

**WOMEN SNACKS VENDORS IN KATHMANDU: MICRO ENTERPRISES
AND THEIR LIVELIHOOD**

A Thesis

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in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree
of Master of Arts in Geography**

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APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

This to certify that the thesis entitled “WOMEN SNACKS VENDOR IN KATHMANDU: MICRO ENTERPRISES AND THEIR LIVELIHOOD” written and submitted by Sheela Thapa has been examined. It has been declared successful for fulfillment of the academic requirements toward the completion of Masters of Humanities and Social Sciences in Geography.

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Abstract

The patriarchal social system of Nepal has provided a basis in which women generally have less access to income, wealth and modern avenues of employment, education and wealth facilities than men. They have low social, economic, cultural, political and legal status in comparison to men. In this situation women have encouraged themselves to come out from the home and interact with outer world and have been engaged in microenterprises i.e. informal sector. Many poor women in urban areas have adopted snack selling as a main way of earning livelihood and struggling with low quality of survival. In this context, present study attempts to explore the livelihood of women snack vendor (WSVs) in Kathmandu. Particularly, this study examines the social impact of informal economy, level of income generation, problem and prospects and institutional support of WSVs in Kathmandu.

The analysis is based on field survey of 52 WSVs that were collected from different localities of Kathmandu Metropolitan City mainly transportation junction, commercial zone, institutional zone and monumental zone, so that it can represent the whole women snack vendors at this area. Primary data were collected in a fifteen days field work in December, 2009. The primary data were collected using various tools and methods, which includes reconnaissance survey, questionnaire surveys (Women enterprises survey), key informant interviews (organization survey), case studies with WSVs and the interview with customers who were buying from the street vendors and the pedestrians. Secondary data and information were collected from published and unpublished documents. Related books, journals, newspapers as well as thesis were the major sources which were obtained from government and non government organizations and library of various institutions. Internet was other important source of the study.

Rural poor women come to urban area to search employment. While collecting data on the field the researcher has found 18-65 years of age women snack vendors. More than 85 percent of the WSVs are illiterate. Overwhelming majority is migrants. Among them, most of the women felt insecure with ill mannered people, like some boys who do not pay money having food on their shop. And another serious problem was harassment of metropolitan police. The study findings reveal that there is a significant change in the socio-economic status of WSVs. The informal job has provided a stable source of income to their family, which has an impact on socio - economic status.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ANFTU	:	All Nepal Federation of Nepalese trade unions
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDG	:	Central Department of Geography.
DFID	:	Department for International Development.
FAO	:	Food and Organization
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Production
GEFONT	:	General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions
GIS	:	Geographical Information System
i.e.	:	That is
IDS	:	Institute for Development Studies.
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
KMC	:	Kathmandu Metropolitan City.
Kw	:	Kilo Watt
MC	:	Metropolitan City
NCCR	:	National Center for Competence in Research.
NEST	:	Nepal Street Vender Trade Union (Nest Nepal)
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization.
NLSS	:	Nepal Living Standard Survey
NPC	:	National Planning Commission.
SLA	:	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
SLF	:	Sustainable Livelihood Framework
SLF	:	Sustainable Livelihood Framework.
SV	:	Street vendors
U.S.A.	:	United State of America
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program.
UNICEF	:	United Nation Children Education Fund
UTTON	:	United traders and Trade Organization Nepal
WB	:	World Bank.
WCED	:	World Commission on Environment and Development

Glossary

Ana	: A unit measuring land (1 Ropani equals to 16 ana)
Brahman	: Highest caste in Hindu caste system
Chhetri	: Second highest caste in Hindu caste system
Dalit	: Lowest caste in Hindu caste system
Dashain	: The first biggest festival of Hindus.
Janajati	: A caste of Mangol
Teej	: Hindu festivals celebrated by female.
Tihar	: The second biggest festival of Hindus.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Nepal's urban growth rate is very rapid. The 2001 population census had recorded the urbanization rate at 6.67 percent per annum, which was far exceeded than the national population growth rate of 2.27 percent and Kathmandu valley alone accounts for the total 42 percent of the migration from rural as well as urban areas of Nepal (*CBS 2003*). The migration trend has swollen in the past decade due to the insurgency in the rural parts of the country and as there are no formal supports to the migrants, they involve in the street vending occupation. For the migrants, lack of skills or formal education constitutes little or no barrier to gaining an income in the informal sector (Nurul 2002). The urban population growth rates have always been higher than the national population growth rates over the last decades. However, Nepal with nearly 14 percent urban population is one of the least urbanised countries in the world. The urban population is expected to reach to 15.4 percent by the year 2016 (*CBS 2003*).

Rural poor women come to urban area to search employment. Being unskilled they also have not occupy the street to sustain their livelihood. In Kathmandu Metropolitan City we found lots of women snacks vendors one of such group of urban poor is the group of women snack vendors. They not only make a huge contribution to national income but also create reliable social safety nets for their families and communities.

A micro enterprise does not carry the same definition everywhere. It varies from country to country. In the U.S.A, microenterprises are those with 5 employees and less. The small business is categories as one with more than 5 and up to 500 employees. In the context of Nepal, a micro enterprise is defined as an economic activity carried out with the following characteristics (Enterprise Act 1992):

- ❖ Self-employment
- ❖ Self-managed
- ❖ Employing 1 to 5 persons

- ❖ Fixed capital investment up to NRs 200000
- ❖ Power machine, if used, not exceeding 5Kw
- ❖ No licensing requirement

Nepali women have less access to income, wealth and modern avenues of employment, education and wealth facilities than men. They have low socio economic, culture, political and legal status in comparison to the men. They are always considered as daughters, wives and mother who are guided and protected by fathers, husbands and sons respectively but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity. The positions of women differ from one ethnic group to another and from one region to other in the country (Majpuria 1996). On the basis of the population distribution, majority of Hindu people are living in the country. So, on this basis we can generalize that Nepalese society is a patriarchal type of society where the women have secondary position in family and in the society. Most of the women in the society have deprived from the social, economical, cultural and religious life. But women are at the heart of development. They control most of the non – money economy (subsistence agriculture bearing) raising children (domestic labor) and have an important part in the money economy (trading the internal sector wage employment). Everywhere in the world women has low jobs around the home and outside it. Women modified their live to a greater extent than men. Konwar 2004 has stated that the traditional roles of women are changing with modernization and time. More women can be seen coming out of the traditional sphere and entering into the job- market, especially in the informal sector. In long run, greater participation of women in key position with change social values and creates a more equitable society.

Street vendor is a person who offers goods, foods or services to the public and process involves some monetary transactions and people who occupy public spaces like footpaths, pavements or “open spaces” for their business. Street vendors may be mobile food vendors or stationary in nature. Women street vendors are also business people who sell their wares in the open air rather than in a shop or store. In many cases, the vendor either has a small stand that can be secured when not in operation, or makes use of a cart that can be removed from the street at the end of the business day. Sometimes referred to as a peddler, the street vendor is commonly found in metropolitan areas, outdoor conventions and events, and sometimes at public beaches

Street snack is snack obtainable from a street side vendor, often from a makeshift or portable stall. While some street snacks are regional, many are not, having spread beyond their region of origin. The snacks and green groceries sold in farmers market may also fall into this category, including the food exhibited and sold in gathering fairs, such as agriculture show and state fair. Food and green groceries are available on the street for a fraction of the cost of a restaurant meal and a supermarket. According to food and agriculture organization, 2.5 billion people eat street food every day. (www.streetvendor.org)

Kathmandu is the only Metropolitan and Capital city of the country. It is the most populated city of Nepal. According to the 2001 census, the total population of Kathmandu Metropolitan City is 671,846 and a density of 13586.4 persons per sq, km. on this city many different types of street occupation can be seen, snack selling are also performing their activities in the street of Kathmandu and sustaining their livelihood by selling curry, tea, bread, fish, meat etc. In the case of Nepal mostly those people from different geographic part of nation who have not ability to invest for higher trade and business, have no sources, have no sufficient food security, pressured by social discrimination and political conflict are engaged in these street occupation by using urban open space (Pathak 2002), such type of livelihood pattern seems more miserable and vulnerable.

1.2 The Research Problems

Nepal has experienced a rapid urbanization phenomenon. This has created several opportunities for poor communities in both rural and urban areas, while in the meantime they are facing several challenges. The condition of people living in urban areas is worsening day by day. The main manifestations of rapid urbanization are unprecedented growth of slums and squatter settlements, congestion, environmental degradation, increasing crimes and violence, and towering pressure on civic amenities and basic services that has affected the urban lives badly. Urban dwellers generally are suffering from these adverse impacts but the poor are being the most affected.

The growth of population in Nepal is rapid and the spatial distribution of population is often changed. Majority of the population are often relied on environmental resources for securing a

livelihood. The most cumulative consequence of increased population is that the poverty level is rising and the sustainable development is overall challenging (Pradhan 2006). Due to the continuously increasing of population and stage neatness agriculture production, unemployment is and emerging problem. Therefore people have been migrating from rural to urban area and adoption nonfarm activities (K.C 2003). Migration to urban areas has accounted for over 20 percent of the total internal migration of population in 2001 census and this will continue to be the case as the urban infrastructure are also increasing. In the context of Kathmandu valley's urban population between 1981 and 1991 has increased by over 82 percent in which migration contributes 59 percent (Pradhan 2006).

Women snack vendors are one of the urban poor groups in Kathmandu. Due to lack of access, skills and knowledge they cannot get any opportunities. So they are compelled to adopt such type of informal street occupation. Monetary problem was the main focused issue that the respondents started business in the footpath of major location of Kathmandu valley. Since few years such occupation is rapidly increasing woman hold fewer formal jobs as compared to man due to various reasons related to education, household work, family restriction etc. Therefore they are compelled to join more insecure informal jobs for their livelihood support. These vendors are regularly subjected to mental and physical pressure of their property or money loss.

In the street occupation, women snack vendor problem can be broadly categorized physical problems, socio economic problems and environmental problems. Physical problem relates to the vehicular congestion on the street, Pedestrian movement disruption, deficiency is supply of urban infrastructure services and conflict in use of urban space. Similarly, socio economic problem relates to being trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty as well as degraded interpersonal relationship among the local community as well as quarrel, theft and increase in insecurity urban areas. Environmental problems relate to the problems in solid waste management, noise pollution and irrigation as a result of it as well as unhealthy living condition of urban areas etc.

For poor people like cheaper products, no skills needed for work, an easy access to the job, and so on. The problem is that Nepal's society, economy and policies are all informal. There is no governmental control on economic development. There is no street lighting at night, no regular street system; the cities grow by new urbanity in an uncontrolled way. This informal occupation

group is very hard to access as they have no stable business sites. Many street women vendors face different types of psychological problems include sexual harassment in work place, domestic violence, trafficking etc. these problems have resulted in degradation in mental and physical health of women, decrease in earning, loss of job, sexual abuse, physical torture, rape and dowry.

The ways of earning livelihood by the women is seen very poor and miserable and is therefore complex. Even they cannot sustain their life from selling snack. Women have started selling snack on the street open space of Kathmandu for more than a decade. But a systematic study about their overall livelihood pattern and the background is grossly lacking in Nepal. In this context, this paper discusses the issue of “Women Snack Vendors in Kathmandu: Micro enterprises and their Livelihood”

1.3 Research Questions

This study has attempted to answer the following research questions

-) What is the social impact of women snack vendors?
-) Is the income sufficient for them to maintain their life?
-) What are the problems and prospects of women snack vendors?
-) What is the institutional support of the women snack vendors?

1.4 Objectives of the study

The overall objective of this research is to analyze the livelihood pattern of the women snacks vendor engaged in micro enterprises. The specific objectives of the research are:

-) To explore the social impact of enterprise activity
-) To find out the level of income and their livelihood
-) To examine the problems and prospects of women snack vendors
-) To analyze the institutional support to the existing informal women snack vendors

1.5 Rationale of the Study

This study is about street occupation and livelihood pattern of women who conduct their business at open-streets of municipal areas. Marginal people are mostly rural-urban migrants who have utilized urban streets for varieties of occupations. In urban open spaces microenterprises is a growing at present situation. It is contributing significantly to employment and income generation of the people outside the formal sector. It provides the cheaper goods which satisfied the low income consumer group. Informal economy of Nepal is very large and is growing rapidly as compared to the tiny formal economy. There is a high potential for the women to enter into the micro enterprises, where there needs no educational qualifications and skills. As a result more women are coming out from their traditional gender roles and engage in the micro enterprises. A woman is one of the two wheels of a cart and also a back bone of the society. There is no possibility of development without development of women. The empowerment of women and improvement over their status are key sustainable development.

At the national context, Kathmandu Valley has been changing into a development island in which all kinds of development facilities are concentrated. But within the urban area there are several marginal and economically poor people living haphazardly in the open spaces in their own livelihood framework. In this context, this study is fruitful for finding out the livelihood pattern of women micro enterprises, the related problems and recommendation for mitigating problems. The research could be the supporting material for implementing some programs in upgrading the status of women in informal economy. It is also gives the new taste of knowledge for its readers. This research is helpful for the planners, academicians and organization working in the field of women and micro enterprises, formulate street occupation policies from government sector and share knowledge about women snack vendors as well as their work in urban street.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

The activities of street vendors are found in many cities of Nepal but the present study covers only transportation junction, commercial zone, institutional zone, entertainment zone and monumental zone in urban core area of KMC. Limited time, budget as well as resource are the major constraints. The force the study limited only on the street women snack vendor hence it does not reflect completes informal sector problems. However, this study had not covered the women workers working in other kinds of work.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The informal micro enterprises consist of several elements like, concept of micro enterprises, informal economy, livelihood, women's role in urban economy, Government Plan, Policies, acts, regulation and guidelines and existence research on street vendors. These have been reviewed.

2.1 Definition

2.1.1 Micro Enterprise

A Microenterprise is a type of small business that is often on unregistered and run by a poor individual. Specifically a microenterprise is to alleviate poverty and improve the livelihood of the people below the poverty line particularly marginalized woman of different poor communities for instance Dalits, Indigenous nationalities, Madhesis and other backward communities. (www.microenterprise.com)

2.1.2 Informal Economy

The informal economy includes activities of the economy, which are individually seller, general unorganized and which remain beyond the control of the state as opposed to the formal sector, which generally has the opposite characteristics. Informal activities are pervasive and persistent economic features of most development economy contributing significantly to the employment, income generation and production. Nepal's informal part in the economy is extremely large and is growing compared to the major business. The micro enterprise is characterized by unregistered and unorganized production. Many of the micro enterprise are outside the government's tax frame.

According to ILO, the informal sector is made up of very small-scale units producing and distributing goods and services and owned and operated by largely independent, self employed producers employing family labor or a few hired workers and apprentices. The ILO has characterized informal sector in 1972 in the following way:

- ❖ Ease of entry
- ❖ Reliance on indigenous resources
- ❖ Family ownership enterprises
- ❖ Small scale operations
- ❖ Labor intensive, using adaptive technologies
- ❖ The skills used were acquired outside schooling
- ❖ It is irregular and competitive market

Informal economy is important in Nepal because

-) It is growing part of the local and national economy.
-) Although incomes are low, they are collectively large and valuable and
-) It contributes significantly to employment.

Informal sector in Nepal consists of all unorganized industrial and craft works, construction, garbage cleaning, forest product works, animal product works, agriculture works and various microenterprise services, which cover;

-) Workers in enterprises employing less than 10 workers
-) Economic activities of self employed families – agriculture, services and various family business
-) Wage workers outside the enterprise – daily wage contract or long time contract or work contract
-) Factory associated home based workers.

