

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Child labor cannot be viewed in isolation in our region because it is a cause and consequence of the country's socio-economic reality which is also a repercussion of the Feudal land-holding system. Child labor is not a new phenomenon for Nepal. History says that the child labor started in the sixteenth century. Children were further exposed in different forms and areas in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. The cultural practice of early marriage and indigenous occupational practice have forced the children to the work for their family support. For many years, it has remained a part and parcel of the rural economy. The rural communities in Nepal are living in a state of social injustice, economic exploitation, deprivation and backwardness. The growing marginalization among the rural population, landlessness, illiteracy, unemployment, rural-urban migration and unplanned urbanization have also contributed to an increase in the magnitude of child labor exploitation in the country. Constant poverty, unemployment and lack of fulfillment of basic needs in the villages force the parents to send their children to work in the cities for additional income for family subsistence. On the one hand, families and parents are forced to send their children to work due to poverty, and on the other hand, most of them are not aware so they prefer to push their children to work rather than education.

Children are universally recognized as the most important segment of any nation. They are the future citizens whom the development of the nation depends on. Child work includes activities that are not harmful, which may contribute to the healthy development of a child but child labor consist of all

types of work, performed by children up to the age of 16 years, that is damaging to children's health or their physical, mental, intellectual, moral or social development and interferes with their education. The worst forms of child labor are all forms of slavery and practices similar to slavery such as trafficking of children, bonded labor and recruitment of children for armed conflict. The child laborers also refers the children who are included in prostitution, pornography and in illegal activities such as drug production and drug trafficking, and any work in hazardous conditions, identified at national level according to the criteria in ILO recommendation (RWG-CL 2001). Child labor refers to an exploitative and hazardous situation and they are deprived of education and opportunity for healthy development.

Recently, child labor is pervasive over the globe that causes and seriously violates of children's right. It is estimated that 250 million Children today are working in the extremely intolerable condition over the world. A recent report has also revealed that about 179 million children between the age of 5 to 16 i.e. one in every eight children in the world, is still exposed to worst forms of labor, which endanger the child's physical and moral well-being, (Himalayan Times, June 12, 2002).

Ideally, children in the formative stage should not be exposed to any physical and mental rigorous works that may retard their natural growth. They should be provided with proper food, shelter, care, love, affection, security, and education that will help in their physical, mental and social development. The UN Convention of the Child Rights (1989), states that the children have to be protected from hazardous and risky works. It is fully interrelated "To interface with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, opinion moral or social development".

For the last ten years, Nepalese people have been suffered a lot due to the political conflict and related crisis prevailed in the country. A fair share of the suffering has been shared by the children. This present national scenario has emerged as one of the major contributing factor for displacement of family resulting in a number of internally displaced people (IDP). This, as a result, has increased the volume of child labor.

Child labor is widespread phenomenon in Nepal. A series of laws and acts prohibit intolerable form of child work and protect child rights and many governmental and non-governmental, international community and private organizations have been working to eliminate problems related to child labor and child migration within the country.

According to the National Child Labor Survey, 1.660 million children (26.6 per cent) out of the total 6.225 million children aged between 5 and 14 years in the country are economically active. Among the 1.660 million economically active children, boys seem higher with 54 per cent outnumber the girls (46 per cent) in Nepal, (ILO, 2005).

As national glimpse; factory work, domestic service, construction work, scavenging, transportation work etc., are common forms of child labor in the urban areas. In addition, a number of new areas of child labor emerge both in rural and urban areas with every passing year.

Children occupy the remarkable portion of the total population. About 51% of the Nepalese population out of 24 million is children below 18 years of age. Based on several studies conducted under the International Programs on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC), it is estimated that there are 127,143 children working in the worst forms of child labor — as bonded laborers, rag pickers, porters, domestic workers, in many factories and in the carpet sector,

and being trafficked in the country. In addition, more than one-third of them are illiterate, and a majority is school dropouts, who have been brought to their present workplace by their parents or relatives. It also appears that they all come from landless and relatively large families. Finally, more than 80 per cent of children trapped in the worst forms of child labor have migrated for work in urban areas.

