

# CHAPTER – I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Human society has undergone different level of change in the changing time, context and environment. There are people of different social and economic status in our society. With modern civilization people are changing their livelihood strategy in order to cope up with the change in time. Due to the impact of development activities people are attracted to adopt new occupation, giving up their traditional occupation i.e. agriculture and forest based economic activities. Modern development has also caused negative impact in socio-economic life of the people. As consequence they are engaged in the low income job for their livelihood. Hence, various types of livelihood strategies are in practice. According to American Heritage Dictionary "livelihood denotes the means needed to provide the necessities of life." Livelihood and livings are often interchangeable but livelihood may specify the occupation by means of which one earns an income.

Livelihood strategies are the strategies which enable people to secure their means of existence (Boeker, 2000/2003:25). It includes productive activities, investment strategies, reproductive choice and much more. Such activities depend mainly upon the human capital and natural capital. To some extent they are also shaped by the social norms and values which may not be constant. All people view their way of living from sustainable perspective. The livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from economic stress and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future (DFID, 2002). These strategies operate both in household and individual's level, either through continuity or through the modification of economic and social activities, in order to meet the basic needs for existence. Some people continue their traditional occupations and activities while others modify their strategies. Several internal and external factors impinge up on the livelihood strategies of the people. Some of these factors operate from local level while other work in national and even global scale. The adaptation of livelihood strategies is different on the basis of caste ethnic community and in rural and urban context.

Change is universal and continuous phenomenon found in all the societies all the time. People have adjusted their ways of earning for livelihood to the changing environmental condition. The environmental condition change over a time and people in same space can notice differences in the pattern of adoption from group to another. In the same way, adoption pattern of the same ethnic group may differ from one place to another due to change in physical environment (Subedi and Pandey, 2002)

The livelihoods of rural people in developing countries seem very poor and miserable and is therefore complex. The life of the people and their agricultural activities are not improved as expected; moreover they can not sustain their life from agriculture alone no matter of providing their surplus to the market to enhance well being and increase sustainability after reducing vulnerability and food insecurity.

Street vendors are those people, who mostly have come from the villages, remote areas and urban periphery. Due to modern development in all sectors, these people have compared their traditional occupation with modern ones and have found traditional occupation to be monotonous, insecure, difficult to sustain and are unsatisfied. So they left their villages and traditional occupation and searched for the other way of life in city. According to their ability, awareness and interest they get involved in one of the new occupations, so that they can get cash income, through which they can supply themselves with food, secure residence, electricity, new dresses better health and educational facilities for their wards.

But actually they get low income job in the city streets, like, portering, shoe mending, vending goods, selling food and vegetable items and so on. Moreover, their life style is still backward, down trodden type and marginalized. Even in these jobs they are facing various physical and social problem like rain, hot sun, cold, environmental pollution, city administration, local vagabonds and beaus.

After the restoration of democracy in 1990, new constitution guaranteed press freedom which accelerated the news publication business that attracted many newspaper vendors in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. The number of the newspaper vendor is going on increasing since Maoist rebel and insurgency that was started in 2052 B.S.

They are attracting street customers, bargaining, dealing and earning their livelihood. Out of hundred variety of street vendors, street newspaper vendors are different from them for they move from one corner to the another of the city in a hurry. Newspaper vending occupation is tertiary, independent, modern way of livelihood strategy in many major cities of Nepal like Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Pokhara, Narayangardh etc. They serve newspapers person to person, door to door and corner to corner of the city and contribute to communication service. They deal with livelihood context, different assets, stresses and responses for sustainable livelihood. Their socio-economic status, age, literacy, physical strength, low investment job, occupational freedom, space in the city are their assets. They interact with newspaper publishers, whole sellers, KMC policemen, customers and pedestrian for their livelihood. they spend their income in house rent, food, clothing, education, health and entertainment. They can not support their family wholly from this business. So that they are also involved in side business. Newspapers are sold more in the morning and evenings. Majority of them are male, non- indigenous, migrant and adult. There is a significant number of minors, elderly and women. Most of them have adopted newspaper vending business due to unemployment and dissatisfaction from their traditional occupation i.e. agriculture. Though they have been engaged in this job for decades, there is no significant improvement in their socio-economic status. They are facing innumerable problems in the current livelihood strategy like bad weather, KMC police, lack of space, tiresome movement, intra-vendors competition, high risk and low margin. They are struggling to reduce vulnerabilities.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Changing livelihood pattern are more profound in urban interfaces as a result of transformation of land use and employment. While this can lead to better prospects for some and for other this can result in increase in social and economic marginalization. Likewise, the poverty in the rural area compels the people to search alternative ways of life in urban areas. There are more jobs opportunities in urban area than in the village.

In this context several changes can be noticed in occupational pattern in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. Many people here have given up their traditional occupation and adopt the vendors job for livelihood. Some are newspaper and book sellers, some

others are fruit, vegetable, readymade foods vendors, and some others are vending readymade household goods and appliances and so on. So far as the researcher is concerned, he tries to answer the following questions.

What is the livelihood strategy of the street newspaper vendors in Katmandu like? Where are they from? Why did they choose this occupation? From when this occupation has been carried on? What is their family status like? what are the vulnerability context ? What are the constraints and opportunities that exist in their life? What are the governmental and institutional policies to help them? What is the difference in between the vending life of fixed location and mobile newspaper street vendors? These are the crucial questions the researcher is trying to answer.

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

General objective of this study is to understand changing livelihood strategies of the fixed location and mobile newspaper vendors and their comparison at an urban poverty context of globalization and modernization.

The specific objectives of this study are as follows

- To examine socio-economic characteristics of newspaper vendors in the area of Kathmandu Metropolitan City within and around Ringroad
- To compare and analyze the difference in livelihood strategies of mobile newspaper vendors and fixed location newspaper vendors
- To analyze the vulnerability context of the newspaper vendors with special reference to women and children.

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

This study deals with the livelihood strategies of the fixed location and mobile newspaper vendors and their vulnerability context. A large number of these people are illiterate and unskilled who don't have any other alternative to secure their economic life. Street occupation like this is informal occupation for within this occupation thousands of people have been involved, without any regularity in income and security. So, this study helps to explore the history about this new livelihood strategy.

It will also study about the change in occupation by the urban poor in the modernization and globalization context of occupation. So this study will provide the correct information about the present state and livelihood strategies of those newspaper vendors so as to communicate with the Metropolitan City planner government administration, local NGOs as well as international INGOs. So this study will be helpful to those organizations, individual and policy makers who are concerned and interested in improving the living conditions of the other marginalized city dwellers learning about the newspaper street vendors.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

The study area of this study is Kathmandu Metropolitan City within Ringroad . There are different types of urban poor. Among them newspaper street vendors is taken as the main concern for the study purpose. The study area is limited to some selected places of Kathmandu Metropolitan City like Ratna Park, Putalisadak, Newroad, New Buspark, Kalanki, New Baneshwor and other corner of the city. Time, budgetary constraints and frequent traffic jam and Banda are other limitation for this study.

## **CHAPTER- II**

### **REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE**

Reviewing relevant literature is an integral part of all research including academic and professional without which completion of research is almost impossible. It enables researcher to find out research question needed to define the statement of the problem. Hence, in this study about the newspaper vendors in Kathmandu the researcher is reviewing the following livelihood related books, journals, documentary and dissertation.

#### **2.1 Sustainable Livelihood Approach**

The concept of sustainable livelihood is an attempt to go beyond the conventional definition and approach to poverty eradication. The previous definitions were found to be narrow because they focused only on certain aspect of manifestation of poverty such as low income or did not consider other vital aspect of poverty such as vulnerability, social inclusion, etc. It is now recognized that more attention must be paid to the various factors and process which are either constraints or enhance poor people's ability to make a living economically, ecologically and socially sustainable matter. The SL concept gives more coherent and integrated approach to poverty eradication. In this way this approach has to be understood basically as a tool to understand poverty in responding to poor peoples view and their own understanding of poverty. (Krantz, 2001)

The credit for beginning of livelihood approach goes to Robert Chambers. He devised this in the mid 1980s, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of International Development Cooperation (Wyss, 2002). In the early 1990s, it was further developed by Chambers and G. Conway (DFID 2002 quoted in Wyss 2003). In 1997, the British government responsible for promoting development and reduction of poverty established an organization called the Department of International Development, (DFID), incorporated the sustainable livelihoods approach as a central element in its policy and adopted it to suit its work. DFID worked with NGOs and INGOs like European Coil Mission, the World Bank, FAO and IFAD (International Fund for Agriculture Development), which exchange experiences and are further developing the sustainable rural livelihood

approach (Wyss, 2003).

It aims to facilitate a holistic view that takes into account both micro and macro levels and includes natural conditions as much as human made factors, such as technologies, economy, politics or cultural norms and beliefs focusing on livelihood of people. The subordinate aim is to reduce poverty by increasing the sustainability of poor peoples' livelihood.

The sustainable livelihood approach comprises elements: the sustainable livelihood guiding principles and the sustainable livelihood framework. The six guiding principles are direct concern of sustainable livelihood. These principles are important for sustainable rural livelihood. These principles, are important rural livelihood approach.

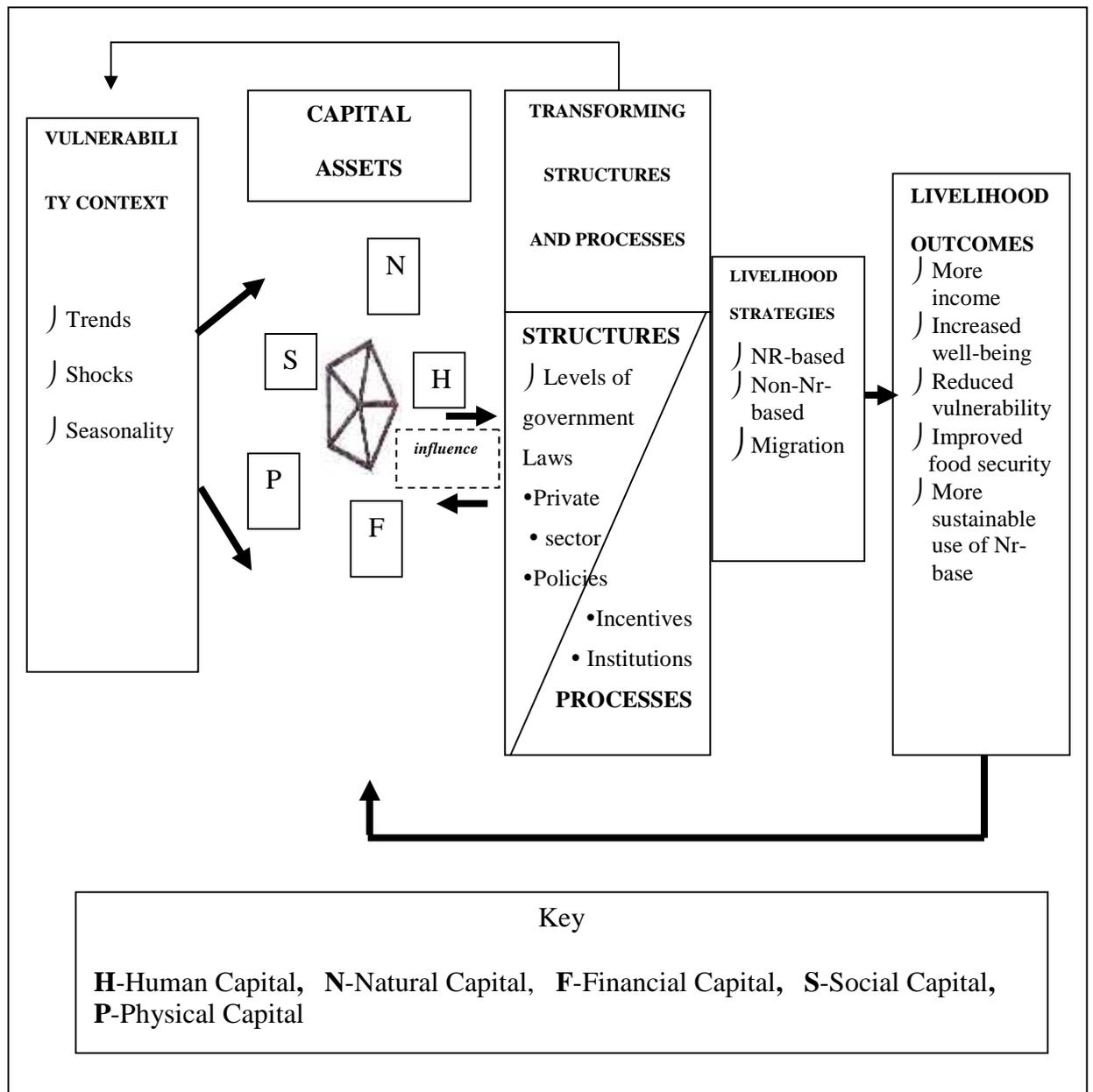
- ) People centered development.
- ) Adopts a holistic view, multiple actors and sectors, geographical areas and social groups.
- ) Understand dynamic nature of livelihood and the influences upon them.
- ) Rather than focusing on their problems builds on the people's strengths and opportunities.
- ) Emphasizes the importance of macro-micro links and seeks to understand them, and
- ) Points out the importance of sustainability to poverty reduction.

### **Framework**

The below framework, shows the main factors affecting livelihood and how these link to each other. It is sought to serve as a checklist of important issues for the analysis of livelihood and to provide a means of bringing order into the complexities of all these influences on livelihoods.

The existing vulnerability context will change and new vulnerability may emerge that is concentration of people along road side, increases in social evils and land degradation, limitation of modernization by youth, increases in land capital assets of rural area also may change people can earn more and skilled manpower may increase because of child schooling and operating of boarding school.

## Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF)



Source: Sustainable Livelihood Guideline Sheet, DFID, 2002.

This framework can't be understood as a linear process. On the contrary, it tries to emphasize interaction between different factors. The starting point for many livelihood analysis are the assets that is the people's strength on resources. Similarly, livelihood outcomes, that are their goals, objectives as well as livelihood

strategy. In the vulnerability context it is possible to focus on one part of the framework while keeping, in wider picture in mind.

### **Vulnerability Context**

It represents the external environment where people live. The external factor shocks, seasonality, trends on which people have no or limited control. Trend for instance population trends, political or economic trends and technical trends. Shocks comprises human health Shocks, economic Shocks and conflicts. The seasonality may include prices, production, employment opportunities.

### **Livelihood Assets**

The sustainable livelihood approach is way of putting at the center of development. Its main principle is to build on their strength. It seeks to draw a realistic picture of the people's assets and capital endowment and to find ways how these can convert into beneficial livelihood outcomes. Therefore, it lies in the center of the livelihood Framework. The pentagon shows interrelationship among categories of assets. This is based on the belief that "no singular category of assets for its own is sufficient to yield all the many and varied livelihood outcomes that people seek" (DFID 2002 quoted in Wyss 2003). The shape of pentagon shows the composition of our social group or society. The center of the pentagon is seen as the zero-point while the outer perimeter represents full access to the respective assets. Different capital assets like natural capital, human capital, physical capital, financial capital and social capital represent skills, knowledge, ability to work and good health: Natural resources like land, forest, marine and wild resources, water and air quality; the basic infrastructures like land, factories transport facilities, sanitation, shelter, water supply, energy information, communication facilities, tools and equipment, stocks and regular inflow of money, bank, jewelery, cash and earned income, pension and assets that affects on the other assets. Therefore, it is a substitute for financial capital and help to income it **Transforming structures of processes, policy, institution and Processes:**

These are institutions, organizations policies and legislations dealing with livelihood. They determine access to assets and livelihood strategies, define the terms of exchange between different type of capital and affects the returns to

chosen livelihoods strategy. Structures are the hardware the organization both private and public that set and implement policy and legislation, deliver services, purchases, trade and perform all manner of other functions that affect livelihoods" (DFID, 2002 quoted in Wyss, 2003). Process is the 'software' which determines structures and individuals operate and interact (DFID, 2002 quoted in Wyss, 2003). They include policies, legislation, institution, culture and power relations.

### **Livelihood Strategies**

Livelihood strategies are the "range and combination of activities and choices that people make in order to achieve their livelihood goals." or "the way of combining and using assets" (DFID, 2002 quoted in Wyss, 2003). It includes production activities, investment strategies, reproductive choices and much more. Livelihood strategies change over time, over space on location, across the sectors and within households and individual. Livelihood strategies directly influence the sustainability of livelihood. "The more choice and flexibility that people have in their livelihood strategies, the greater their ability to withstand or adapt the shocks and stresses of the vulnerability context" (DFID 2002 quoted in Wyss, 2003).

