

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Nepal is a developing country in the world. Nepal, where most of the areas are rural, Labour is the most important means of production. Around 90 percent population live in rural areas and the agriculture is dominating sector and almost 81 percent people depend upon it and human labour is the most important means of production (UNDP, 2000).

Child labour is prevalent in Nepalese society and it has become the part of the life traditionally, children in Nepal are involved in agriculture, domestication of animal, handicraft etc. generally child labourers are those who are the below 18 years of age children who are, deprived of minimum level of facilities, working long hours. Getting low range of wage and damage their physical and mental development.

According to the “Children Act and Labour Act 1992”, the groups of under the age of 16 years are considered as children. Children below the age of 14 years are strictly prohibited to work as labourers. But the children aged between 14-16 years can work only limited working hours i.e. 6 hours per day. If they work 3 hours continuously, they should get a rest of minimum ½ hours. Although this labour provision is not sufficient for the betterment of the children but it has been proved to be a milestone for the betterment of the children.

Children are considered to have done two types of work such as child work (good and essential) and child labour (exploitative and harmful). Excessive and intolerable form of child work is translated into child labour due to the lack of sense of humanity. A number of laws and acts have been implied for prohibiting yet child labour in Nepal but any improvements have not been achieved yet.

The major forms of their activities are rag packing, pottering, street vending, child care, washing in hotels and working in vehicles and the like. As per keen observation and a

feeling of sentiment, it is not allowed to close the eyes of human-getting torture from their employer to the child workers in most of the places.

There is not any historical record about child labour, from when child labour started in Nepal. But it might be that, from when traditional agrarian based society has emerged, the child was used in agricultural work. And along development of technology, the use of children had been increased as manpower because of them being very cheap.

UN declared the year 1979 as International Child Year. After this, many NGOs have started to work in the area of child labour. But unfortunately, there is always gap between the lovely words and hard deeds. So the number of child labour is increasing day by day.

Now a day, child labour in Nepal is being considered very seriously. It has deeply rooted in most part of the country. Traditionally, children in Nepal are involved in agriculture, domestication of animals, handicraft and other employment's. Many children are compelled to migrate in search of employment.

There are a number of areas like khalasies, porters, washers, farmers. Child care takers, houseman and water fetchers and so on where the children are working for solving their hand to mouth problems because their parents are incapable to maintain and feed them as per necessities therefore they are working in a number of areas in city shifting from rural areas. So this study is concerned with micro bus conductors in Pokhara valley.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Child labour is a serious and wide spread problem especially in south Asia and Africa and the situation is not different in Nepal. Although the constitution of Nepal 1990 guarantees the right of protection against exploitations as a fundamental right which, prohibits the practice of trafficking of human being, slavery, serfdom or forced labour in any form and its violation as punishable by law. But it is only in paper but not practices.

Childhood is the formative stage of life. Children are an integral part of the nature. Without children, we cannot imagine the existence of the world nor we can think of any

creation. Children are the rays of hope. The development of the country depends upon the development of children. If the children are facilitated with food, care, affection, love and education then they will grow in a proper way. Children will become good citizens of the country and as a normal child, when he/she becomes a child labour with whom the nation cannot hope any work and contribution for the nation.

Since there is no national level survey on child labour, so it is very difficult to give accurate statistics on child labour in Nepal. Despite the growing number of INGOs and NGOs, it is very difficult to get actual statistics about child labour in Nepal. Nepal is agro based country but most of the people have very limited land, or do not have land, despite being developed on it. There are unable to fulfill the basic need of the family. So the children have to work to support their family, have to reduce the burden of the family by leaving their home to work somewhere.

Child labour is not only the problem of Nepal but also a worldwide problem. In Nepalese context, if we consider about the child workers there may hardly be a sector that does not involve at least a child worker. However, sectors like agriculture, industry, domestication, transportation, hotel and restaurant where the children workers are preferred are the major sectors of child employment. Though the child involvement in such sectors is restricted and is not reasonable, most of the child workers there are exploited in many ways viz. low payment, more working hours and so on. Also they have no job security, no proper registration as workers and therefore can be fired at any time. They are compelled to live and work in a very poor condition and in an unhealthy environment. In this light, this study aims at analyzing some of the pertinent issues connected with the child labour practices in Nepal. The study will attempt to examine the child labour in Pokhara valley working in micro bus in particular. In this context, the basic issues related to child labours are as in listed below.

What type of family background do they represent?

How did they get involved as conductor/helper?

What are the major problem faced by them?

What are their expectations?

What suggestion could be recommended for the improvement of child workers?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to know socio-economic status of child workers working in micro bus in this area. But its specific objectives are given below:

To identify the socio-economic condition of child workers in micro bus

To find out the cause of increasing child labour and major problems encountered by them

To examine the working condition and environment of micro bus child workers

1.4 Significance of the study

Child workers at local vehicles are often seen in most of the cities of Nepal. Their works to the proprietor/drivers is preferable and desirable due to their high frequency of poverty and illiteracy in most of the issues but if they are given overload the world. This study on child labour concerning to the child workers of local vehicles is most relevant to work as an information directory to the interested individuals, students, professionals, NGOs and INGOs along with civil societies. Not only those but also the local vehicles child workers at Pokhara will get the high level of significance from this study. Furthermore the policy-makers, program planners and the like also will be benefited and it will work as a golden contribution in the field of child workers in Pokhara of local vehicles from Pokhara sub-metropolitan city.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

Although the study is totally based on primary data it cannot be generalized due to its certain limitations which are:

- Because of the only concentration on micro bus conductors, its generalization may not be applicable to the child workers in other sectors.
- Research encompasses only Pokhara valley. So, it may not be generalized for the other parts of the country.
- Because of time dimension and financial factor, actual number of working children in micro bus cannot be finding. So, time dimension and financial factors also are the limitation of this study.

1.6 Organization of the study

This study has been divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction which deals with background of child labour, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance and limitation of the study. The second chapter is the literature review and the third chapter deals with research methodology under which research design, rationale of the selection of the study area, nature and source of data, sampling procedures and data collection techniques has been stated. Then the fourth chapter is presentation and analysis which includes socio demographic characteristics, socio-economic characteristics and working condition, health and environment. The last chapter consists of summary, conclusion and recommendation.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The issue of child labour has been disserted for a long time. International approach has now dramatically changed. The current burning issues of human rights and freedom take the global concern. In Nepal, after the reinstatement of democracy, the right of the child received more and more attention by the government and non-government organizations. The attitude or perception of civil society towards the child labour has been changed due to the global movement of democracy and modern education. However, especially in rural communities child society is often neglected. Child exploitation is assumed to be necessarily evil. Though a child has an important place in his family, he has to contribute to his family from his early age. It is the result of poverty. The children are, thus, victimized by poor economy. This section presents a review of various studies previously carried out in the field of child labour. There is no sufficient literature on child labour in micro bus. Therefore, other literature related to the child labour considered to be relevant has been reviewed.

2.1 Overview of Relevant Theories

About child, child work and child labour are quite relevant to review with the knowledge of the causes of child labour and other respective ones.

2.1.1 Modernization Theory

In the 1950s and 1960s, modernization theory began to dominate the field of development studies. Since the 1950s, modernization has been regarded as identical to development by both development planners and most third world leaders. Modernization theories are macro-concepts with a universal orientation intellectually derived from the analysis of social change of Weber and Durkheim.

Modernization theory varies in meaning, according to planner. In general, it is becoming like the United States or a western European country. The concept generally emphasizes rationality, planning and progress. The major approach to uneven development is modernization theory, which argues that developing countries are striving to achieve the benefits of development. Modernization or development spreads to the developing

countries, they will benefit from it in much the same ways that the industrialized countries have.

In the 1950s and 1960s, modernization theory provided a conceptual structure for the analysis and explanation of the way of transportation. Modernization theory did not much concern itself with the study of the generation of the new technologies, largely because of its stance toward technology in the field of transportation. Modern technology was a only technical not also a social issue. It did not have a value dimension and the adoption of modern technology was usually assumed to be beneficial in terms of their impacts on social life with induced, in social attitudes and behavior. After the innovations of modernization theory, different types of transportation vehicles are being practiced. In this study area, many child workers are working these vehicles.

