploitation, the insecurity and lack of warmth and love have saddened her heart deeply. "What am I going to do? She wonders I don't know, I just don't know!".



## Case Study – 2

Nina Chaudhary from Kailali district in the terai region. She says that she is 11 years old but she looks more like 8 years. She is the second youngest in her family with two elder brothers and one younger sister. She has been working as a domestic worker for the past two years.

Nina's parents are landless Kamaiya laborers. Kamaiya are bonded laborers who work for nothing or for a very low compensation for lie and can not leave for any other option. The bonded labor system under the Kamiya system is widely prevailed in the western Nepal is the contemporary form of the slavery system which was officially abolished.

Nina did not have an easy life at home. They did not have any land and there was always scarcity of good in the family. So her parents decided to send her to work. They felt that she would be better off in Lazimpat, Kathmandu than at the village. Her employers are the relatives of the landlord whom her parents are indebted. Even a little girl, Nina had a lot to do. She gets up at six o'clock. She goes up to sleep at 10 o'clock. " I left home when I was very young". She says, "I have never got the chance to go to school. Here I have too much to do, so going to the school is out of the question. But my employers are kind enough to engage a tutor to teach me for a while every day. So now I can read and write a little".

Nina is just a little girl, so she has not yet learnt her work properly and makes mistakes sometimes. She says "my employers get angry with me. They scold her and beat her sometimes. And at those times she is hurt. I want to leave everything and go back to my mother. But I know I can't. if I go back I will be an additional mouth to feed. We don't have land and village life is very hard".

The place ensures her food and cloth but no wage. Still it is a relief to her starving family back home. The girl at least can get food for eat. The table

### **Case Study – 3**

Shyam Thapa 12 years old is from Ranikhark of Syangja district in west Nepal. His mother eloped when he was a small child. His father, elder brother and a younger sister beside himself live in a hut in village. One day a big flood washed away all their field and house. The family was displaced. They came to Pokhara city and all the family members were engaged in daily wage labor to meet the daily needs.

Shyam and his father came to Kathmandu, around in the same time, when the children were banned to work in carpet factories. Recently Shyam has found a job as a domestic worker in a house in Lazimpat area of Kathmandu. He does babysitting, washing. He has to work 10-12 hours everyday. Sometimes he gets scolded. But Shyam is not complaining much because he likes the environment around the house. It gives him a sense of security, especially after his bitter experience of having been a destitute on the street. But what keeps his heart glowing is that he has been promised to put in school in the coming academic session. He is desperately looking forward to going to school. For that, he does not mind putting up with the hardship of being a servant.

### **Case Study – 4**

Ratan Chettri is an orphan. He has lost both of his parents at the age of 6 years. He is second among the six children; his elder brother helped him to study up to class 3 in local school in his village of Kavre. But he had to stop because his brothers were landless and poor and they could not make continuous support to him for study. Six months ago he left his home in search of livelihood and study opportunity.

Chettri went to Kathmandu and asked for a job at a street side shop, the shopkeeper took him to Ranibari, Lazimpat Kathmandu, where he was employed as a domestic worker. He had to work mornings to evening at the house and stay in the shop during the day. He was very busy throughout day. In return of his effort, he has not paid anything than meal and sleeping place. So, he left this place after three months and found himself a job at another place. In his present workplace his duty is washing cleaning and looks after the baby.

His salary is Rs. 150 per month. Chettri thinks that his salary is too little for the work that he is doing. "But what I can do, he says wondering beggars cannot be choose. This employer is at least paying me."

Chettri had left home two years ago with the aim of school education which he had to kill now. He has aim of being army man in future and to serve the nation.