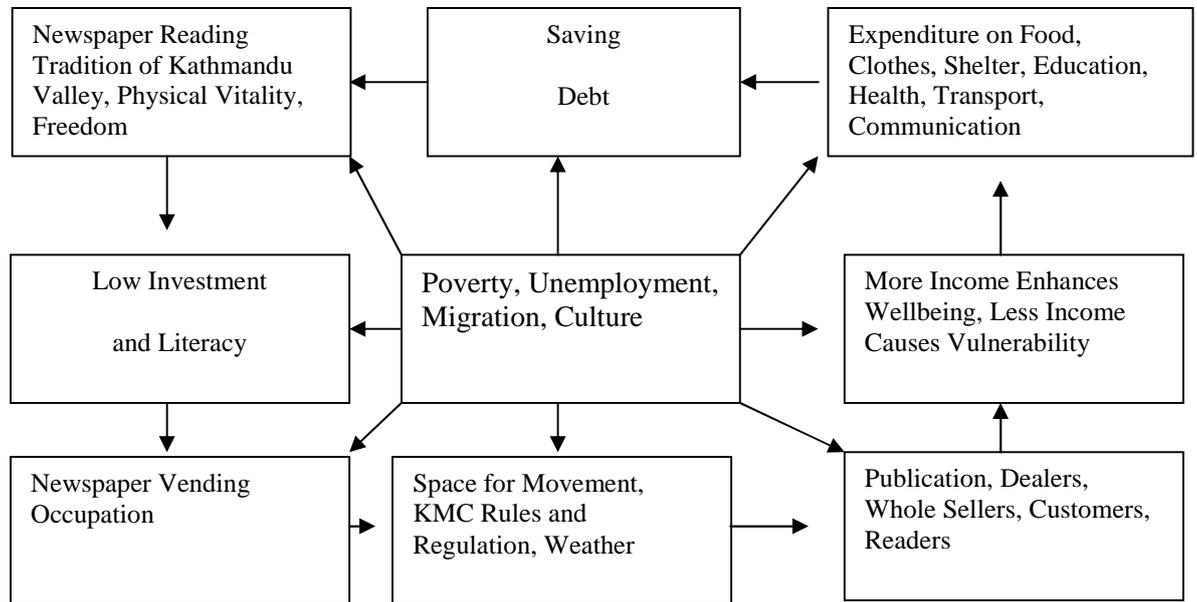
### **Livelihood Outcomes**

Livelihood outcomes are the achievement of livelihood strategies. It records the actual output of current assets and strategies rather than describing, the mere objective of people. It also allows one to draw conclusions about the motivation behind people's actions and choices. It is important to note that livelihood outcomes are not only of a financial nature, that is, people are not solely maximizing income. In fact, there are different categories of livelihood outcomes which may be relevant, according to the given situation. These categories are more income, reduced vulnerability, improved food security, increased well being, and more sustainable use of the natural based resources.

## **2.2 Newspaper Vendors' Livelihood Framework**

The occupation of newspaper vendor has been influenced and guided by the notion of poverty, unemployment, migration and male dominated culture. These

factors play role from the centre, while other factors play their role from the periphery. Newspaper vendors livelihood framework has been shown below.



The chart shows inter-relationship between major factors of the core and minor but very important factors of periphery. Each factor influences the other factor. Freedom of press and publication enhances the opportunities for reading and selling newspapers in the city. It employed the publishers, dealers, wholesaler and newspaper vendors. The income either enhances well being or causes vulnerabilities. The income goes for survival of the sellers and for different needs. Some vendors make little saving but some get indebted. This situation further influences the people to sell newspapers because it is an easy and low investment job. These factors of periphery either minimize or maximize the influence on central factors.

### 2.3 Literature Related with Study

Bishop (1990), had studied livelihood and seasonality, rhythms in the Nepal's Himalayan especially Karnali zone. The research paper Karnali Under Stress has been summarized into three groups. These subsistence system modeled in which has included cultural, ecological zone and agriculture output of production. The subsistence system constrained in which he includes cultural attitude and training ecological balance, agricultural and livestock technology, ecological balance, agriculture and livestock technology, transportation and trade technology

population and health. In their group i.e., in Karnali state he discussed about the niche comparative. On this study he finds out six livelihood options which is used by remote people, that are agriculture, animal husbandry, home industry, exploitation of world biosta, trade and seasonal out migration.

Dhimal (2004) studied about street child paper seller in Kathmandu valley in his research entitled "A Sociological Study of Street Child Paper Sellers in Kathmandu Valley". He has also focused his study on the causes of being street children and how they have adopted paper selling as their livelihood occupation. His study is based on different socio-economic status observation. The survey reveals the main reason behind the existence of child labour is poverty. Though the street children vendor is a global phenomenon its condition in the least developed country is far worse. In his finding out of the 50 respondents 35 are migrants. Similarly 72% of the vendors belong to 11-13 years of age. 50% of their percents had daily drinking habit. Lack of awareness about child right, poverty, family economic status and their own interest are major cause to force them in this occupation.

Dahal (1998), has focused his study on street hawkers in Lalitpur Metropolitan City with the objective to know the causes of growth of street hawkers, the policy implication with regards to street hawkers, way of managing the street hawkers and their business. The type she found were: garments and cloths, curio, shoes, kitchenware, cosmetics, luxury items, bags and belts, vegetables, fruit, curd and milk, meat, prepared food tobacco, books, and magazines etc. From the detailed study of 291 street hawkers, male were found greater in number than females.

Subedi and Pandey (2002), have studied on Livelihood Strategies on Rai Communities of Arun Valley. According to them livelihood strategies reflect the complexity of main environment relationship including local people attempting to cope with environmental factors utilizing available resources and adopting new options over time. This study was based on field survey in two geographical location namely Sitalpati in lower elevation and Makalu in higher.

Krishna (2004), has made an extensive study on women participation in natural resource management in her book 'Livelihood and Gender'. She has explored how

female gender has been employed in domestic work more than working away from homeland. Women's participation in economic sector is basically concerned with household care, food collection, kitchen work and serving cattle. Krishna is furious with male dominated culture in Indian sub-continent. Hence, she concludes that natural resource management has been falling backward due to lack of women's involvement.

Poudel (2005), has studied about livelihood and occupational vegetable vendors of Kathmandu city: case studies of Maitidevi, Chabhil and Asan *Chowk*. Economically weak, disadvantaged group, poor and squattered people were found involving in street vegetable vendors. Their daily income is found very low and they were found unable to fulfill their all needs for sustaining their livelihood in urban areas. Though most of vendors felt that their occupation was sustainable at the same time they also felt that their place of vending was more vulnerable. It is true that for sustainability of their occupation, they really need a place to sell their goods. The positive attitude of pedestrians and local shopkeepers could also help to reduce the vulnerability of the livelihood of street vegetable vendors.

Shrestha (1983), on her report 'Women's Employment in Industrial Sector published by CEDA, has attempted to look at opportunities and constraints being faced by women in industrial employment. She found some jobs are regarded as women's job as dresser, weaver, knitter, typist and other unskilled jobs. Women are highly concentrated on woolen and textile industries. According to her, in administrative work and managerial works women's participation is very limited.

Joshi (1985), on 'Women's Participation in Carpet Industry found that large number of female workers are employed in the carpet industries. Among all 74.8 percent are women involved in carpet industries. On the other hand 88.2 percent female were found illiterate. She also conclude that the security of employment in carpet industries primarily depends on the efficiency and sincerity of workers them selves.

Timilsina (2003), has conducted his study on the impact of road on the livelihood strategies of rural people. To study the changing way of rural people of the Bhimdhunga- Lamidanda Road in Jivanpur VDC. The study collected the information through the household survey of 150 households from selected wards of the VDC which are affected by newly constructed road. The finding of study are

the construction of the road and development of rural small market centers and expanding marketing function, agricultural based economy of rural people transferred into market oriented production. Production of cereal crops has been displaced by the intensification of vegetable farming.

Pathak (2004), has studied about livelihood strategy of street cobblers, a case study of Kathmandu valley. The objective of the study is to examine the way of earning livelihood of street cobblers. To fulfill his objective he took respondents on the basis age wise involvement. This study concludes that street cobbling in urban areas is a newly emerged livelihood strategies for young generation, Terai and Indian cobblers than for hill cobblers and this occupation is not secure and sustainable. The nature of work and space used by them seems more vulnerable.

Joshi (1992), on "Study on Socio-economic Status of Migrant Thela - Pushers of Kathmandu". The objective of the study is to evaluate the socio-economic condition, to assess the existing situation of the Thela pushing as a means of non-mechanized means of transport. It also recommended some suggestions to the concerned organizations for future improvement. This study finds that majority of Thela-pusher are indebted and belongs to food deficient families. They are economically backward and underprivileged in society. Due to busy schedule they are unknown to any event occurring around their society. They are doing hard work from morning to evening. But they are exploited directly or indirectly or by different private organization and individuals like village money lender and security persons.

Adhikari (2008), in his book entitled 'Changing Livelihood' shows that the main concern of the families in all the settlements was the rapid increase in prices of food and a drastic decline in their qualities due to adulteration. Statistics also indicate that food prices have sky rocketed and especially in the 1990s when government implemented the liberalization in economy as part of Structural Adjustment Program. The cuts in employment and decline in wage rates were found to have clear effects on the livelihoods of families especially those with no skill and education. The affected families especially from the squatter settlements were found to resort to desperate survival strategies like collecting food grains, vegetables and

fruits thrown away as waste by the traders and farmers and collecting wild plant materials. This study clearly indicates that there can be considerable variation within an urban area in food security situations and that there exist certain groups of people who are in a particularly precarious situation. The general tendency of revealing only on average situation about Kathmandu Valley (or districts) seem to be dangerous.

Yadav (2007), has explored about flower seller's livelihood strategy in Pashupati and Dakshinkali area for his Master's Degree thesis entitled *Selling Flower in Religious Places As Livelihood Strategy (A Comparative Study of Pashupati and Dakshinkali Area of Kathmandu Valley)*. He has observed that selling flowers in religious places is an important livelihood option for urban poor. He has compared the flower selling occupation of Pashupati area as core area and Dakshinkali area as a peripheral area in terms of socio-economic determinants. In his comparative studies, female, illiterate married Brahmin and migrants seller is higher in Pashupati whereas, the number of seller having primary education, Newar unmarried and local is higher in Dakshinkali area.

Dangal (2005), has examined the livelihood condition of street vendors in greater Kathmandu in his thesis entitled "Survival in the Street." He has studied socio-economic, physical and political assets that influence the livelihood of street vendors in Kathmandu. He selected different types of vendors like watch sellers, garment sellers, fruit sellers, *Chana-Chatpate* sellers, ice-cream sellers, shoes menders, electronic good sellers and so on. He has thoroughly studied the shocks, stresses and responses of livelihood of street vendors. It is a descriptive and qualitative research his finding is that despite the fact of vulnerability the vendors are somehow satisfied with the vending job. They are struggling hard for making there livelihood sustainable.

Newspaper hawkers in Chandigarh and the neighbouring of Panchkula and Mohali went on a strike Sunday to press their demand for higher commissions. The hawkers

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Note: *Chana Chatpate* is the mixture of grain and gram with spices served in the streets.

in the three towns are also demanding an end to the practice of coupon system for paid-up subscription. "All the newspapers are making huge profit but the poor hawkers are always at the receiving end. We are getting only around 40 paisa per copy while we are demanding to raise this commission by 50 percent," one hawker said. (<http://www.thaindian.com/newssportal/uncategorized/newspaper-hawkers-go-on-strike-in-chandigarh>)

The present study "Street Newspaper Vending as a Livelihood Strategy in Katmandu Metropolitan City" deals mainly with the livelihood strategy of newspaper vendors who generally serve people by selling newspaper every day as a means of communication. It intends to reflect the situation of the urban poor in Katmandu Metropolitan City. Likewise, the vulnerability context of these newspaper vendors has been examined in this study. The concern of researcher is urban poor who live usually with low, irregular and uncertain earnings and low level of literacy. They are generally unskilled or semi- skilled workers and are mostly engaged in informal activities. Their savings if any is very low. There are many people selling newspapers and books in the open space as a vendor. Some of them are fixed location and some are mobile. They are from different peripheral area of Katmandu and from other districts as well. They are generally seen more in the Rathnapark, Newroad, Thamel, Nayabaneshwor, Kalanki, New Buspark, Maharajgunj, Putalisadak, Chabhil and different corner of the Kathmandu Metropolitan City. They visit the publication of newspaper (daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly, yearly) and purchase newspaper. Then they either carry them from one door to another door or keep them in the open stall. Though they get busy whole day for vending newspapers, their daily income is low. Therefore, the study is significant in the livelihood context.

Different organizations have developed the livelihood framework but they are based on DFID'S Sustainable Livelihood Framework developed by Chambers and Conway. This livelihood framework contributes to create background and the formula and helps to eliminate poverty in the developing country for more than a decade. The framework depicts the four major components in adopting the livelihood strategy. They are vulnerability context, livelihood assets, transforming structure and the livelihood outcomes. Network relation of these components determines livelihood of people. Vulnerability context is composed of different factors like shocks, trends,

seasonality, disaster, recession etc .These factors encourage people to adopt the new strategy. Transforming structures process consists of different role played by society, government public and private institution. Livelihood assets comprise of five types of capital that form the pentagon. These factors like human capital, social capital, natural capital, physical capital and financial capital form capacity to bear the shocks and recover the loss. The final component of the framework are livelihood outcomes that mean more income, well being improved food, sustainability and so on. Major components influence each other both vertically and horizontally. Similarly sub-components also influence each other.

It is an innovative research on the subject of newspaper vending in Katmandu based on tertiary sector of earning livelihood. It is based on sustainable livelihood framework of DFID and newspaper vendors' livelihood framework mentioned above. Newspaper vending sector has got recognition from the government and institution in the countries like India, United Kingdom, United States, Japan and so on but it has not been recognized by the government in Nepal. Therefore, this study is significant in livelihood context.

Having studied different literature by different researcher's and scholars it can be concluded that there is very little research done on the newspaper vendors of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. Many researches have been done on the topic of sustainable livelihood strategy. Livelihood strategy of women, flower sellers, sand collectors, vegetable sellers, squatters, rickshaw pullers are mostly based on the study of urban poor. But this study mainly focuses on newspaper vendors as urban poor. It is different to other studies of livelihood strategies in term of comparison between fixed and mobile newspaper sellers. They have been selected from five important places. Similarly the condition of women, children and marginalized have been emphasized through case study.

## **CHAPTER- III**

### **METHODOLOGY**

Methodology is the process of carrying out a research work with certain guidelines. In every research work there is either qualitative or a quantitative or both type of data. They are collected, tabulated managed and analyzed properly following certain method. It clarifies that concept of how the research work proceeds on. It describes the essential steps of the research work leading from the nature of data to its presentation. This research on newspaper vendors of Kathmandu is a comparative study which uses both qualitative and quantitative method of research. The following is the process of the research.

#### **3.1 Nature and Sources of Data**

This current research is based on primary data collected from the field survey. For this the researcher goes to different spots of Kathmandu Valley and collects data. However, secondary data has also been collected from different available sources like KMC office, Newspaper dealers, newspaper reader and so on. Similarly, journals, newspaper reports, GIS software, websites, have also been and explored.

#### **3.2 Method and Techniques of Data Collection**

Most of the quantitative and qualitative data of primary nature have been collected from the vendors themselves. But some other data have been taken from secondary sources like books, magazines, newspapers, etc.

##### **3.2.1 Sampling and Sampling Size**

Out of 142 households 40 household have been interviewed. Out of 69 fixed location vendors 20 of them have been interviewed (surveyed). Likewise, from among 73 mobile vendors 20 have been surveyed. Among fixed location newspaper vendors 29% has been surveyed. Whereas from among mobile newspaper vendors 27.4 has been surveyed. In total 28.2 is the sample size. These vendors have been counted in 5 places viz Ratnapark area, Kalanki area, Gongabu area, Baneshwor area and Chabhil area. The type of sampling are stratified, random and quota fixation in general and stratified in particular.

**Table 3.1: Surveyed Newspaper Vendors by Place of Occupation**

Area	Fixed Newspaper Vendor			Mobile Newspaper Vendor		
	Total Count	Surveyed		Total Count	Surveyed	
		No.	Percent		No.	Percent
Ratnapark	31	8	25.8	35	9	25.7
Kalanki	6	2	33.3	12	4	33.3
Gongabu	10	3	30.0	7	2	28.7
Chabhil	13	4	30.8	11	3	27.3
Baneshwor	9	3	33.3	8	2	25.0
	69	20	29.0	73	20	27.4

Source: Field Survey, 2008

### **3.2.2 Household Questionnaire Survey**

On the basis of objectives mentioned in the thesis proposal a set of questionnaire was prepared. There were 35 questions. These questions were of different types and categories, they are structured, semi-structured, unstructured, open. The researcher himself visited the respondent from one place to another. It took 28 days to conduct this field survey. It took 16 days for collecting data from mobile vendors but it took only 12 days for fixed location vendors. The questionnaire set includes the question about different socio-economic characteristics and problem related to the life of vendors in terms of their news vending job. These questions have been attached to the appendix of this report.

### **3.2.3 Field Observation**

In course of collecting data the researcher directly visited the spot (field) of data collection. Many information about vendors have been asked and noted in the questionnaire form. Some qualitative information have been realized and noted by the researcher in this field note. Their get up, physical expression, behavior, speech have

been observed and analyzed qualitatively. Likewise, their interaction among each other and among their customers have been observed.

### **3.2.4 Key Information Interviews**

Key informant interview helps to get qualitative data about the researched informant. It (Key informants interview) is one of the essential element of a research methodology. The researcher of this study has asked 13 structured questions and some unstructured questions to the newspaper dealers, KMC officials, locals, businessmen, local police men and customer. For fixed location vendors there were five key informants. They were asked about different variables and characteristics of Newspaper vendors. A check list of structured questions has been attached to this report.

### **3.2.5 Informal Interview**

Informal interview is also essential for getting important data that might be missing at the time of scheduled or (appointed day) interview. It of ten continues from the time of sampling till the date of report presentation. It is an informal visit and interview with the respondent according to the necessity of research. Such informal interviews have been performed times and again by the researcher in this report. There is more originality in collecting data.