2.1.2 Concept of ‘Child Labour’

No fixed globally accepted definition has been developed till date. Report of the Director General; ILO has stated that child labour are not “teenagers” working for a few hours to earn additional pocket money; not children helping on family farms; not youngsters doing household works, but children prematurely living adult lives, working long hours for low wages under worse conditionals to their health and to their physical and mental development of meaningful educational and trainings opportunities that could open for them a better future (ILO, 1983)

According to our constitution, a person of 18 years has voting right which implies that the person below 18 years is a child. Likewise, ‘Labour Act’, 1992 and Children’s Act make the employment of children below the age of 14 years ban and the children between the ages of 14-16 years can be employed with some special provisions. The present study considers the person below the age of 16 years as a child. According to the survey of CBS (1998/1999), the population of children of 5 to 14 years old was 4.86 million, and 1.98 million were economically active. A significant section of the children, i.e. 1.4 million were not attending school.

According to the CWIN, 1998, 65 percent of the children working as Tempos helper are below the age of 14 and the remaining 35 percent below the age group of 14-18 years. This report conducted on sixty child workers employed as tempo helpers, found that 67 percent of the children had both parents, 30 percent had only one parent and 3 percent were orphans. Their working hours ranged from 11 to 14 hours and wage they earned ranged from Rs. 22 to 100 per day. The report showed their daily wage to be 30 rupees. 50 percent of these child conductors were found to be literate and surprisingly 85 percent of them were health hazardous as smoke and dust may affect them badly. 55 percent of the children showed interest in going to school while the remaining 45 percent did not.

When children become less important as economic actors do they began to have new role in society. As they were banned from workforce. So they were also relived of responsibility. Although children is most times and places have worked and take an active part in society as a whole, they are now limited in public policies to playing in the family and working for no pay at school if they are involved in economic activities, they are largely invisible and paradoxically because children are unable to find employment in the formal workforce. They may be forced to find work under worse conditions in the informal sector (Ennew et,al, 1995).

The children in many countries in Asia share the common pain and problem of child labour in their every sectors of statistic have revealed that almost half of the world's child labour problems exist in South Asia. Because of growing poverty famine, unfair economic relations and social injustice, the children of this region are forced to take on a major burden for survival. Despite many national regional and international commitments to combat child labour, the situation of children in SAARC region is far forms satisfactory (CWIN, 1988).

The causal relationship between poverty and child labour has been the subject of the controversy. As discussed earlier, an argument exist the child labour is not only a result but also a cause of poverty. Whatever the actual cause and effect relationship is the common held view that poverty cause child labour raises the question of whether poor

children should work while middle and upper class children should attend school. Poverty is seen as a justification for the continuance of child labour and the attitude that it is acceptable for poor children to work instead of studying is prevalent much child labour legislation has been written with the tacit assumption that child labour is an economic reality of the country, since poverty is the cause (UNICEF, 1995).

A study by Hirway et,al (1992) has shown that the problem of child labour remains a pressing problem in greater part of the world today. Though industrialized economics, especially of Europe, North America, and Australia etc. have now reduced, to a considerable extent, employment of child labour, they are not yet fully free from the phenomenon of child labour. Some of them have child labour originating from social problems, educational systems and poverty. But the problem of child labour faced by the developing systems and poverty.

Because of limited size of land holding, the poor are desperately dependent on labour market incomes. The level of such income depends on four factors, which may be subject to varying degree of policy interventions such as, family composition, participation rate, employment levels (the number of house/day), worked per participant and wage levels. The poor in Nepal are adversely affected by each of these factors both singly and in combination with one another (UNDP, 1991).

Sattaur (1993), has enlisted the types of work under taken by the working children of Nepal under 10 main headings: agriculture, cottage, industry, manufacture, plantation, domestic, catering, selling, manual labour, sexual exploitation and street children according to him the following are the major categories for child labour market.

Agricultural sector: Livestock, Tending, planting, harvesting, using plough and fishing

Cottage Industrial sector: Pottery, carpet and cloth weaving, candle making thanka painting and poultry farming

Manufacturing Sector: Printing, bricks, bread, garments, matches, cigar and soap

Plantation: Tea, sugarcane and tobacco

Domestic: Caring of parents, hotel servants, tea shops, restaurants and bars

Selling: street hawkers, petrol pump attendant, shop assistant, shoe-shining, newspaper vending and delivery

Manual labour: rock breaking, mechanic, sweeper, road and building site worker, carpenter

Tourism and travelling industry: pottering, circus performer, rafting and trekking guide, bus conductor, rickshaw puller

Other: rag picking, prostitution, begging

In brief, no labour market in Nepal is completely free from child exploitation. According to the labour act 1992, the criterion for child has been mentioned as below.

	Male	Female
Years	(16-18 years)	(16-18 years)
Load permitted	25 kg	25kg
Years	(14-16 years)	(14-16 years)
Load permitted	15 kg	15 kg

2.1.3 Child Labour: Causes and Consequences

The causes of being child in to labour practices are now in Nepal it is mainly from two dimensional causes; socio-economic and cultural factors whatever the causes be. There are a number of reasons could be seen to come the child into this hazardous and heinous activities. They are: poverty and financial pressure, unemployment/underemployment,

family disruption, lack of alternatives, inadequacy of education system, inadequate enforcement of legislation, abduction/deduction and prevalence of public attitude and values.

Illiteracy and family's lack of awareness is another cause of child labour. Many parents who have no education and skill trainings themselves do not see the need for their children to have such opportunities. Some parents see child labour as useful apprenticeship for their children to acquire knowledge and experiences, which will help them as adult workers. Some parents prefer their child working to other alternatives, especially when school is not seen as a viable investment future gain (Crawford et, al, 1995).

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The book "invisible children" published by CWIN/ Save the Children UK 1997 states the causes of child labour in the Asia pacific region are as follows:

Poverty is a deep rooted and major factor in the persistence of child labour in the Asia pacific region.

The preference of many parents is for their children to acquire skills over receiving education. Many poorly educated parents' remains unclear about the long-term economic gains of child work. For example, the family's dependence on girls labour at home and in the field, denies them access to educational and other opportunities.

Family breaks down due to a range of causes, including in some parts of the region, the effects of increasing HIV/AIDS incidence on livelihoods, resulting in more and more children need to work.

Market demands for child labour. Children are preferred as labour force in some industries and enterprises because they are docile, obedient, hired at cheaper rates than adults and dispensed off easily. Children are unprotected, powerless and silent as for as their as workers are concerned.

Educational opportunities remain limited, inaccessible and expensive, the low quality of education and irrelevance of curriculum offers no motivation for children to stay in school.

Child labour persists because laws are not strictly enforced and political commitment is weak.

Micro-economic trades at the national and international level i.e. free market orientation and structural adjustment programmers, resulting in adult unemployment, directly influence child labour in this region.

However, Pant (1970), has observed that the farmers usually do not send their children in school because; They have not consciousness to educate them. The children can be used as substitute labour in farm. They do not want to send, if the school is far. It cost a lot to educate the children.

Thus it is said that solving the poverty instead looking at the child labour as reason can best solve the problem. Thus the problem of elimination of child labour is a problem of elimination of mass poverty. The economic causes have made a very bad impact upon the literacy. An artisan cannot afford to educate these words though education is free. For him an educated child is an asset desire to earnings, if the child did not work expenditure on education (Pant, 1970).

Due to some reasons, child labour is widespread phenomenon in Nepal and is found in innumerable occupations. The intentional programme on the elimination of child labour of ILO (1999) in its sheet for Nepal states the major factors which contribute to child labour have been identified as: a) Poverty b) Social customs, values and attitudes c) Illiteracy of parents d) lack of access to education for the children e) Agrarian relations f) Migration from rural to urban areas g) Family disharmony and diminishing family support h) Trafficking of girls within the country and across the border and i) inadequate of a labour and criminal laws.

2.1.4 Child Labour & legal Provision

Child labour is an integral part of our society, it is the consequence of an exploitative socio-economic and political reality. The magnitude of the problem is more transparent in South Asia. Out of total of 250 million child labour in the world as estimated by ILO and UNICEF, South Asia is the habitat for half of the world's child labour population (CWIN).