The largest is non-wage family work mainly in agriculture followed by self employed non agriculture production and services. The third position is of daily wage workers followed by piece rate workers and long time contract workers. (GEFONT 2005)

2.1.3 Livelihood

Livelihood strategies are considered as the range and combination of activities and choice that people make in order to achieve their livelihood goods. Livelihood strategies include, how

people combine their income generating activities, the way in which they use their assets, which assets they choose to invest in and how they manage to preserve existing assets and income. Strategies change over time and there is an enormous diversity of livelihood. The move choice and flexibility that people have in their livelihood strategies, the greater their ability to with stander adapt to the shocks and stresses of the vulnerability context. (www.livelihood.org/dfid/)

2.2 Theoretical Review

“Geography has a permanent identity crisis because what geographers do is complex” (Koirala 2006)

This remarks made by Peet (1998) conveys the inherent complexity in the disciplinary view point which the geographers need to exercise in understanding a complex set of interrelationship among different phenomena. Geography is basically the study of the relation between human and nature since the early times geographers and scholars from other disciplines as well, have been trying to analyze the interrelationship between society and nature not necessarily from the livelihood perspective. However, the concept of livelihood as a separate frame of reference is the development of the mid- 1990s and much credit goes to chambers who popularized the approach among academicians, researchers as well as development agencies.

2.2.1 Sustainable Livelihood Approach

The livelihood is a recent concept and focal point of study and research. Robert Chambers, who is often called father of sustainable livelihood, has introduced and initiated a serious discourse on livelihood in the mid-1980s. Later, it was further developed by Chambers and Conway and others in the early 1990s (DFID, 1999).

The concept of sustainable livelihood goes beyond the conventional definitions and approaches to poverty reduction. The conventional concepts of poverty considered to be narrow as these concepts focused only on certain aspects of manifestation of poverty such as low income or did not consider other vital aspects of poverty such as vulnerability, social inclusion etc. (Krantz 2001). The sustainable livelihood approach as a development concept is legitimized through several international forums. The Brundtland commission in 1987 introduced sustainable livelihoods in terms of resource ownership and access, basic needs and livelihood security,

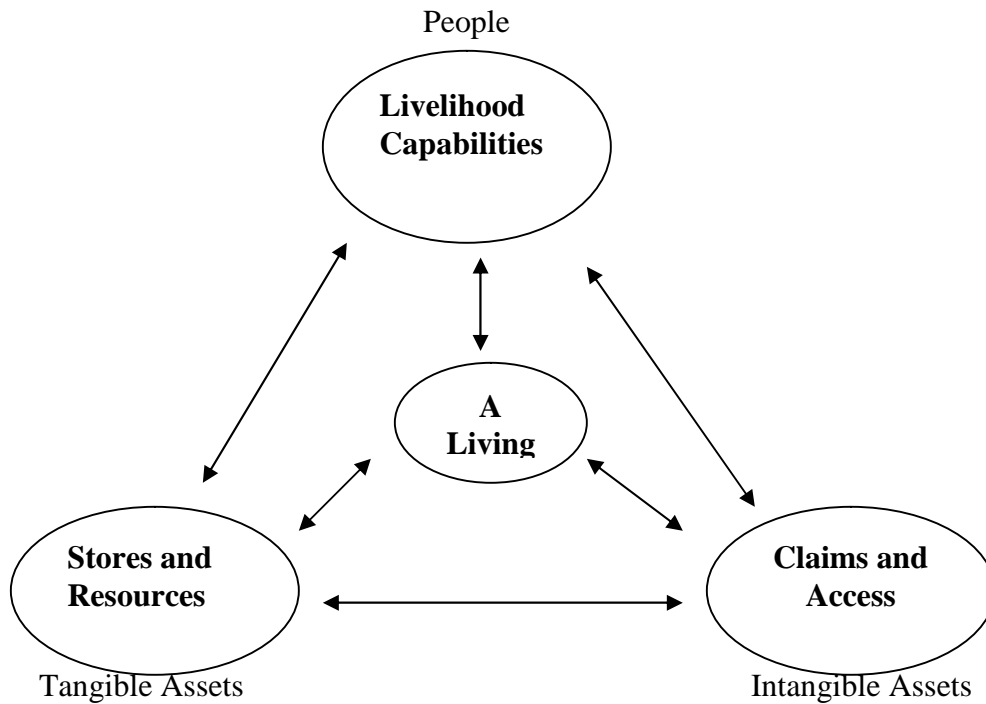
especially in rural areas. Likewise, the 1992 Earth Summit legitimized and adopted the concept referring

‘Sustainable Livelihoods for all’ in its agenda 21, the Copenhagen social summit linked sustainable livelihoods explicitly to full employment and the Beijing platform reemphasized the importance of women’s livelihood to successful development. In 1997, British Department for International Development (DFID) adopted sustainable livelihood approach to its development activities particularly in poverty elimination. Besides, international organizations like the European Commission; the World Bank, Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are further developing this approach (Wyss 2004).

In a classic paper on sustainable livelihood in 1991, Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Practical Concepts for the 21st century, Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway defined modifying the earlier definition of World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) panel as:

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term (Chambers and Conway 1991:8).

Chambers and Conway (1992) normatively analyzed the ideas of capabilities, equity and sustainability. Chamber and Conway have provided a framework to recognize an individual or intra-household level, in which the wellbeing and access of some household members, and especially women and children, may be inferior to that of others, especially men, and also the broader levels of the extended family, the social group, and the community. The core of a livelihood can be expressed as a living, and the main components and relationship presented as in figure 2.1 Figure 2.1 Components and Flow in a Livelihood



Source: Chambers and Conway (1992).

Similarly, Carney (1998) has presented a slightly modified definition of livelihood. He defined it as

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.

Frank Ellis has examined livelihood diversification and sustainable rural livelihoods. He further emphasizes that in rural agrarian economy, farming on its own rarely provides a sufficient means of survival. For this reason most rural households are found to depend on a diverse portfolio of activities and income sources, among which crop and livestock production feature alongside many other contributions to family wellbeing.

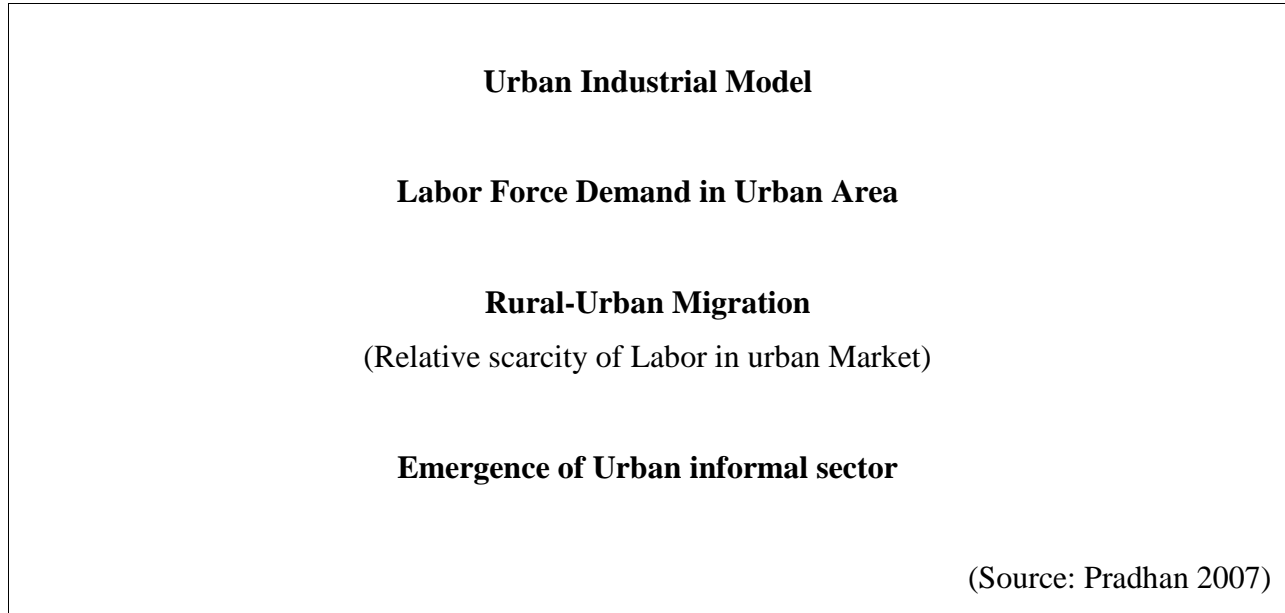
With regard to sustainable livelihoods, DFID (1999) published a set of ‘guidance sheets’ with a view to attempting to summarize and share on the sustainable livelihood approach. The

guidance sheets are the outcomes of the White paper on International Development issued by Government of UK in 1997. Following the approach of Chambers and Conway, DFID defined livelihoods with some modifications but exactly the same as defined by Carney (1998). The guidance sheet presents origin, core concepts and framework of sustainable livelihoods.

2.2.2 Migration and Urban Informal Sector

According to the Todaro’s model (1976), rural-urban migration depends on three factors, specifically: the rural-urban real wage gap, the urban employment rate and the responsiveness of migrants to economic opportunities in urban areas. The rural out-migrant is tempted by the comparatively higher expected wage rate in urban areas. people migrate to urban areas in the hope of securing a formal sector job as soon as they can. In the mean time the urban informal sector provides the migrant the necessary funds to buy primary economic goods and to start-up an urban based search for a formal sector job.

Fig: 1. Todaro Model



“Throughout the developing world, rates of rural–urban migration continue to exceed the rates of job creation and to surpass greatly the capacity of both industry and urban social services to absorb this labor effectively’

The features of Todaro's model of Migration can be summarized as ,Rural-urban income differentiation being main reason to initiate rural people to move to urban area, which causes the problem of unemployment or underemployment in urban area even more seriously. This is resulted from the higher rate of rural immigrants in urban area as compared to the absorption capacity of urban-industrial sector and most of the migrants end up working in the informal sector as chances of getting formal job in rural area is very slight (Pradhan 2007).

2.3 Work related to Women

Women receive only a very small share of credit from formal banking institutions often because they are unable to provide collateral, when women do receive loans, these tend to be smaller than men's, despite their generally better track record in making repayments. In Latin America and Caribbean only 11percent of client of formal credit institution are women. In many African countries despite the fact that they account for 60 percent of the labor force and contribute up to 80 percent of total food production, women receive less than 10 percent of the credit to small farmers and only 1 percent of total credit to agriculture. Women's right to land and other assets are also widely risk losing their livelihood if they are widowed or separated from their husbands (Department for International Development 2000).

In this fast changing world economy, it has been realized that the participation of both women and men are equally important in all round development of a country. But, historically the traditional culture and social customs have been playing great role in restricting women's participation in the development activities and it has forced women to live as dependent on men. The present economies indicators of women in general are low literacy rate, poor and ill health, restricted access to services and assets, discriminatory type of law and regulating systems, preventing economic opportunities etc. worldwide experience show that supporting a stronger role for women contributes sustainable development to the society. In other words, women's participation in development works provides various opportunities and option to work in formal and informal sector, increase capacity to earn which can alleviate and overall family health that leads to show population growth rate. Despite those perceived return, women are still facing many problems and barriers in almost all the countries of south East Asia including our country Nepal (Majupuria 1985).

Subedi (1997) stated that Nepali women have low socio-economic, culture, political and legal status in comparison to the men. They are always considered as daughters, wives and mothers who are guided / protected by fathers, husbands and sons respectively but are not recognized as individuals with their own identity. Society has ranked women to the lowest rank and to a submissive role. Nepali women from the communities in the Himalayan region to those of the lowlands in the Tarai region are exploited appraised by men and society and they also face the social, cultural, religious, economic and political problems. In Hindu religion there are so many discriminatory religious practices.

Women's empowerment is the process by which unequal power relation are transformed and women gain greater equality with men. At the government level, this includes the extension of all fundamental social, economic and political rights to men. On the individual level, this includes processes by which women gain inner power to express and defend their rights and gain greater self – esteem and control over their own lives and personal and social relationship. Male participation and acceptance of changed roles are essential for women's empowerment. (<http://www.unfpa.org>) women involvement in labor market in increasing day by day but they are primarily concentrated in low–skilled, manual and repetitive jobs which may be looked upon as extensions of their household activities (UNICEF 1996).

Poor household are engaged in the informal sector within the informal sector, too high yielding activities are covered by men and low income activities are left for women. So gender gap in income is naturally high in the informal sectors compared to that in the formal sector. Various categories of informal sector women workers of Nepal are as follows:

Self employed individual women workers – price earners

Casual - daily wage women workers

Price - rate wage workers under sub contracting

Attached to male workers – joint wage condition and unpaid helpers

Unpaid family workers of self employed families and family business (Issue of the world of work in Nepal 2005)

The findings of the report reveal that Women Development Program is helpful to generate self employment, increase income and support for livelihood. This program has also contributed to build confidence and raise their social status. Positive changes have been observed in the lives of rural families around the WD, significant improvement in the decision making role have been observed. The beneficiaries experienced the change in the atmosphere of their household due to their involvement in income generation program (WDP 1996).

In Nepal there has been a remarkable increase in women's participation in the labor market. Women's participation in the labor market serves to strengthen the economy of the nation, as women constitute more than half of the population in Nepal. Many women work to provide basic necessities for their family and themselves. Unfortunately, common attitudes in the workplace denigrate a women's work as a 'hobby', thereby denying women dignity and equality in their employment. The attitude toward working women has contributed to the problem of sexual harassment in the work place.

When women in the work place experience sexual harassment some complain, some retaliate and many endure. Sexual harassment is a violation of the right to work in a secure, healthy and respectful work environment. It is a significant obstacle to equality and development. Harassment is the serious problem that must not be ignored. It is the form of discrimination, it is against the law and it is the violation of workers' rights. Sexual harassment can happen to any young women, older women, and men too can be victims. However because sexual harassment must often involve women being harassed by men, it constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex (Upadhyay 2003).

According to the national women entrepreneur Director 1997 prepared and published by women entrepreneurs' development committee of FNCCI Kathmandu, Nepalese women are being engaged in about fifty varieties of enterprises. About 90 percent of such activities are in informal sector activities. As per center for economic and technical studies the estimated informal sector activities in Nepal represent as high as 90 percent of total economic activity of the country. In

this way, a sizable section of the women have been making their living and supporting their families in informal sector. But it has some unfavorable implications that impede growth for women development which are given below:

-) Low investment and absence of new technology give marginal income which mean lower economic status.
-) No competitive strength
-) Less secure due to non existence of trade union that protect the interest and right of the workers.

There are some rooms for improvement of women in formal sector. In this modern and competitive industrial world, formal or informal business either run by women or men must be competitive and progressive otherwise the survival is uncertain.

Since women are poor and backward and they just started to come forward in the economic activities. It is the main responsibility of the planner of both governmental nongovernmental organizational to innovate and provide desirable programmed with decent objective for sustainable development of women for enhancing women's participation both in informal and formal labor market (Das 2002).

The role played by women in the economic development of the country is of vital importance as almost half of the population of the nation cannot remain idle in this age of political and economic equality and social justice.

2.4 Government Plan, Acts, Regulation and Guidelines

The following are the existing plan, acts, regulations or guidelines related to the women and street vendors.

2.3.1 Plans

Efforts are planned to improve the situation of women began in the sixth plan (1980–1985) but the approach was welfare driven. The Eighth Plan raised the issue of women's representation in

decision-making and acknowledgement the existence of gender-based discrimination-but failed to define either term.

The Sixth Plan (1980-85), for the first time, incorporated a separate chapter for women's Development as a national policy on women's issue. Since then the government continued to incorporate Women in Development policy and strategy in various development plans and focused on increasing women's access to education and training, bank loan, rural infrastructure development and employment in traditional new activities.

The seventh Plan (1985-90), further strengthened women's development and addressed, for the first time, the need for the amendment of the laws and regulation that stand in the way of women's participation in development and the improvement of their social and economic status.

The Eighth Plan (1990-95) advocated on increasing women's representation at decision-making levels in the government, non-government and semi-government sectors and developing a monitoring system for recording gender discrimination at work. This was the first plan which tried to increase women's representation at the decision-making level and also the term Gender was introduced.

The Ninth Plan (1997-2002), is much more progressive in its content in the sense that there has been a shift from women in development to mainstreaming of women in all the development plans and programmed. Policies enunciated in the Plan were divided under mainstreaming, eliminating gender inequality and empowerment. The government expressed its full commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) for gender equality and women empowerment.

The current Tenth Plan (2002-2007), which is also called the Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (PRSP) has set "poverty alleviation" as the single long term goal. The main objective of the Tenth Plan is to increase the active participation of women within all development sectors; increase women's access to economic, social activities eliminate gender inequalities and provide equal legislative rights for women. The empowerment of women through these mechanisms is the prime objective. The Plan targets are to increase gender development and gender empowerment indicators up to 0.550 and 0.500 respectively and increase women's participation in decision-making at least 20 percent.