One of CWIN¹ survey has exposed that children place more than 65% of total labor forces in Nepal. Children are employed in informal sectors like carpet and garment industries, confectionary, brick kilns, roads, building constructions, transportations, factory, mines & quarry, plantation, domestic service, shopkeeper, porters, street work, bounded labor in circus, advertising and stone quarries, (Ending Child Labor, A Briefing Kit on Child Labor in Nepal, CWIN).

The pattern of child Nepal is similar to what of other developing countries, where children work in occupation that is undesirable to adults. They work for low wages and there is no labor or organization recognized their rights. They work for long time or hours with little payment and no pay at all, even deprived of basic amenities. Laborers from surrounding hills and village of the valley use to perform the job, traditionally. In the last one decade, cheaper laborers from western mountain regions like Rolpa, Salyan and Dang have been progressively replacing the *Kanthes*² for this job in bricks kilns of the valley. They are responsible for digging, kneading, molding, drying piling, carrying and get about 300 per thousand pieces of bricks. Children of all age accompany their parents and their older siblings. Job like molding, drying and piling are rather light and hence toddlers of ages as low as 3 or 4 years

¹ CWIN is a leading NGO working for the rights of children since 1987 in Nepal.

² People resided surrounding the plane of Kathmandu Valley are called Kanthes.

join in these jobs to help their parents and their elders. Some child and mostly minor workers are involved in transportation of industrialization.

Child workers in brick kilns are one of the fastest growing industries in Nepal on account of rapid urbanization. Regarding the number of working children in the country, there are 59,449 brick working children involved during the peak seasons of brick kilns production in Nepal. Among them, 34% are girls and 64% are boys. Notably, 21% children belong to oppressed/scheduled caste (Dalit), which faces anguish social discrimination. Moreover, 74% of total child labors are migrant, (CONCERN Nepal, 2005). Similarly, only one third of the child workers in bricks kiln industries have completed class 2 and 57% of the children have dropped out of education that substantiate the low educational standards, unfriendly school environment, parents' and teachers' negligence even if the children are admitted to the primary schools. Bitterly, 24% of the child laborers below the age of 12 and 76% above 12 years are employed in the brick kilns that violated all the national and international minimum standard age for employment, (CONCERN Nepal, 2005).

Except a few mechanized kilns, the 67 registered and 200 small kilns in Kathmandu valley are manual based industries involving thousands of workers seasonally each year. The brick kilns of Kathmandu valley only are reported to have 152 children aged 6 – 14 years employed in each factory in various form of production activity (CWIN: 2005). The problem of child labor in brick kilns in Bhaktapur district is increasing day by day since long back and it is a burning issue for different level stakeholders. In this way, this study has been conducted in the topic on "A Situation of Child Labor in Bricks Kilns (A Case Study of Tathali VDC-9, Bhaktapur) with the aim of assessing the real condition of child labor prevailed in brick factories.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Child labor is one of the most serious trends and process in Nepal. The impact of child labor in bricks kilns in Tathali VDC 9, Bhaktapur district in the researchable subject which is one of the most concerning major child labor areas in Nepal. Brick making is an ancient art and it is difficult to trace the history of the development of brick making activities in Nepal. However, it can be said that people have been making bricks since centuries ago. Child labor problem is increasing and could not solve by implementing the plan and policy in Tathali VDC-9. There are many problems and challenges on child labor in brick kilns in Tathali VDC³ Ward No. 9, Bhaktapur. So, this study will address the following research questions such as:

-) How many hour they are working?
-) Are children getting proper salary according to their labor?
-) Are they satisfied working in the bricks kilns?
-) What are the reasons for involving of children in the brick kilns? etc.

Bhaktapur valley has many brick kilns most of them are situated outside the city. Bricks making is relatively simple operation involving unskilled labor, its employee is the number of works forces constituting of man, woman and including children. In Tathali VDC-9, the making bricks were started from long years ago is it is still running. Before, the condition of brick kiln was little but there are many brick kilns at present. Cause of increasing brick kilns in this area or VDC will be danger of polluted environment and will be harmful for children who especially involved in brick kilns.