In fact it is extremely difficult to provide precise statistic on the number of working children. Many of the figures are simply not available, since so many working children are employed in agriculture, as domestic servants or in an informal sector of occupation where exact quantification would not be possible. Children working in the formal industrial sectors often doing so illegally and are not registered. However, the data published by UNICEF (1998) shows that, in India 60 million children are involving in different sectors. In Bangladesh, 10 million, in Pakistan 10.2 million in Srilanka and Maldives, 0.95 million and in Nepal 3.85 million children are involving as a child labour in different sectors. According to another report published by UNICEF (1995), in Bhutan, figures specially addressing child labour are not available. The 1994 gross primary school enrollment figure is estimated at 74% with net figure available. Many schools in mountainous Bhutan are inaccessible and understaffed and the dropout and repetition rates are high. However a national survey revealed that 64.4% of parents who did not send their child to school did so because the children were needed at home.

In south Asia, child labour is widespread and increasing. Numbers, in millions are alarming. All countries of south Asia have ratified the UN convention on the right of the child but no one has ratified the ILO convention no 138 of 1973 which sets the minimum age of employment. Some prohibitive or regularity legislation against child exists in most countries, but the enforcement is poor. Children engaged in child labour are denied of their basic rights enshrined in the convention. Among the worst affected are those in hazardous occupations and exploitative situation sexually exploited children from a part of this workforce. Trafficking of girls for sex work within and between countries is increasing. The factor that precipitates most child labour is poverty. The primary conscience of the child labour is the denial of opportunity for education and skills training. Children thus growing to be illiterate and unskilled adults perpetuate poverty (UNICEF, 19995).

The system of child employment prevails despite several laws available to the enforcing agencies. For example, Indian child labour act 1986 even legalizes work of children in a number of industries so much so even in hazardous occupations under family trade. In India due to dismal failure in implementation of child labour law, and alarming rise of 4% per annual, has been observed in child employment. Ironically, the preset child labour law which provides for a fine up to Rs 20000 and imprisonment ranging 3 month to 2 years, has not been convict a single offender since its enactment. Similarly, Pakistan and Bangladesh also have enacted laws prohibiting forced labour. For example, Bangladesh has some 25 special laws and ordinance to protect and improve status of children. The employments of Children Act 1983 and the Factory Act 1965 have prohibited the employment of children less than 14 years. The law also stipulates that he young workers cannot be employed more than 5 hours a day. The penalty for violation of this act is fine up to Taka 1000 yet strangely, the law does not cover employment of the children of agricultural sectors. In Pakistan, child labour is interwoven with bondage, especially in carpet weaving, agriculture, brick making, surgical instruments, sport goods, leather, beedi making etc. despite the legislation of Bonded Labour Act 1992. Surprisingly this country ratified ILO convention dealing with forced labour (UNICEF).

In Nepal, child labour (under the age of 14) is punishable by law. According to Children's Act 1992, section 53, in case any person commits any offence in contravention to section 1, 31,718 or abets other to commit such offence or attempts to do so, he shall be punished with a fine up to Rs. 3000 or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with both. According to the above mentioned sections 13, 17, 18, the children under the age of 14 shall not be made to be engaged in work against his will, he shall not be employed in work as a labourer during the period of 5 o'clock evening to 6 o'clock in the morning, no child shall be engaged in work this is likely to be harmful to the child's health or to be hazardous to the child's life. And recent the government passed the bill on prohibition and regulation of the child labour in the winter session (2056) of the parliament. And also juvenile benches are set up in all 75 districts from Baisakh 2057. However these benches are not actively working because of lack of budget and manpower.

2.1.5 Economic Role of Children

The family who are economically poor, economic activities of their children play a great role for their survivable. Nepali society is an agrarian based society and majority of people are depending on it. That is why, the majority of children who are economically active, are involving in agricultural sector.

According to the data published by UNICEF (1996), the children who are economically active, 94.7% are involving in agriculture related work and the rest 5.3% in non-agricultural work; (1.6% as service workers, 1.6% as construction workers, 0.8% general technical workers, 0.4% production workers, 0.9% others).

The report of the director General of ILO (1973); in many developing countries children are found working in all types of industrial and service establishments in urban areas in both formal and informal sectors and also in commercial agriculture. Often they are working for low wages and for excessively long hours. Child workers are used for reducing labour costs and maintaining competitive advantages and fluctuation on

demand. Slow growth of urban employment leads to child employment for the generating and supplementing family income. So, children especially from the poor families are forced into labour market to work either individually or as part of contracted family labour (ILO 1973).

Nepal's economically active population increased from 4.852 million in 1981 to 1991. In another words, the labour force participation rate relative to the population aged 10 and above increased from 59.3% in 1971 to 67.4% in 1991. About 200000 people are currently added to the labour force each year. The population of Nepal is notable for a high proportion of young persons with approximately 60% being under the age of 25 years and 41.2% under the age of 15 years of age. According to the national population census of 1991, about 22% of the children between the age of 10-14 years are economically active population (Singh, 2000).

Child labour is closely linked to social, economic and cultural factors and poverty and under or unemployment being the decisive factors rather than family problems. Children are directly engaged in production as well as release adult family members to undertake other forms of wage employment. The child labour is an outcome of socio-economic system prevailing in Nepal. Economic dependency and poverty of the under privileged society forced young children to join labour market at tender age. Rural children often must assist their families to help ensure economic survival. Urban children contribute of their family's livelihood or live on their own by their meager earnings in tea shops and factories. Poverty also leads to indebtedness which can result in bonded or semi-bonded labour for children. Many times children are sent to work when a family crisis occurs such as death of breadwinner or major illness of family members (Pradhan, 2000)

In our rural society, when size of family large and land of cultivation is not available, they force to migrate to their children for earnings or to support for their family. That's why, the importance of young children in rural poor families is great. According to the CWIN (1999), if the family is unable to repay the loan or pay the interest they may strike

a deal to train, or employ a son or daughter in the city. The children's wages are than taken as interest on the loan.

2.1.6 Major Areas of Child Workers

Despite its legal prohibition, child labour exists everywhere in our country. No area of the labour market is completely free of child labour exploitation.

Several CWIN research and survey studies have revealed that child labour is an integral part of labour market. From agriculture to industry, domestic service, plantation, construction and transport service, one can find children employed as labour (CWIN/UNICEF, 19995). The following areas can be taken as the main areas of child labour employment in Nepal.

- ❖ Factory/Industry: Carpet, garments, handicrafts, printing, press, welding, confectionery, bread loaf, pottery, brick kills
- ❖ Mines: stone quarry, magnetite
- ❖ Plantation: Sugarcane, tea, tobacco, rice, maize, millet
- ❖ Domestic service: Fetching water, collecting fuels and fodder, taking care of young siblings, kitchen works, cleaning, house keeping
- ❖ Entrepreneurship/Shop: Confectionery/sweets, tea shops, restaurants and bars
- ❖ Transportation works: helper, ticket/money collector
- ❖ Porter: Street porter/loader, porters of businessmen, porters of treks, tourists
- ❖ Street: Street vender, rag/garbage pickers, beggars, street singers, shoe shiners/makers, newspaper sellers, rickshaw driving

- ❖ Sex work: Child prostitutes, middleman/contractors, massage parlors, child trafficking
- ❖ Bonded labour: Kamaiya tradition, debt bonded labours
- ❖ Refugee children: Child of Tibetan refugees in carpet factories, children of Bhutanese refugees
- ❖ Migrate child labour: Migrate child labour from India, immigrate Nepali child labour in India, rural migrate children
- ❖ Circus/Music: Children in circus, puppet show/magic, children in commercial musical programme
- ❖ Commercial advertisement: Children in TV advertisement, children in radio, children in print media

2.1.7 Problems of Child Labour

As revealed by a study carried out by CWIN, the pioneer movement for the right of the child, working children in Nepal comes across the following problems (Pradhan, 1995)

Too young to work/inappropriate work for children, Health hazardous working conditions, Low wages and long working hours, Work at night Economic exploitation, Lack of basic education opportunities, Abuse and neglect, Physical, mental and economical exploitation, No rest and entertainment, Not having their basic need met, Inappropriate child rearing atmosphere, Lack of adequate parental love, care and understanding, Lack of social security, Violations of child's rights etc.

The Factory and Factory Workers Act 1959 prohibit child labour employment in health hazardous condition. Nepal has ratified the convention on the rights of the child and the ILO minimum age-employment convention. On the basis of this convention, Nepal has adopted the Labour Act 1992 and Children's Act 1992 and has concerned authorities

have neither effectively implemented the law nor formulated and planned action for the children's welfare and rehabilitation (Pradhan, 1995).