2.4.2 Acts

Traffic and Transportation Management Act, 2049 The “Clause 125” which is related to uninterrupted movement, Public spaces should not be used in any way that may or will impede the vehicular movements and pedestrian movements. The spaces may be allocated for certain use only for a limited duration of time after the approval from the police station nearby.

Environment Protection Act, (2053BS), The “Clause 10” Related to Environment Protection Zones, “Sub-Clause 1” empowers the Government of Nepal to declare any place inside the kingdom of Nepal, that are of historical significance or cultural importance, to be Environmental Protection Zone with the publication of notice in Nepal Gazette. Similarly, “Sub-Clause 2” empowers the Government of Nepal to prohibit any sort of activities that are not permitted in the environmental protection zones defined in “Sub-Clause 1”.

It appears that there are various acts and policies related to street vendors in the present context, and concerned towards the regularization of the street vendors in the urban areas but either the acts are draft and yet to be passed or the acts have not been implemented or enforced properly by the concerned authorities.

2.4.3 Regulation and Guidelines

Local self-governance regulations (2056 B.S),at Section 142 related to the “Rate of Enterprise Tax”, the minimum and maximum limits of the rate of the enterprise tax that may be levied by a Municipality within its area, prescribed in annex-10 of LSGR sub section 18 relates to the temporary haat bazar or mobile Shops. Under the regulation, the mobile vendors can be taxed up to 25 Rs per shift and the vegetables and fruit vendors can be taxed up to 3 Rs per shift.

Street and Footpath Business Management Guidelines, 2064 B.S (Draft), in order to regularize and manage the street vending occupation, and as per the empowerment provided to the Kathmandu metropolitan city from the Local Self Governance Regulations-2056 B.S, section 276, the guidelines are made.

As per, Section 3, related to the locations, time and day for street vending, in its Subsection-1 empowers the municipality to allow or restrict the location, time and day for street vending occupations. Subsection-2(1) empowers the municipality to define the maximum area to be occupied while operating in permitted locations. Subsection-3(1) empowers the municipality to restrict the street vending activities in municipal area.

As per Section 5, related to the registration of the street vendors, Subsection-1 states that the vendors should apply for the registration of with personal and occupational details and the application should be as per the format that has been attached in the annex-1 of the guidelines to register their business. Similarly, subsection-2(1) states that municipality could publish the information regarding the application after the enforcement of the guidelines and subsection-3(2) states that municipality reserves the right for the verification of the street vendors and could take assistance from the organizations related to the welfare of street vendors during the verification process. Subsection-4(3) states that municipality, after verification of the street vendors, will provide the identity card in the format of annex-2 of the guidelines and also specify the type of category and location for street vending. Subsection-5(4) prohibits any street vendors to operate in the unspecified category, location, space and day in municipal areas without the identity card.

As per Section 8, related to the relocation of the street vendors, Subsection-1 states that following the guidelines, municipality can relocate the street vendors operating in the streets to any other alternate location properly by providing sheds or shelter. Similarly, section-2(1) empowers the municipality to prohibit any street vending activity on the locations from where vendors have been relocated.

As per Section 9, related to the establishment of the welfare fund, Subsection-1 empowers the municipality to deposit certain percentage of taxes that are obtained from the street vendors as a

welfare fund. Subsection-2 empowers the municipality to use the deposited money as per requirements towards the welfare of street vendors.

2.4.4 Existence research on street vendors

Dahal (2001) observed a change in livelihood practices of Baramus community of Gorkha district. He found that the changes that occurred in the natural, economic and socio-cultural environment in the area brought immense changes in the livelihood strategies of the Baramus. The traditional practice of *Dole* (chariot bearer) system totally collapsed and *Bani* (porter/wage labors) system was declining rapidly and was in its final stage of collapse. The collapse of traditional occupations and the insufficient agricultural land compelled the Baramurs to find other income earning activities like wage labor, pottering and small business, i.e. selling firewood and liquor etc. Modernization and the expansion of local market centers brought significant changes in the socio-cultural sphere of the Baramus. This study shows the impact of globalization on natural, socio-economic and cultural environment on diversification of livelihoods of the local people.

Street vending occupation is connected to many aspects and only addressing one aspect may not bring success to the management of the street vending occupation as a whole. The street vending is related to the distance to the wholesaler, pedestrian movement, distance to the current residence, and the current location preference for selling typical goods, where the local clubs, formal shopkeepers, local inhabitants and trade union support the street vendors to carry out their activities while KMC restricts with punitive measures. (Gaurab 2008)

Karnali in the northern part of Himalayas with difficult terrain, the region is further characterized by inaccessibility in terms of road networks. As such livelihood strategies are very difficult to pursue. Livestock ranching is the most important activity characterized by seasonal movement to higher elevation areas in summer and to lower areas in winter. Due to lower temperature in long winter season agriculture activities require long growing season. Lack of diversification of livelihood activities in the area guided the author to urge for more activities to strengthen the livelihood of the people enable them to get rid of stress. (Bisop 1990)

Poudel (2005) studied the vegetable vendors of Maitidevi, Chabhill and Ason Chowk of Kathmandu metropolitan city. The thesis was entitled, “Livelihood and Occupational Vulnerability of Street Vegetable Vendors: A Case Study of Maitidevi, Chabhill and Asan Chowk, Kathmandu Nepal”.

He mentioned the importance of street vendors in urban area and stated that the groups are “absolutely indispensable” part of the city as it supports larger proportion of middle class as well as the wealthy proportion of the KMC. In conclusion he also stated that economically weak, disadvantaged group, poor and squatters are involved in this profession and their daily income is very low and are not able to fulfill their needs for sustaining their livelihood therefore involve in street vending activities as there are no other options for the unskilled and uneducated proportions in urban area.

Similarly, Poudel recommended that occupations like street vending cannot be avoided totally thus it should be managed in a proper way and related institution should provide them with the fixed place and a proper sheds for vending. Further, Poudel suggests that taxes that have been collected in urban areas by clubs should be invested for proper management of Street vegetable vendors.

Sthapit (1999) studied the informal sector street vendors of Kathmandu city area in 1999. According to statistics provided by her, there were 2,938 vendors in the street of Kathmandu, among which 51.23 percent of street vendors chose their business locations in Kathmandu city core, other 18.82 percent chose their locations in city center and remaining 29.95 percent operated their business in city outer ring.

Sthapit, in her recommendations provided some policy implications such efficiency of the space and street vendors through enforcement of local self-governance act. Similarly, classification of vendors based on commodities sell, effective land use planning with spaces allocated for vendors in advance, infrastructural improvements in the areas, where vendors operate and up-gradation of vendors into formal shops. She suggested that tripartite efforts should be put forward for the management of vendors, which include municipal authorities, local organizations or civil society and the affected party itself for the management and joint negotiation process.

Center for Integrated Urban Development (2006), in its final report entitled, “Study of Street vendors in Greater Kathmandu”, which was submitted to Action Aid, studied 110 samples of street vendors and categorized the street vending into Perishable items, Durable food items, Fast food stalls, Durable items and Service vendors. The study enumerated the number of street vendors in KMC to be 9,726. Similarly, the study shows the positive correlation of the street vendor’s density and population density in core city, center, north, east and west and maximum density of street vendors are observed in the city core. The chart 1 shows the number of street vendors in the five sectors of KMC. The report concluded that street vendors are the positive contributions to the urban economy and managing street vendors into organized market and dignified vendors may require some policy changes and strategic interventions.

Similarly, the report recommended the cyclic use of space for different purposes according to the timely demand within a day. Also proper tools of advocacy to be used to aware planners, decision makers and public related to the importance of street vendors in urban economy and further, the initiation of registration process in city office for recognition of the street vendors as a citizen of the city, and bring them into the taxation system.

Kathmandu Metropolitan city (2007), in its formal report entitled, “Street and footpath Business Study Report”, acknowledges the role of street vendors in providing goods and services to the urban poor and addresses to the unemployment to a certain degree but the problems arising from the street vendors in urban areas are far more outreaching and should be managed properly. Similarly, the formal shopkeepers in the urban centers are also facing the problems due to street vendors such facing tough competition and low business due to the incidence of street vendors. Hence to manage the street vendors in the long term and sustainable basis, and study the street vendors and their problems, the 9 persons working committee was formed to study the street vendors in KMC. The study only enumerated the number of street vendors in KMC and provides the official statistics of 4,557 vendors in KMC. The study number of street vendor is about half than that of the study conducted by CIUD in 2006. Similarly, the study defines the parts of urban core such as Ason, Tyora, Bhedasingh, Naradevi, Thahity, and Bhimsenthan Bridge to be street vending restricted zone. Similarly, the study proposed the time for street vending to be from morning 6 am to 8:30 am and in the evening after 6 pm to 8 pm and relocation of street vendors in Kalimati and Bhimsenthan to the Bishnumati link road.

Cobbling is the customary way of earning livelihood of *Dalits* (low caste) and nowadays it is adopted by occupational as well as non occupational caste groups to mitigate the present context of global change. By the nature of work and space used by them, their occupation has been much vulnerable. Seasonality, space and institution, social values and norms, political situation and lack of livelihood assets are the most responsible factors to shape their occupational vulnerability. This study has demonstrated that poverty in urban areas embraces many socio-economic, institutional and physical circumstances (Pathak 2004).

Baskota (2005) has attempted to examine the working condition and vulnerability of porters in Kathmandu and impact of policies on them. This study observed that most of the porters are immigrants from other districts and the major cause of their marginalization and migration are poor access to the productive assets such as inadequate and low quality of land, lack of infrastructure and social isolation. Porter's traditional occupations, tailoring, smithing, cobbling became marginalized due to the globalization and industrialization. Their livelihood has not improved in the city. They have lower income, are food insecure, have children beyond schooling and on the other hand new city policies like privatization of Bus Park have further marginalized them. This study has presented vulnerable condition as well as impact of policies upon porters.

Different institutional arrangements and cultural practices have allocated different works for man and woman in Nepalese male dominant society. The customary conception of gendered activity space has determined the woman in reproductive and domestic sphere and men in productive and public sphere. In this way, the activity spaces of men and women are different and this discrimination has created inequalities. It is in this context the authors argue that female tempo drivers have broken the border of customary male activity space of driving vehicles for their livelihood. This study examines the socio-economic background, working condition, motivational factors, livelihood assets etc. of female tempo driver (Subedi and Baral 2008).

The sustainable livelihood framework is inadequate to explain the case of beggars' livelihood in Katmandu. Based on field survey, he concluded that almost all cast/ethnic groups from different parts of the country have been begging but they have no livelihood assets as defined in the framework. They have migrated from different parts of the country. Many beggars are found to

be physically disabled, old, and economically inactive and most of them are living out of their family. This study has found that almost all beggars in Kathmandu are not native to this place (Gautam 2008).

This study is based on Robert and Conway (1992) approach and Todaro Model. As for the objective of the study, it is related to the questionnaire seating, analysis part of process with the sustainable livelihood framework. Studies made on livelihood in Nepal till date has similarities in many respects. Some studies focus on urban poverty and livelihood especially in the informal sector in Kathmandu. Most of the studies have methodologically followed sustainable livelihood framework which gives emphasis on individual legitimate endowments of livelihood assets. This study is an attempt to fulfil the gap of by making an assessment of microenterprise and their livelihood strategy of WSVs who are earning their livelihood in such a strategy where the absolute lack of assets has been both the cause and problem of snack selling. Hence, sustainable livelihood framework with which the studies have been conducted up to the present may not completely be the framework that would completely help analyse the livelihood and sustainability context of the WSVs lives.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

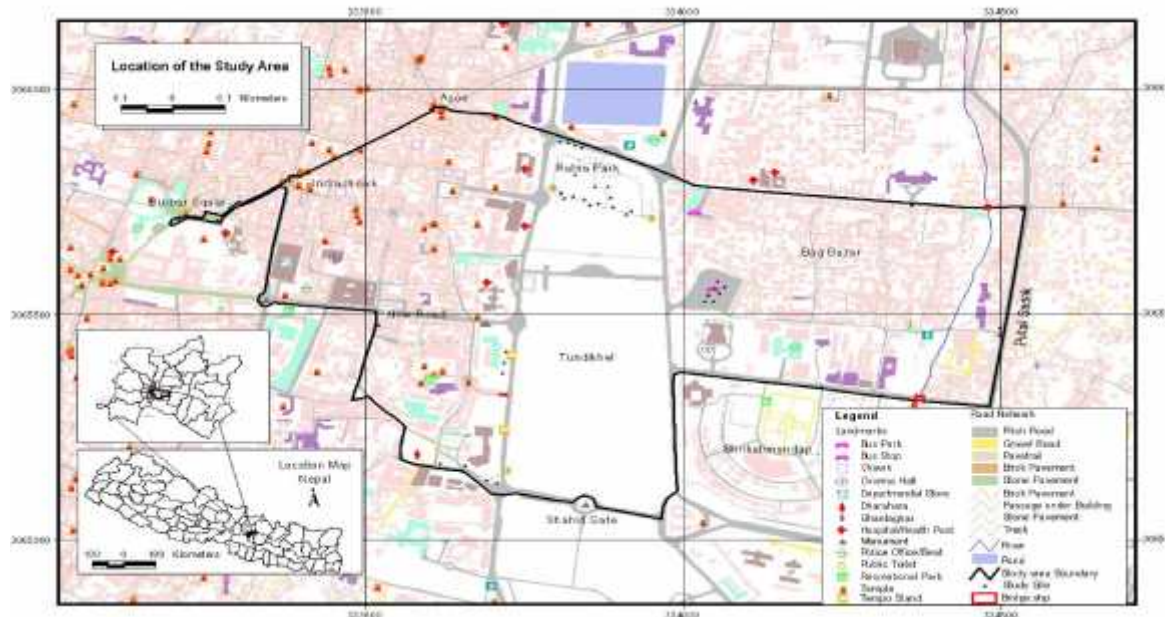
This part will clarify the methodological approaches applied and contain a description as well as how data collection procedure, data analysis and processing had carried out. Similarly, it also describes the selection of site, nature and sources of data, techniques of data collection, sampling procedure, sample size and sample size justification and procedures adopted in the study.

3.1 Selection of Study Area

Urban core area of KMC was selected as a study area because of the higher density of street vendors as compared to other sectors of KMC, and mostly the problem due to increasing number of street vendors are witnessed and experienced more clearly in the urban core. Moreover, the study would yield a better output if it was concentrated on the most affected area; therefore urban core of Kathmandu metropolitan city has been selected as the study area. The urbanization rate of Kathmandu is very high and street business is increasing everyday due to the poverty as well different socio-economic factors (Fig.1).

Map of study area

Fig: 1 Location of the Study Area



3.2 Nature and Sources of Data

3.2.1 Primary Data Source

Primary data comprised of both quantitative and qualitative data. The primary data were collected from the field surveys through questionnaires, which were asked to the street vendors, peoples who were buying from the street vendors as well as the pedestrians passing from the same street with vendors. Similarly, checklist of question were prepared for the key informant's interview, which included urban planners, economist, municipal authorities, member of trade union, related members o NGOs and INGOs and others. There are some cases of different women of street vendor which is seen in this paper in box.

3.2.2 Secondary Data Source

Secondary data was collected from the previous research, report, books and journals, Government and Non Government organizations report etc. NCCR's report and data where consulted for further information which related to the informal sector. Similarly printed maps

and spatial data of GIS, various materials from internet were incorporated in the thesis in the form of secondary data.

3.3 Sampling Design

The core area of Kathmandu selected for investigation. It is the place where most women snacks vendors are situated and cause most problems by occupying public space. The locations selected to take the sample of women snacks vendors based on the following criteria.