### **3.2.6 Focus Group Discussion**

The researcher organized focus group discussions to get qualitative data about the respondent. It is one of the most essential tools for information of those issues which could not be expressed in simple questionnaire. There were two focus group discussions held for mobile newspaper vendors and two focus group discussions held for the fixed mobile newspaper vendors. Some issues which could not be recorded and noted from simple interview has been associated in it. The issues discussed in focus group discussion were two daily livelihood of vendors reasons to adopt this job, its vulnerabilities and way to minimize vulnerabilities. The questions of focused group discussion have been attached to the appendix of this report.

### **3.2.7 Case Study**

Case study is important tool of research. It helps the researcher to have deeper ideas and experiences about individuals or an institution. Here, in this research the researcher has adopted information about the way of living and their problems from four newspaper vendors in inclusive manner based on marginalized vendors i.e. children, women, widow and ageing.

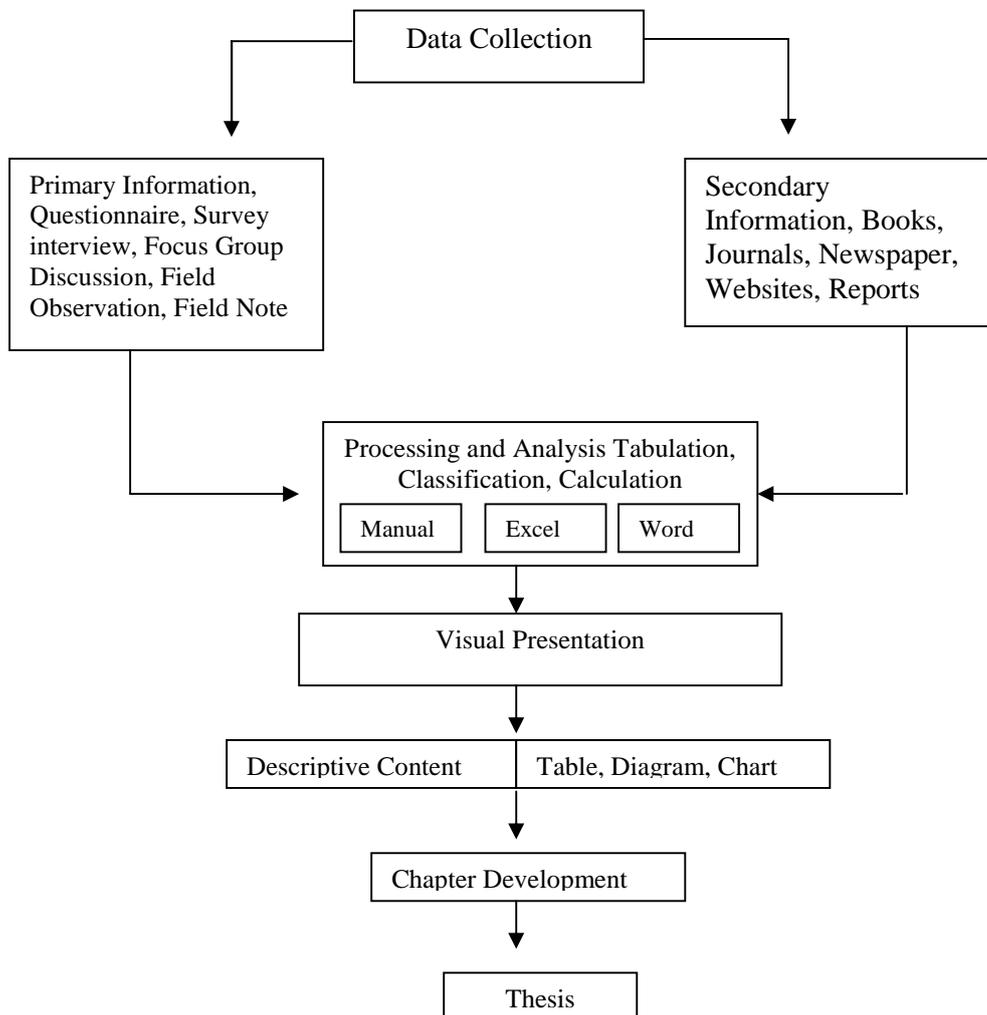
### **3.2.8 Field Note**

Field note helps researcher to get the additional information and their record from the respondent. All the information during the field survey can not be recorded systematically. In such case field note helps the researcher. Some important issues and qualitative data, contextual features of the place of survey can be recorded in a field note which will come to be useful in course of report preparation. The researcher here has recorded important additional information about newspaper vendors.

### **3.3 Method of Analysis**

The researcher in this research has collected data, tabulated them, managed processed and analyzed carefully and systematically. A lot of processing has been done manually. Similarly, different computer skill like excel, GIS software have been explored and used. Mathematical calculation and statistical operations have been performed for quantitative data. Qualitative data has been followed in descriptive way. Likewise for visual information different diagrams, table charts and photographs have been prepared and presented.

### 3.4 Methodological Framework of the Study



### 3.5 An Experience of Field Work

A field work is an interaction of the researcher with environment and respondents. A researcher must be humble, sincere and honest more importantly while at research. Most of the respondents don't want to be bothered with research for answering in details. They try to avoid it. But some of them are curious to answer too. They feel that the research might be taking undue advantage from their occupation. Moreover, the newspaper vendors are so busy that they don't have time to stand still and answer the questions asked by the researcher.

Therefore, thinking the gravity of the present research the researcher made a rapport building by buying an item of newspaper from each newspaper vendor. Then being

convinced about its importance they expressed their views. Some of them were really helpful and were happy telling about their painstaking job. But some suspected the researcher as KMC spy who try to chase them away. Frequent visit and persuading made them agree to answer.

Quality research depends on quality of response and analysis. But it became pretty difficult to approximate their opinion due to the fact; the newspaper vendors generally don't have clear data of their daily income and expenditure. Yet, the researcher's hints convinced them about the facts.

## **CHAPTER - IV**

### **THE STUDY AREA**

This study of newspaper street vendors has been carried out in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. As Kathmandu Metropolitan City is commercially, historically and politically important city and there are many people like newspaper vendors who adopt new livelihood strategy in the city. The researcher has chosen this place for his research.

#### **4.1 Kathmandu Valley**

Kathmandu is the capital of Nepal. It is the oldest city of Nepal. It is socially, economically, historically, geographically and politically very important city of Nepal. Kathmandu Metropolitan City lies in Kathmandu valley. It is the valley located at 1380 metres above the sea level, surrounded by different lower hills about 2100 m. They are the mid altitude hill like Shivapuri, Nagarjun, Changradiri, Phulchowki, Sanga etc. Its an area of 570 square km. It is the valley fertile with lacustrine soil. Its got warm wet summer and cool dry winter. It experiences about 19<sup>0</sup>c average temperature and 120 cm annual rainfall.

It has been irrigated by different river system. They are second grade rivers like Bagmati, Bishnumati, Manamati, Boshan, Durlung, Nahu, Luvu, Godawari, Sanglekhola, Monohara, Hanumante, Tukucha, Rudramati etc. Latitudinally its located between 27<sup>0</sup>.24'N to 27<sup>0</sup>-49'N and longitudinally located between 85<sup>0</sup> to 85<sup>0</sup>.34'. Its time is ahead of GMT by 5hr 45 minute.

"Historically Kathmandu valley was a lake sustained by geology and that it was drained by supernatural intervention of Bodhi sattva Manjusri. There after, the Bodhi, Sattva is reported to have founded the first settlement in the valley. Gopals were famous as first rulers. Since then Mahispal, Kirat Lichkhavi and Malla dynasties have ruled over Kathmandu valley then Nepal. Prithwi Narayan Shah from Gorkha unified Nepal in 1825 Bikram Era. After unification it became the capital city of Nepal (John, 1979).

Kathmandu valley is famous not only as political and commercial place but also as culturally important place. The rich tapestry of cultural heritage of Nepal is

synthesized in Kathmandu valley, the home of ancient and sophisticated Newari culture. The Newars are indigeneous inhabitants of the valley and the creators of splendid civilization of its three cities Kathmandu, Patan, Bhaktapur. The skillfully built temples and places, delicately engraved stone and metal images carried wooden columns and paillars, and the history laden shrines and chaityas of these three historical cities stand testimony to the Newar's artistic achievement.

Kathmandu is politically very important place because many decisive political movements have taken place from here. The movement of 1997 B.S. (1941) ;2007 B.S. (1951); 2046B.S.(1990) and People's Movement second 2062 B.S.(2005) have contributed a lot for establishing people's power in the government of country. Furthermore, great leaders of the country live here Ministers parliament members, bureaucrats, high officials, rich people have been assembled (centralized) in this city. Therefore, newspaper have their best selling here, political, economic and administrative activities and their fluctuations are easily reported and published. There are politically aware people in Kathmandu, who can spend much for communication like newspaper reading. All these things make Kathmandu an important centre of whole Nepal. Reputed social organizations, academic institutions, universities, administrative offices, financial , institution, supermarkets, factories, international airport, tourist centres, religious places are located in Kathmandu Valley. The population of Kathmandu valley is 16,45,090 according to 2058's population census. Kathmandu district alone has 1081845 population. The trend is increasing Kathmandu is the centre of whole Nepal. Therefore, people from all the districts come to Kathmandu. There are highways leading to different districts of Nepal like Tribhuwan highway, Arinika highway, Pasang Lhamu highway, Kanti highway link Kathmandu valley with different centers of Nepal.

Economic activity of the valley people mainly is service. Business is the second important economic activity. Agriculture and industry constitute the other economic activities of Kathmandu.

#### **4.2 Ratnapark Area**

Ratnapark area covers the space between Tripureshwor, Newroad, Putalisadak, Asan and Kantipath. It is the most busiest place. There are many government offices,

business complex, colleges, temples, hotels public places and so on. Ratnapark is on open stage for political programmes. Rallies, campaign and movement starts from there. There is always the rush of people from morning 5 am to 8 pm. People of different status are found rushing moving here. Therefore more newspapers vendors are found in this area. Because of huge rush more newspaper is sold.

### **4.3 Kalanki Area**

Kalanki lies to the west of Kathmandu valley. It is the western gateway of KMC. It is the important corner of KMC. It is gateway through which most of the vehicles depart for their destination to the east and west of Nepal. It is not only the gateway to different parts of Nepal but also to India by road transport service. It is one of the busiest point of KMC. There are bus stations, business complexes, petrol pumps, school, colleges and footpath markets. Though it is not systematic and market place, it is being improved a lot in the last 10 years time. The research area Kalanki refers not only to a point but also to its surrounding vis.a-vis Naikap, Sitapaila, Rabibhawan. Thousands of buses and vehicles depart from this place. The newspaper vendors get on to the buses and sell papers to the passengers aboard. It is a kind of risky selling for them because they have to get on and get off the vehicle while it is moving.

### **4.4 Gangabu Area**

Gangabu lies in the north western part of KMC. It is on Ringroad. It is also an important corner of the city with big business dealing. It is newly established business point of the city after the construction of new Buspark Bus terminal point. Many buses enter and exit from this point. It links Nepal with both India and China.

### **4.5 Chabhil**

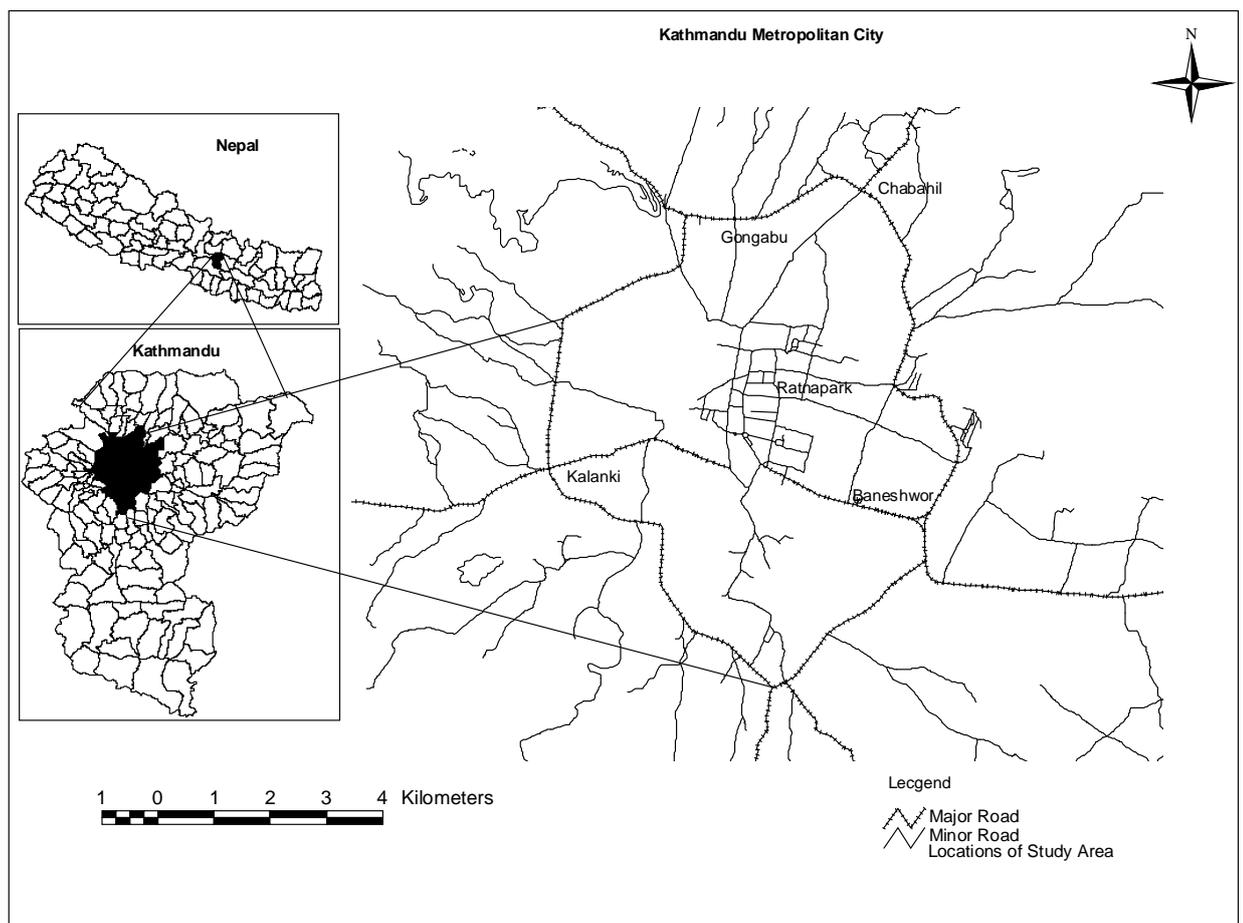
Chabhil is located in the north-east of KMC. It is the gateway to eastern districts like SindhupalChowk Dolakha etc. It is also the gateway to Jorpati, Gokarna and Sundarijal. In this research Chabhil includes Gausalaand and Mitrapark. As Pashupati a famous religious place also lies very near to Chabhil it is influenced by religious sentiment. It is an important residential place. There are big hospitals, hotels, school, colleges, cinema hall and temples. People here are aware and read newspapers. There

are newspaper stalls in footpath. Likewise, many mobile newspaper vendors move around Chabhil in the morning and evening.

#### 4.6 Baneshwor

Baneshwor lies to the eastern part of KMC. It is encircled by Bagmati river in the east and south. It is the centre of political discourse. There is International Conference Hall which has been used as government hall for Constituent Assembly. The hall is also used for international convention. Likewise, there are famous colleges, hospitals, government offices, hotels business complex and so on. It is one of the busiest part of KMC. Therefore, many mobile newspaper vendors and fixed location Newspaper vendors are found there. Mobile newsvendors are found in the morning and evening but fixed newspaper vendors are found morning to the evening in this area.

**Map 1. Location Map of Study Area**



The map depicts the Kathmandu valley with its roadway network. The study area of the research has been indicated with encircled place names. These are the important places and junctions of roadways like Ratnapark, Kalanki, Nayabaneshwor, Gongabu and Chabhil. These places of Kathmandu Metropolitan deserve socio-economic, historical, regional and political significance for they deal with large scale business, out numbering population, administration, political function and so on. They are major terminal points of transport system in Nepal. Number of newspaper vendor is comparatively more there. Likewise, news print houses are also in the closer distance to these places.

## CHAPTER - V

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF NEWSPAPER VENDORS

Socio-economic condition refers to how people are living and adopted in a particular society following their tradition, culture, religion, family background and so on. Likewise, economic condition refers to the state of livelihood strategy income, expenditure and saving. In this study socio-economic condition includes age, sex, ethnicity, marital status, education, per capita, family income, marginality family structure mobility and ownership.

#### 5.1 Age composition

Age composition means the composition of people of different age. It is one of the important characteristics of population studies. Human interest, rights, duties, socio-economic activities, political propensities and attitudes are affected by their age. Need, attitudes and behaviour differ from one age to another. So it is important to study about age composition of people. The age structure influences socio-economic life of community (Ghosh, 1985). The age factor helps to make economically dependent and independent people. It shows dependency ratio too. Following age group of Newspaper vendors have been interviewed in this research.