2.2 Review of Previous Studies

Nepal (1999) has concluded the abolishment of child labour and protection of the rights of children are globally raised voices and the prevailing. Nepalese laws also are consistent with this. Despite these measures, child labours are increasing due to absolute poverty. The scenario has endangered not only the proper growth and development of children, but also limited the scope for the building skill and productive manpower. The study has clearly deduced that child labour cannot be easily abolished, but this can be managed and mobilized by implementing minimum conditions to employ children.

Dhital (1993) has studies about the bonded child labour in Kamiya system. The work "Kamaiya" basically means a hired worker who is given some remuneration for his or her labour. But in practice, the word has a much more maligned meaning. The kamaiya system prevailing in the western region of Nepal is perhaps the worst form of enslavement. The key factor in the Kamaiya bonded system is a loan from their landlords. Indenting them not only for their whole lives but for generations to come. They are subject to inhuman behavior because they are basically illiterate, sincere, weak and even ill.

Shrestha (2002) in her study, conducted in 2001, has concluded that out of the total estimated child population of 4.9 million aged 5-14 years, 2.0 million are found to be economically active and thus constitute the child labour available in the country during 1998/99. In other words, the participation rate during this year was 40.9 % of the total economically active children, 64% are attending school and 36% are only working.

Suwal (1997) has estimated that about 2.6 million children in Nepal regularly work which is 41.5% of the total children aged 5-14 years, 26.7% i.e. 1.7 million participate in the economic activities. The proportion of working rural children (43.3%) is just double then corresponding figure for urban children (23%). The higher work participation rate of

children is found in mountain zone (52.2%), western development region shows the lowest work participation rates were as the mid-western region shows the highest rate.

Kadel (2003) in the study conducted with the objectives of investigating socio-economic status of the domestic poverty, landlessness, family disruption and parental force that are root causes of child labour, has found that large family size, economic insufficiency, lack of alternatives also promotes children to leave their house. The study has found that employers tend to take maximum advantage of their workers for minimum pay. The workers have no job guarantee and necessary facilities such as leisure time, increase in salary, entertainment, leave etc.

K.C. (2004) in an article titled “Child Labour: Action Needed”, he has concluded that he reasons behind the problems of child labour are: poverty, lack of education, ignorance, family disharmony, deception and victimization of children, the existing feudal and semi-feudal social system, growing economic disparity and lack of opportunities.

Gurung (1998) has studied about the migrate working children in Kathmandu valley. The study covered 303 migrate children aged 5-17 working in the cities of Kathmandu valley in various sector. In the study he has attempted to explore reason of children’s leaving of their home at early ages including the forms of labour they enter into. The main reason behind migration of children is the cities are insufficient or no food and or land in the origin, lack of job domestic violence and dislike of village life. In other word, poverty in the rural areas is the main factor of child migrating.

Malla (2003) has studied to explore general characteristics and analyzing the socio-economic condition of khalasi children has concluded that the socio-economic condition was not good. Majority of children workers were forced to this occupation due to poverty and rest of them have shown other causes such as maltreatment, stepparents, unwillingness to go to school, hard work etc. The study has displayed that majority of khalasi workers had from backward communities. In an average they were of 13 years.

80% of them were studied only lower secondary level where as 20 % had passed high school.

After reviewing above existing literature, it is found that the main causes of child labour are: poverty, illiteracy and lack of social awareness, socio-cultural exploitation and family disintegration, influenced by modernization and urbanization, lack of effective enforcement of laws and action plan of inappropriate development programmers, capitalistic mode of production in industrial and commercial sector etc. As result child labour are in different sectors and are facing different kinds of problems such as abuse and neglect, low wages and long working hours, physical, mental and economic exploitation, lack of social security, lack of adequate parental love and so on. In Nepal several studies have been conducted. Most of them have focused on the magnitude, causes and type of child labour at the local level.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To achieve the main objectives of the study and make a systematic study of the above mentioned problem, certain research procedure or methods have been applied, which are mentioned below.

3.1 Research Design

The study is only focused on obtaining information about micro bus conductors working in Pokhara valley. Explorative and descriptive research design has been applied in this study. Due to the lack of available researches about child conductors working in micro bus exploratory research has been done to investigate the maximum acquaintance about

those child. On other hand, descriptive research design is made to describe the socio-economic condition of them and major problems associate with them.

3.2 Rationale of the Selection of the Study Area

In Pokhara, a large number of micro buses were introduced in the past and still this process is going on. It was found that, many micro buses are employing conductor and all those are mainly boys under 16 years. These child conductors are not registered and recorded as an organized labour.

3.3 Population and Sampling procedure

This study is intended to collect information about child conductors working in micro bus in Pokhara valley, the site Bagar, Chipledhungja, Prithivi Chowk, Baglung Buspark, in aggregate all the child conductors ate the target population. But due to constant mobility and lack of records, it is very difficult to find out the actual population of the child workers in this sector. In this study, a sample of 40 child workers from micro bus has been included on the basis of purposive sampling technique.

3.4 Type and Sources of Data

The research has been based on primary and secondary information. The primary information has been collected from field work through questionnaire, structural and unstructured interviews in field, observation, case study. The secondary information and data has been obtained from the different related research, report published/unpublished books, journals, newspapers, office records and library.

3.5 Data Collection Technique

3.5.1 Interview Schedule

Visiting conductors working micro bus taking their interview them through structural interview question schedule helped to collect information to meet the objective of the study. Structured and unstructured questions have been used relating to sociological,

economical, demographic and behavioural aspect of child workers to get information. The interview has been taken on different issues such as personal and family characteristics, economic characteristics, working condition, personal habits, incomes, saving, health, educational status, aim etc. And unstructured questions have also been asked to their employers, drivers and friends to know more about them.

3.5.2 Observation

During the field work the researcher has used observation method to examine various activities of the micro bus conductors, such as behaviour, physical condition and working conditions etc.

3.5.3 Key Informant Interviews

Selected drivers of micro bus have been interviewed. Similarly, meeting with local people and their friends has been conducted to get information about the conductor boys. This technique has helped to know more detail about their attitude, behaviours, habits etc.

3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

Gathered data were analyzed both qualitatively as well as quantitatively. Computer program SPSS for window was used to process and analyze the numerical raw data. Simple statistical tools like frequency and percentage were also used. The non-quantifiable qualitatively data were analyzed manually and descriptively. Tabulation was made to present data.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This chapter deals with characteristics of respondent, such as socio-economics, working condition, health facilities etc.

4.1 Characteristics of Respondents

This chapter deals with the background of child labour in micro bus. Commonly they are called conductor. The analysis presented bellow helps to understand the background of conductor boys and the effect of their working as conductor. Most of the children are engaged in conductor job due to poverty, heavy work load at their home, and the behaviour of their step mother/father.

Before finding out their present life style and other details, it is important to know their background. Such as their demographic, place of origin, culture, ethnic and educational status.

A large number of children, whose occupation and family situation are varying, who are not engaged in any kind of employment, but who make their livelihood from working in micro bus can be described as conductor.

4.1.1 Place of Origin

Pokhara, the developed city of Nepal, it has gradually become the main attraction of job holder as well. So, even children come here from different directions, different districts and different villages for job. The following table shows the place of origin of the respondents.

The Table 4.1 shows that majority of respondent children's are from out of the Kaski district. Only 12 (30%) child workers are from the Kaski district, the table given bellow shows that 17.50 percent child workers from Tanahu district, 10 percent from Syangja district, and 7.50 percent from Parbat district. Similarly, again 7.50 percent from Gorkha district, 5 percent from Lamjung district, 10 percent from Dhading district, 5 percent each from Palpa and Chitwan district. And from Magdi district is less than 5 percent i.e. 2.50 percent. The data indicated that the child workers working in micro bus in Pokhara have been from different district and not from a particular district and village.

Table 4.1 Distribution of Respondent by Their Place of Origin

Place of Origin	No.	percentage
Kaski	12	30.00
Tanahu	7	17.50
Syangja	4	10.00
Parbat	3	7.50
Gorkha	3	7.50
Lamjung	2	5.00
Dhading	4	10.00
Palpa	2	5.00
Chitwan	2	5.00

Magdi	1	2.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

4.1.2 Age Structure

An attempt had been made to know the age structure group of the respondents working in the micro bus under this study. Number of the respondents in different age group has been presented in the Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Age Structure of Respondents

Age Group	No.	Percentage
8-10	7	17.50
11-13	15	37.50
14-16	18	45.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The table 4.1.2 indicates a majority of the respondents workers working in micro bus belong to age group of 14-16 years which is 45 percent. Similarly, 37.50 percent belong to age group of 11-13 years, followed 17.50 percent of age group of 8-10 years. Many respondents left their homes in early childhood stage so they are totally deprived of child rights.