Transportation Junction

Commercial Zone

Institutional Zone

Monumental Zone

Distribution of street women snack vendor's in the study area is given in table

Table 1 Distribution of women by locality

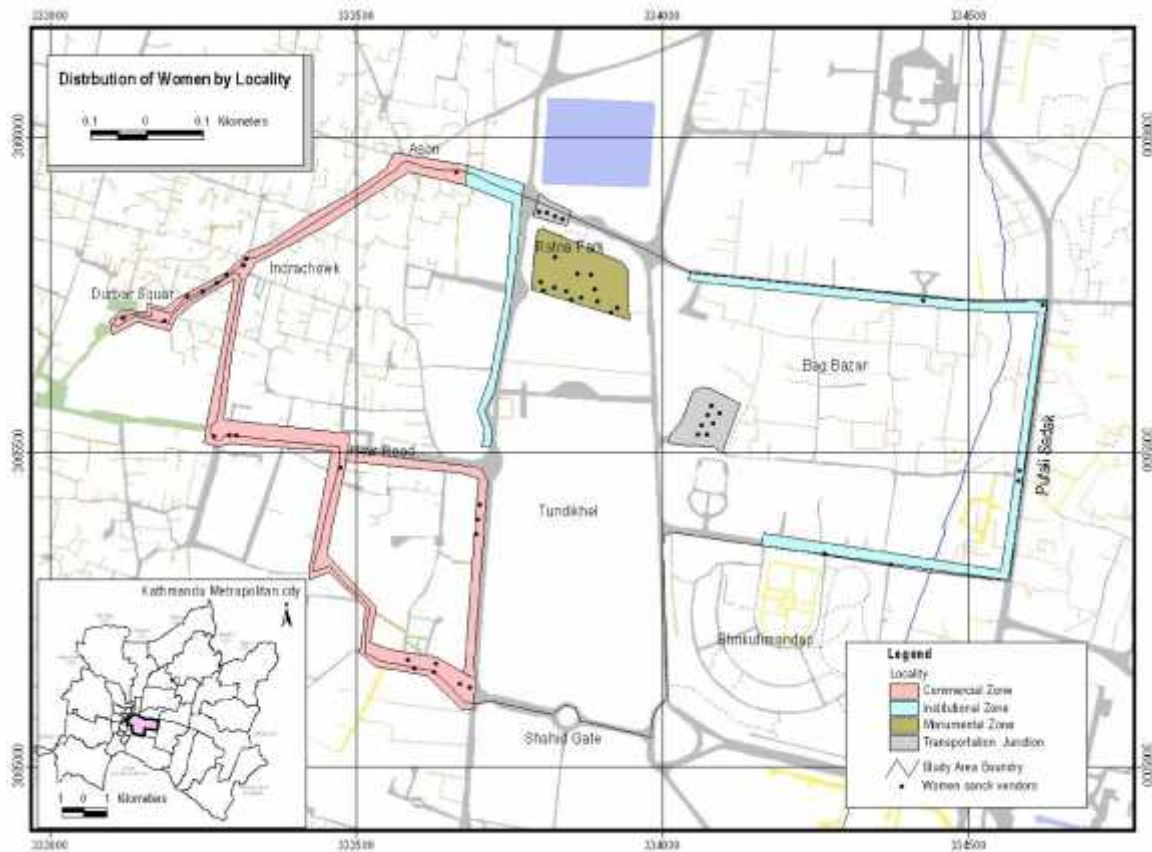
S.N	Locality Name	No. of Woman Snack vendors		Total	Percent (%)
		Static	Mobile		
1	Transportation Junction	10	2	12	23.08
2	Commercial Zone	19	3	22	42.31
3	Institutional Zone	5	0	5	9.62
4	Monumental Zone	7	6	13	25.00
Total		41	11	52	100.00
Percent (%)		78.85	21.15	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2009

On the basis of table 1 we can viewed that there are 12(23.08%) women vendors in Transportation junction, 22(42.1%) are in commercial zone, 5(9.62%) in institutional zone and 13(25%) are in monumental zone. Among them purposive sampling method has been used here

to fulfill the aim of the study. Out of 52 women snack vendors, 11(21.15%) are mobile vendors and 41(78.85%) are static.

Fig: 2 Distributions of Women Snacks Vendors by Locality



3.4 Primary Data Collection

The primary data were collected using various tools and methods, which includes reconnaissance survey and observations, questionnaire surveys and key informant interviews and the interview with customers who were buying from the street vendors and the pedestrians. The formats of questionnaires are attached in (Appendix-1).

3.4.1 Reconnaissance Survey

A reconnaissance was conducted to get information about the areas as well as WSVs and to test the effectiveness of research strategy and viability of the study. Potential field difficulties encountered by the researcher were identified. Similarly, to get an idea of rapport building with respondents and to find out the repeated and missing items developed interview schedules were tested.

3.4.2 Women Enterprise Survey

The questionnaire were used in enterprise survey to collect detail information about women snacks vendors. All women snacks vendors were selected for interview in enterprise survey. A questionnaire are the prominent tool to collect information about individuals as well as enterprise surveying for gathering both qualitative and quantitative information in the field of research. The researcher used open and close questionnaire in the study which was semi-structure form. The questionnaire were developed as simple as possible. Attention was made to avoid the unnecessary questions and repetition of a similar question. In this study, it had been used the collection of personal details, economic status, social status, working environment, problems and expectations associated with job of women snack vendors of urban core area of KMC.

3.4.3 Organization Survey

Organization survey is one of the major methods of data collection. In this study 3 organizations were represent for data collection, one from vendors union and two from municipal authorities. Organization survey was used to get the information about the current situation and policy issues as well as their perspective regarding street vendors and street vending. In organization survey, three key informants interview were carried out, which included Chairmen of GFONT Nepal, Chief executive officer and chief inspector of the Kathmandu metropolitan city. The informants stated that vendors mainly belong to the poor economic strata and they have involved to this sector due lacking of opportunity offered by formals sector. However, only this view perspective of towards street vendors and their activity will be insufficient.

From the analysis, it was observed that 90 percent vendors were involved in a Nepal Street Vendors Union, related to GEFONT (General Federation of Nepalese Trade Union) and the union gets its support from the Communist Party of Nepal-UML. Remaining 10 percent are registered to any UTTON political unions related to ANFTU and other union.

3.4.4 Customers Survey

Only six customer's interview carried out in the sites at the time of questionnaire survey. As per the analysis of the data obtained from the pedestrians, Respondents were of age group 17 to 65 years of age and all are illiterate, literate (ranging from SLC level to Master Degree). Most of the respondents said that street vendors are helping them to buy goods at cheaper prices as they do not have to pay for the rent of a shop. One of the respondent said that vendors make the place lively and offer a lot of discount, which formal sector does not. These pedestrians praise them for snack items at affordable prices which otherwise would not have been on their reach. But all of these customers realize that street vendors belong to the poor strata but the street is not a proper place to sell their products. They said the vendors should be relocated to a proper place from the concerned agencies or government. They highlighted the negative aspects of the street vendors as creating congestion and creating very limited space to walk in the footpath. One of the respondent even said that if the situation were not controlled, it would make adverse effect to the formal sector and in turn national economy.

Perception of customers, towards street vending was analyzed form sample of customers based on different categories were taken on different locations. It was found that 83 percent of the customers stated that they prefer to buy from street vendors because of the affordable price they offer. However, 17 percent of the respondents were of the view that they buy only limited categories of snacks from street vendors as the quality of product are not always good. On being asked about the importance of street vendors, most of the respondents were positive about the street vending activities. They said that the goods offered by street vendors are cheap and are as of same quality as that of the branded shop. Similarly, others were of the view that street vendors provide one stop shopping for middle low class people so they thinks it's important and helpful to manage their low budget. However, some of the respondents thought that street-vending activities is bad for the economy, they stated that occupying spaces and polluting the

environment with crowd and waste makes the public places unattractive. They said that these kinds of activities are sending negative impression to the tourists and foreigners. Similarly, respondents suggested the related authority should take proper step to manage street vending activities. Some were of the view that a separate place should be provided for street vending so that road congestion is reduced.

3.4.5 Field Note

Field note was mentioned to record necessary information observed during field survey. It was meant to record supporting information not captured by the survey questionnaire. Details of the important incidence, events and discussion which were not included in either structural or unstructured question are and which were found to be important for the study were recorded in the diary. This help the researcher to collect even minor but most important things which would not have been possible to collect in a systematic way (Thapa 2006). Researcher wrote the information on field notes as well as records their voice about people activities, their environments, unique matters, people speeches and other things after completing the daily field work.

3.4.6 Case Studies

The case studies were carried out based on the 3 different categories of street vendors operating at different locations. The case studies include street vendors, who are migrants, involvement for very long duration of time and vendor with part time involvements. During the questionnaire survey the street vendors with specific interesting characteristics are further interviewed in detail to know about the details of different characteristics of vendors that are involved in the street vending in the urban areas.

3.5 Secondary data Collection

Secondary data and information were collected from published and unpublished document to collect the secondary information, related books, journals, newspapers as well as thesis were the major sources which were obtained from government, non government, international non government organization and library of various institutions. Internet was other important sources

of the study.

Similarly, several policy documents such as Local Self Governance Act 1998, women policies, National Urban Policy 2064, as well as other acts and regulations related to the street vendors and women directly or indirectly are also part of the secondary information.

3.6 Data processing and Analysis

Data processing and analysis is one of the important and major steps of any study. It is the heart of the work. All the collected information presented in table, charts, maps, photographs as per the need of report. Excel was used for tabulation of the data. The spatial data and attribute data was linked from GIS programs to find out the suitability analysis in the study area. Information from the key informant presented in descriptive way wherever relevant. Analyses of the questionnaires were done by using statistical tools of Excel. Similarly, the cross-tabulation options were used in code sheet to analyze the different dimensions of data.

3.7 Field Work as an Experience

In every society, there are rich and poor people, Kathmandu valley is not an exception there are settled very rich to poorer people by doing different activities. Especially on that small investment micro enterprise such as Channa-Badam vendors and other kinds of women food vendors' livelihood was the main focus on study area. I have tried to grab the information about the investment, utilization of time on their business; constraints face by them and to know the fact of supporting agencies and organization. I have collected data with 52 women on the study area. I thought that, it would be difficult to find the respondents. But they are snacks vendors always keep their stall in the evening time on the street. So it was difficult to collect data in the morning and day time. Taking their time in the evening was also difficult because they are so busy to sell their food that they did not have time to talk to the researcher. Always, some of the respondents were well mannered and some respondents were behaving in a different way which was not expected. I also felt I have disturb them on their work. The study was must to get information from them. So, till 9 pm researcher was in the field to collect data.

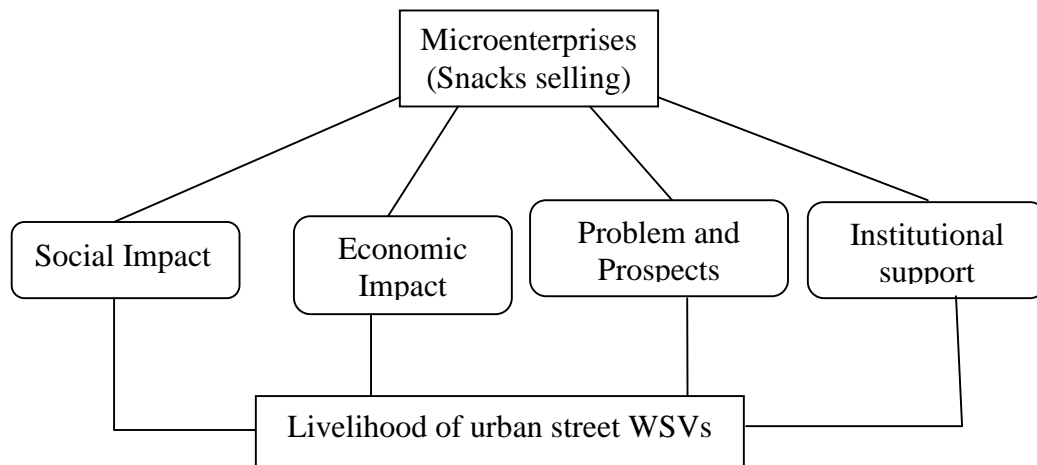
While collecting data on the field I have found 18-65 years of age women snack vendors. As for as educational status is concerned there are illiterate, literate to higher level of educated WSVs are found. Among them most of the women felt unsecure with ill mannered people, like some boys who does not pay money having food on their shop, asking money for them. And another serious problem was harassment of metropolitan police.

WSVs used to say, there are lots of people come and ask about our personal activities, so they are irritated by researcher because nobody had done anything for them. To get the fact information about their occupation and livelihood, researcher had to have food on their shop. At the same time, one woman was found; she has been doing this occupation since 20 years. And look after her four family members and bought small piece of land (5Anna) in Kathmandu valley. Researcher also met an unmarried girl was studying in B.A, because there was no alternative source of income for her livelihood.

3.8 Methods of Analysis

The whole analysis of this study is based on the analysis framework as shown in figure 3.

Fig: 3 Analysis Frameworks



First the spatial locations of the women snacks vendors are digitized on the map and mark the different location. To get the answer of livelihood of the urban streets WSVs a survey was conducted in those sites and located the numbers of WSVs in the digitized map.

CHAPTER IV

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Introduction

Kathmandu is the capital and largest city of Nepal. The city is the urban core of Kathmandu valley in the Himalayas, which also contain two sister cities namely Lalitpur, 5 kilometres to its southeast (an ancient city of fine arts and crafts) and Bhaktapur, 14 kilometres to its east (city of temples).

The city stands at an elevation of approximately 1,400 meters in the bowl-shaped valley in central Nepal surrounded by four major mountains, namely: Shivapuri, Phulchowki, Nagarjun and Chandragiri. It is inhabited by 671,846 (2001) people. The Kathmandu valley with its three districts including [Kathmandu district](#) accounts for a population density of only 97 per km² whereas Kathmandu metropolitan city has a density of 13,225 per km². It is by far the largest urban agglomerate in Nepal, accounting for 20 percent of the urban population in an area of 5,067 hectares.

Kathmandu is not only the capital of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal but also the headquarters of the Central Region. The Central region has three zones namely, Bagmati, Narayani and Janakpur. Kathmandu is located in the Bagmati Zone.

4.2 Physical Setting

4.2.1 Location

The city is located in the northwestern part of [Kathmandu Valley](#). The city covers an area of 50.67 square kilometers. The average elevation is 1,350 meters above the sea level. The city is bounded by the Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City in its south, [Kirtipur Municipality](#) in south-west, Madyapur Thimi [Municipality](#) in east and different [Village Development Committees](#) of Kathmandu in north, west and north-east. Study are of Kathmandu valley which is located from 27°41'40" to 27°42' 30" north latitude and 85°18'30" to 85°19'15" east longitude.

[Bagmati](#), [Bishnumati](#), [Dhobikhola](#) and Manohara rivers flow through the city. The mountains from where these rivers originate are in the elevation range of 1,500–3,000 meters and have passes, which provide access to and from Kathmandu and its valley. It falls in the central development region and it is the headquarters of the region. Much of the municipality falls within the area bounded by the Bagmati River and the northern segment of ring road except for protruding areas along the major arterial road at Balaju, Bansbari, Bouddha and Kalanki; the airport and the strip east of the airport extending up to the Manohara River lies outside the ring road (KMC and W.B, 2001)

4.2.2 Climate

Climatic conditions vary to a large extent in view of several geographical factors (topography and altitude). Five major climatic regions have been deciphered in Nepal, Kathmandu valley falls under the Warm Temperate Zone (elevation ranging from 1,200–2,300 meters) where the climate is fairly pleasant, atypical of the region. This zone is followed by the Cool Temperate Zone with elevation varying between 2,100 meters and 3,300 meters. In the Kathmandu valley, which is representative of its valley's climate the average temperature during the summer season varies from 28–30 °C. During the winter season the average temperature is about 10 °C.

The city generally has a salubrious climate with comfortable warm days followed by the cool mornings and nights. Unpredictability of weather is expected as during winter, temperatures during the winter months have dropped to - 3 °C. The rainfall which is mostly monsoon based (about 80% of the total concentrated during the [monsoon](#) months of June to August), which decreases (100 cm to 200 cm) substantially from eastern Nepal to western Nepal, has been recorded as about 1,400 millimeters for the Kathmandu valley and an average of 1,407 millimeters specifically for the Kathmandu city. On an average [Humidity](#) is 75 percent.