**Table 5. 1: Age Composition of Newspaper Vendors**

Age in Years	No. of Vendors		Total
	Fixed	Mobile	
Below 10	2	2	4
10-20	2	4	6
20-30	3	5	8
30-40	7	4	11
40-50	4	4	8
50-60	1	1	2
60+	1	0	1
Total	20	20	40
Average years	34.7	29	31.9

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The researcher has collected information of forty newspaper vendors of Kathmandu metropolitan city. According to the above table, age composition of the newspaper vendor of fixed and mobile categories have been made. They are made at the interval of ten years. The researcher has collected data of 20 fixed and 20 mobile vendors. The table shows that below the age of 10 there are two fixed and 2 mobile vendors. Likewise, the no of vendor above the age of 60 is only one. The largest no. of vendors fall between the age 30-40. That means 11 out of forty falls in this category. Table also represents the no. of female of different age category. The children can easily do this job with in a low investment. Average age of the fixed newspaper vendors is 34.7 while the average age of mobile vendor is 29.

## 5.2 Sex Composition

Sex refers to the natural physical difference of human being. There are male, female and neuter sex. Sex is important factor of social life. It influences our socio-economic activities. Therefore it is the matter of great interest for population geographer. The following table indicates the sex composition of fixed and mobile Newspaper vendors.

**Table 5.2 : Sex Composition of Newspapers Vendors**

Sex	No. of Newspaper Vendors			
	Fixed	Percentage	Mobile	Percentage
Male	14	70	15	75
Female	6	30	5	25
Total	20	100	20	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table represents the sex composition of the newspaper vendors. By sex composition, number of male vendors is 29 and female vendor is 11. No. of women vendors is nearly one third of the male. It is because the job of vending newspaper is difficult and if far less fit to the women than men. Likewise no. of female vendors is slightly high in fixed location category and vice versa.

### 5.3 Composition of Newspaper Vendors by Place of Their Work

Place refers to the space of the land where the newspaper vendors sell their paper. Though it is a geographical phenomenon it influences socio-economic condition of the vendors. In some places there is good selling of newspaper and in the others selling may not be as much good as others. Place also helps in security and comfortable dealing. The following table shows the distribution of newspaper vendors by place of their work.

**Table 5.3 : Distribution of Newspaper Vendors by Place of Their Work**

Place	No. of Newspaper Vendors			
	Fixed		Mobile	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Kalanki Area	2	2	2	1
Ratnapark Area	4	2	9	2
Gangabu New Baspark Area	1	1	1	1
Chabhil Area	3	1	2	0
Baneshwor Area	2	0	1	1
Total	14	6	15	5

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table represents the distribution of newspaper vendors by place of their work. Out of 20 vendors of fixed location 6 vendors are found in Ratnapark area while the women's number is 2. Likewise, out of 20 vendors 5 vendors are women in mobile category. Similarly, greater number of mobile vendors out of 20 has been taken from Ratnapark, Newroad and Putalisadak area. But only 2 are female vendors out of 9 is from Ratnapark area. Both mobile and fixed location vendors are found in greater numbers in Ratnapark area it is because it is more busier area, important trade centre, important education area and political platform for people. Therefore, more newspaper vendors are found there.

#### 5.4 Literacy and Educational Composition

Human life is made qualified, skilled, wise and efficient with educational qualifications. Education is the most important social aspect of life. It makes us easy to earn and live a better life. It qualifies us and develop power of right judgment to evaluate events and things. Education forms a great potentiality, sharpens our inherent talent and helps to lead a civilized life in society. It has been a far most indicator of socio-economic development of family, community and nation. It is an important determinant of HDI and GDI. Studying the educational status of the newspaper vendors of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, the researcher has found the following facts as given in the table.

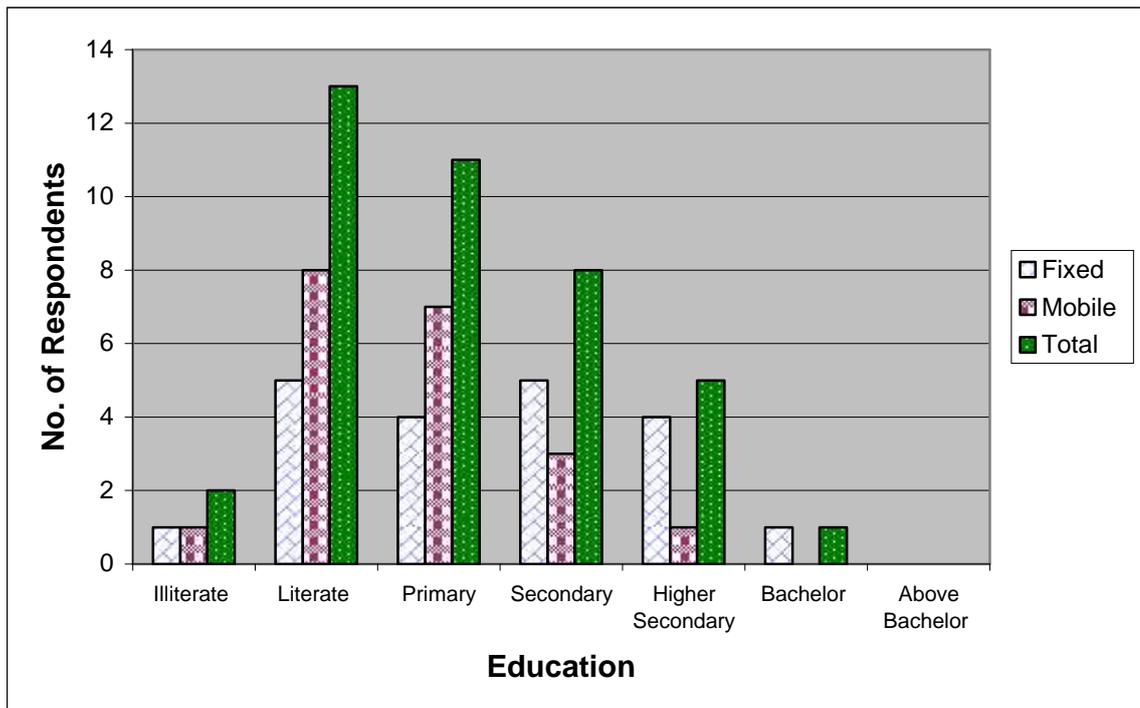
**Table 5.4: Literacy and Educational Composition**

Level of Education	No. of Vendors		Total
	Fixed	Mobile	
Illiterate	1	1	2
Literate	5	8	13
Primary	4	7	11
Secondary	5	3	8
Higher Secondary	4	1	5
Bachelor	1	0	1
Total	20	20	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table 5.5 shows that most of the Newspaper vendors are literate and have completed primary and secondary level education. Out of 40 respondents only two are illiterate. Thirteen out of 40 are literate. It is highest record among different categories. Out of forty only 5 have completed higher secondary level and only 1 vendor has completed Bachelor level respectively. None of the vendors has studied above bachelor level. Most of the respondents can read and write. It is because the newspaper vending business needs this competence in order to read and pronounce the title of newspapers to their customers. It is difficult for the illiterate vendors to have large selling. The following bar graph clarifies the aspect about education composition.

**Figure 5.1: Literacy and Educational Composition**



### 5.5 Marital Status

Marital status is the important component of social life. It is one of the very crucial fact of population census. It refers to the number of population that consists of single, married, windowed and divorced people. People are generally unmarried in their early age and become married in the adulthood. Marriage is the legal union of persons especially of two opposite sex. Supreme court of Nepal defines Marriage as a sacred

knot (band) of hearty union, a social, spiritual and legal act between two adult of opposite sex after the age of 20 except the case of lesbian and gay (The Kantipur, 2010). The legality of the union may be established by civil, religious, legal and love recognized by laws of a particular country. The well-being of a society is conditioned by the proportions of its people, under different marital categories. It is important to study and analyze the marital status so that their social status is clear. Generally, widows and divorced women are considered as marginalized people. The following table shows the marital status of newspaper vendors in Kathmandu metropolitan city.

**Table 5.5 : Classification of Newspaper Vendors by Marital Status**

Marital Status	No. of vendors		Total
	Fixed	Mobile	
Unmarried (Never Married)	8	9	17
Married	9	11	20
Divorced	1	0	1
Widowed	2	0	2
Total	20	20	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 5.6 shows the marital status of the newspaper vendors. Number of married vendors is slightly more than others' especially unmarried. Out of 40, 17 are unmarried, 20 are married and 2 are widowed . Divorced and widowed belong to fixed newspaper vendors it is because they are generally ageing people and they can't sell the papers moving and shouting.

## 5.6 Ethnic Composition

Nepal is known for its diverse ethnic groups of people in the world. It has got many ethnic groups of people to form whole population. Culture and ethnicity make Nepal unique and outstanding in its identity. It reflects socio-cultural characteristics of population. According to central Bureau of statistics there are 101 ethnic group of people found in Nepal. They live in different part of the country and practise different types of occupation, culture and religion. But in Newspaper vending business there are mainly Bhrahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Tamang, Bhagat and others. As newspaper vending job is new and is the job of urban area, it is not restricted to be cultural occupation. The following table shows the ethnic composition of newspaper vendors.

**Table 5.6 : Ethnic Composition of Newspaper Vendors**

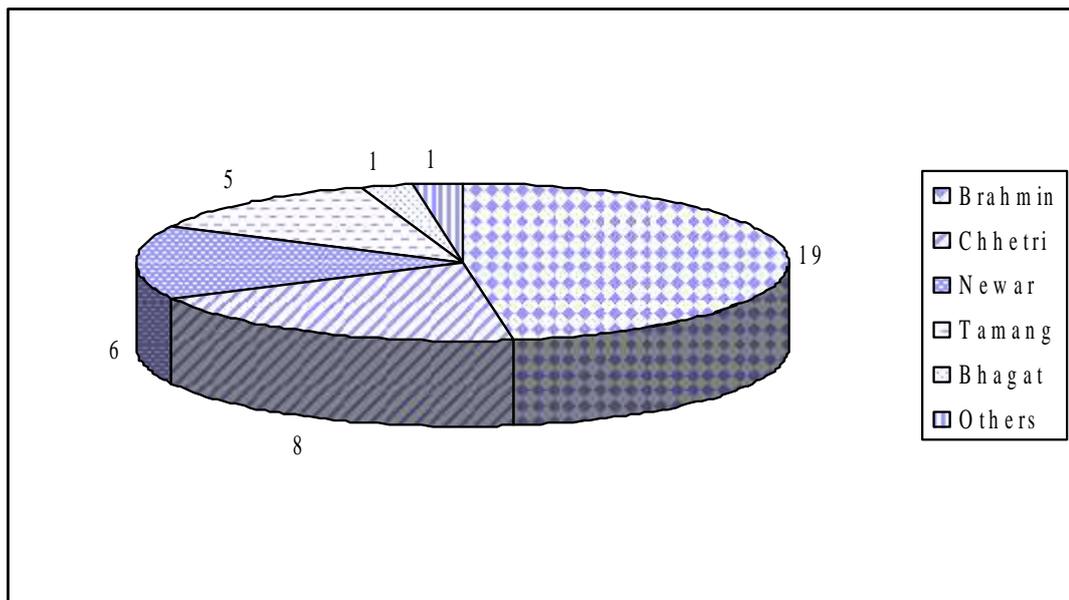
Ethnic/Caste Group	No. of Vendors		Total
	Fixed	Mobile	
Brahmin	9	10	19
Chhetri	4	4	8
Newar	3	3	6
Tamang	2	3	5
Bhagat	1	0	1
Others	1	0	1
Total	20	20	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

As given in the above table the number of Brahmin is dominant even in newspaper vending. Out of 40 vendors, 19 are Brahmin. Likewise, Chhetri is in the second

position. Out of 40, Newar and Tamang people's number is 6 and 5 respectively. Whereas Bhagat a terai community resident is also vending newspaper. 1 unidentified ethnic candidate is there in this vending job. This state of ethnic composition is found because Kathmandu Metropolitan City is surrounded by the hilly districts like Kavreplanchowk, Sindhupalchwok, Dhading, Gorkha, Nuwkot, Makawanpur where Brahmin, Chhetri, Newars and Tamang are the dominant ethnic community. Though Newar people are in majority in Kathmandu they are not dominant in newspaper vending. May be, it is so because the most of the Newars here have good economic status or Newars are unaware to this new occupation. Furthermore, the Brahmin people are literate by their priestly tradition due to this their involvement is more dominant. It has been represented by the following pie-chart.

**Figure 5. 2: Ethnic Composition**



### 5.7 Family Structure

Family is a group of persons living unitedly by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption, constituting a single household interacting and intercommunicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister creating a common culture. Generally family structure is divided into nuclear and joint types. Family structure of newspaper vending has been presented in the given table.

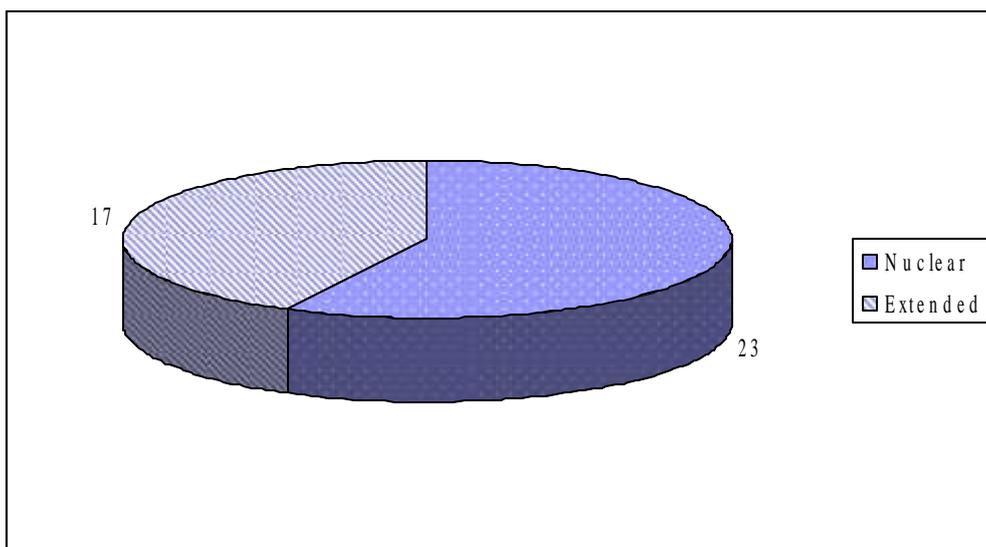
**Table 5.7: Family Structure**

Family Structure	No. News papers o of vendors		Total
	Fixed	Mobile	
Nuclear	11	12	23
Extended	9	8	17
Total	20	20	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table shows that the number of nuclear family is greater than that of the extended family. 23 out of 40 have nuclear while 17 have extended family. Likewise, extended family number is smaller in both fixed and mobile vender group. It is so because effect of development. Furthermore, it is difficult for the extended family to be sustained in city. Comparison between fixed and mobile vendor is shown in the given Pie-chart.

**Figure 5.3: Family Structure**



## 5.8 Migration Status

People don't follow their traditional occupation strictly. People in ancient age and medieval age generally followed their parental occupation but these days as the modern opportunities are created, people are adopting new occupation. For this they leave their home for the place of new opportunities. They frequently visit their original home. In the study of newspaper vendors the vendors from Kathmandu district have been categorized as local and from the other districts, have been categorized as migrants. The following table shows the migration status of Newspaper Vendors.

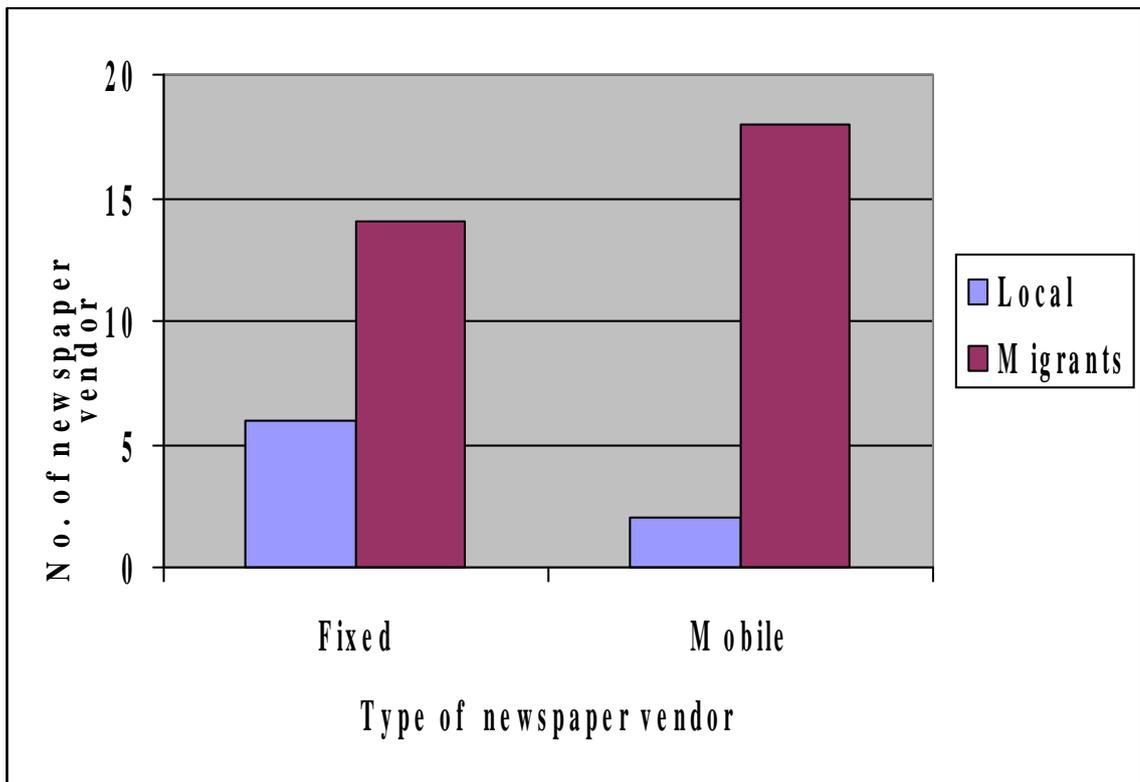
**Table 5. 8: Migration Status**

Type of Newspaper Vendors	No. Newspaper of Vendors		Total
	Fixed	Mobile	
Local	6	2	8
Migrants	14	18	32
Total	20	20	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table 5.9 shows that the population of migrant vendors is 4/5 while the local vendors' is 1/5. Local and migrants vendors number is represented as 8 and 32 respectively. Likewise, the number of mobile migrant vendor is more than the fixed migrant. It is because the job of mobile vendor is more difficult than that of the fixed location vendors. Similarly, out of 8 local vendors only 2 are mobile but 6 are fixed location vendors The following figure shows the migration status of both fixed and mobile newspapers vendors:

**Figure 5.4: Migration Status**



### 5.9 Land Holding Pattern

Nepal is an agricultural country. More than 70% of Nepal's population is farmer. Farming is primary occupation of Nepalese people. The people who don't own land are supposed to be poor and are known as squatter (*Sukumbasi*). "Traditionally land is the principle source for economic and political power. Ownership of land means control over a vital factor of production and therefore a position of prestige, affluence and power" Regmi, quoted in Sapkota, 2003). People having no land is considered as

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Note: Sukumbasi is a person who does not have his or her own land  
*Jamindar: Jamindar is a landlord*

economically weak and powerless. The *Jamindar* who holds a large area of land is considered as prestigious and powerful person. With the rise of urban based tertiary activities like service and business the people are turning away from the agricultural (land based) activities.