4.1.3 Caste/Ethnic Composition

The caste and ethnic composition of the respondents represent various ethnic and caste groups as the Table 4.3 show below.

Table 4.3 Distribution of Caste/Ethnicity of Respondents

Cast/Ethnic Group	No.	Percentage
Brahmin	6	15.00
Chhetri	8	20.00

Newar	4	10.00
Magar	6	15.00
Gurung	7	17.50
Rai/Limbu	4	10.00
Others	5	12.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

Table 4.3 shows the number and percentage of respondents boys who have been working in microbus. The respondents of Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Magar, Gurung, Rai/Limbu and others in different propositions as shown in above table. The table makes clear that the majority of the respondent child workers (20%) are Chhetri. The study shows that the position of Brahmin and Magar are same percentage i.e. 15 percent. Similarly, among the respondents, the percentage of Newar and Rai/Limbu are also same i.e. 10 percent. The above table shows that the child workers from Gurung and other community are 17.50 percent and 12.50 percent respectively.

4.1.4 Means of Arrival

Due to reasons like poverty, natural calamities, insurgency and many other reasons children have migrated to town and cities like Pokhara. Some of them came with their parents and some with friend, relatives where as some of them ran away from the house in their own way. The following 4.4 Table shows how the respondents arrived in Pokhara.

Table 4.4 Distribution of Respondents by the Means of Their Arrival

Arrived with	No.	Percentage
With parents	6	15.00
With friends	6	15.00
With relatives	4	10.00

Ra away from home	12	30.00
Local	12	30.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the above Table 4.4, most of the respondents (30%) ran away from their home and arrive in Pokhara. Where as many of them (30%) are local. Whereas many of them (15%) each arrived with their parents and friends. Similarly, 10 percent of them came with their relatives.

4.1.5 Reason for Leaving Home

Of course, leaving one's birth place is trajectory. No one wants to leave his/her birth place without any reason where the born and growing up. The reason for leaving their village is presented in Table 4.5

Table 4.5 Distribution of Respondent by the Reason for Leaving Home

Reason for leaving home	No.	Percentage
Anticipation of better life	18	45.00
Parents maltreatment	9	22.50
Security	7	17.50
No reason	6	15.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the Table 4.5, the main reason for leaving home is the anticipation of better life. Most of the child worker (45%) left their native place in search of better life in city. From table 22.50 percent had left their place because of their parent's maltreatment. Similarly, 17.50 percent children had to leave their home because of the security. Among them the respondent some (15%) remain silent about the reason for leaving home.

4.1.6 Parental Status

It is very important to know about the parental status of those children working in micro bus as a child labour. The parental status of respondents is presented in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Distribution of Respondents by Parental Status

Parental status	No.	Percentage
Both father and mother	29	72.50
Only father alive	5	12.50
Only mother alive	6	15.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The table indicates that the majority of the children have both father and mother alive. Of total 40 respondents 72.50 percent have both parents alive followed by those having only father alive and only mother alive with 12.50 percent and 15 percent respectively.

4.1.7 Educational Status

In the present context education is an important thing for every human being. Today education is an agent of social change and social development. Without education nobody can achieve his/her goal. In Nepal illiteracy rate is very high is a serious problem. The widespread poverty and ignorance are perhaps the major reason of this illiteracy. The Table 4.1.7 shows the education status of respondents as follow.

Table 4.7 Distribution of Respondents by Literacy Status

Literacy status (read and write)	No.	Percentage
Yes	38	95.00

No	2	5.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

An overall scenario at a glance of literacy status of respondents demonstrates that of total 40 child workers, 95 percent are literate and 5 percent are illiterate.

Most of the children in our country do not have access to education facilities despite the government's free education schemes. Due to poverty, living rural and subsistence farming system, from their early age children have to help their parents in agriculture.

Thus they are less literate. While studying their educational level the researcher found the result as presented below.

Table 4.8 Distribution of Respondents by School Attainment

Education grade(class)	No.	Percentage
1-3	20	50.00
4-7	18	45.00
No school	2	5.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above Table 4.8 shows that, of total 40 respondents 20 (50%) child workers have education up to 1-3 level followed by 18 (45%) respondents have education up to 4-7 level. As the 2 respondent i.e. 5 percent have not join school.

As informed by respondents, they had to drop their study incomplete due to many reasons because of which they have been suffering. When the researcher asked to give the reason for dropping their schools, the response get by the researcher is presented below.

Table 4.9 Distribution of Respondents by Reasons for Dropping School

Reasons	No.	Percentage
Poverty	16	42.10
Death of parents	8	21.06
To support family	6	15.78
Bad company	3	7.89
Not interested	4	10.52
No school around	1	2.64
Total	38	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above Table 4.9 shows that of total 38 respondents 42.10 percent had dropped out their school due to poverty. Similarly 21.06 percent were reported death of their parents. According to the table 15.78 percent had dropped out their school for to support their family. Whereas 7.89 percent has dropped out due to bad company followed by 10.52 percent and 2.61 percent had dropped out their school due to not interest to study and no school around respectively.

4.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics

Nepal is a tiny Himalayan country. It is a developing and agricultural country with great geographical, socio-economic and cultural diversity. Being an agricultural country in Nepal, almost 81 percent of the total population depends on agricultural activity (CBS, 2001). The majority of Nepalese have subsistence economy and probably the socio-economic condition of respondents is not an exception. This chapter aims to deal with socio-economic condition of child labour working as child worker in micro bus in different sub-headings.

4.2.1 Parental Occupation

The occupation of parents is also a determinant factor of their children's career. Thus, the occupation is the most important factor for the development of child every sector. Table 4.10 shows the parental major occupation of conductor children.

Table 4.10 Distribution of Respondents by Their Parent's Major Occupation

Major occupation	No.	Percentage
Agriculture	20	50.00
Small business	8	20.00
Service	5	12.50
Labour work	5	12.50
Unemployed	2	5.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The table indicates that the largest number i.e. 50 percent of respondent's parents are engaged in agriculture, which is followed by other small business 20 percent, service 12.50 percent, labour work also 12.50 percent and unemployed 5 percent.

4.2.2 Family Economic Status

The table 4.11 presents the family income structure of respondents. The table demonstrates whether income of family is sufficient or not.

Table 4.11 Distribution of Respondents by Their Family Income Structure

Earning sufficient	No.	Percentage
Yes	8	20.00
No	25	62.50
Don't know	7	17.50

Total	40	100.00
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Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above table shows that, of total 40 respondents 20 percent respondent's parents are earning sufficient for the family. The table shows that most of the child worker's parents are not earning sufficient for family, which is 62.50 percent and rest 17.50 percent child workers have no idea their parents earned sufficient or not.

4.2.3 Food Sufficiency

The respondents have been categories into three broad categories in order to find out the food sufficiency status of the parent's house. For the purpose of present study the food sufficiency at house means the family whose income is sufficient to feed the family through the year. About the food sufficiency following Table 4.12 has been presented.

Table 4.12 Distribution of Respondents by Food Sufficiency at Home

Food sufficiency	No.	Percentage
Yes	8	20.00
No	24	60.00
Don't know	8	20.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the Table 4.12 in relation to food sufficiency, majority of respondents i.e. 60 percent have not enough food to feed the family members throughout the year. Only 20 percent did not feel food problem at their home and rest 20 percent don't know about the food sufficiency.

4.2.4 Previous Occupation of Respondent

The Table 4.13 has been presented here to show the previous job of the conductor boys, so it becomes convenient to understand whether they used to do or not any other job previously, if they did, what sort of job they have done?

Table 4.13 Distribution of Respondent by Their Previous Occupation

Previous job	No.	Percentage
Yes	22	55.00
No	18	45.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the above Table 4.13, of total 40 child workers 55 percent had worked previously, where as 45 percent had not involved any previous work.