Table: 2 Climate data for Kathmandu

<i>Month</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
<i>Average high °C</i> (°F)	17 (63)	21 (70)	25 (77)	30 (86)	29 (84)	29 (84)	28 (82)	29 (84)	28 (82)	29 (84)	24 (75)	21 (70)
<i>Average low °C</i> (°F)	3 (37)	2 (36)	7 (45)	9 (48)	15 (59)	19 (66)	19 (66)	19 (66)	18 (64)	13 (55)	6 (43)	2 (36)
<i>Precipitation mm</i> (inches)	47 (1.85)	11 (0.43)	5 (0.2)	5 (0.2)	146 (5.75)	135 (5.31)	327 (12.87)	206 (8.11)	199 (7.83)	42 (1.65)	0 (0)	1 (0.04)

Source: Nepal Bureau of Standards & Metrology (2005)

Based on the data source of the Nepal Bureau of Standards & Metrology, "Weather Meteorology" for the Year 2005, climatic data chart is given, which provides Minimum and Maximum temperatures (the lowest and highest temperatures recorded during the month respectively). Annual amount of Precipitation is 1,124 millimeters for 2005, as per monthly data included in the table above.

4.2.3 Pollution

[Air pollution](#) is a serious problem in Kathmandu. Aside from the obvious human generated degradation produced by industry, by extensive traffic and congestion in the city and frequent burning associate with its temples, natural meteorological factors play a dynamic role and interact with air pollution in the Kathmandu Valley, shaping atmospheric stability, wind speed and direction, and precipitation, thus having considerable control over air dynamics in the urban climate. Its location in the Kathmandu Valley means that it is subject to mountain-valley circulations which may cause air pollution circulating away from the city to return at night, increasing pollution levels in the city in the evenings.

4.3 Socio-economic setting of the study area

4.3.1 Demographics

Kathmandu's urban cosmopolitan character has made it the most populous city in Nepal, recording a population of 671,846 residents living in 235,387 households in the metropolitan city according to the 2001 census. It is a trend displayed since historical times created by its unique Newari people who continue to be one of the dominant groups in the city. The city has, over the years, absorbed people of various ethnicities resulting in an agreeable range of different traditions and cultural practices. In a decade, the population has increased from 427,045 in 1991 to 671,805 in 2001 and is projected to touch a figure of 915,071 in 2011 and 1319,597 by 2021. To keep up this population growth, KMC controlled area of 5,076.6 hectares has expanded to 8214 ha in 2001. With this new area, the density of population which was 85 in 1991 is still 85 in 2001 (due to increase in area) and is likely to be 111 in 2011 and 161 in 2021.

4.3.2 Ethnic groups

The largest ethnic groups are Newars, Brahmins and Kshetris. Tamangs originating from surrounding hill districts can be seen quite clearly in Kathmanu. More recently, other hill ethnic groups and Caste groups from Tarai have shown their presence as well. The major languages are [Nepali](#) and [Nepal Bhasa](#). The major religions are [Hinduism](#) and [Buddhism](#). The city has also a significant and growing [Muslim](#) population.

The linguistic profile of Kathmandu underwent drastic changes during the Shah Dynasty rule on account of their very strong bias towards the [Brahmin](#) culture. [Sanskrit language](#), therefore, got a boost and people were encouraged to learn this language even by attending Sanskrit learning centers in India. Sanskrit schools were specially set up in Kathmandu and in the Tarai region to inculcate traditional Hindu culture and practices.

4.3.3 Economic Activities

Kathmandu's trade is an ancient profession that flourished along the trade route between India and Tibet. Trading caravans of mecranhts were famous for trading with Lhasa. Other trades in

which people have been involved since ancient times are Farming, metal casting, woodcarving, painting, waving and pottery are other popular traditional occupations.

Even now Kathmandu is the most important industrial and commercial centre of Nepal and the headquarters of most companies, banks and organizations in the country are located here. The major economic hubs are the [New Road of Kathmandu](#), the Durbar Square, Ason and Putalisadak.

The city's economic output is worth more than NRs. 170 billion per year. Kathmandu exports handicrafts, artworks, garments, carpets, pashmina, paper etc. and trade accounts for 21 percent of its finances. Manufacturing comes next in importance and accounts for 19 percent of the revenue that Kathmandu generates with garments and woolen carpets being the most notable manufacturers.

In Kathmandu the number of population involved in non-agriculture is higher than that of the number of population involved in agriculture. Household engaged in trade / businesses are 49.49 percent followed by services 30.26 percent. (Poudel 2005)

Other money making sectors in Kathmandu include agriculture (9%), education (6%), transport (6%), and hotels and restaurants (5%). Although some of Nepal's wealthiest citizens live in Kathmandu, much of the city is living in poverty with a per capita income of just US \$400 (World Bank 2008). Mostly those people from different geographic part of nation who have not ability to invest for higher trade and business, have no sources, have no sufficient food security, pressured by social discrimination and political conflict are engaging in these street occupation by using urban open space. Estimated by NEST that there are about 14000 people trading in streets of Kathmandu, so it's nearly impossible to put all these in only one place.

4.3.4 Road network

The total length of roads in Nepal is recorded to be (17,182 kilometers), as in 2003-04. This fairly large network (still considered a very inadequate connectivity with the rural hill areas) has helped in the economic progress of the country in the field of agriculture, horticulture, vegetable farming, industry and also tourism. In view of the hilly terrain, transportation facilities in Nepal

in general and Kathmandu in particular, are mainly by road and air with limited rail link in the [Tarai region](#).

Through the process of Five Year Plan developments, the first transmountain highway linking Kathmandu with [Bhaise](#), a distance of 126 km, was built and further extended via [Hetauda](#) through [Birganj](#) to [Raxaul](#) in [India](#), a distance of 64 kilometers (40 mi) (built by [Government of India](#) in 1956). Another trans-Himalayan highway that was built in 1963 connects Kathmandu with Kodari, a distance of 114 kilometers (built by the Chinese), and links to [Tibet](#). Another highway called the Prithvi Highway, within the country, connects Kathmandu with the [Pokhara Valley](#) over a distance of 200 kilometers (built by the [Chinese](#)). Kathmandu Metropolitan City road network consist of a ring road, major road, minor road and foot trails. It has well developed radial road to connect all parts of Valley (Ranjet 2000)

CHAPTER V

FEATURES OF MICROENTERPRISE ACTIVITIES

This chapter deals with the findings pertaining to the street women vendor regarding their socio-economic impact through enterprise activities i.e. snack selling. It tends to give an insight of their change in socio-economic status. The social status comprises the information like demography, education and decisive role at family, health etc .The study on economic status comprises of the information regarding the occupation, income, consumption and expenditure pattern and information regarding to their current job.

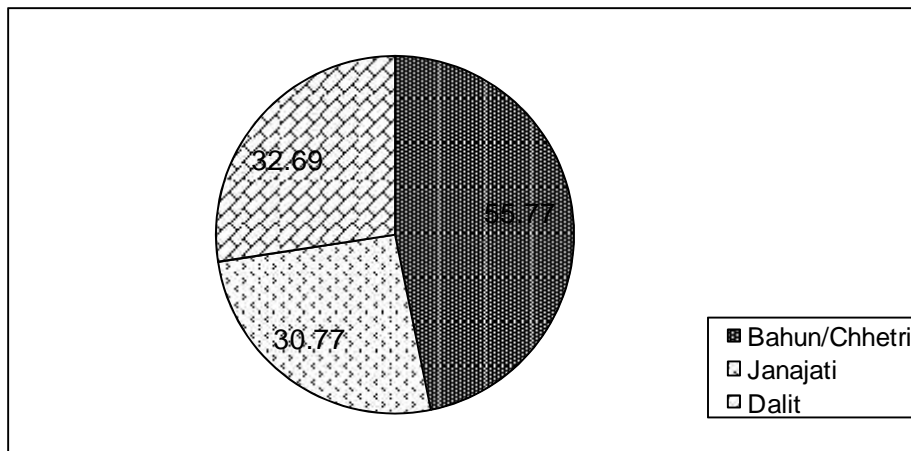
5.1 Personal Details

This chapter specifically focuses the background factors pertaining to women snack vendors. The findings pertaining to their personal characteristics are presented here.

5.1.1 Caste/Ethnic Group

It is obvious that the respondents of the study are from the different ethnic group in this study i.e. High caste (Bahun, Chhetri), Middle caste (Janajati) and Low caste (Dalit). They are the different ethnic community living in the KMC mainly concentrated at core area of KMC. Various caste/ethnic groups were observed within the survey period, is shown in fig 4.

Fig: 4 Distribution of women snack vendors by their Caste/ Ethnic group



The figure 4 shows that the majority of women snack vendor are from Bahun /Chhettri in study area shares 55.77 percent followed by Dalit with 32.69 percent and the least proportion is Janajati which covers 30.77 percent. It is concluded that the dominance of snack vendors were of Bahun /Chhettri.

5.1.2 Age Group

Age and sex are the important variables in population studies. Both of these variables affect the life of people. The age and sex characteristics of the women snack vendors living in core area of KMC are shown in table 4.2

Table 3: Distribution of women snack vendors by their Age group

Age Group	No. of WSVs	Percent
<20	5	9.62
20-30	9	17.31
30-40	21	40.38
40-50	11	21.15
50-60	5	9.62
>60	1	1.92
Total	52	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

The Data pertaining to the age of the snack vendors shows that the average age of women is 35. The minimum age of vendor women is 18 while the maximum age is 66. The data shows that maximum numbers of women entrepreneur are within the age group of 30-39 i.e. 40.38 percent.

5.1.3 Family Type

Size of family within the nuclear and joint family may vary to a great extent. Though nuclear families are also large in size, comparatively extended families have larger numbers of members. The family background is considered as the main basis of economic activities of the people. The family type and their size are known in table below.

Table 4: Distribution of women by the type of family

Family size	Types of Family		Total	Percent
	No. of Nuclear family	No. of Joint family		
1	1	0	1	1.92
2	1	0	1	1.92
3	13	1	10	19.23
4	11	1	12	23.08
5	3	6	9	17.31
6	2	4	6	11.54
7	0	7	7	13.46
8+	0	2	2	3.85
Total	31	21	52	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

1.92 percent respondents reported only one family members, 3.85 percent respondents with joint families have 8+ members in family compared to 0 percent respondents in nuclear family. The majority of women snack vendor have nuclear family structure. During the field survey the researcher had asked about the reason of their nuclear family, they had replied that, they don't have enough property to share.

5.1.4 Marital Status

Marriage is a source of companionship and over all security rather than a ritual, social and sexual obligations in Nepalese society. The marital status of WSVs shows that overwhelming majority is married and only 6 WSVs are unmarried.

Fig: 5 Distribution of women Snack Vendors by marital status

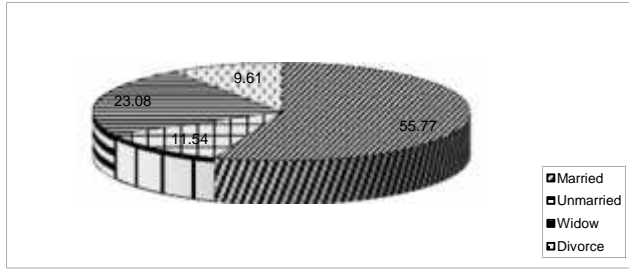
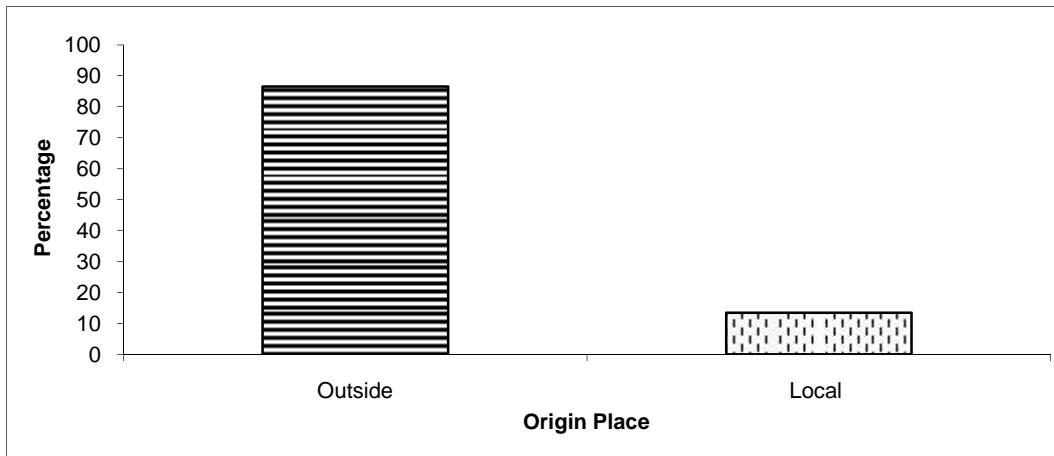


Fig 5 shows that 55.77 percent of women are married, 11.54 percent are unmarried, 23.08 percent of them are widow and 9.61 percent are divorce women.

5.1.5 Place of Origin

People move from one place to another in order to earn more money for sustain their livelihood. Snack vendors from different areas of the country have centralized in KMC. Kathmandu valley is a political, economic, and historic as well as tourist core of Nepal where a large number of WSVs have been earning their livelihood through microenterprise. However, most of the WSVs are migrants. They have come from different geographical regions of the country.

Fig: 6 Distribution of women Snack Vendors by their origin place



Out of 52 WSVs, majorities of snack vendors are outside the valley which is 86.54 percent and only 13.46 percent of local.

5.1.6 Education Level

In this study education level of respondents was summarized into three categories I) Illiterate II) Literate III) Higher education. Most of the women are illiterate, few of them are literate and two are higher education. Educational background of WSVs is not satisfactory.

Table 5: Distribution of Women by their education level

Education Level	No. of women snack vendors					
	Bahun/Chhetri	Percent	Janajati	Percent	Dalit	Percent
Literate	16	55.17	1	16.67	1	5.88
Illiterate	11	37.93	5	83.33	16	94.12
Higher Education	2	6.90	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	29	100.00	6	100.00	17	100.00
Percent	55.77		11.54		32.69	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 5 shows the educational background by their caste and ethnic background. WSVs of Bahun/Chhetri are more educated than other caste and ethnicity. Only 2 WSVs of Brahmin/Chhetri have completed SLC and no other castes have access in higher education. It is because Bahun/Chhetri women are at forefront in socio-economic status. Among illiterate, WSVs of Dalit are in greater number. Similarly, among literate ones, highest proportion of WSVs has got primary levels education.

The education status of WSVs shows that higher castes are more educated but the overall education attainment is low. Most of the WSVs reported that they are deprived of education in their childhood mainly due to poor economic status, early marriage and family problem in the household. Beside these, the educational status of women is not satisfactory in the Nepalese society. They are not treated like their male counterparts. The investment on girl for education is

considered something which has no return. Nepalese society frankly says “educating a daughter means watering a neighbor’s flower plant” as the return goes to somebody else. Despite being uneducated, most of the WSVs are schooling their children either in a private or a public school.

5.1.7 Housing Ownership Pattern

Majority of the WSVs are migrants as well as poor and are living in a rented room. Most of them stated that their living place was surrounding area where they were working. Of total 52 WSVs, 50 percent are living in rented room and only two WSVs have their own home in the valley. Among those who are living in rented room, the average rent is NRs 1500 per month.

Table 6: Distribution of women by their accommodation and living arrangement

Accommodation	Number of WSVs	Percent (%)
Rent	50	96.15
Own house	2	3.85
Total	52	100
Living Arrangement	Number of WSVs	Percent (%)
With whole family	21	40.38
With children	12	23.08
Alone	16	30.77
With friend	3	5.77
Total	52	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2009

96.15 percent WSVs are living in rented room and only 3 percent are living in own house. 30.77 percent WSVs are living alone and there is no one to look after them. They have faced great problem especially during illness. About 64% are living with their whole family and with children than spouse. Three WSVs have been adopted as kept friend by living together in a rented room.

5.1.8 Status in Household and Society Level

Ninety four percent of the respondents used to do household works by themselves before their involvement in snack selling whereas after their engagement 60 percent of respondents stated that it is shared by all family members at present and they buy things for kitchen. Before women they have to look after children while at present both husband and wife look after them. After engage this business status in household and society level slightly increases.