**Table 5. 9 : Land Holding of Newspapers Vendors**

Land (in <i>Ropanis</i> )	No. of Vendors		Total
	Fixed	Mobile	
Landless	4	3	7
Less than 1 <i>Ropani</i>	3	1	4
2-5	6	5	11
6-9	3	4	7
10-13	2	2	4
14-16	2	2	4
17-20	0	1	1
21 above	0	2	2
Total	20	20	40

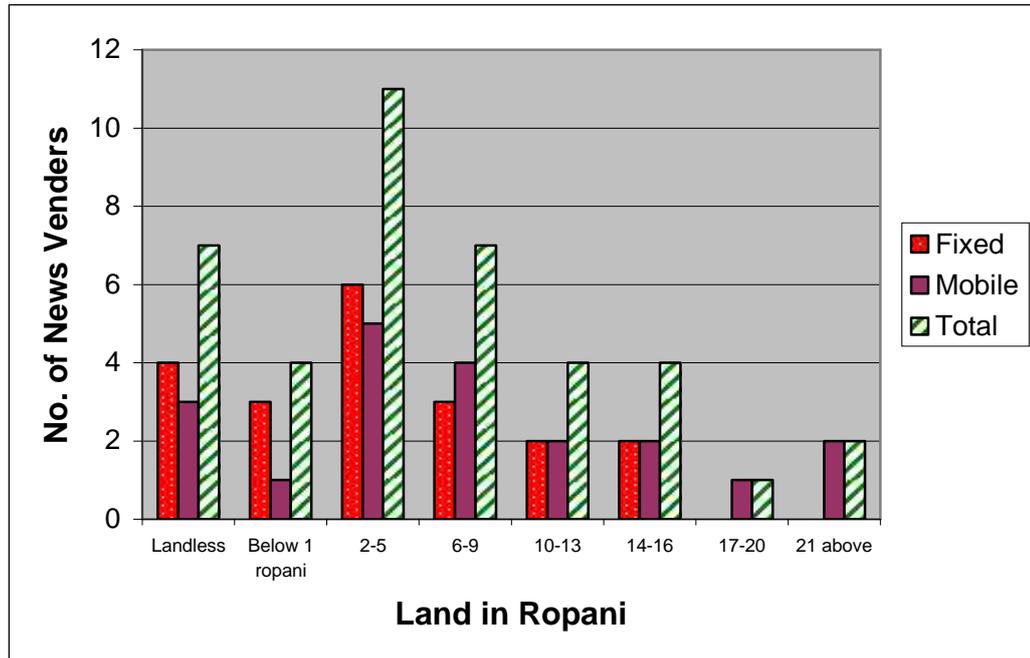
Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table shows that 7 households out of forty newspaper vendors are landless. Out of 40 vendors, 4 households own less than 1 *Ropani* or the land only for making house. Similarly, only 3 vendors own above 17 ropani land. There is similar trend of landholding between fixed and mobile vendors. Among different categories 11 households own 2-5 ropanis of land. 22 households out of 40 own less than 9 ropanis land. It is difficult to solve the problem of hand to mouth with the land less than 9 *Ropanis* in hilly region of Nepal. So they have to engage in some other activities for their livelihoods. The following bar graph shows the land holding pattern of newspaper vendors.

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Note: *Ropani* :Unit of land area equivalent to 74x74 Sq. feet or 5476 Sq. ft.

**Figure 5.5: Land Holding Pattern**



### 5.10 Annual Income from Newspaper Vending

Annual income is the indicator of one's economic status. It is found by dividing the total income of a family with its number. World Bank Report States that the people struggling with the annual income of less than 365 US Dollar are considered poor. In average exchange rate of Nepal Rastra Bank (The Central Bank of Nepal) 365 USD, means NRs. 25000 in Nepal. Though individual vendor's income is about NRs.59000 a year. Their family individual income is less than 25000 NRs. But the problem is that the newsvendors income means their family income. That is there are more than two dependent members in the earning of a vendor. Though majority of newspaper vendors are depended only on news vending occupation some of them also have alternative occupation like working in some company as a security guard, working as a helper in hospital or adopting other occupation in rainy season. So, it can be stated that the individual PCI of the newsvendors family is far less than of the Rs. 25000. The following table shows that annual income of each household.

**Table 5.10: Annual Income**

Income (In NRs. 000)	No. of Vendors		Total
	Fixed	Mobile	
1-10	0	0	0
10-20	0	1	1
20-30	0	1	1
30-40	4	6	10
40-50	1	2	3
50-60	5	2	7
60-70	2	2	4
70-80	3	3	6
80-90	2	0	2
90-100	0	1	1
above 100	3	2	3
Total	20	20	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table shows the per capita income of the newspaper vendors household. Out of 40 householders 5 householders earn more than NRs. 100000 that is about 1,318 USD. 25% of the total household that is 10 out of 40 households earn 30-40 thousand rupees a years. Average households earn more than NRs. 30,000 a year. Out of 40 only 1 household earns 90-100. Fixed vendors earning is better than of the mobile vendors. It is because the fixed vendors' income is more regular and have fixed customers. Likewise, they also sell books and magazines.

Socio-economic characteristics of newspapers vendors deal with different socio-economic parameters like age composition, literacy, marital status, ethnicity, ethnicity, family structure, land holding pattern and so on .Comparing between the fixed and mobile vendors, mobile vendors look younger. Similarly, number of female is more with fixed vendors than mobile. Study shows that the number of married, literate, Brahmin is more in both categories. Likewise, mobile vendor's landholding pattern is better. But annual income is more with fixed location vendors. Average income of the newspaper vendor is NRs 30,000 that is slightly better than the national average PCI. Socio-economic variables cause difference in livelihood structure.

## CHAPTER - VI

### THE LIVELIHOOD CONDITION

#### 6.1 The Livelihood Assets

The elements which are essential for adopting the different occupation for surviving are the livelihood assets. These assets comprise of different socio-economic, tangible and intangible factors like property, social system, roads, communication land, house, family strength, natural resources, finance etc. These factors help the people (occupation holders) to be adjusted in their livelihood activities and pave the way for surviving.

UNDP's Human Development Report (1997), states that people's assets reduce vulnerability and build resilience against poverty according to (UNDP's Report) the term assets does not only refer to economic resources. Instead, it is taken to mean broader range of tangible and non tangible resources like economy, social, environmental and personal. Economic assets include land, livestock, housing, labor and financial capital, which provides a basis for generating income and production. Except for labor, these assets are often absent or scarcely available to poor people. Social and political assets mean peoples ability to draw on relationship with other people (family, kinship and community help, group formation for collective power, democratic governance). Environmental assets include both natural resources physical and social infrastructure (like roads transport, health, information and educational facilities) are important to secure livelihood. Personal assets include physical and social well-being such as good health, toughness, skills, talents and education. This broad definition of assets, and the improvement of these assets of poor household certainly aims at releasing some of these forces or pressures which cause vulnerability.

The researcher in this research has studied the assets of newspaper vendors in Kathmandu. The newspaper vendors use their physical strength, space of the city, *Chowks*, footpath etc. political environment, security, peoples movement, transportation etc which affect the business of newspaper vendors. Vendors personal quality like physical strength, education, ethnicity, finances socio-economic characteristics have important role in making assets for this job.

### **6.1.1 Poverty and Marginality**

People who earn insufficient to survive are poor. Those people who have low income, insecure life, less facilities and are suffering from daily basic needs like food, shelter, clothing, health and education are considered to be under poverty line. Newspaper vendors of Kathmandu are economically backward and have low standard of economic life. Even a little amount of investment can be sufficient for Newspaper vending business. So they are involved in this job. Though newspaper vending business needs physically strong and active manpower many vendors of this job are marginalized by age, sex and economic condition. Some are children and some are above 65 years of age. This job can be conducted with low investment. It does not need high qualification and skill. Therefore, the people involved in this occupation are poor and even marginalized.

### **6.1.2 Unemployment**

Unemployment is the condition of those active population who have no any job. The condition of joblessness is the state of vulnerability. Due to which one gets mental and physical tension. Due to poor economy, dissatisfaction in previous occupation, civil war (Maoist insurgency from 1992-2006) many people became unemployed. Since this occupation can be started with low investment many newspaper vendors came to Kathmandu and started this occupation. To reduce this state of vulnerability, people are found engaged in newspaper vending job. It is also similar with a financial or economic capital of DFID's of Sustainable Livelihood Framework.

### **6.1.3 Modern Occupation**

Modern development of this era has attracted many people to adopt new job. They are attracted to the city life full of various modern facilities. They are frustrated and dissatisfied with their traditional occupation. Therefore, these people who are exhausted with agriculture came to Kathmandu and got hold of this occupation. Nepal has made more development in the communication sector in the last 25 years of time. And the newspaper selling job has been an essential activity in the city. Therefore, these people have adopted this occupation as a new and independent job. There are

some landless people who are seeking alternative sector of job. This is a kind of job fit for them.

#### **6.1.4 Ethnicity and Mobility Awareness**

Mobility refers to the movement of people from one place to another, i.e. from village to city, city to more developed capital city, rural areas to the urban areas and so on. "Mobility is a common feature in the human history. Technological breakthrough and industrialization in Europe and opening of vast land in new continent led to the mass migration, both long term and short term, of what is generally called as guest workers" (Adhikari, 2008). There are more than 100 ethnic group of people. In Nepal all of these groups are not equally aware about modern development and change in their livelihood strategy. At the present context of newspaper vendors Brahmins, Chhetris and Newars seem to be more conscious about change in their occupation. They represent 47.5%, 20% and 15% respectively in their involvement into this business of newspaper vending. It is because Brahmin, Chhetri people are more literate and aware about adopting modern livelihood strategy.

As mentioned above the most of the newspaper vendors are migrants. They have come from different districts away from Kathmandu valley. While studying the livelihood strategy of the newspaper vendors the researcher finds the following data on district wise origin of vendors as in the table.

**Table 6.1: District wise Origin of Vendor**

Districts	No. of Vendors		Total
	Fixed	Mobile	
Kathmandu	6	2	8
Kabhre	3	5	8
Nuwakot	2	3	5
Ramechhap	2	2	4
Sindhupalchwok	1	2	3
Gorkha	1	2	3
Dhading	1	2	3
Chitwan	0	1	1
Saptari	1	0	1
Udayapur	1	0	1
Khotang	1	0	1
Palpa	0	1	1
Kaski	1	0	1
Total	20	20	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table shows that the number of local newspaper vendors of Kathmandu is 8. Other 32 vendors are from different 12 districts. Likewise, the vendors from KavrepalanChowk is largest with 8. Similarly, from Nuwakot and Ramechhap there are 5 and 4 vendors respectively. There are 3 vendors from each of Sindhupalchowk, Dhading and Gorkha. There are no newspaper vendors from Mid-Western and Far-Western Development Regions of Nepal. It can be concluded that the news vendors are not from distant district of Kathmandu. The following map shows the flow of Newspaper vendors to Kathmandu Metropolitan City from different districts.



## 6.2 Family Background and Family Size

Family is group of members living together bonded by blood and marital relation in which the members share the same kitchen and shelter. Everybody is born and grown up in a family. Family environment guides him or her and influences him/her to adopt a kind of livelihood strategy. At this present context of newspaper vendors research, family background deals with family size, sex ratio, dependency ratio, education and occupation.

Family size refers to the number of members in a family. Family size influences the socio-economic life of an individual. It indicates tradition and quality of life.

**Table 6.2: Family Size**

Size of the Family	Fixed Newspaper Vendors		Mobile Newspaper Vendors		Total Newspaper Vendors
	No. of Vendors	Family Population	No. of Vendors	Family Population	
2 persons	2	4	2	4	4
3 persons	3	9	3	9	6
4 persons	4	16	3	12	7
5 persons	3	15	4	20	7
6 persons	2	12	3	18	5
7 persons	-	-	2	14	2
8 persons	1	8	2	16	3
9 persons	1	9	1	9	2
10 persons	2	20	-	-	2
11 persons	-	-	-	-	-
12 persons	1	12	-	-	1
13 persons	-	-	-	-	-
14 persons	1	14	-	-	1
Total	20	119	20	102	40
Average		6.0		5.1	5.5

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table shows that the size of newspaper vendors' family varies from 2 to 14. The total average family size of the newspaper vendors' is 5.5. Similarly the fixed newspaper vendors average family size is 6, while the mobile vendors family size is 5.2 only. It refers to the fact that the mobile vendor's family size is smaller than that of the fixed vendors. The family having 4 and 5 members' number is 7 each. The family of fixed vendor with 4 members is 4 while the family number of mobile newspaper vendor with 4 members is 3. But with the 5 members is just reverse. Likewise, the fixed newspaper vendors have family members with 12 and 14. But the mobile newspaper vendors don't have the family number more than 10. Two family in fixed newspaper vendors have large size i.e. 12, 14. Therefore the average family size in the fixed newspaper vendor category is also larger that is 6. Because of larger family size in fixed category, the quality of life is for them is poor. Therefore, they need to work hard for better life.

### 6.2.1 Dependency Ratio

Dependency ratio refers to the number of consumers and income generator in a family. It is calculated as the number of dependents per 100 population. Economically passive or unproductive population represents both young dependents (less than 15 years of age). While the people of age group between 15-59 is economically active and productive. Independent people have to support the dependent people of the family. The following table shows the dependency ratio of newspaper vendors in Kathmandu.

**Table 6.3: Dependency Ratio**

Types	Dependent Pop <sup>n</sup> .	Total Pop <sup>n</sup> .	Dependency ratio
Fixed	60	119	50.4
Mobile	45	102	44.1
Total	105	221	47.3

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table shows the dependency ratio of newspaper vendors in Kathmandu. Average dependency ratio is 47.3 out of 100 population. It is lower than the national average 84.9 of national senses (2058 Census). Comparing the fixed and mobile vendors, fixed vendors dependency ratio is more than that of the mobile newspaper vendors. Fixed newspapers vendors dependency ratio is 50.4. While mobile vendors dependency ratio is 44.1. It is because fixed newspaper vendors have more certain occupation, so that their whole family members are with them. But mobile vendor have less certain job and therefore they have less members in family in villages. This situation causes variation in dependency ratio.

### 6.2.2 Sex Ratio

Sex ratio refers to the number of males per 100 women. When sex ratio is more than 100 there is possibility of better and balance in population growth. While the less sex ratio indicates more population growth rate. High sex ratio is better than low sex ratio in the context of Nepal. But, too high ratio refers to the negative impact as well as.

**Table 6.4: Sex Ratio**

Types	No. of Family Population	Male	Female	Sex ratio
Fixed	119	58	61	95.1
Mobile	102	50	52	96.2
Total	221	108	113	96.6

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The average sex ratio among the newspaper vendors is 95.6. While the national average is 99.84. Sex ratio of Newspaper vendors seems to be lower than the national average. It is because the newspaper vendors belongs to economically under privileged and less educated. While comparing between fixed and mobile Newspaper vendors, fixed Newspaper vendors have lower sex ratio i.e. 95.1. While the mobile

vendors sex ratio is 96.2. It is because mobile newspaper vendors have slightly less dependency ratio being more aware than the fixed Newspaper vendors.

### 6.2.3 Family Education

Education helps us to earn our livelihood. It makes us wise, aware and independent. One who has better education lives standard life. Family education plays an important role in individual life. Better education helps in utilization of resources.