Table 4.14 Distribution of Respondents by Their Previous Job Type

Types of previous job	No.	Percentage
Domestic worker	10	45.45
Hotel/restaurant	5	22.73
Rag picker	7	31.82
Total	22	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above Table 4.14 shows that, of total 22 child workers who had previous work experience, majority of child workers i.e. 45.45 percent were involved in domestic worker, followed by 22.73 percent in hotel/restaurant and 31.82 percent were worked as rag picker.

4.2.5 Current Earning Status

During the study the researcher found that all respondents receive some amount as wage for their service. But one most notable thing is that, there is no fixed rule and regulation regarding their wage, whatever they receive is the will of their employer. The following Table 4.15 shows the monthly earning of respondents they received from their employer.

Table 4.15 Distribution of Respondents by Monthly Income

Monthly income(in Rs)	No.	Percentage
Below 1000	6	15.00
1000-1500	15	37.50
1500-2000	12	30.00
2000 above	7	17.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the above Table 4.15 largest proportion of respondent child worker i.e. 37.50 percent received the income Rs. 1000-1500 per month and 30 percent receive Rs. 1500-2000 per month. Similarly, 15 percent receive below Rs. 1000 per month and only 17.50 percent child worker earns above Rs. 2000 per month.

4.2.6 Expenditure Pattern

The expenditure pattern of the respondents differs as per their income. It depends upon their income. Here the expenditure pattern of respondents is analyzed. Here, the Table 4.16, tried to demonstrate expenditure pattern of respondents on different items according to their priority.

Table 4.16 Distribution of Respondents by Their Priority to Spend

Expenditure	No.	Percentage
Food	14	35.00

Clothing	12	30.00
Movies	5	12.50
Betting	3	7.50
Smoking	2	5.00
Alcohol	4	10.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The Table 4.16 shows that, out total 40 respondents 35 percent have incurred expenses on food. Almost 30 percent children spend their income on clothes. 12.50 percent of their income goes on watching movies and 7.50 percent, 5 percent and 10 percent spend their income on betting, smoking, and alcohol respectively.

4.2.7 Saving Pattern

During the study it is found that the wage or remuneration whatever they say of conductor children is not enough. Here question can be raised whether do they save money? If they do, how much and if don't what is the reason? The description of above question is presented below.

Table 4.17 Distribution of Respondents by Their Saving Pattern

Saving money	No.	Percentage
Yes	17	42.50
No	23	57.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the above mentioned Table 4.17, majority of respondents i.e. 57.50 percent cannot save their income. However, 42.50 percent said that they can save a little bit amount of their income.

The respondent who can save some amount from their income is asked about their saving level is presented below.

Table 4.18 Distribution of Respondents by Their Saving Level

Saving per month in Rs	No.	Percentage
100-300	8	47.06
300-400	4	23.53
400-500	3	17.65
500 above	2	11.76
Total	17	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the Table 4.18, 8 respondents, 47.06 percent children can save Rs. 100-300, 23.53 percent can save Rs. 300-400 followed by 17.65 percent can save Rs. 400-500 and very less percent i.e. 11.76 percent can save Rs. 500 above.

The reason of not saving from the respondent's income is presented below.

Table 4.19 Distribution of Respondents by the Reason of Not Saving

Reason	No.	Percentage
Not enough	14	60.87
No idea	3	13.05
Other	6	26.08
Total	23	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above mentioned Table 4.19 shows that, of total 23 respondents 60.87 percent responded that their wage is not enough for saving, while, 26.08 percent child workers had no idea about saving and 13.05 percent of them replied that due to many reason they cannot save their income.

4.2.8 Financial Support to Family

As we all know that poverty is the main reason of child labour. Many children are working in Nepal just to solve the bread and butter problem. Respondents are also working as child labour to help the hand to mouth problem of their family. In this regard it is necessary to know about their support to their family, the present study tried to know about their support as presented below.

Table 4.20 Distribution of Respondents by Their Support to the Family

Information	No.	Percentage
Yes	15	37.50
No	25	62.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above Table 4.20 indicates that majority i.e. 62.50 percent respondents do not support their family. Generally, it is observed that the conductor children spend their income for themselves on their different necessities like food, shelter, clothes etc. however, 37.50 percent of them are helping their family.

The respondents, who are supporting their family are asked about their support in amount is found as given below.

Table 4.21 Distribution of Respondent by their Support in Amount per Month

Help in Rs	No.	Percentage
100-300	6	40.00
300-400	5	33.33
400-500	4	26.67
Total	15	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the above mentioned Table 4.21, majority of child workers i.e. 40 percent who helps Rs. 100-300 to their family, 3.33 percent workers help Rs. 300-400 and only 26.67 percent boys help Rs. 400-500 to their family.

4.3 Working Condition, Health and Environment

As a means of transportation micro bus is very common in Pokhara. Generally, it is observed that working condition and environment of child conductor is considered to be very important.

In this study working condition and environment refers to working hours, holidays, other facilities, employer behaviour, and health condition, behaviour of passengers, harassment and exploitation. These are discussed here.

4.3.1 Working Hour

In Nepal, according to “Children Act 2048” a child under the age of 14 shall not be employed in any work as labourer. But in the practice, children are engaged in many kinds of laborious jobs, in different sectors such as hotel/restaurant, carpet factories,

transportation etc. The Table 4.22 gives the working hours of conductor boy's in micro bus.

Table 4.22 Distribution of Respondents by Their Working Hours

Working hour (per day)	No.	Percentage
8-10	8	20.00
10-12	16	40.00
More than 12	16	40.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above Table 4.22 shows that 40 percent respondents have been working more than 12 hours a day. Other 40 percent respondents have been working 10-12 hours a day, whereas only 20 percent of them are working 8-10 hours a day. Thus, the study makes clear about the infringement of the section 47 of children's act 2048, because, according to the section 47 of the mentioned act, children should not be employed more than 6 hours a day and 36 hours per week.

4.3.2 Holidays

In course of the study, the researcher found that there is no formal holiday for the respondents working as conductors in micro bus. It is up to them to take holiday or not, because whenever they do not feel like "not going work" they do not go. When question was asked to them are they getting holiday, their response is presented below.

Table 4.23 Distribution of Respondents by Getting Holiday Once a Week

Getting holidays	No.	Percentage
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Yes	12	30.00
No	28	70.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

Table 4.23 shows that, 70 percent respondents do not get any holiday. Only of the remaining 30 percent respondents boys get holiday once a week.

4.3.3 Facilities

In course of the study, the researcher asked some question to the employers of conductor boys about the facilities they are providing to the boys, the response was; they are giving other facilities like food, shelter, clothes etc. except their wage. In this regard some questions were asked to the conductor boys, which is presented below.

Table 4.24 Distribution of the respondents by Getting Facilities

Getting facility	No.	Percentage
Yes	19	47.50
No	21	52.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above Table 4.24 shows that 47.50 percent respondents are getting facilities from their employer and 52.50 percent do not get other facilities expect their wages.

4.3.4 Behaviour of Employer

While talking about working condition, employer’s behaviour is also a determinant factor. In this regard it is necessary to know about the behaviour of their employer’s towards the micro bus boys. So the researcher wanted to know about the behaviour of their master’s, whether goods or not which is presented below.

Table 4.25 Distribution of Respondents by Their Employer’s Behaviour

Behaviour of employer	No.	Percentage
Good	20	50.00
Okay	12	30.00
Poor	8	20.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above Table 4.25 shows that 50 percent of boys are getting good behaviour’s from their employer, 30 percent said that their employer behaviour neither good nor bad, they are getting okay behaviour from their masters and 20 percent boys are getting poor behaviour.

4.3.5 Health Condition

Everybody knows that health is wealth. Good health is everything for every human being; if we are not healthy we can’t do anything properly. In the case of study the health condition of conductor children is found very poor. Most of the conductor children were reported that they had health problems. It is also found that they are ignoring their health problems as minor one. But they are agreeing that they often suffer from cold, fever, diarrheas, eye problem etc. The following Table 4.26 tried to present the health condition of respondents.

Table 4.26 Distribution of respondents by Their Health Condition

Health problems	No.	Percentage
Yes	24	60.00
No	16	40.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the above Table 4.26 shows that 60 percent boys have health problem and rest 40 percent boys do not have health problem.

The respondents, who do not have good health, are asked when they get ill before or after joining this job, which is given below.