CHAPTER VI

ECONOMIC STATUS AND LIVELIHOOD PATTERN OF WOMEN SNACKS VENDORS

6.1 Trend of Women Snack Vendors

Table 7 shows that 40.38 percent of women have started snack selling from less than five years, 26.92 percent have started from 5-10 years, 9.62 percent, 15.38 percent and 7.69 percent respectively from 10-15, 15-20 and more than 20 years respectively.

Table 7: Distribution of women snack Vendors by their trend

years	Total no. of WSVs	Percent
>5	21	40.38
5 to 10	14	26.92
10 to 15	5	9.62
15 to 20	8	15.38
<20	4	7.69
Total	52	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

6.2 Forward and Backward Linkages

It was observed that the almost all of the women snack vendors buy their goods from nearest wholesalers and sell it to the customers directly without being involved in taxes whatsoever which in turn will relieve the customers from additional costs and vendors earn the same or more profit than the retailers who do the same but have to pay for additional taxes and rent and registration charges etc. This may be the main reason the formal shops are facing a tough competition from the vendors side and therefore small formal shops are turning into the street vending activities.

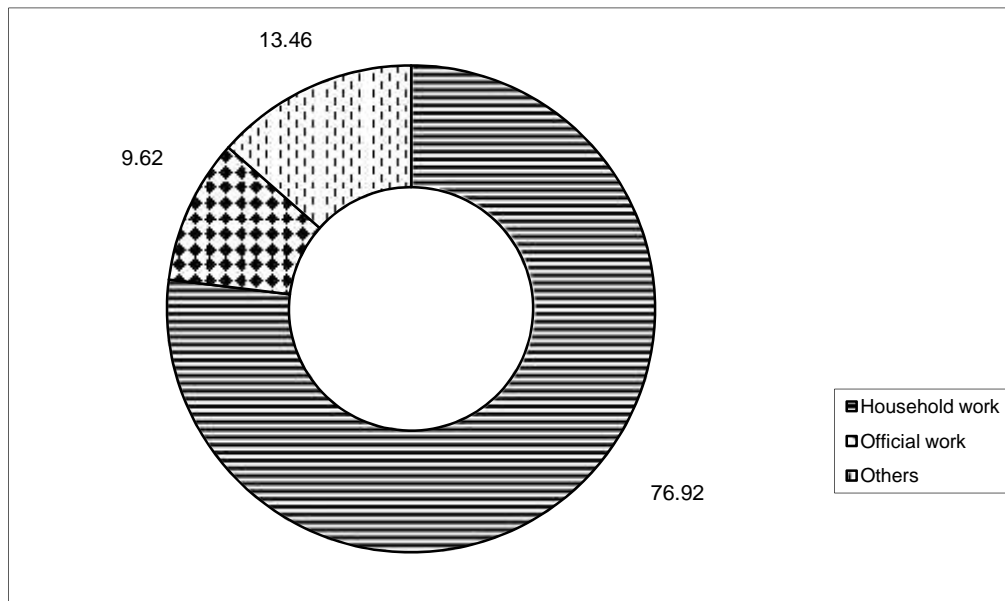
The forward linkage of the women snack vendors depends upon the categories as caters to almost everyone passing through the location and irrespective of the class of economy to the target group but taking case of the women vendors, it caters mostly to the lower and lower-middle economy classes of target group.

6.3 Linkage with Formal Financial Institutions

Among the vendors, 23 percent are not involved in any formal financial institutions directly, while 77 percent have linkage with the formal financial institutions such as Bank, Saving and Credit Cooperative limited and finance companies. In which, 10 percent of the street vendors have an account in a bank, and this strata is belongs to the locals of the Kathmandu valley involved in the Snack selling. Similarly, 61 percent of the street vendors have deposited in Savings and Credit Cooperative limited and remaining 6 percent of the vendors have deposited in Finance company as it provides maximum interest for the deposited income.

6.4 Previous Occupations

Fig 7: Distribution of women snack Vendors by previous occupation



Out of total four locality 76.92 percent of the WSVs previous occupation are household work and only 9.62 percent of the vendors involve in official work such as office peon, accountant etc and 13.46 percent were involved in others work like labor, garment etc.

6.5 Reasons for Choosing this Occupation

The WSVs chose the occupation of snack selling, as it offers no load of investment to handling the occupation, no barrier for the illiterate ones, and for others flexible timing is the main attraction for the part time involvements. Furthermore, for the unskilled migrants are attracted to this occupation as only general numeracy and ability to transact goods for money is sufficient to involve in this occupation. It is very easy to conduct. Some of the WSVs said that poverty and unemployment is the major part for choosing this occupation.

6.6 Display of Merchandise Goods (Snacks)

There are mainly four localities of women snack vendors like transportation junction, commercial zone, institutional zone and monumental zone. Majority of vendor's i.e 57.69 percent used a piece of wood on the floor and display their snacks in small wood rack. While 25 percent of the vendors displayed on three wheel carts, similarly 9.62 percent used four wheels cart for displaying their product and cook snacks on it with stove and 7.69 percent are displaying snacks in steel pot.

6.7 Working Pattern

All government and non government sector offers a limited time for work. The working hours in the context of the WSVs is being analyzed here.

Fig: 8 Distribution of women snack vendors by their working pattern

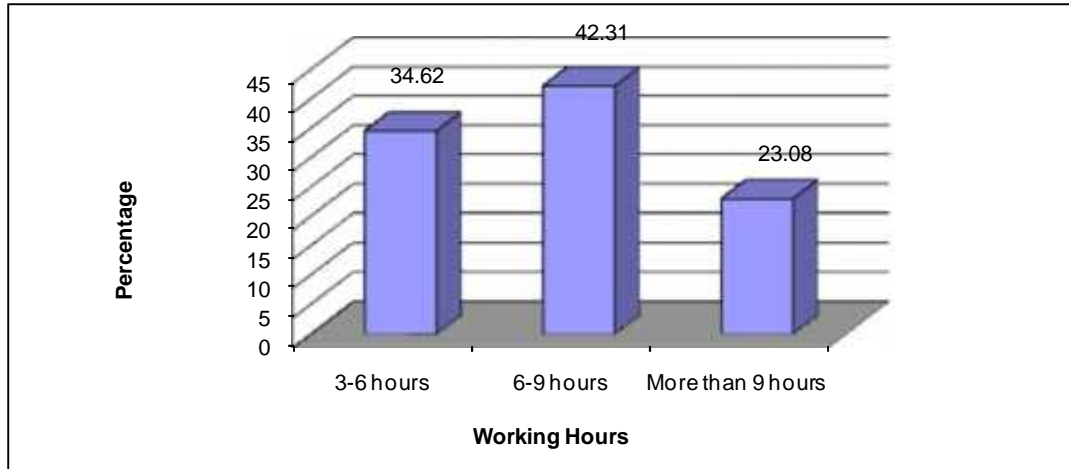


Fig 8 shows that among the WSVs only 34.62 percent have to work for only 3-6 hours per day and 23.08 percent have to work for more than 9 hours. However, 42.31 percent vendors working hour is 6-9. The difference exists because the working hours for the WSVs are not defined as the street occupation comes in the informal sector of work. Besides that, street occupation is considered as the easiest work so the time spent in this is rarely counted.

6.8 Income Pattern

The income pattern is wreaked in terms of profit out of selling items. Livelihood of urban area is different from the rural livelihoods. In urban areas, people need to buy everything to sustain their livelihood. Street occupation (any kind of work to generate income) is the mainly way of people to earn money who is unskilled and uneducated stone breakers has same condition. They don't have any skill and education to get job in formal sectors. So, they must earn from snack selling to sustain them and their family.

Table 8: Distribution of women snack vendors by their income pattern

Daily Profit (In NRs)	No. of WSVs	
	Total	Percent
100-200	34	65.38
200-300	13	25.00
300-400	2	3.85
400-500	1	1.92

Above 500	2	3.85
Total	52	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 8 concludes that all the snack selling women do not have equal daily profit. Most of WSVs earn a daily profit Rs.100-200 which shares 65.38 percent of the total women respondents. This is followed by the WSVs earn daily profit Rs.200-300 which covers 25.00 percent of all. Similarly 3.85 percent WSVs earn daily profit of Rs. 300-400. A few WSVs (1.92 percent) earn daily profit Rs.400-500 which covers 1.92 percent and 3.85 percent WSVs earn daily profit above Rs.500 of the total women respondents. It was observed from the questionnaire survey that 90 percent of the respondents were involved in the snack selling as their primary occupations and only 10 percent of the vendors involve in other extra occupations such as office Peons construction workers and agriculture. The level of profit was found below Rs. 100 which is involved all day in a month to work

6.9 Expenditure Pattern

Most of the WSVs spend their income for shelter, food, clothes and for schooling of their children. Daily expenditure is another important aspect of financial capital. To increase daily income is more difficult then to minimize daily expenditure so upon daily expenditure they are able to control within a certain limitation. All the respondents do not have same expenditure. And they are living with their family and children.

Table 9: Distribution of women snack vendors by their expenditure pattern

Expenditure (NRs)	No. of WSVs	
	Total	Percent
Below200	14	26.92
200-400	30	57.69
400-600	5	9.62

600-800	1	1.92
Above 800	2	3.85
Total	52	100.00

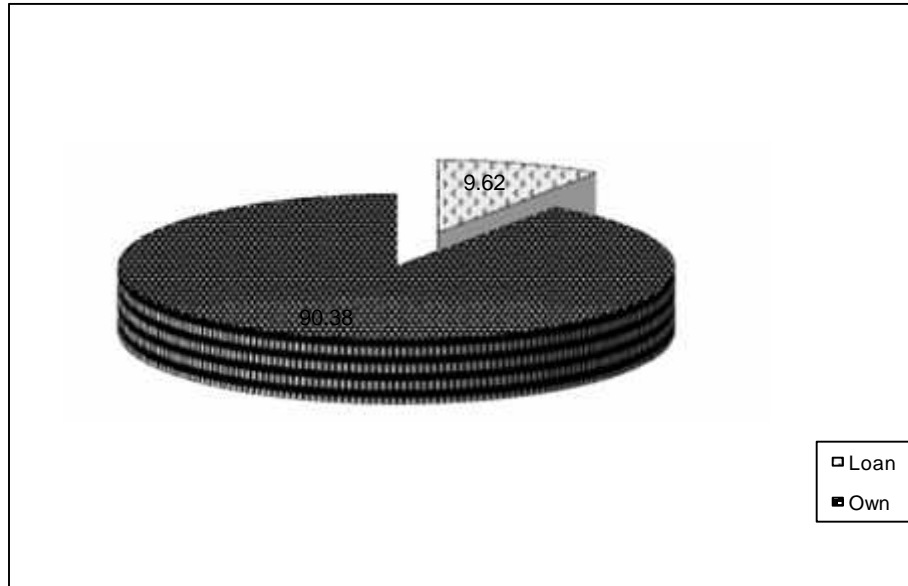
Source: Field Survey, 2010

Table 9 shows that 26.92 percent of respondents spend below Rs. 200 per day. This is followed by the respondents spending Rs. 200-400 which covers 57.69 percent. Similarly 9.62 percent of respondents spend between Rs. 400-600 and remaining spend daily Rs.600-800 and above Rs.800 which covers 1.92 and 3.85 percent respectively.

6.10 Source of Investment

From the analysis of the source of investment or the lending pattern of the vendors, All of the vendors have not received any loans for their business, Those who have not received any loans belong to the migrants who have sold their live-stocks or who have some cash in hand while they leave their hometown or the few local traditional vendors who are well off. In this enterprise there is no load of investment to handling the occupation and little money started it. All of the WSVs have their own source of invest.

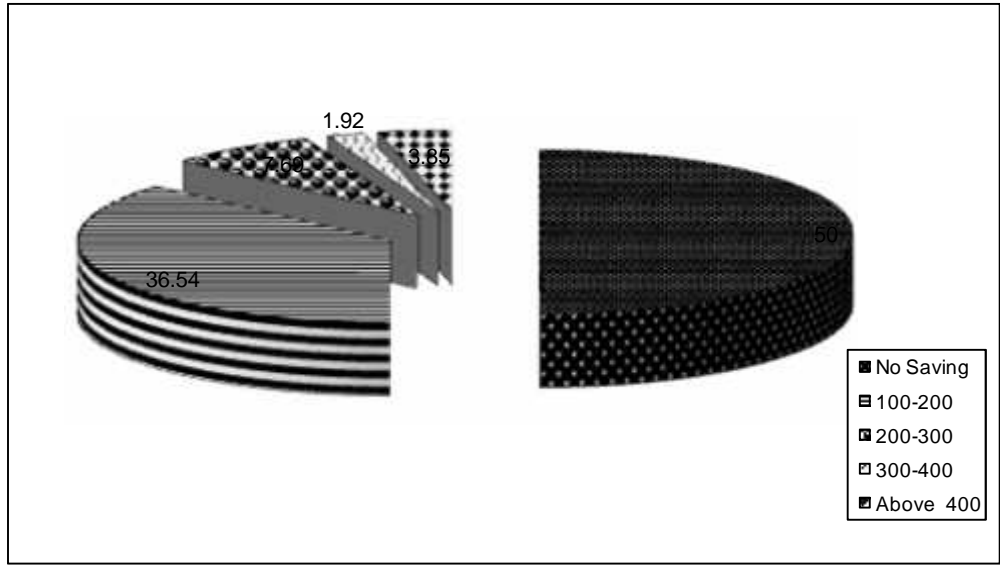
Fig: 9 Distribution of women snack vendors by their source of invest



6.11 Saving Pattern

Saving is the important component for the livelihood analysis because such saving helps people to make a living in the time of economic shocks. Sometimes such saving also supports them for daily food in time of difficulties (rainy days, illness strike etc.). This saving is achieved only after fulfilling all the monthly expenditure because of the individual in income and expenditure their monthly saving also varied which is reported in the table below.

Fig: 10 Distribution of women snack vendors by their saving pattern



From the analysis of the daily saving patterns of the street vendors, suggest that there are majority, which involves 50 percent of the total respondents saying that there is no savings out of the snack selling activities. On the contrary, 36.54 percent of the WSVs save up 100-200Rs per day after paying for all the services and rent, 7.69 percent save up to 200-300 Rs, 1.92 percent save 300-400 Rs and 3.85 percent are able to save more than 400 Rs per month. This suggests that there are greater variations in the savings in street vending occupation which in other words is an indication that there exists the wide variety of economic classes which ranges from the poorest groups living subsistence economy which is predominant, to the richer classes who are able to save more than daily 400Rs after paying for all the expenses.

Case 1

Ramila Panday, 48 years of age from Kavre has been involved in this occupation since 20 years. She is here alone in the rented house. She transacts daily profit Rs. 700 and spends Rs.200. Thus her saving is daily Rs. 500 on average. (Monthly saving 15000).This indicates that her monthly income covers to Rs 1500 on average.

6.12 Alternative Sources of Income

Alternative source is most important part of earning of WSVs. Respondents spend their time in snack selling but they earn little money monthly. It is not sufficiently supportive to sustain their

livelihood. Therefore the alternative source of income of respondent has been tabulated in the table 10.

Table 10: Distribution of women snack vendors by their Alternative Source of income

Response	No. of women snack vendors	
	Total	Percent (%)
Yes	21	40.38
No	31	59.62
Total	52	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2009

Table 10 shows that 40.38 percent WSVs have alternative source. But there are 59.62 percent of WSVs having no alternative source of income. In the study area there is high dominance of married female involved in this occupation of joint family and their family members are involve in other type of work i.e. laboring, driving, painting, marketing etc. It supports to sustain their livelihood. The livelihood of WSVs in joint family had not success without alternative source of income.

Case 1

Anu Thapa, 40, from heatauda , has been involving in this occupation since eight years ago having only two family members. Before ten years ago, her husband died and she started this occupation. Now, Annu earns daily Rs 600, it is sufficient to maintain their livelihood and daily saving Rs 200.