**Table 6.5: Family Education**

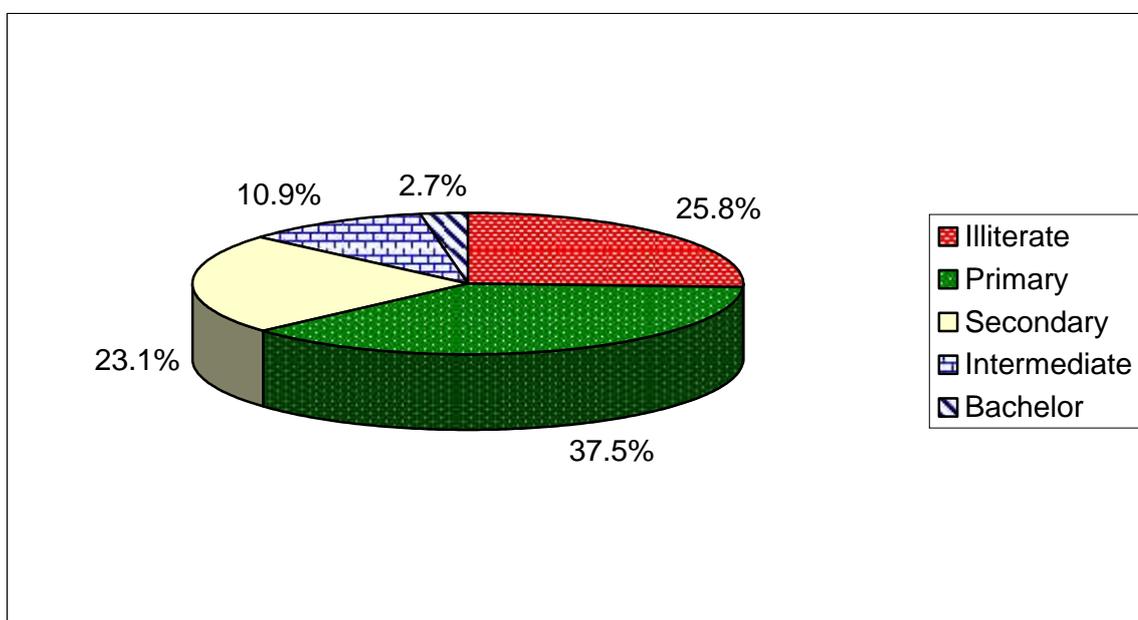
Level of Education	Fixed category	Percentage	Mobile category	Percentage	Total	
					Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	32	26.9	25	24.5	57	25.8
Primary	43	36.1	40	39.2	83	37.5
Secondary	27	22.7	24	23.5	51	23.1
Intermediate	13	10.9	11	10.8	24	10.9
Bachelor	4	3.4	2	2	6	2.7
Masters	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	119	100.00	102	100.00	221	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table shows that the total number of the newspaper vendors family is 221. Out of 221 family vendors, 57 members are illiterate. There are 83 members who have got primary education. But the number of SLC graduate and above decreases in pyramid structure. The members who have got bachelor level education is 6 only. And there is no any member with post graduate degree. A large number of people are uneducated. It shows their socio-economic status.

The table shows that the number of illiterate is more in fixed vendors group than mobile vendors. By percentage 26.9% of the fixed vendors is illiterate while only 24.5% percentage is in mobile vendors family. But primary and secondary level education holder is more in mobile vendors family than in the fixed vendors family. Where as percentage of the intermediate and bachelor level education holder is slightly more in fixed vendors group. It is because the fixed vendors family have been better settled in Kathmandu. So that they got better facilities of education in Kathmandu.

**Figure No. 6.1: Family Education**



### 6.3 Livelihood Strategy

Natural environment socio-economic and political assets influence people to take up a livelihood strategy. Due to various influencing factors like poor economy, unemployment, lack of facility, dissatisfaction of their previous occupation have forced the people to become newspaper vendors. Low investment, easy occupation, freedom in work, low risk, opportunity to modern facilities in the city have encouraged people to be newspaper vendors. Since the business of newspaper vending helps in creating public awareness they are given more privileges by Kathmandu Metropolitan city. Spaces have been managed for fixed newspaper vendors in Newroad, Ratnapark, Balaju, Baneshwor. They are charged with no tax or less tax.

Therefore, people are attracted to this business. Though the municipality is more strict to the other item vendors, they are encouraging Newspaper vendors. Newspaper vendors had opened an association for their welfare in the past. But now it is not in existence.

### 6.3.1 Family Occupation Structure

Family members adopt different occupation. Unlike in traditional family modern families are free to adopt any occupation. Family occupation structure is important socio-economic variable of population and livelihood strategy. Newspaper vendors' family members are engaged in various occupation like agriculture, business, job, studies and household work.

**Table 6.6 : Family Occupation Structure**

Sector of occupation	Fixed category	Percentage	Mobile category	Percentage	Total	
					Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	13	10.9	12	11.8	25	11.3
Business	31	26.1	25	24.5	56	25.3
Services	17	14.3	17	16.7	34	15.4
Study	30	25.2	24	23.5	54	24.4
Household work	20	16.8	15	14.7	35	15.8
Others	8	6.7	9	8.8	17	7.7
Total	119	100.00	102	100	221	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table shows that there are 221 members in 40 family of newspaper vendors. Out of 221 (11.3%) of members is engaged in agriculture. Where as 25.3% of the members is engaged in business. Family members engaged in agriculture sector is far lower than the national census. 24.4% of the members is engaged in study. There is 15.8% of member engaged in household work. Likewise, the percentage of fixed vendors family member engaged in agriculture is 10.9%. It is less than the percentage of people engaged in agriculture from mobile vendors which is 11.8%. It is because the fixed vendors' mostly live in Kathmandu where there is less land for agriculture. Furthermore, the percentage of the fixed vendors family member is more in business i.e. 26.1%, but less in mobile vendors group that is 24.5%. It is because fixed vendors are better settled in Kathmandu where there is more business opportunity. In total, larger number is engaged in business and study indicated by 25.3% and 24.4% respectively.

### **6.3.2 Taxation**

Taxation is a system of taking money for public welfare by government or public institution. The fixed newspaper vendors pay some tax to the KMC in some places like Newroad, NAC Area, Baneshwor, Ranipokhari, Balaju. But its price is not uniform and scientific whereas the mobile vendors don't pay any tax because they move from one place to another freely and don't occupy fixed space.

### **6.3.3 Interaction**

Different groups of people interact in Newspaper vending business. The vendors interact with publication, newspaper dealers, wholesalers in one hand. But in the another hand they have to interact with customers or newspaper reader while selling papers. Similarly, they have to interact with their own group of people who sell newspapers. They shout for good selling. Those who can shout more effectively with the major political or unique news heading can have better selling. Comparatively, mobile newspaper shout more loudly and effectively than fixed newspaper vendors. Fixed Newspaper vendor have more or less fixed customers while the mobile vendors customers are not certain. Intra-vendors competition with each other is more noticeable in fixed newspapers vendors, but it is less noticeable among the mobile newspaper vendors.

### 6.3.4 Sources of Various Items of Newspaper

Major sources of the newspapers are news print (Publishing). Houses like *Gorkha Patra Sansthan*, *Kantipur* publication, *Kamana Prakashan*, APCA House, *Rajdhani Publication*, *Sandhakalin* publisher private limited etc. Some vendors fetch newspapers and magazines from the publication houses directly. But majority of them fetch newspapers from the dealers which are located together in Newroad. Vendors who sell newspapers at the periphery of Ringroad, form a group and sends one of them to the dealers to bring papers for all of them. They do so turn in turn.

### 6.3.5 Starting Date of the Newspaper Vendors Business

There were only limited numbers of news paper before 1990 like *Matribhumi*, *Gorkhapatra*, *Samikshya*, *Naya Sandesh*, *Nepal Times*, *Rastra Pukar*, *Saptahik manch*, *Motherland* etc. There was a small number of newspaper vendors. So, the news vending occupation does not have long history. It can be assessed that this occupation started just after rise of democracy in 1951. But it is a fact that news paper vendors' number increased significantly after 1990's. People's Movement First. Many new newspaper and magazines came into existence like *Kantipur*, *Kathmandu Post*, *Annapurna*, *Rajdhani*, *Samarchar patra*, *Sandhyakalin* after the constitution of 1990 guaranted press freedom. Therefore, the newspaper vendors' number increased.

**Table 6.7: Starting Date of the Newspaper Vending Business**

Date	Fixed category	Mobile category	Total
Before 1985	2	2	4
1985-1990	1	1	2
1990-1995	3	2	5
1995-2000	3	4	7
2000-2005	6	5	11
2005 onwards	5	6	11
Total	20	20	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table demonstrates the fact that the present newspaper vendors' business began from only after 1951 AD. Except the trend of newspaper vending between

1985-1990, there is increasing trend. In total there were 4 vendors who started this business from 80s. in 1985-1990 their involvement has decreased significantly. It is because newspaper publication was made strict during the final years of *Panchaya.* government which was being protested by majority of people. So less publication caused less involvement of newspaper vendor. From 1990-2005 the trend is increasing from 5 to 7 to 11. In regard to comparison between fixed and mobile vendors, the increasing trend is slightly static and unnatural in fixed vendors. It is influencing but the increasing trend in mobile vendors group is natural and is increasing in arithmetic order. It is because of inversely proportional relationship between them. Similarly, in 2000 to 2005 there is maximum involvement of Newspaper Vendors. Out of 40 there are 11 vendors who have started this business. It is in increasing trend.

### 6.3.6 Ownership of House

Shelter (housing) is the primary need of every human being. Every one needs house to live in. Some people are living in their own house and some others are living in rented house. Ownership of house is an important indicator of socio-economic life. It is better to live in one's own house than in the rented house. The newspaper vendors' ownership of house is as given below.

**Table 6.8: Ownership of House**

Types of Ownership	Fixed category	Mobile category	Total
Own House	16	17	33
Rented House	4	3	7
Total	20	20	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table shows that there are 33 vendors who have their own home. But there are only 7 vendors who live in rented house. Comparatively more vendors of mobile

group own houses than fixed vendors. In regard to rented house there are fixed vendor who are living in rented house but less in mobile vendors group. But in terms of their house majority of the vendors in both groups have two storied houses with thatched roof. The majority of the vendors with rented house are landless. Therefore they have to struggle harder than those who own house. There is only slight difference between the fixed and mobile vendors in terms of ownership of house.

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### 6.3.7 Daily Working Hour

People must work for survival. They adopt different types of livelihood strategy. They spend certain hour duration in their work. ILO has fixed 8hrs. work for every paid labour (employee). But the independent business men don't have fixed duration of their work. These newspaper vendors work 9 hour 18 minute per day in average. The following table shows the same fact.

**Table 6.9: Daily Working Hour**

Working Hour	Fixed		Mobile		Total	
	No.	Hour	No.	Hour	No. of Vendors	Hour
4	2	8	4	16	6	24
6	2	12	5	30	7	42
8	-	-	4	32	4	32
10	4	40	1	10	5	50
12	9	108	5	60	14	168
14	3	42	1	14	4	56
Total	20	10.5	20	8.6	40	9:18 Average Hour

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table above table demonstrates that the newspaper vendors work 9 hour 18 minutes per day in average. There is less number of vendors i.e. 6 who work for only 4 hours a day. Similarly, the research shows that out o 40 vendors 14 vendors work for 12 hours a day. There are only 4 vendors who work for 14 hours a day. Because it is long duration of work. Observing the given data of the table, the fixed newspaper vendors work longer hour of the day than the mobile Newspaper Vendors which are 10.30 hour and 8.06 hour respectively. It is because the fixed vendors have easier business than mobile vendors have to work and run for good selling. Therefore, it is physically tiresome job. Similarly, some mobile vendors are students and other do other alternative jobs. Therefore, their engagement is less hour for news vending than in the fixed vendors.

#### **6.4 Livelihood Outcomes**

Livelihood outcomes are the result of livelihood assets and strategies. Newspaper vending business is influenced by different socio-economic and natural environmental factors. Low investment but more income and sustainability are the main livelihood outcomes of newspaper vendors. How much they earn and how much they spend determine their sustainability. They spend their income for food, shelter, clothes, education, health, transportation entertainment etc. If their income is not sufficient to meet their daily needs, they fall in debt for their livelihood assets. Therefore they have to use their saving and loan as input in their livelihood assets.

Most of the vendors are able to maintain their daily life from newspaper vending. They are able to educate their children. They are able to use mobile, TV's, bicycle for better life. Some are supporting their family in villages. They are helping to renovate their house and buy land. Likewise, some of them are depositing their saving in cooperatives and some invest in other street vending job.

##### **6.4.1 Income from Alternate Occupation**

The family income of the newspaper vendors comes from different economic sectors. They are not dependent only on newspaper vending. Out of 221 members, nearly half of the family members are engaged in non-newspaper vending business though the income is very less. Their alternative economic sectors are agriculture, service, labour and other types of business. Even some of the newspaper vendors are engaged in

other side jobs like job in hospital, job in news and book publication houses, and others. But most of the vendors are dependent in newspaper selling job. The income from other economic sector is quite nominal. Hence, their major income comes from newspaper vending. Yet their income does not support them for better and facilitated life. As a consequence, they have to take loan and should suffer from poverty.

#### 6.4.2 Family Expenditure

Family expenditure refers to the purchasing power of the family members. It is an important variable of the economic life of the people. When income is scientifically spent it provides more sustainability and reduces vulnerability. Income and expenditure should have positive correlation.

**Table 6.10: Family Expenditure**

Expenditure in NRs '000'	Mid Value (M)	Fixed Newspaper Vendor		Mobile Newspaper Vendor		Total	
		F × M		F × M		F	F × M
0-20	10	2	20	3	30	5	50
20-40	30	3	90	4	120	7	210
40-60	50	6	300	5	250	11	550
60-80	70	3	210	3	210	6	420
80-100	90	2	180	3	270	5	450
100-120	110	3	330	2	220	5	550
120 -140	130	1	130	0	0	1	130
Total						<i>f</i> X40	<i>fm</i> X2360

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table shows the structure of family expenditure in the family of newspaper vendors. Out of the 40 vendors 11 ( the highest number) of vendors belong to NRs 40-60thousand category. In comparison, more mobile, newspaper vendors spend less than NRs. 40,000 than the number of fixed vendors. Likewise, there is an inverse state about the expenditure in both vendors. This is fixed vendors expenditure is slightly increasing in the categories above NRs. 60 thousand. In regard to the expenditure of

fixed vendors their individual average yearly expenditure is NRs. 10588 (63000/5.95). While the average individual family expenditure of the mobile vendor is NRs. 10784. It exhibits that mobile vendors individual family income is better than of the fixed vendors individual family expenditure. It is because of the difference in family size. In total, average individual family expenditure is NRs. 10688. It is too lower the expenditure than the international standard of poverty line 365 US Dollar. It convinces us that the poor people are involved in newspaper vending job.

### 6.4.3 Schooling of Children in Newspaper Vendors' Family

Education is the important variable of Human Development Index. It is the basic need of every human being. The people who are illiterate can not understand the way of development in the world. Every family and individual should understand the importance of education for their children. There are three categories of schools, like government run schools, community based schools and privately run boarding schools at the present context of Nepal. Those people who are in rural area and poor educate their children in government run schools. While the economically sound people educate their children in private boarding schools. So, schooling is also an important indicator of economic life in Nepal.

**Table 6.11: Schooling of Children in Newspaper Vendors' Family**

Academic Institution	Fixed		Mobile		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Boarding school	2	10	2	10	4	10
Government school	10	50	8	40	18	45
Both	1	5	1	5	2	5
College	1	5	2	10	3	7.5
Non-schooling age	4	20	3	15	7	17.5
Family without Enrollment in schools	2	10	4	20	6	15
Total	20	100	20	100	40	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Observing the above table, there is 45% of the vendor family who send their children in government run schools. Whereas only 10% of the vendors family educate their children in boarding schools. 17.5% of the vendors family don't have children of schooling age. Likewise, 15% of the family don't have children. There are 50% of the fixed vendors who send their children to government school. While there is only 40% of the mobile vendors sending their children to government school 10% of the both type of vendors send their children in boarding schools. There is no significant difference in schooling system for both vendors.

#### 6.4.4 Facilities in the Family

Facilities are the support to comfort our life. There were very less facilities in ancient time. There are many modern facilities around us these days. Comparatively, there are more facilities in cities than in the rural area. Facilities make our life better and more sustainable. These modern facilities refer to the means of transportation, communication, kitchen devices etc.

**Table 6.12: Facilities in the Family**

Types of Facilities	Fixed		Mobile		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Radio	10	50	8	40	18	45
T.V.	14	70	10	50	24	16
Mobile	18	90	19	95	37	92.5
Bicycle	4	20	5	25	9	22.5
Motorbike	1	5	0	0	1	2.5
Landline Telephone	4	20	2	10	6	15
Gas Stove	11	55	12	60	23	57.5
Kerosene Stove	9	45	8	40	17	42.5

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table demonstrates 45% of the newspaper vendor has radio. Likewise, 92.5% of the vendors has mobile, 22.5% vendors has bicycle. 57.5% of the vendors has gas stove. Where as 42.5% of the vendors still use Kerosene stove. Comparing fixed and mobile vendors, 70% of the fixed vendors has TVs whereas only 50% of the mobile vendors has TV. But in cell-phone (mobile phone) holders, there is 90% cell phone holders in fixed vendors group whereas there is 95% of the mobile vendors has cell phone. Only 5% of the fixed vendor has motor bike but there is no one having motorbike in mobile vendors. Generally, observing fixed newspaper vendors have slightly better facilities than mobile vendors.