Table 4.27 Distribution of Respondents by Their Illness

Information	No.	Percentage
Before this job	8	33.33
After this job	24	66.67
Total	32	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The Table 4.27 shows that 66.67 percent respondents got health problems after joining this job and 33.33 percent respondents have already had health problem before joining this job.

4.3.6 Proneness to Accident

Conductor children's job is not a risk free job. There is more danger with children than an adult person in this job. The following Table 4.28 tried to present that how many of them meet an accident.

Table 4.28 Distribution of Respondents by Facing Accident

Faced accident	No.	Percentage
Yes	10	25.00
No	30	75.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the above Table 4.28 of total respondents 25 percent had faced different kinds of accident; according to them they had got to an accident while working in microbus. Similarly 75 percent respondents did not face any type of accident.

4.3.7 Behaviour of Passengers

Conductors have to deal with different kind of people during their duty hours. So, they have to face not only different kind of people but also different problems. In this regard the researcher wanted to know about behaviour of passengers towards conductor children. The following Table 4.29 presents the behaviour of passenger.

Table 4.29 Distribution of Respondents by Their Passenger's Behaviour

Behaviour of passengers	No.	Percentage
Good	22	55.00
Okay	10	25.00
Poor	8	20.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above Table 4.29 shows that of total respondents, 55 percent get good behaviour from passenger, 25 percent responded their passenger's behaviour to be okay and 20 percent respondents got poor behaviour from their passengers.

4.3.8 Job Satisfaction

The opinion of the child conductors and their job satisfaction found in the course of study is presented below.

Table 4.30 Distribution of Respondent by Their Job Satisfaction

Job satisfaction	No.	Percentage
Yes	30	75.00
No	10	25.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

As observed during the study most of the respondents i.e. 75 percent have been found satisfied with their present job. Very small portion i.e. 25 percent are not satisfied with their present job.

The respondents, who are happy with their job, are asked about the reason of happiness and found as below.

Table 4.31 Distribution of Respondents by the Reason of Job Satisfaction

Reason	No.	Percentage
Easy job	20	66.67
Scope of driving	7	23.33
Travelling facility	2	6.66
Earning source	1	3.34
Total	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the above Table 4.31, 66.67 percent respondents are satisfied with their job because of the ease of job. 23.33 percent respondents are happy with their job because they think there is scope to become a driver. 6.66 percent respondents are happy because they can earn money to meet their day to day necessity and 3.34 percent respondents

replied that they like to travel. So they are happy with their job because of travelling facility.

On other hand, total 25 percent conductor boys are not happy with their present job. The reason is as given below.

Table 4.32 Distribution of Respondents by Reason of Job Not Satisfaction

Reason	No.	Percentage
Low wage	6	60.00
Temporary nature of job	4	40.00
Total	10	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The Table 4.32 shows that 40 percent of respondents are not happy with their present job because there is no job security. Any time their employer can kick them out. 60 percent respondents are not happy because of low wage.

4.3.9 Bad Habits

In the course of the study it was found that some of the conductor boys have bad habits. The following Table 4.33 presents the bad habits of child conductor.

Table 4.33 Distribution of Respondents by Their Bad Habits

Bad habits	No.	Percentage
Yes	32	80.00
No	8	20.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the above Table 4.33, of total 80 percent respondents have bad habits and 20 percent do not have bad habits.

The following table presents the bad habits of conductor boys.

Table 4.34 Distribution of respondents by the Kinds of Their Bad Habits

Types of bad habits	No.	Percentage
Smoking/tobacco	18	56.25
Alcohol	8	25.00
Betting/playing cards	6	18.75
Total	32	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above Table shows 4.34 that the total 56.25 percent respondents have fallen in bad habits of smoking or chewing tobacco. 25 percent respondents have followed bad habit of drinking alcohol and 18.75 percent betting and playing cards.

4.3.10 Problems

Everyone has to face and have to go through various problems and the child conductors are not exceptional. The following Table 4.35 shows the kinds of problem of the respondent.

Table 4.35 Distribution of Respondents by Sorts of problem had to face

Types of Problem	No.	Percentage
To get job	20	50.00
To get shelter	9	22.50
Risk of an accident	6	15.00

Sickness	3	7.50
Uncertainly of job	2	5.00
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above Table 4.35 indicates that 50 percent of them had to suffer the problem to get job in the beginning. 22.50 percent of them have been suffering from shelter problem. Similarly, 15 percent and 7.50 percent of them are suffering from risk of accident and sickness problem respectively. Among these respondents 5 percent responded that there is no guarantee of their job because hire and fire system prevails there.

In this world, no human being is out of problem in their day to day life. Children are also not out of this limitation. When there is problem there is solution as well. The child conductors are also solving their problem in their own ways. The following Table 4.36 presents how they solve their problem.

Table 4.36 Distribution of Respondents by the Ways for Solving Their Problems

Source of Support	No.	Percentage
Employer	28	70.00
Friends	6	15.00
Guardian	3	7.50
Relatives	2	5.00
Others	1	2.50
Total	40	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

According to the above Table 4.36, most of them i.e. 70 percent replied that they go to their employer for help. 18.75 percent of them replied, they owe help with their friends, whereas 7.50 percent of them said that if they are in trouble, they owe help with guardian, in the case of those children who are staying with their family or guardian. Like this, 5 percent and 2.50 percent replied that they beg help with their relatives and other respectively.

4.3.11 Aim of Life

Everyone has their own aim. Everyone wants to be something in their future life. Everyone dreams future plans. Child conductors are not exceptional in this regards. So the following table shows the aims of the respondent.

Table 4.37 Distribution of Respondents by Their Aims

Aim to be	No.	Percentage
Driver	30	75.00
Mechanics	4	10.00
Police	2	5.00
Army	1	2.50
Don't know	3	7.50
Total	4.	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2010

The above data shows that most of the respondents i.e. 75 percent have aim to be a driver in their future. 10 percent of them want to be a mechanic. Similarly, 5 percent and 2.50 percent respondents want to be a police man and army man respectively, and rest 7.50 percent of them have not decided yet.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

Child labour is a bitter reality in many parts of the world, even in the 21st century. The magnitude of the problem is largest in South Asia. In this part of the world child labour exploitation is extremely high.

Nepal is a small Himalayan kingdom, in Nepal, poverty, illiteracy and unemployment are prevailing characteristics which is affecting each and every sector of human lives including child. Here children are required to support their family or they are forced to leave their home and start work. Every sector of employments is not free from child labours and the tendency is growing gradually. However, this study is based on socio-economic condition of child labour of age below 16 years; working in micro bus in Pokhara.

The basic objectives of this study were: to identify the socio-economic condition of child workers in micro bus, to find out the cause of increasing child labour and major problems

encountered by them, examine the working condition and environment of micro bus child workers

In this study, the sampled child conductors represent various districts. Among 40 respondents, majority of them was found from out of the Kaski district. Only 30 percent respondents are from Kaski district. It was found that most of them (30%) ran away from their home to city without their parents' permission. The children left their native place because of different reason such as anticipation of better life (45%), parents maltreatment (22.50%), security (17.50%) etc. the sample children represents different caste/ethnic groups; Brahmin (15%), Chhetri (20%), Newar (10%), Rai/Limbu (10%) etc. Among respondent majority (45%) are age between 14-16 years, 17.50 percent are age between 8-10 years and rest 37.50 percent are age between 11-13 years. In this study, 72.50 percent of children have their both parents alive.

It was found that among the total respondent majority of them 95 percent are literate and 5 percent children never got opportunity of schooling whereas most of them had dropped out their school because of different problem such as poverty (42.10%), to support family (15.78%), death of parents (21.06%) etc.

The study found that most of these children's parents (50%) engaged in agriculture. But they felt that they do not have sufficient food grain throughout the year. According to the information collected from respondent only 20 percent children's parents are earning sufficient for their family. Most of the conductor children's parents are not earning sufficient for family, which is 62.50 percent and 17.50 percent children, are unknown about this.