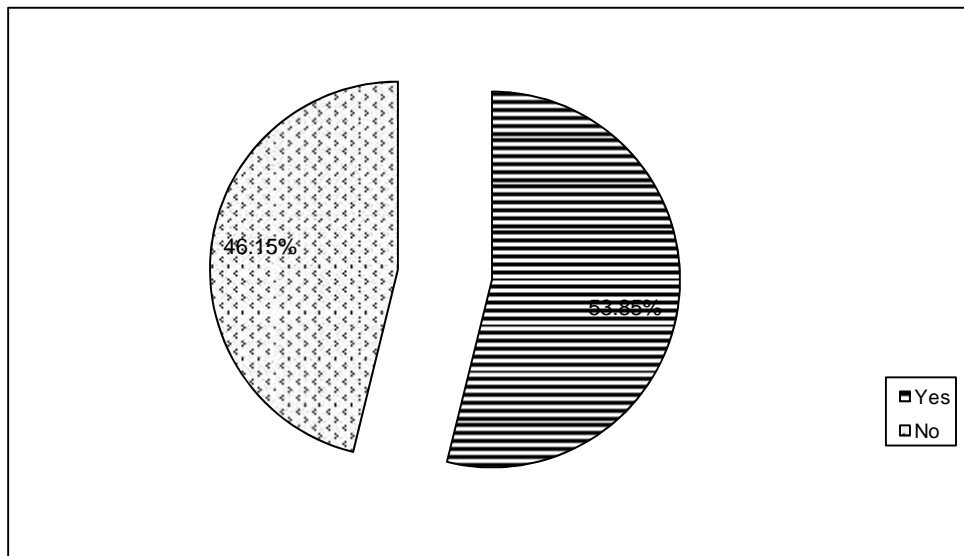
Case2

Sita Nepal, 39, from Bhojpur has been involving in this occupation since 20 years having 6 family members. She earns monthly below Rs.7000 but it is not available for livelihood. So her husband is a driver. He supports to sustain their livelihood.

6.13 Income Sufficiency from Snack Selling

According to the survey conducted, it was found that only 53.85 percent of the street vendors are able to fulfill their household requirement sufficiently, but for remaining 46.15 percent of the street vendors involved in this occupation eke out a bare existence out of it.

Fig: 11 Distribution of women snack vendors by income sufficiency



6.14 Living Standard

Nearly all of the respondents felt some kind of change in their life after becoming snack selling in KMC. They are capable of sending their children to school (70 percent of them being sent in government school and 30 percent of them are being sending in boarding school). They have felt changes to their livelihood as their income have improved. They have improved their life sending children in school, improvement in their status feeling of freedom and more entertainment in accessible to them now.

CHAPTER VII

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF WOMEN SNACKS VENDORS

The major challenge in the development of the country is its poverty. About 38 percent of their population is living under the poverty. WSVs are the poorest ethnic group with low level of literacy rate. In this chapter, problems are used to represent the situation and factors which disorder the livelihood options of the WSVs in the study area. These WSVs do not have their own place to run their occupation. They are using public place for work specially road side and other open space. Due to different causes, they were migrated from their origin place. But their present situation in working place is not good which they expected before migrated. Lack of livelihood assets, this vulnerability is the combination of several factors that creates obstacles in the pursuit of livelihood strategies. The problem of WSVs is definitely one which cries for a solution for a simple reason that it involves human beings and their basic needs. Although the problems appear unsolvable and intractable, it is not beyond limited and temporary solution, at least in parts of the city. Of the many trials faced by city managers in developing countries, one of the most challenging is undoubtedly the Street Vendors (SV) problem. They are a perpetual problem for street and sidewalk users in most Kathmandu cities. Their spill-over business onto roadways is the source of traffic congestion. Their informal setting and business refuse (garbage) cause unsightly urban vista. However there is now a gradual shift of perspectives that focus on their economic potentials, offering a smart city manager a host of development opportunities. Hence the current policy of harassment and elimination of SV, as practiced by municipalities in Kathmandu, is counterproductive at best and inhuman at worst.

The home Minister Bamdev Gautam is right to crack down the street vendors, especially in crowded thorough fares like Kalanki, Ratna Park, Jamal and Bagbazaar. A few months ago, Gautam assigned the Nepal Police, the Traffic Police Office, the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) Office and two sub-metropolitan offices to remove pavement stalls by force. A better move would have been to take the representatives of the Street Vendors Union affiliated to different political parties into confidence, and discuss with them options to end the practice of haphazard vending of goods before taking any action. Options to regulate street vending include instituting a vendor license system, providing government-owned land on lease or allowing all

vendors fixed times to sell their merchandise on busy thoroughfares. Only after a system is put in place should the government have prosecuted pavement merchants who continue to do business illegally. There are around 6,000 vendors in the corners and pavements of Kathmandu. With unemployment on the rise and migrants streaming in from villages to towns and cities, thousands of people have turned to hawking goods in the streets. Street vendors and their clamor are an integral part of life in the capital city. Holiday shoppers and tourists spend tons of cash at the pavement bazaars. But the makeshift markets often make sidewalks impassable, give opportunities to protection rackets and undercut legitimate merchants. Worldwide, there are street vendors in almost all major cities including New York, Jakarta and even Beijing. However, unlike in Kathmandu, they have a license to operate and are not usually allowed to peddle wares on busy thoroughfares.

The streets of Kathmandu have always been a marketplace where everything sells. There are thousands of vendors who use the streets for their livelihood. The problem of street vending is primarily due to the absence of laws governing street vendors. A solution would be to move the vendors off the main thoroughfares and into open-air markets. A similar arrangement was made in 1992 when around 1,300 street vendors were moved into Bhrikuti Mandap from the pavement. Similarly, the current government has informally decided to establish zones where hawkers can operate. This is an encouraging move. But this may not be adequate: the number of vendors has quadrupled in the past 16 years. Now licensing requirements and street regulations are required to ease the vendors' crush. Proper thoughts should have been given and regulations established before taking the decision to crack down.

7.1 Problems of WSVs

Migration is an unavoidable problem for economic development in third world countries. Nepal is an archipelagic country with high viscosity of its population's internal migration. Over flooding wave of internal migration from periphery region to the core of growth poles increases the spatial disparities between regions. Not only for the labor force at their productive age, had empirical evidences revealed the fact that the wave also involved women to work as a microenterprise.

Education and skill which create problems for them in finding a job and other are not legal provisions allocated space for working and positive thinking for public agencies. Thus WSVs are facing so many problems while performing their business in the street. The problems they face are categorized as municipal police harassment at the work place, less time available for street vending occupation regulations restrict them to work only in the stipulated time frame. Similarly, the pollution and congestion is the another problem they face as street vendors who display their products in the road side will have to spend maximum time managing their products. Other vendors complain that there is no fixed place for vending or permanent site so that they are in constant threat to municipal police as well as risk of intrusion of space from other vendors. Another problem they face is of the cheats or shoplifters who are take away their goods without paying and also threat them. Rain, wind, cold are the problems due to climatic conditions they face during their occupation as they stall their goods without proper shelter. Few vendors also complained that there is no proper toilet facility in the area, which creates a problem for them as some vendors have to go to their rent and some has to pay few rupees in the nearest supermarkets. The below table shows that the felt that they were facing any problems

Table 11: Distribution of women snack vendors by their prioritization of problems

Problems	Frequency	Percent (%)
Municipal Police Harassment	45	86.54
Pollution and Congestion	41	78.85
Cheats	40	76.92
Climatic Conditions	52	100.00
No Toilet Facility	17	32.69
No fixed place for vending	5	9.62

Source: Field Survey, 2009

For most of the street vendors, the priority problem they face is the harassment of municipal officers who confiscate their goods and charge them heavily as a penalty. Similarly they complain that municipal police not only confiscates goods but also hide and steal them. The second most important problem they face is of the congestion over the streets and pollution, as they are in constant threat that vehicle could run over their products and damage them and

consume most of their time in managing their sheets in areas. Seasonality also has affected the WSVs enterprise. Natural season such as winter and summer is seen to have no any significant negative impact on their livelihood. Generally, winter season seems to be more business season and rainy season has obviously a negative influence on street WSVs. Likewise some are face the toilet problem too.

7.1.1 Lack of Public Toilets

The shortage of public rest rooms has become the single biggest problem for SVs in the capital Kathmandu. Cutting back on water intake or holding back on urination because there are no clean and affordable public toilets nearby, can in both cases cause health problems, like kidney failure and urinary tract infections, respectively.

There are only 33 public rest rooms (including those in business complexes such as Bishal Bazaar) to cater to the Kathmandu Valley's 3,000,000-strong population. Even these latrines contain no facilities for children and physically-challenged. Two restrooms in Kuleshwor and Boudha are out of order, while places such as Durbar Marg and Thamel, two of Kathmandu's biggest tourist hubs, have no public restrooms at all.

The number of men who visit public rest rooms is higher than women. An average of 12-38 women visit the public lavatory per day compared with 45-140 men. The reason for this may be the lack of women-friendly rest rooms in the Valley. Male and female rest rooms usually have the same entrance, doors have holes and lack proper ventilation and the high charge to use the public rest rooms. Public rest rooms charge Rs. 3 to urinate and Rs. 5 to excrete.

7.1.2 Seasonal Problem

7.1.2.1 Natural Season (summer and winter)

Seasonal variation due to the Environmental change is more complex than other elements of seasonality. Environment directly affects the availability of work and indirectly affects their ability to work. In winter season increase the frequency of snacks items and increase daily earning. Likewise in summer season decrease the frequency of work and decrease daily earning.

Case 1: Sita, 37, commercial zone, she explained that in the winter through their increase the working hours, she starts business early in the morning and after 3 o'clock in the afternoon, many customers came to eat snacks and increase daily earning due to the cold weathr. In the summer working hours decrease and to spend whole day in working place becomes more difficult than in winter but decrease daily earning.

For the street WSVs economic problem becomes very high in the summer in comparison to the winter. Physical problem to do work also is high in the summer. Fieldwork of this study was done in the winter. So, researcher had got an opportunity to observe and understand the increase business.

7.1.2.2 Cultural Season (Feast and Festivals)

Except from the environmental change, cultural also causes fluctuation in their daily earnings. They are able to earn more that time, flow of the customers becomes high and results to increase work. In some important festivals Teej Dashain and Tihar, most of the WSVs go home to celebrate them. At that time, due to the decrease of competitor, availability of works increase for the remaining local WSVs. They are able to earn more than in other normal days.

Case 2 Suntali Maharjan, Transportation Junction, she has been continuing this occupation since last 6 years. She usually stays in Kathmandu in all season. She explained that in festival time, there would be possibility to earn more. She had an experience of daily profit Rs 1000 in the time of festival.

The following common problems affecting street vendors were identified:

- Police and local government harassment;
- Trading sites too small;
- Many vendors but limited space;
- Problems with site allocations systems;
- Problems with permit system in limited trading areas;
- Lack of facilities (e.g. shelters, storage);
- Lack of access to credit;

- No banks available to vendors as they are considered "unbankable";
- Shortage of money;
- Lack of (business) skills;
- Legal illiteracy among vendors (authorities take advantage);
- No co-operation with local government authorities;
- Councils not willing to listen to street vendors' advice/inputs;
- Crime causes problems and insecurity;
- Competing with vendors for space;
- Relocation to markets which are unviable for earning livelihoods;
- Not enough control among vendors themselves;
- Unsecure market place;
- Stubborn leaders who want to work alone;
- Power struggles among leaders affecting ordinary vendors;
- False promises by leaders;

7.2 Prospects

-) Prospects of the street snack vending is that, this has created the opportunity to the poor women to utilize their waste time in a productive job and can earn some money by selling their snacks. From this, it is seen that they have adopted the good training, institutional support learn its best marketing.
-) Consumers have also potential to get the clean cost than the market in their own business.

7.3 Peoples Perspective towards Street Vendors

The general people's perspective towards street vendors are analyzed through the pedestrian interviews and customers interview carried out in the sites at the time of questionnaire survey. All of these customers realize that street vendors belong to the poor strata but the street is not a proper place to sell their products. They said the vendors should be relocated to a proper place from the concerned agencies or government. They highlighted the negative aspects of the street vendors as creating congestion and creating very limited space to walk in the footpath. One of

the respondent even said that if the situation were not controlled, it would make adverse effect to the formal sector and in turn national economy.

Perception of customers, towards street vending was analyzed from the, a sample of customers based on different categories were taken on different locations. It was found that 80 percent of customers buying from the street vendors were also the migrants and only 20 percent of customers to eat snack were the local inhabitant of Kathmandu valley. Similarly, 75 percent of the customers stated that they prefer to buy from street women vendors because of the affordable price they offer. However, 25 percent of the respondents were of the view that they buy only limited categories of snacks from women street vendors as the quality of product are not always good.

On being asked about the importance of street vendors, 80 percent of the respondents were positive about the street vending activities. They said that the goods offered by street vendors are cheap and are as of same quality as that of the branded stores .Similarly, others were of the view that street vendors provide one stop shopping for middle low class people so they thinks it's important and helpful to manage their low budget. However, 20 percent of the respondents thought that street-vending activities is bad for the economy, they stated that occupying spaces and polluting the environment with crowd and waste makes the public places unattractive. They said that these kinds of activities are sending negative impression to the tourists and foreigners. Similarly, respondents suggested the related authority should take proper measures to manage street vending activities. Some were of the view that a separate place should be provided for street vending so that road congestion is reduced.

CHAPTER VIII

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE WOMEN SNACK VENDORS

Clusters" is the new magic development formula that the government recently imported from Harvard. But what is today's reality for municipal governments and micro-businesses, two essential players in any such productive conglomerate? José Luis Rocha

Although decentralization and the potential of micro businesses appear to be two essential pivots of local and national development, they have surprisingly been kept apart. Both local development as a responsibility of local government and expanding the informal micro-business sector offer interesting capacities to generate jobs and contribute to the GDP incresement, but they remain like a perfect match that rarely dares touch, which has hindered the synergistic benefits they offer from being tapped .One significant symptom is that experts in municipals ignore almost everything related to micro-business, while experts in micro-business tend not to venture into municipals.

To make footpath manageable, MC and traffic Police restrict them to run such type of business. Large numbers of people are earning their livelihoods on the footpath and they do not follow the rules of metropolitan city. In the absence of city police, they spread their goods on footpath. Considering this problem, metropolitan made a provision to run footpath business after 5 p.m when flow of the customers and vehicles become low. The problems due to vendors are outcome of weak institutional capability and avoidance of responsibility from the municipality. The moral aspect concerning the poverty and livelihood aspects are missing in the municipal perspective and often use restrictive and punitive measure to solve the problem, which will never succeed. Similarly, street vendors fights for its place and fights for survival in urban areas hence municipality should support and intervene to provide them with the better sites to run their business and necessary support.

8.1 Kathmandu Metropolitan City

Kathmandu Metropolitan City is one of the main actors for an improvement of street vendors' working and living conditions. Municipality of Kathmandu can be intervening via urban planning and an adequate management. Representatives of street traders and trade unions should be involved in decision making to achieve an amplitude acceptance and support for regulations and decisions. Street vendors need urban space for their business. Until now they are not authorized to stay at any place in the city, before 5 o'clock p.m. Street vendors do not necessarily respect this regulation, as 5 o'clock in the evening is too late for trading. In the cold season time sun sets very early and there is few time left for trading. What are needed are an adequate trade-period and/or a special trading place with good economic conditions, good access and attractive appearances. This trading site can not be in streets of Kathmandu, as they are very cramped and there is hardly space for the traffic. So the unique solution would be a reallocation of street hawkers to one or more sites. It is estimated by NEST that there are about 14000 people trading in streets of Kathmandu, so it's nearly impossible to put all these in only one place. Urban space is rather scarce in Kathmandu, housing density is rather high, and so it would be recommended to find more little places in town where different types of vendors can trade in each space. The advantage of this little trading sites spread over the city would be that local demands can be satisfied and that places occupied wouldn't be of very big scale. It's also easier to find some free small spaces within the city then a big one. Another issue, which should be of municipality's duties, is the management of street vending.