#### 6.4.5 Loan in the Family

Human being needs various basic needs and modern facilities. When their income is not sufficient they have to borrow money from others to meet their needs. Newspaper vendor of Kathmandu have poor economy. Their earning is not sufficient to meet their daily needs. Therefore, they have to borrow money from individual or bank. The following table shows the category of loan in their family.

**Table 6.13: Loan in the Family**

Loan Amount in NRs '000'	Fixed	Mobile	Total	Percentage
Without loan	10	11	21	52.5
Below 0-25	1	3	4	10
25-50	4	2	6	15
50-75	2	2	4	10
75-100	1	1	2	5
100-125	1	0	1	2.5
125-150	1	0	1	2.5
150 above	0	1	1	2.5
Total	20	20	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table shows more than 50% of the vendors do not have any loan. 15% of the vendors owes NRs. 25000-50000 loan. Likewise, 10% of them owes NRs. 50- 75

thousand. Similarly there is one fixed vendor each with NRS. 75-100 thousand, 100-125 thousand, and 125-150 thousand respectively. majority vendors have got the loan below NRS 75,000.

#### 6.4.6 Purpose of Loan

People take loan for different purposes. Some take loan for maintaining daily needs. Some other take loan for business purpose. Some take loan for study and others for buying or adding property and so on. The newspaper vendors of Kathmandu have taken loan for the following purposes as given.

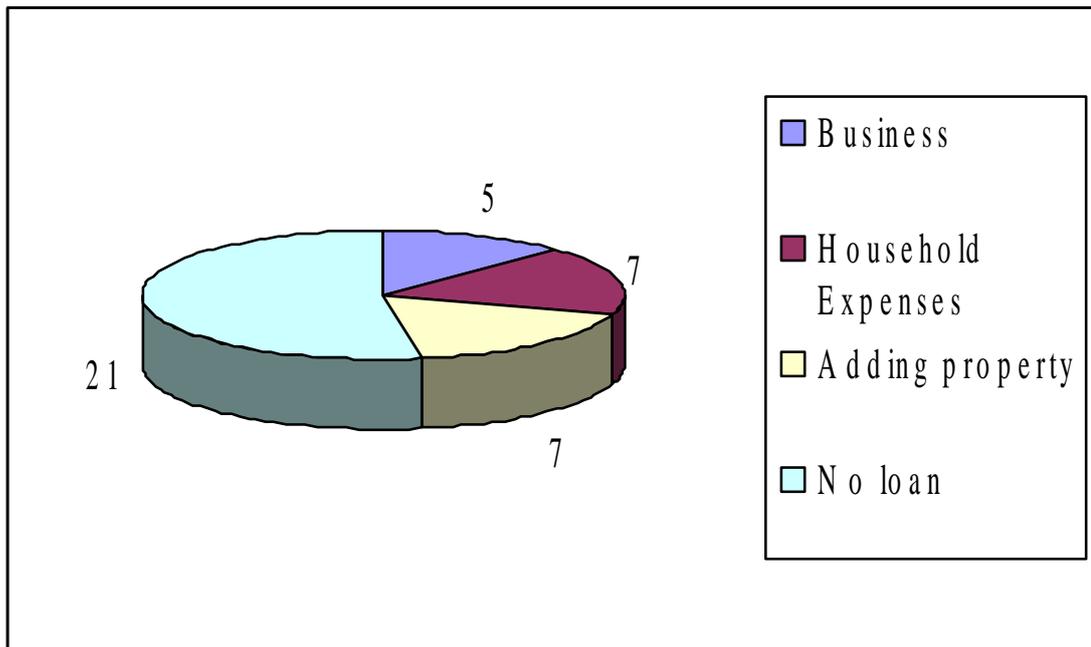
**Table 6.14: Purpose of Loan**

Purpose of loan	Fixed	Mobile	Total
Business	3	2	5
Household expenses	3	4	7
Adding property	4	3	7
Loanless	10	11	21
Total	20	20	40

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table shows that 21 vendors that is majority of them doesn't have any loan to be paid. Out of 40, vendors 5 have taken loan for business. There are more vendors from fixed group who have taken loan for business. 7 vendors each have taken loan for household expenses and property buying purpose. Comparatively more vendors from mobile category have taken loan for household expenses than the fixed vendors. Likewise, more vendors of fixed group have taken loan for buying property than the mobile vendors. Equal number of vendors have got loan to buy property and to meet the household expenses.

**Figure 6.2: Purpose of Loan**



#### 6.4.7 Annual Family Saving

Generally saving refers to the amount of money that has been protected and stored for future expenditure. One has to save money for future security. If one does not save money, then he has to suffer from hunger, poor health, and poor condition or bankruptcy after he loses job or gets misfortune. Saving is also an important variable analyzing one's life style.

**Table 6.15: Annual Family Saving**

Saving Amount in NRs '000'	No.of Fixed Vendors	No.of Mobile Vendors	Total	Percentage
Without saving	9	13	22	55
0-25	3	4	7	17.5
25-50	2	2	4	10
50-75	3	1	4	10
75-100	2	0	2	5
100 above	1	0	1	2.5
Total	20	20	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Observing the above table, we find that majority of the vendors that is 55.5% does not have any saving. Only 17.5% of the vendors saves upto NRs. 25 thousand. There is only 5% of the vendor each saving 50-100 thousand and above 100 thousand. In regard to comparison between mobile and fixed vendors 5 vendors have saving of upto NRs. 25000 from fixed vendors group. While there are only 4 mobile vendors with NRs. upto 25 thousand saving. There are 13 mobile vendors with no any saving. While there are only 9 fixed vendors with no any saving. 4 vendors from fixed group have saved above NRs. 50000. Whereas there are no any vendors who have saved more than NRs. 50thousand. In conclusion, fixed newspapers' saving condition seem much better than of the mobile vendors.

Study of the livelihood condition shows that the livelihood assets of newspaper vendor are the space of the city, *Chowks*, sound health and mind, press freedom, low investment, literacy, security and mobility awareness. Livelihood strategy comprise of different family occupation like agriculture, business, service and other alternative sectors. Their interaction with the group of the same kind and longer span of working hour enhance their income and capacity to cope up with the need . As earning is better with fixed location vendor, their expenditure is more than that of the mobile vendor. Fixed newspaper vendors' livelihood outcomes seem better, more systematic and more facilitated. But in regard to loan, mobile vendors' condition is better. It is because the fixed newspaper vendors invest more money for their business and to systemize their lives. Fixed location newspaper vendors have more saving than the mobile. Therefore, fixed vendors' livelihood outcomes look better.

## **CHAPTER - VII**

### **VULNERABILITY AND MARGINALITY OF NEWSPAPER VENDORS**

#### **7.1 Vulnerability Related To Newspaper Vendors**

Every human kind faces difficulty in his livelihood course for getting success in his occupation. It is through struggle and systematizing his work that one gets success. In this study of livelihood strategy of newspaper vendors of Kathmandu, many different problems have been explored and analyzed. Different methods and strategies have been applied for sorting out the problems of the vendors. Collecting respondents' view through questionnaire, focus group discussion, key informant interview, case study, informal interview and field observation problems have been diagnosed and brought into light. It seems that the newspaper vendors have vulnerable condition. Vulnerable means weak and easily hurt both physically and emotionally (Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary 2000 ). The newspaper vendors have many problems. Due to such problem their condition is vulnerable. The problems of fixed and mobile vendors are common in some respects but they are different in many other respects. Likewise, problems are different place-wisely too. Since they are selling newspaper in open space with crowd they are combating with numerous obstacles which cause them to be vulnerable like other urban poor.

##### **7.1.1 Vulnerability Related To Fixed Newspaper Vendors**

Fixed newspaper vendors have many common problems, but they are different in different places. Major burning problems of this type of vendors are as follows:

###### **7.1.1.1 Space Related Vulnerability**

Locational space is the basic requirement for every activity on the earth. Furthermore, for running a business, it is very essential. There is no sufficient and certain space for fixed newspaper vendors. Therefore, they are found selling news print paper on footpaths, crowded area, at the corner of a *Chowk*, sky bridge, street walls and so on. Because of lack of proper space even some of the fixed newspaper vendors have to move from one place to another sometimes. But for some fixed vendors space is

fixed in Newroad Pipalbot. Sometimes, the quarrel occurs between the vendors for space because of lack of space. Sometimes, their papers are stepped on by the passers by and become damaged.

#### **7.1.1.2 Shelter Related Vulnerability**

Shelter is a 'basic requirement' for human being. It is another essential factor for running a business like selling newspapers. In lack of shelter newspapers are damaged by rain, hot sun, dust and winds. Due to their exposure to different type of weather condition they become ill. When sudden weather change occurs, they have to manage for protection of papers quickly and at this time some papers get missing and damaged. Due to lack of shelters they have to carry their papers and other belongings from residence to the selling spots which creates physical difficulty. Therefore, selling newspapers under open sky is one of the most vulnerable job.

#### **7.1.1.3. Security Force**

Government and KMC have made the policy not to let any footpath/street setters sell their goods in footpath area. This policy has been strictly implemented in Ratnapark, Newroad area after the Maoist led government came in power in 2008. It seems that the fixed newspaper vendors are also doing their job occupying area illegally. There is '*Sana Tatha Footpath Byapari Sangh*' established for their right. But even this organization could not solve their problem. Newspaper vendor admitted that they had a separate organization known as *Patrika Tatha Prakasan Byapari Sangh*. But it is not effective now. So, their occupation is risky and vulnerable.

#### **7.1.1.4. Dishonest Behaviour of the Customers**

Pseudo-customers surround the sellers and read newspaper blocking the way for real buyers. They pick up papers, read and keep without care. So that papers become rough and get damaged. Sometimes, the passers by step on their newspapers and sometimes, newspapers get missing.

## **7.1.2 Vulnerability Related to Mobile Newspaper vendors**

To some extent the problems of mobile newspaper vendors are similar to the problems of fixed newspaper vendors. But some are quite different. The following are the problems faced by mobile newspaper vendors.

### **7.1.2.1 Physical Tiredness**

Mobile newspaper vendors have to walk a long way selling their papers. They have to run and shout for advertisement. Due to this, they get physically tired. They look lean and thin. The more they move the more they earn. The more they shout for advertisement the more they can sell. Because of continuous movement they get physical tiredness.

### **7.1.2.2 Fear of Accident**

Unlike fixed locational newspapers mobile newspaper vendors have to run from dealer to the mobile customers. They have to run and shout for more selling. Moving in rush of Kathmandu is a risky job. Sometimes, they knock and dash passers by and sometimes themselves knocked. It causes quarrel. Likewise, there is chance of accident while moving hastily. The vendors who sell papers in vehicle are misbehaved by drivers and their helpers and they are forced to get down from the vehicle in motion. This causes risk of their life.

## **7.1.3 Some Common Vulnerabilities to Both Type of Newspaper Vendors**

### **7.1.3.1 Stiff Competition of Selling**

There is competition among newspaper sellers. They shout for attracting more buyers. Those who can shout louder with charming subject matter from the newspapers can have best those who can't have less selling. Sometimes, they compete with each other for occupying space and sometimes for attracting readers unfairly. Banda and strike inter vendors' competition for mobile vendors are similar with that of the fixed newspaper vendors. Those who can move in speed and shout with appropriate accent have best selling and vice-versa. Likewise, *Bandas* and strikes have similar effect to those mobile vendors as to the fixed locational vendors.

### **7.1.3.2 *Banda* and Strikes**

Kathmandu Valley experiences frequent *Banda* and strikes organized by political parties, their sister organizations, professional organizations, and indigenous groups of people and so on. These activities of strike have both positive and negative impacts on newspaper vendors life. Due to strike and band they can not go to the dealer and publishers for buying selling items. Similarly, movement of people is less in band and selling also decreases. It causes loss. National political scenario is also an affective factor for their selling. More and frequent fluctuation, ups and downs in national politics increase the newspaper vendors selling. But political stability causes recession in their selling to some extent. Therefore, there is a question on their sustainability. More vendors entered in this job after the Maoist/people's rebel began from 1996.

### **7.1.3.3 Unpredictable Weather**

Weather is the general physical condition of atmosphere. It effects every natural and human activity. But it affects mobile newspaper vendors more than other people because they are exposed to every weather condition. Waking early at 4 am. they have to move to newspaper dealers. Then they have to move door to door and bypass to bypass carrying papers and shouting (advertising). Due to hot sun, rain, wind and frost their papers become discolored, damaged in one hand and in another hand they get poor health due to their exposure to fluctuating weather.

### **7.1.3.4 National and KMC Security Force**

As fixed newspaper vendor, mobile newspaper vendors are also troubled by National KMC police. According to the bylaws of KMC, footpath paper sellers and hawkers are driven away from downtown of KMC. In this course sometimes their papers are snatched and they are taken to traffic police office and sometimes to KMC office. They have to pay fine to get back their property. Therefore it is an important issue. However, those police men are little bit liberal to the newspaper vendors as they said.

## **7.2 Marginality and Vulnerability**

Marginality means inaccessibility to main stream of socio-economic and political status of the countrymen. It is an important social variable. Illiterate or uneducated

people, ageing, widow and divorced female are considered as marginal people. Literally, marginality refers to a group of people that is in peripheral to the structure of political power, social respect and available resources. Regarding the newspaper vendors there is significance numbers minors, women, widowed, divorced, poor and uneducated people. Their state as further weak and meek. Those people are given here in form of case study.

Regarding the Vulnerability context, newspaper vendor is one of the most vulnerable occupations of Katmandu city. Both the fixed and mobile newspaper vendors share some common vulnerability like stiff competition instable political situation, unpredictable weather under aged ageing, *Bandas* and strikes etc. But some type of vulnerabilities are particularly linked either with fixed or with mobile vendors. Space-related vulnerability, shelter-related, municipal administration and security force-related vulnerability are the major vulnerabilities of fixed newspaper vendors. Likewise, physical tiredness, city crowd, fear of accident are the major vulnerabilities of mobile newspaper vendors. Age means the time span spent by an individual between the birth and death. Human activities, psychological state, right and duties and social status vary according to age. Age wise classification of vendors is shown in socio-economic characteristics of vendors. Vulnerability differs according to the age status. Particularly, ageing people and minors are considered as depended people due to their dependency on economically active people, they are socially dominated and have nominal space and socio-political rights. Regarding the age related vulnerability of newspaper the vendors following cases can be studied.

### **7.2.1 Ageing- Newspapers vendors' Vulnerability**

There are three newspaper vendors with the age of sixty and above. They are earning their livelihood by themselves. They have been doing this business for more than 30 years. They are mostly living in a rented room. Their proportion is higher in fixed location category. They are working from early morning to the evening. They have poor hearing power and poor eye-sight. They are very little supported by their family. Therefore, dealing with some customer is difficult for them. Here is a case of Bhairab Singh.

*Case - I*

*Bhairab Shigh*

*Bhairab Singh is a fixed location newspaper vendor at Sundhara of Ratnapark. He is 75 years old. He is a widower. His home is in Pharping but he is living in Sundhara. There are 10 members in his family. He has got son, daughter in law, grand children and great grand children. He has got a thatched roof home with some land. He was a farmer. But as farming could not support his family, he gave it up and started serving a rich family. As he became old, he left it and started selling newspaper. Daily he earns NRs. 150-200. Sometimes, his daughter-in-law comes to help him in his work. He sells newspaper for more than 8 hrs. a day. He is happy for being self-dependent. He sells different type of newspaper and periodicals. He has some saving for emergency use. There is no any discrimination from the customers for being old and widowed. His daily livelihood is being maintained somehow. His complain is that sometimes, the KMC policeman take away his newspaper and he has to pay fine to get them back. He uses kerosene stove for cooking. His grand children are being enrolled in government school. His son Bhimsen Singh Tamang is a driver and supports his family. His advice to others is that one should be helpful and hardworking, then there is no trouble for survival.*



*An Interview with Bhairab Singh an ageing fixed newspaper Vendor of 75 at Sundhara.*

### **7.2.2. Minor-Newspaper Vendors' Vulnerability**

Nearly 25% of the newspaper vendors are under the age of 20. Ten percentages of the total vendor is under the age of 10. They are small children of elementary level of education. Due to their poor family background they are attracted to this job. Regarding their vulnerability, they are the most vulnerable vendors for they lack adult experience, physical strength and dealing skill. Therefore, they are easily dominated and frightened by the customer. They have to run here and there with papers. There is fear of getting accident. Sometimes, their papers are snatched by vagabonds. Generally, most of them are enrolled in school education. Therefore, they cannot sell the newspaper throughout the day and sometimes they get loss. Their income helps their parents. The following about Sarita Shrestha explores more about it.