According to Children Act 2048, children should not be employed more than six hours a day and 36 hours a week. But the data surprisingly shows that no one has been working less than 8 hours and most of them (80%) have been found working more than 10 hours a day. Most of the respondent children's (37.50%) income is Rs. 100-1500 per month. Many of them (35%) spend their income on food. 57.50 percent children do not save their

money because of low wage. But 42.50 percent can save from their income and most of them (47.06%) saving is found Rs. 100-200 per month. According to the data 33.33 percent children supporting their family and their average support is Rs. 300 per month. Majority of them (75%) are satisfied with their job. 50 percent respondent children are getting good behaviour from their employer. In the case of probability of accident 75 percent of them never got any accident. In the context of passenger's behaviour 55 percent children are getting good behaviour from their passenger. In the course of study, it is found that, conductor children are falling in different kind of bad habits, such as smoking and chewing tobacco (56.25%), alcoholism (25%), betting and playing card (18.75%).

After leaving their home, the children are facing different kinds of problems, the data shows that 50 percent of them are facing job problem, 22.50 percent of them are facing problem of shelter, 15 percent of them are facing problem of getting an accident, 7.50 percent of them are facing sickness problem etc. during the field work health problems the conductor children are physically not so good. Most of them children (75%) expressed as their aim to be a driver in future and rest want to be mechanic (10%), police (5%), and army (2.50%) and 7.50 percent do not decided at all.

5.2 Conclusion

In the recent year, the issue of child labour is becoming one of the burning issues. In Nepal, especially after the restoration of democracy in 1990 the issue of child labour is becoming as a burning issue, both in mass media and academic circles. Efforts have been made by GOs, NGOs, INGOs and international organizations including ILO and UNICEF of create awareness about the problem of child labour. Some efforts have been made by government to eliminate the problem of child labour by making different laws and political commitments. But complete abolition of child labour may not be possible to the country like Nepal by these types of efforts.

Condition of children not working in horrendous situation might be improved once they are adequately paid for limiting working hours and at the same time they have adequate access to education, health and other facilities. This is justified in a society in which the state and the organizations are not in a position to provide either job/social security or rehabilitation to the working children. Removing the children from the job market without providing them any alternatives does not solve the problem. Experiences shows that many children barred from one type of work enter even more hazardous jobs once they are thrown out.

This doesn't mean that campaign against child labour should not be intensified. The problems of child engaged in different sectors vary. There has been a growing tendency among child labours. Particularly, among them the street children are addicted and turned to pick pocking. Therefore, in the matter of eliminating child labour, priority needs to be accorded to these children working under extremely hazardous conditions, those working as commercials workers and bonded child labours.

The main source of child labour in Pokhara is rural areas as the conductor children have been from different districts. Children are migrating towards city in search of job because of inadequate food, maltreatment of parents, hard work and negligence of family. These migrated children are forced to work as hotel boy, domestic servant, conductor etc. Anticipation of better of life and poverty are found as a main reason to drive them to the city. However, modernization is found pull factors today.

The present study shows that their existing working condition is not healthy. Their pay is very low in comparison of market price. For them it is too hard to save money for their family. Long working hours, low wage, job insecurity, risk of accident etc are the main problem and reason; their dissatisfaction is observed in the field. However most of them preferred their job to meet their future aim to become a driver. Because of improper influence and hazardous condition the words for them is found common and some of them in bad habits such as smoking and drinking alcohol etc.

Generally, the finding of this study is found accordance with the conceptual framework. However, the main reason for increasing child labour in city is found influence of friends. And the other factor for their migration towards the city and becoming conductor is attraction of modernization and urbanization.

It is found that in the process of working towards the elimination of child labour it is essential that the problem is approached and tackled from different angles. Awareness needs to be created against all forms of child labours, particularly those considered extremely hazardous. A nationwide social movement against all forms of exploitation and oppression of children needs to be lowered. Child labour would abolish through the economic prosperity. Various plans such as income generating programmes to people below the poverty line can be introduced.

5.3 Recommendation

The child slavery is the ugliest scourge on the face of human civilization. It is a universal problem. It has its global and local dimensions. In this regard, following recommendations have been given for the welfare of child labour workers as follows:

- ❖ We have children act, but it is limited in paper only. The children acts should not be limited to papers only. There should be strong law enforcements mechanism.
- ❖ Our society is not aware about children right and their exploitation. The government, NGOs, INGOs should be launching the effective programmes for poverty alleviations and social awareness about child labour immediately.
- ❖ The society should be aware about the problem of child labour in Nepal and work for their well being jointly. In addition, people should know that the child exploitation is a social crime.

- ❖ Parents are not aware about their role and responsibility towards their children. The important role of the parents in the lives of these conductor children needs to be scrutinized critically. At one level it is their inability to support them; at another level the parents exploit the children to perpetuate them in human condition.
- ❖ Employers do not know about children right and child exploitation. Employer need to be aware on the rights of the children and encouraged to send the child to school, give them proper wage and be educated on the evils of exploitation.
- ❖ There is lack of awareness campaign regarding children right, child exploitation etc. A publicity of campaign should be launched both by government and non government organizations to raise awareness against the exploitation of child workers.
- ❖ Lots of the children who has left their home and who has became orphan facing problem of survival. There should be rehabilitation center for orphan and street children by government.
- ❖ Child labour is also found as a result of unemployment. The government should increase the employment opportunities in rural areas. It will be help to discourage the growing trend of run away from to the cities in search of job.
- ❖ The major problem is we all think that the problems should be solved only by government. State cannot bring social change alone; therefore, there should be active participation of society through government, NGOs, INGOs level.

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APPENDIX A

Questionnaire

1. Name:
2. Age: Sex:
3. Ethnic/caste:
4. Religion:
5. Home address:

6. Why did you come here?
.....
7. Do you have both father and mother?
a)Yes b) No
8. If yes, who do you have?
a) Father
b) Mother
9. What is your parent's occupation?
a) Agriculture
b) Small business
c) Service
d) Labour work
e) Unemployment
10. Can your family sustain from the source of income?
a) Yes
b) b) No
c) c) Do not know
11. How many hours do you work per day?
a) 8-10 hours b) 10-12 hours c) More than 12 hours

12. What is your monthly income?

- a) Below 1000 Rs.
- b) 1000-1500 Rs.
- c) 1500-2000 Rs.
- d) Above 2000 Rs.

13. Where do you use your income?

- a) Food
- b) Clothing
- c) Movies
- d) Smoking
- e) Alcohol
- f) Betting

14. Do you save money?

- a) Yes
- b) No

15. If yes, how much?

Rs. _____ per month

16. If no, why not?

- a) Not enough
- b) No idea
- c) Other

17. Do you support your family?

- a) Yes
- b) No

18. If yes, how much?

Rs. _____ per month

19. Do you get other facilities from your employer?

- a) Yes
- b) No

20. Did you work any other job previously?

- a) Yes
- b) No

21. If yes, what type of job did you do?

- a) Domestic worker

- b) Rag picker
 - c) Hotel/restaurant
22. Are you satisfied with your job?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
23. If you are satisfied, why?
- a) Easy job
 - b) Scope of driving
 - c) Travelling facility
 - d) Earning source
24. If you are not satisfied, why?
- a) Low wage
 - b) Temporary nature of job
25. What do you want to be in future?
- a) Driver
 - b) Mechanic
 - c) Police
 - d) Army
 - e) Do not know
26. With whom, did you come here?
- a) Parents
 - b) Friends
 - c) Relatives
 - d) Ran away from home
 - e) Local
27. Why did you leave your home?
- a) Anticipation of better life
 - b) Parents maltreatment
 - c) Security
 - d) No reason
28. Did you join school any time and from which class did you drop?
- a) 1-3

- b) 4-7
 - c) No school
29. Why did you drop school?
- a) Poverty
 - b) Death of parents
 - c) To support family
 - d) Bad company
 - e) Not interested
 - f) No school around
30. Can your parent's sustain from the food grown in your land?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Do not know
31. What kind of behaviour did you find from your employer?
- a) Good
 - b) Okay
 - c) poor
32. What kind of behaviour did you find from passengers?
- a) Good
 - b) Okay
 - c) poor
33. Are you healthy?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
34. If no, from when?
- a) Before this job
 - b) After this job
35. Do you face any accident?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
36. Did you have bad habits?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
37. If yes, what kind of bad habits do you have?
- a) Smoking tobacco
 - b) Alcohol
 - c) Betting/playing cards
38. What kind of problem do you face during working?
- a) To get job
 - b) To get shelter
 - c) Risk an accident
 - d) Sickness

e) Uncertainty of job

39. Who helps you to solve your problem?

a) Employer

b) Friends

c) Guardian

d) Relatives

e) Others

40. Do you have any suggestion for the betterment of your life?

.....

The end

