

# **MIGRANT DOMESTIC CHILD LABOURERS IN NEPAL**

**(A case study of Lalitpur District)**

**SUBMITTED TO**

**Central Department of Rural Development**

**Faculty of Humanities & Social Studies in Partiful Fulfilment for the Degree of**

**Master of Arts in Rural Development**

**By**

**BINA SHARMA**

**Exam Roll No:-3635 (2063)**

**TU Regd. No.:-5-2-37-547-2001**

**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY, KIRTIPUR**

**March , 2010**

## **Recommendation**

This is to certify that Ms. Bina Sharma has worked under my supervision and guidance for the preparation of this Thesis entitled "**Migrant Domestic Child Labourers in Nepal**" for the partial fulfilment of Masters of Arts in Rural Development. To my best knowledge the study is original and carries useful information in the field of migrated child in Domestic sectors. I, therefore, recommend it for the evaluation in the dissertation committee.

-----

**Tulasi Sharan Sigdel**

Central Department of Rural Development

March 2010

## **Approval Sheet**

This Thesis entitled "**MIGRANT DOMESTIC CHILD LABOURERS IN NEPAL**" by Ms. Bina Sharma has been accepted as partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master in Rural Development.

**Approved by:**

-----

**Dr. Pradeep K Khadka**

(Professor and Head)

-----

**Ratna Mani Nepal**

(External Examiner)

-----

**Tulasi Sharan Sigdel**

(Supervisor)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First of all, I heartily acknowledge the overall guidance provide by Tulsi Sigdel Lecturer of Central Department of Rural Development for his valuable guidance. Without his proper guidance this study would not have been completed.

I am grateful to Dr. Pradeep K Khadka, Professor and head of the Central Department of Rural Development T.U. for his valuable suggestion and encouragement for preparing this dissertation.

I would like to thanks to staff of Save The Children, ILO, CWIN, Central Library and other related NGOS/INGOS who provided valuable literature related to this study.

I would like to thank all the respondent child labours in the study area for their kind co-operation during field survey. I sincerely thank my sister Miss. Anita Timilsina for her valuable help in the time of thesis writing.

At last, I express my indebtedness to my my Husband Mr. Bimal Sigdel who always encouraged and valuable help in the time of thesis writing.

Bina Sharma

March, 2010

## ABSTRACT

*Nepal is an under developed country where large number of people are living under poverty line. Majority of the population depends on agriculture for their survival. Large sections of rural and urban population are land less, unemployed, lack of skill as a result they are forced to send their children to the urban centres in search of better job and earning. Such children who are deprived from their basic rights like education, love from their parents and proper atmosphere for their growth and development and are working in different houses are termed as domestic child labour. Domestic child labour has become an issue of concern for the policy and programme implementers, academics and government. Few researches have been made on this issue so far. So child labour has become a serious problem which can be named as inhuman, intolerable and exploitative situation in Nepal. This study is expected to be of great importance in the context of the study area selected.*

*The specific objectives of the study are to assess the socio economic characteristics and problem of domestic child labourers, to examine the present situation of them and to find out the reason for the child migration. In this study sample of 50 children working in different houses were selected. Children were interviewed through standard questionnaire who were aged between 5 to 17 years.*

*Out of 50 domestic child labourers, 30% were male where as rest of them were females. Most of the child labourers were aged between 14 to 17 years of age. The highest number of respondents were from ethnic community. The rest belonged to chhetri, brahmin, and madeshi respectively. Majority of children (18) were migrated from the peripheral regions of Lalitpur district. Majority of the migrated domestic child labourers (38%) had responded that they possesses insufficient land and insufficient food production which will produce food only for 4 to 8 months and 28% have sufficient land and their family survive for the whole year. Majority of the children (74%) have come to work with the consent of their family, 26% of them have ran away from their home. Majority of the child workers were found to be receiving the salary above Rs 1500 per month however there are still other children who are less paid or underpaid.*

*From this study poverty and illiteracy are found to be the key factors for the migration of child labourers in Nepal. Parents were seemed to be not aware about the rights of children, not aware of the importance of the education and hence they do not prefer to send their children at school. Because of hand to mouth problem they send their children in this sector either knowingly or unknowingly.*

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Introduction	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
1.2 Statement of the Problems	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
1.3 Objectives of Study	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
1.4 Significance of the Study	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
1.5 Organization of the Study	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
1.6 Conceptual Framework	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.1 Conceptual Review	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2.1.1 Child and childhood	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2.1.2 Child labour and child work	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2.1.3 Child rights and Legal Provision	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2.2 Review on empirical studies	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Introduction to the study area	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3.2 Research Design	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3.3 Source & nature of Data	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3.4 Universe & Sampling	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3.5 Data collection tools and techniques	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3.5.1 Questionnaire survey	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3.5.2 Key informant interview	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3.5.3 Field visit and observation / Experience	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
3.6 Analytical tools	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