## **Case -II**

### **Sarita Shrestha**

*Sarita Shrestha is a seven years old girl child. She lives in Ason Kathmandu with her parents and borther she is from Dhulikhel in Kabhre. She studies in Shree Kanya Ma.Vi. Naradevi. There are four members in her family. Her parents came to Kathmandu three years back. Her father used to work in construction site as a labour. But two years back he fell from the house under construction and became lame. Since then Sarita and her brother Santosh started working as newspaper vendors in Ratnapark for morning and evening. Her mother sells some electronic and cosmetic goods in the footpath of Ratnapark. As her mother says, Sarita has a keen interest in study and stands top ten in her class. But due to her family's poor economic condition she is forced to adopt the newspaper vending job with her brother she sells paper for one/the hour in the morning and two hour in the evening. She sells The Kantipr, The prabhat kalin, The Commander and Sandhya Kalin. Her 10 years old brother Santosh helps her to fetch newspaper from dealer. Daily she earns Nrs. 30-50. She is active and energetic but poorly dressed. She speaks politely and smiling with her customers who are hanging around and are sun bathing in Ratnapark. She moves here to there in a childish innocent manner. She has a thatch roofed home and three rapine of land in Dhulikhel. But they are used by her uncles. Her mother says that they had very hard life to work as a farmer so they moved to Kathmandu. Sarita is selling newspaper as her neighbor suggested to adopt this business. They have taken a room on hire for residence. Her family uses kerosene stove for cooking. Her father sometimes goes to construction site even these days. They have debt of about Nrs. 8000. Though Sarita has to face many problems as a early childhood hawker still she is happy.*

### **7.2.3. Gender –Related Vulnerability**

Gender means the sex identification of an individual. Male-female and neutral gender are the classification of human gender. Generally, male are considered socially dominant than others. Whereas female gender has been viewed as a less dominant in social status. Due o this it is difficult for woman to compete with male. It is hard for

women to move. They have duty in household work. They are dominated and harassed by the customers. Getting in and getting off the moving vehicle is very difficult for them. Waking up early in the morning and going to the newspaper dealer is both insecure and frightening. Due to their dual responsibility they cannot give enough time to the business. Here is a case.

***Case -III***

***Dambar Kumari Gautam***

*Dambar Kumari Gautam is a fixed location newspaper vendor in Balaju. She is a widow of fifty years of age. She is from Bhandara, Chitwan. She lives in Machchhapokhari Balaju and sells newspaper in footpath. She came to Kathmandu with her two daughter Pabitra and Sabita some five years ago after her husband's death. She is attracted to this occupation due to its independent nature. She sells papers from morning 6:00 to 6:00 in the evening and earns about NRs. 300 per day. She says that this amount of income is enough to support her family. Her two daughters help her in selling and buying newspaper from the dealer. They bring rice from Chitwan. She was farmer before she adopted this job. She sells different variety of newspaper magazines and short story books. She has to pay NRs. 10 each day for the shutter owner who has provided the space for vending business. Her selling is good in Chaitra, Baisakh but less good in Shravan. She is enrolling her daughter in community based 10+2 college. She has debt of about NRs. 50000. She uses gas stove to cook. She seems to be economically better than other newspaper vendors. She is also saving some money in co-operatives. She feels bad when people dominate and insults her as a footpath seller. She is happy with her occupation.*



*An Interview with a Widow, a Fixed Newspaper Vendor at Gongabu Area.*

Observing the above information newspaper vending occupation is vulnerable. The vendors are facing innumerable problems like unpredictable weather, stiff competition, strikes and *Banda*, frequent arrival and inspection of KMC security force and so on. Those vendors belong to different marginalizing characteristics like age, poverty, widowedness and so on. Among these children, ageing and women's state is more vulnerable. It is because fighting with problem is more challenging for them. As a consequence their sustainability in this job weakens. Both type of the news vendors share more or less the similar nature of challenges. However, fixed newspaper vendors' vulnerability seems better or positive.

## CHAPTER - VIII

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 8.1 Summary

Nepalese society is stratified and poverty stricken. Socio-economic, cultural, political and geographical problems are rampant. Under-used (mobilized) natural resources, fragile topographic structure, unstable and short sighted political net work have contributed to poverty, unemployment, unsystematic urbanization, migration, foreign employment and vulnerability in so called traditional occupation of people. Street vending is outcome of searching opportunities for livelihood. Street business has been a global phenomenon. People are giving up their traditional occupation and are adopting modern, cash generating livelihood strategy to support the large number of ever increasing population. They are in migrating trend to reduce vulnerability.

Street newspaper vendors are mostly such people who have given up traditional occupation. There are hundreds of newspaper vending people in KMC. It's helping people to get fresh news to all the corners of city. They set for publication or distributors early in the morning and buy newspapers like *Kantipur*, *Gorkhapatra*, *Saptahik*, *Dristi*, *Bimarsha*, *Samachar Patra*, *Janadhesh* and so on. Some sell in the fixed location and others mobile. Fixed vendors generally deal with mostly fixed customers. But mobile vendors have mobile customers. Sometimes, they get into the vehicles which set for different destinations. In general most of the vendors are migrant, adult, non-indigenous, literate, unemployed and economically under-privileged. Most of them, own land of their own in village but are staying in rented room in Kathmandu. They have given up agriculture due to its vulnerability and adopted this business. Their human assets are their physical strength, loud speech to advertise, literacy, art and ability to deal well with stakeholders. Their social assets are their relation among each others, among other stakeholders, family assistance, cultural identity and so on. Economic assets are food sufficiency, market, bicycles, land and home ownership. Assets are space of the city, weather, KMC rules, politics and so on. They are mobilizing these assets and contributing to communication and sustaining livelihood. Newspaper vending does not have long history, yet there is no authentic information about its starting date. But the number of newspaper vendors seem to increase from 1985A.D. After 2046 B.S. (1990) its number further increased

which got the culminating point in the climax of insurgency (civil war) period 1996-2006A.D. They are mainly from Kathmandu, Kavre, Nuwakot, Gorkha, Dhading.

In terms of comparison fixed newspaper vendors are more educated. More divorced and widowed vendors are there in fixed category. There are no any divorced and widowed vendors in mobile category. Number of married vendor is greater in both category. Nuclear family is more in both types. Out of 40 respondents 23 respondents have nuclear family. Similarly, out of 40 vendors 32 vendors have nuclear families. Number of migrant is more in mobile vendors group. Out of 20 Mobil newspaper 18 are migrant.

Distinction has been made in terms of economic asset like land, family support and modern gadgets. Out of 40, 7 respondents are landless. Out of 40 Mobile Newspaper Vendors only 11 Newspaper Vendors own more than 10 *Ropani* land. Average annual per capita income is NRS. 59,000 but fixed Newspaper Vendors have better PCI i.e. NRS 64,500 while the mobile nuclear vendors have only NRS 54,000. Average family size is 5.5, while the fixed newspapers vendors family size is 5.6 that is higher than average. Dependency ratio is better 50.4 in fixed newspaper vendors while it is only 44.1 in Newspaper Vendors likewise sex ratio is better in mobile Newspaper Vendor category. In terms of education of respondent family too fixed newspaper vendors seems to have better education. Larger number of fixed Newspaper Vendors family is involved in business and study which is less in regard to mobile nuclear vendors group. Increment in involvement of vendors in different period seems to be proportionately in both category. In daily working hour too, fixed newspaper vendor's average working and hour seems to be more i.e. 10.30 per day, while mobile Newspaper Vendors working hour in average is 8.36 hour per day. Family expenditure seems to be higher with fixed newspapers vendors than mobile Newspaper Vendors. Majority of both type of vendors family enroll their children in government run community school. In having accessories (moderns gadgets) too fixed vendors seem to have better status. Loan is taken by larger number of fixed Newspaper Vendors than mobile. Likewise, in terms of annual saving majority of vendors don't have saving. But fixed vendors condition seems to have better saving.

## 8.2 Conclusion

This study has explored the livelihood structure of newspaper vendors in Katmandu Metropolitan City within and around Ringroad. It examines how the migrant, literate and economically under-privileged people are adopting the newspaper vending occupation for maintaining their livelihood. It equally studies the way how the newspaper vendors are dealing with their customer with fragile and poor assets, low investment and tiresome movement. Nevertheless, they are contributing a lot for the communication and providing employment opportunity. Observing the socio-economic characteristics of the newspaper vendors, it is found that the majority of the news vendors are between the age of 20-25. Out of 40 newspaper vendors, 20% of the vendors is minors. Likewise, the proportion of migrant, nuclear family size and literate vendor is more. Number of newspaper vendors is found more in Ratnapark area than others. Only one has got university education. Number of married is larger in proportion. Likewise, greater number of news vendors is Brahmin while there is no involvement of Dalit people.

Their annual per capita income is NRS 30,000. Their dependency ratio is 47.27%. Among 40 newspaper vendors, 33 households own the house of their own but 7 live in the rented house. They work daily for 9 hours 18 minute in average. Their average individual annual expenditure in NRS 10,588. Only 10% of the vendors send their children to private school and majority of them educate their children to government run school that is less facilitated. In terms of ownership of modern gadgets and accessories, newspaper vendors' condition look better for 45% of them holds radio, 92.5% holds mobile phone and 57.5% holds bicycle and gas stove for cooking. Majority of vendors doesn't have loan. Likewise, the annual saving is very nominal or and loan is negligible. The research shows 55.5% of the vendors doesn't have any saving and only 22.5% of the vendors has annual saving up to NRS 25,000. These aspects show that their life is hard for economic sustainability.

Comparison has been drawn between fixed and mobile newspaper vendors. Study shows the number of female is greater with fixed newspaper vendor. Academic qualification is better with fixed newspaper vendor than mobile. Number of unmarried vendor is slightly more with mobile vendors. Mobile vendors have more nuclear family, while the joint family is more with fixed newspaper vendors. Fixed newspaper

vendor has dominancy of local people, while the migrants are dominant in mobile category.

Land holding pattern is better with mobile category. But the fixed newspaper vendors' earning is better than the earning of mobile news vendors. Family expenditure is more with mobile newspaper vendors. Number of fixed newspaper vendor is more for sending children to government school. Fixed newspaper vendor also has got more loan than mobile vendors. But the annual saving is slightly better with fixed newspaper vendors.

Regarding the vulnerability context, newspaper vendor is one of the most vulnerable occupations of Katmandu city. Both the fixed and mobile newspaper vendors share some common vulnerability like stiff competition instable political situation, unpredictable weather under-aged, ageing People vulnerability, *Bandas* and strikes etc. But some type of vulnerabilities are particularly linked either with fixed or with mobile vendors. Space-related vulnerability, shelter-related, municipal administration and security force-related vulnerability are the major vulnerabilities of fixed newspaper vendors. Likewise, physical tiredness, city crowd, fear of accident are the major vulnerabilities of mobile newspaper vendors. Yet they are working hard maintaining their livelihood and contributing to society.

Newspaper vendors have been facing innumerable problems as mentioned formerly. Their problems are limited not only to the space, weather, political condition but also municipal administration. They are providing easy access to communication to the people (city dwellers). Because of their service, many people are being aware and have developed reading culture which help to pass time in a better way. Furthermore, when people spend time for good cause, there will be reduction in social problems. Newspaper vending sector has provided job to hundreds of people. Therefore, it is serving for reducing unemployment. Should there be more facility and problem free

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Note: *Chowks* are the courtyard or junctions of roads

environment, it could flourish all over the country. Since newspaper vending job is a kind of independent job, it can be done in other cities and town areas too. So its prospect is good. Fixed newspaper vending job need space, easy supply of newspapers from dealers, shelter from weather hazards. If there were proper management of space and shelter in different *Chowks* or park areas provided in a cheap (affordable) fare, this job would be more sustainable. Regarding mobile newspaper vendors, if there were good supply of newspaper to them in different areas then it would be easier to them. For betterment, government, Kathmandu Metropolitan city and police department should be more liberal and serious to minimize their vulnerability. So that this occupation could become more sustainable.

### **8.3 Recommendations**

The following recommendations have been made for better and sustainable livelihood of the newspaper vendors.

- ) Kathmandu Metropolitan City administration should distribute identity card (license) to the newspaper vendors and charge nominal monthly levy on them.
- ) Government and social organizations (NGOs and INGOs) have to make a thorough examination of this occupation and help to manage this occupation properly.
- ) This is a vulnerable livelihood strategy since it involves economically backward and marginalized people like children, women, ageing and widowed people. So the concerned NGOs/INGOs have to work for reducing the risk and vulnerability of this occupation with proper plan policies and programmes.
- ) The vendors should be provided training about dealing with customers, protection of papers and recycle the unsold newspaper, so that they will not get loss.
- ) KMC administration has to act liberally with Newspaper Vendors that is they should be given fixed space and freedom of movement.

- ) Government should give subsidy for newspaper vendors daily necessary things like food items and rent. Likewise, the publication and distributor have to charge less price for news print item to paper vendors.
- ) Government, news print publication and newspaper vendors should hold talks and fix the margin of newspaper while selling for betterment.
- ) Local organizational levy for fixed newspaper vendors should be lifted off.
- ) Public have to treat newspaper vendors with due respect and sympathy. Newspaper vendors have to be organized for managing their activities.
- ) The minor, ageing and widowed vendors should be given government protection.

It is now certain that if strong measures as above mentioned points are not taken in time for newspaper vendors, their condition will further be vulnerable. It is the responsibility of Government of Nepal, KMC, social organizations, publishing houses public and the newspaper vendor themselves to secure their livelihood future for reducing unemployment and getting easy newsprint communication.

**ANNEX - I**  
**INDIVIDUAL SURVEY, QUESTIONNAIRE**

**A. General Information**

Form no. .... Place of Interview ..... Date .....

1. Name of Newspaper vendor ..... Fixed ..... Mobile.....

Age .....Sex .....Religion ..... Education .....Marital Status.....

2. Permanent Address: District ..... Mun/VDC ..... Ward ..... Tole .....

3. Temporary Address: District ..... Mun/VDC ..... Ward ..... Tole .....

**B. Family Description**

Name of Household Head .....

Family Size .....

S.N.	Name	Relation with Newspaper Vendor	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Occupation	Education
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

**C. Occupational Information**

4. When did you start this occupation?

.....

5. What was your occupation before you started this business?

.....

6. Why did you give up your previous occupation?

.....

7. What made you attracted to this occupation?

.....

8. From where do you bring newspapers?

.....

9. If your are a fixed Newspaper vendor, do you pay for the space you cover?

.....

10. What type (category) of clients come to buy newspapers?

.....

11. Who are the other members of your family to support you in selling newspaper?

.....

12. What sorts of effect does that location of newspaper stall have/make in selling newspaper?

.....

13. What time of the day do you come to sell newspaper?

.....

14. For how long do you run this business everyday?

.....

15. What do you do in left over time (remaining time of the day)?

.....

16. In which season or on day do you have the best selling?

.....

17. What are the major problems that you have been facing with?

.....

18. What is your opinion to make this occupation well managed, dignified and more income generating ?

.....

**D. Income and Expenditure Information**

19. Particulars of property in permanent residence of newspaper vendors.

a) Type of house -concrete ..... Muddy ..... Hut .....

b) Number of cattle .....

c) Land - *Ropani* ..... *Ana* ..... or *Bigha* ..... *Kattha* .....

d) Any other property? If yes, mention.

.....

20. Annual income and expenditure of the respondent

S.N.	Title of Income	Amount (Rs.)	Title of Expenditure	Amount (Rs.)
1	Newspaper selling		Food	
2	Agriculture		Housing	
3	Alternate business		Stall rent	
4	wages		Clothing	
5			Education	
6			Health	
7			Transportation	
8			Entertainment	
9			Phone	
10			Others	
<b>Total</b>				

21. Do you have any debt? Yes/no..... If yes, for what purpose?

.....

S.N.	Source of Loan	Amount (Rs.)	Objectives	Interest	Remarks
1					
2					
3					
<b>Total</b>					

22. In what type of school/colleges are your children enrolled on?

a) Boarding school/colleges  b) Government school/colleges

c) In both  d) None  e) No children for schooling

23. How much do you spend every month for your children's education?

.....

24. Facilities in home

a) Bicycle  b) T.V.  c) Telephone  d) Gas

e) Motorcycle  f) Electricity  g) Toilet  h) Mobile

25. Do you pay any tax/fare for your stall?

.....

26. How much do you earn every day and every month?

.....

27. Is your income from newspaper sufficient to your family?

.....

28. How do you manage the expenditure if income is not sufficient?

.....

29. What are different items of newspaper that you sell?

.....

30. Do you have any saving? If yes, where do you deposit your saving?

.....

31. Do you have an organization of newspaper vending people? If yes, what does it do for you?

.....

32. Are you willing to change this occupation? If yes, why?

.....

33. What suggestions do you recommend for other Newspaper Vendors?

.....

**Thank you for co-operation**

## APPENDIX- II

### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW

**Name of Key Informant:**

**Address:**

**Associated to:**

**Date of Interview**

1. From when did the newspaper vendors start this occupation?
2. How many such newspaper vendors are there in Kathmandu?
3. How much worth newspaper is sold daily in rupees?
4. How do the newspaper vendors interact with their customers?
5. How do the newspaper vendors interact among themselves?
6. Is there any possibility to generate national income from newspaper vending?
7. In your opinion, what are the problems related with this occupation?
8. What type of relationship is there between newspaper sellers and administration KMC and publications?
9. How can this occupation be made more well-managed, more dignified and sustainable?
10. In your opinion, what is the impact of newspaper vending occupation in society and nation?
11. In your opinion, how can government administration help this occupation?

## **ANNEX - III**

### **QUESTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. What are the vulnerabilities and prospects associated to newspaper vendors' sustainability?
2. How can be they solved?
3. How is the future of this occupation?

**ANNEX - IV**  
**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**The Researcher Interviewing the fixed Newspaper Vendor at Ratnapark.**



**The Researcher Interviewing the Mobile Newspaper Vendor at Ratnapark**



**Women's Involvement in Newspaper Vending Occupation, a photograph taken from Newroad.**



**An Interview with Mobile Newspaper Vendor of Kalanki a bus terminal point.**

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