Already in other Asian cities administrative regulations, like distribution of licenses among street vendors, have been a successful tool to control and manage this group of informal workers. Via a license traders would be accepted by municipality and management gets easier due to registration. Peoples do not follow the rules of metropolitan city. In the absence of city police, they spread their goods on footpath. Considering this problem, metropolitan made a provision to run footpath business after 5 p.m. A city police, Sundhara, said "it was our duty to stop footpath business in day time only after 5 p.m. they were allowed to run footpath business. If anyone street vendors were selling in the day time, we are punished them

8.2 Trade Unions

Trade unions have the duty to represent street vendors and act as connection between interest group and the municipality/ government. NEST in Kathmandu is a token trade union whose treasurer is very dedicated to problems and wishes of the street vendors. It is recommended that trade unions intensify their work and intend to cooperate with municipalities and government. Another duty should be an offer on trainings for street vendors. They lack of knowledge, the basis for an improvement of their livelihood and economic situation. Those who can inform street hawkers and fight for labor and social security and labor rights are trade unions. What is missing at the moment is confidence in trade unions by street vendors. They think that it is better to be self-sufficient than depending on any organization. The awareness of being stronger in one group than being alone has to be built up among street hawkers. Municipality and government won't listen to wishes of individual persons, they listen more to initiative groups who are organized. 90 Trade unions need trust of street vendors, and street vendors need power and knowledge of trade unions.

Nepal Street Vendors Union (NEST) was formed in 2002 and works under General Federation of Nepalese Trade (GEFONT). NEST was formed with its main aim to establish cooperation and unity among vendors to protect their living and trading rights and form a collective voice to protect their occupation. NEST is a confederation allied to GEFONT and seeks its political support from the Communist party of Nepal-UML.

According to the detailed interview with the representatives of GEFONT and NEST, 75 percent of the street vendors are the migrants from the rural part of the country who were either displaced or left their origin in search of better livelihood. As the employment opportunities are very rare even for the locals and educated ones, these migrants in search of job with low level of skills and education could be absorbed in nowhere except the street vending activity which offers absolutely no barriers for illiterate and with low level of skills. However, there are also a proportion of street vendors who enter to this occupation with a sheer motive of earning opportunity by evading taxes, which are often the part time involvements and share a proportion of approximately 25 percent of the street vendors.

8.3 Financial Institution

Nearly 70 percent of all sampled street vendors are not members of any financial institution. Only 30 percent participate in financial organizations like banks, saving and credit cooperation or finance cooperation. The majority has never received any loans or asked for anyone. 2 persons of 52 sampled street WSVs did get a loan. The interest rate of these loans ranged between 12-16 percent, which is very high and not attractive for this group of economic active people. It becomes understandable why there is such a low demand on loans.

8.4 Municipal authorities' Perspective towards Street Vendors

To find out the municipal authorities' perspective towards street vendors, three key informants interview was carried out, which included Chief executive officer and chief inspector, of the Kathmandu metropolitan city. The informants stated that vendors mainly belong to the poor economic strata and they have involved to this sector due lacking of opportunity offered by formals sector. However, only this view perspective of towards street vendors and their activity will be insufficient. The street vending activity should be analyzed from four perspectives that have direct linkage with the street vendors and their activity i.e. street vendors and their family's right, right of the pedestrian, right of vehicles to move on the road and finally the right of the formal shops at the proximity who pay taxes to run their business. If one perspective is only analyzed then it will be injustice to the other three perspectives. Similarly, analyzing from the legalistic perspective the top most right over the street is of the vehicular movement and the pedestrian. Similarly, the right of the security of pedestrian and right of the formal shopkeepers to run their business is also a main important issue to analyze. Similarly, the authorities argue that as poverty belongs to the national issue, it is not only a responsibility of the local government, and central government should intervene on this issue. A city police, Sundhara, said "it was our duty to stop footpath business in day time only after 5 pm they were allowed to run footpath business. If anyone street vendors were found selling in the day time, we are punished them."

Municipal authorities think that the problem should be solved by an analysis of the following four perspectives:

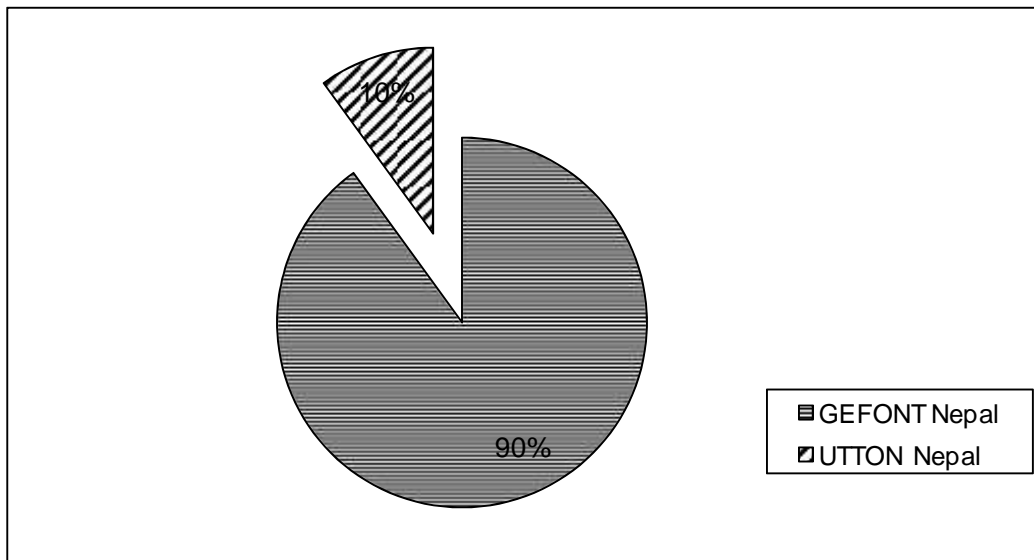
-) Right of street vendors' activities (their livelihood)

-) Right of pedestrians (their right to move in the streets)
-) Right of motorized traffic (their right to move in the streets)
-) Right of formal shops (they pay taxes and street vendors do not)

8.5 Affiliation to the Organizations

From the analysis, it is observed that the majority of the vendors are registered to political unions, which involves 90 percent of the total respondents, related to GEFONT (General Federation of Nepalese Trade Union) and the union finds its support from the Communist Party of Nepal-UML.. Remaining 10 percent are registered to the UTTON (United Traders’ and Trade Organization Nepal) related to the ANFTU (All Nepal Federation of Nepalese Trade Union), who seeks its support from the Communist party of Nepal-Maoist.

Fig: 12 Distribution of women snack vendors by affiliation to the organization



8.6 Management of Waste

The analysis shows that 23.08 percent of the street WSVs collect and throw the waste generated by their activity to the nearby municipal collection points; 44.23 percent of the street WSVs Sweep and keep in their waste in the corner and 19.23 percent WSVs collect and through in

dustbin. While 13.46 percent WSVs that there is no waste generated by their activity so they do not have to manage it any way. Most interesting concern lies, where 23.08 percent of the street WSVs thinks that they do not have to do anything and municipal sweepers sweep it every day, while they are not involved in any way to the tax regulations.

Table 12: Distribution of women snack vendors by their management of waste

Management of waste	Distribution of Women Snack Vendors	
	Total	Percent (%)
By municipality	12	23.08
Collect and keep in corner	23	44.23
Collect and through in dustbin	10	19.23
No waste	7	13.46
Total	52	100

Source: Field Survey, 2009

It can be seen that most of them collect their waste by themselves and dump it on different sites.

CHAPTER IX

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

9.1 Summary

A Microenterprise is a type of small business that is often on unregistered and run by a poor individual. Specifically a microenterprise is defined as a business having fewer employers. Microenterprise has mainly emphasized to the goal of poverty alleviation and improvements in the living standard of the people below the poverty line. The study of WSVs in urban area was carried out with an objective of examining the factors of efficiency in terms of location, occupation and space. While, the specific objective of the research was to study the socio-economic impact, income sufficiency, problem and prospects as well as existing institutional situation of street vendors, and analyze the livelihood pattern. The study was carried out in urban core of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. The locations for sample were selected based on primary information where total of 52 respondents were selected from Transportation Junction, Commercial Zone, Institutional Zone and Monumental Zones total of 12, 22, 5 and 13. Both primary and secondary data has been referred in the study, which included 52 questionnaire surveys, 3 key informants interviews and interviews with 4 customers each. In the data analysis phase, mapping of street vendors in urban core of KMC has been done with respect to their density, composition and magnitude.

Women Snacks Vendors of Kathmandu are poor people who mainly migrated from rural areas to Kathmandu valley for a better livelihood and to find a job. The migration process especially took place in the last 10 to 20 years. Most street vendors are very young and in the age group of 20 to 40 years. By analyzing responds of street vendors it can be said, that people are not pleased with their current situation. The lack of respect, harassment by municipality and poor working conditions impede a dignified way of doing business. In general it can be stated that there is a big dissatisfaction between all stakeholders who are related to this form of economy, like street vendors, trade unions and Kathmandu Metropolitan City. Fifty WSVs live in a rented room, packed with people and stay in unhealthy living conditions and Only 2 of the street vendors own a house in Kathmandu, who are the non-migrants and inhabitants of urban core and involved in

the street vending occupation from tradition. Mostly the WSVs in their economically active ages involve in the street vending occupation. The Bahun/ Chhetri caste are the predominant classes involved in street vending occupation covering 55.77 percent each. Very few WSVs (only two) hold higher degree (Intermediate, Diploma) and the major proportion of street vendors (i.e. 18) is illiterate and the involvement on street vending occupation is due to the barrier of their own incompetence with necessary academic qualifications to involve in the formal sector job. Those people who were involved in the street vending do not want their children to be street vendors and thus, 60 percent of their children go to the governmental school and 40 percent of the vendors who are little better off with their income sent their children to the private schools. 85 percent of people involved in street vending activities are predominantly migrants and came from the rural parts of the country and only 15 percent of the vendors are the non-migrants or the local inhabitants. The people from the rural part of the country arrived Kathmandu due to several reasons or expectations like finding a better and productive job or better lifestyle in urban areas. However, the migrants ended up working in street vending as for these migrants with fewer academic qualifications and skills, every formal sector sets a barrier for entry except the street vending occupation, where one can start its own business with few investment and general numeracy and ability to transact goods for money. Most of the migrant street vendors have its previous work in house work.

The entry into the street vending is not so easy as the space is scarce in urban areas and people belonging to the same community or village help the new entrants to get them locations hence, the cluster of ethnic groups belonging to same caste or same village are witnessed in major proportions. It was observed that, vendors operate mainly in four shifts i.e. Morning Shift, Morning and Evening shift, Evening shift and Day shift. In the morning shift, vendors operate from before sunrise until noon and return to their original places. Other vendors operate in day after noon until the late evening. People involved in street vending occupation are new phenomena and most of the vendors are involved in the activity (40.38%) only up to 5 years. 57-69 percent vendors used a piece of wood on the floor and display their snacks in small wood rack and 27% of the vendors displayed an there wheel carts (which is Chana-Badam vender) most of the vendors daily working hours is 6-9

Almost all of the WSVs buy their raw materials from nearest wholesalers and make snacks sell it to the customers by cheap price. This may be the main reason the formal shops are facing a tough competition from the vendors side and therefore small formal shops are turning into the street vending activities. 70 percent of the WSVs are not involved in any formal financial institutions directly, while 30 percent of the street vendors have an account in a bank but 21.43% of the street vendors have not deposited income. Locations are the key for the successful business; as for majority of respondents, the locations with maximum pedestrian movements are the most desirable one and chose primarily based on that criterion. Vendors pay to the certain clubs or union to stay at certain locations. Vendors registered to GEFONT 150 Rs for supporting them politically if they were arrested, or if their goods are confiscated by the municipal police. Similarly, Ason Sewa Samitee, Dharmapath Youth Club, and other clubs take money from them ranging from 100 Rs a month to 1500 Rs as a tax for occupying a specific site. Four localities, Transportation Junction, Commercial Zone, Institutional Zone and Monumental Zone which will earn more profit so the vendors select the locations. Most of the migrant street vendors tend to reside in the walking distance to their business locations and wholesalers to avoid the transportation cost for commuting. All of the street vendors who have own money to invest on their business Profit margin pattern shows that up to 2000 Rs per day and average profits in range of 100 to 500 Rs a day. And most economically weak sections belong to the service category and earning 0 to 100 Rs per day. According to the survey conducted, it was found that only 46.67 percent of the street vendors were able to fulfill their household requirement sufficiently, but for remaining 53.33% of the street vendors involved in this occupation eke out a bare existence out of it.

The main problems of WSVs are facing are Municipal Police Harassment, less time for business, Pollution and Congestion, no fixed Place for Vending, Cheats, Climatic Conditions and no toilet facility in the trading site. For most of the street vendors, the priority problem they face is the harassment of municipal officers who confiscate their goods and charge them heavily as a penalty, less time for business or allocated time to run their business in street is not sufficient to fulfill their requirements and congestion over the streets and pollution.

Majority of the vendors are registered to some political unions, which involve 90 percent of the total respondents were involved in a GEFONT, while 10 percent are registered to the UTTON. The analysis shows that 19.23 percent of the WSVs collect and throw the waste generated by their activity to the nearby municipal collection points; 44.23 percent of the street vendors Sweep and keep in their waste in the corner. While 13.46 percent responded that there is no waste generated by their activity so they do not have to manage it any way. Most of the WSVs collect their waste by themselves and dump it on different sites. 23.08 of the street vendors think that they do not have to do anything and municipal sweepers sweep it every day, while they are not involved in any way to the tax regulations.

9.2 Conclusions

Development in Nepal cannot be understood in any term other than its contribution to combat the poverty. And, it is not possible without the participation of women. While micro enterprises are not a magic medical capsule, they do provide powerful ammunition in the fight against poverty. But, we obviously have a long way to go before poverty alleviation assessment of micro enterprises policies can be used systematically in the public decision making in our context.

The relationship between women and enterprises should be considered in the light of the empowerment of women both economically and socially. In the view of the fact that majority of Nepali women are in rural level is “powerless” condition. These women come to urban area to search employment. Being unskilled they also have not occupy the street to sustain their livelihood. Instead of searching employment in the markets, the women try to generate income and self employment opportunities.

Due to poverty and unemployment rural women migrants is being increased. Most of the people migrate to urban area due to inadequate resource to fulfill their basic needs. This study is an attempt to analyze the impact in economic and social status of women in the society as the result of engagement in snacks selling. The data and information gathered during field visit comprises of information related to the socio- economic status and level of their social and economic empowerment. Most of the street WSVs belongs to the low-economic strata and the most economically weak sections in this occupation are found in service category. Many poor women

of the urban areas are obligated to adopt undesirable livelihood strategy for sustaining their livelihood.

The occupation is dominated by married women vendors. WSVs of KMC spend whole day under open sky. It was risky for their health condition. They spend all days in a month in this occupation from morning to evening. So, some of the WSVs earning is sufficient to maintain their daily expenditure and some of them is not sufficient to maintain their daily expenditure, they maintain their livelihood with the help of their family members.

The findings revealed that engagement in micro enterprises is successful to uplift the socio-economic and achieving the economic empowerment of the women. At last, it is proved that women are not physically, mentally weak as our society always dominates them because they are now strong talented and independent.

9.3 Recommendations

- A street petty vendors are one of the major enterprises for self employment generated and poverty reduction in the major cities. Such micro enterprises should get well managed in the cities (local) government. They should be regarded as poverty alleviation measures rather than the course for the urban environmental congestion and haphazard.
- One crucial theme is how to regulate such street petty vendors. Based on the findings of study they are to be regulated, assessing certain streets, time, localities, licensing and so on.
- As most of the women snack vendors are illiterate and lacking necessary skills to be involved in the formal sector, occupational training center should be established, which will be responsible for providing consultation, basic literacy and numeracy, provision of necessary trainings, development of occupational skills, and provision of basic financial support on an integrated basis. This will empower the informal street vendors with necessary skills and capital intensive technology to initiate their own business and involve in formal sector occupations.
- Drinking water and toilet facility should be provided in the urban areas near the microenterprises activity as the toilet facilities are lacking in the urban areas and the

vendors have to go to their home, the nearest shopping malls and institutions for the toilet facility.

- The total number of street women vendor in KMC is unknown. So, related institutions should take counting and imitations in carry out research about their occupation.
- Livelihood Pattern of other women street vendor should be studied.
- The policies related to the street vendors are only clearly stated in the National Urban Policy 2064 and Street and footpath business management guidelines 2064 but these policies are only draft. These policies should be implemented first and then other policies should be restructured based on the holistic approach suggested in the National Urban Policy 2064.

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