## CHAPTER IV

### DATA PRESENTATION & ANALYSIS

- 4.1 Socio-economic characteristics of domestic migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.1.1 Age-sex distribution of domestic child labor **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.1.2 Distribution of domestic child labourers by caste/ethnicity **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.1.3 Educational status of domestic child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.1.4 Family size of migrant child labours **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2 current situation of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.1 Earning status of migrant child labourers. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.2 Food intake by migrant child labourers. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.3 Living condition of migrant child labourers. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.4 Working hours of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.5 Working environment **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.6 Visits and payment to the doctor at the time of illness/injury. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.7 Forced to work at the time of illness/injury **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.8 Perception of migrant child labourers to present job **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.9 Working place changed by migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.10 Reason of changing working place **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.11 Relationship of migrant child labourers with employer's **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.12 Migration of domestic child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.13 Place of origin of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.14 Housing status of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.15 Land situation of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.16 Way of leaving home **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 4.2.17 Duration of migration **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

4.2.18	Activity of children before migration	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
4.2.19	Causes of leaving home	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
4.2.20	Rented land of migrant child labourers	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
4.2.21	Family survival with food production	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
4.2.22	Parental association of migrant child labourers	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
4.2.23	Step parent status of migrant child labourers	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
4.2.24	The relation of step parent of migrant child labourers	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
4.2.25	Amount of money sent home per year	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1	Summary of findings	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
5.2	Conclusions	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
5.3	Policy Recommendations	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

REFERENCES	53
------------	----

### ANNEX - 1

Questionnaire for Household Survey	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

### ANNEX - 2

Map of Nepal	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
--------------	-------------------------------------

### ANNEX - 3

Map of Lalitpur District	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
--------------------------	-------------------------------------



## List of Tables

- Table 1.1: Minimum age according to ILO convention no. 138 (1973) **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.1 : Age-sex distribution of migrant child laborers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.2 : Distribution of domestic child labourers by caste/ethnicity **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.3 : Educational status of domestic child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.4: Family size of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.5: Earning status of migrant child labourers. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.6: Food intake by migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.7: Living condition of migrant child labourers. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.8: Working hours of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.9: Working environment **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.10: Visits to the doctor at the time of illness/injury. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.11: Visits and payment to the doctor at the time of illness/injury. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.12: Forced to work at the time of illness/injury. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.13: Perception of migrant child labourers to present job **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.14 : Working place changed by migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.15: Table 16 shows the reason of changing working place **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.16: Relationship of migrant child labourers with employers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.17 Place of origin of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

- Table 4.18: Housing status of migrant domestic child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.19: Land situation of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.20: Way of leaving home **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.21: Duration of migration **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.22: Activity of children before migration **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.23: Causes of leaving home **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.24: Rented land of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.25: Family survival with food production **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.26: Parental association of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.27: Step parent status of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.28: The relation of step parent of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 4.29: Amount of money sent home per year **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

### List of Figures

- Figure 1 : Conceptual framework of migrant child labour **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 2 : Age distribution of domestic child laborers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 3 : Caste /ethnicity distribution of domestic child labourer **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 4 : Educational status of domestic child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 5: Family size of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 6: Food intake by migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 7: Living condition of migrant child labourers. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

- Figure 8: Working hours of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 9: Working environment **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 10: Working place changed by migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 11: Reason of changing working place **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 12: Relationship of migrant child labourers with employers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 13: Place of origin of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 14: Housing status of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 15: Land situation of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 16: Way of leaving home **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 17: Duration of migration **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 18: Activity of children before migration **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 19: Causes of leaving home **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 20: Rented land of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 21: Family survival with food production **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 22: Parental association of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 23: Step parent status of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 24: The relation of step parent of migrant child labourers **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Figure 25: Amount of money sent home per year **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

## List of Abbreviation

ARC	Advocating for the Rights
BS	Bikram Sambat (Nepali Calendar Year)
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistic
CDPS	Central Department of Population Studies
CWA	Child Workers in Asia
CWIN	Child Workers in Nepal
CWISH	Council Of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
DRC	Development Research Centre
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IUCN	World Conservation Union
JICA	Japanese International Development Agency
LSGA	Local Self Governance Act
MOL	Ministry of Law
NGO	Non- Government Organization
NLFS	Nepal Labour Force Survey
OP	Operational Plan
RMMRU	Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit
U.K	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee
WCC	Ward Conservation Committee