³ There are total 17 brick kilns in Tathali VDC only (District Profile, 2063, Bhaktapur).

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to assess the situation of child in brick kilns and the specific objectives of this study are:

- a. To explore the existing socio-economic condition of child in brick kilns.
- b. To identify the causes and consequences of increasing child labor.
- c. To find out the remedial measures to control the increasing trend of child labor.

1.4 Rationale of Study

Nepal is one of the countries with a very high proportion of child labor. Out of the total child labor force, child labor in bricks kilns shares the remarkable portion in Nepal. An estimate based on a "National survey on Child labor in bricks kilns conducted by Concern Nepal in 2005" showed that there are 59,449 brick working children involved during the peak seasons of brick kilns production in Nepal.

Nepal is also following the set path on child labor. Nepal has ratified UN Convention on Child Right (1989) on September, 1990 which has focused the on issues of economic exploitation, discrimination, information and participatory rights of children. Similarly, Universal Declaration of Human Rights has also clearly mentioned about child rights. Likewise, Civil Rights Act 1955, Children Act 1992, Labor Act 1992. Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Act 2000 has protected the child right and disallowed the employment of children below 16 years working in brick production as well as many other areas of employment. But children are still suffering from the problem of basic needs such as food, clothes, education etc and are pushed to work in drudgeries filed which finally makes them abused and exploited.

In Nepal many programs have been attempted for their implementation through governmental and non governmental sectors to solve the problem of child labor. But the problem is increasing day by day. Nepal Government has also made these types of works of children illegal without any provisions or alternative solutions for the rehabilitation of these working children and support for the families.

For solving the problem of the child labors, sufficient researches and appropriate actions should be undertaken and suitable strategies should be applied in sustainable way. In this regards, there are numerous studies and researches in the aspect of child labor however they are with very limited information and documentations. Hence this study has been round on the pivot of the causes consequences and effective measures of child labor, prevailed in bricks kilns which might be an analytical and evocative study to solve the problems of child labor especially in brick kilns. This study of brick kiln working children not only illustrates the bleak picture of their day-to-day life but also offers pragmatic solutions at action levels.

This study simply tries to rise following issues in regards of child labor existed in brick kilns:

-) The main causes of child labor.
-) The major problems facing by child labor.
-) The effective measures to solve the problems of child labor in this sector.

Thus it is expected that this study will be helpful to find out the rot causes, prevalent situation and possible measures of child labor of brick kilns which will be supportive for concerned authorities.

1.5 Limitations of Study

This study covers only on a situation of child labors working in bricks kilns of Tathali VDC of Bhaktapur district based on information gained from the field survey and secondary sources. The study has been limited only in 5 bricks kilns of Bhaktapur district therefore the comparison of this study with the situation of child laborers of other brick kilns might not be fully relevant, because there condition is influenced by the family environment and behavior of bricks kilns owners. The time, manpower theoretical and methodological constraints during research, have been prevailed because the study has been carried out by a student. The study is limited only to the prevailing and possible conditions of child laborers thus the findings of this study may not match the status of other brick laborers. Similarly majority of the respondents are children and they have their hesitation problems and they don't know even their conditions and the intention of the queries asked them, this has sometime possessed problems in gathering factual and authentic information from them.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study report is divided in to six chapters as followed:

1. Introduction
2. Literature Review
3. Methodology
4. International/National Policies and Programs on child labor
5. Data Presentation & Analysis
6. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Child labor has been one of the critical but crucial issues in many parts of the world including Nepal for a long time. It is universal phenomenon that no country has been free from the problems related to child labor. However there is reviving a world wide attention on controlling the problems of child labor in recent years, the condition of child laborers has been still critical. Many of the socio-economic researchers have studied on child labor issues in different countries of the world. Their findings can be generally obtained in various internationally recognized books, research papers, seminar papers, reports, journals and articles. But the studies on child labor conducted in Nepal are very few in number.

The outcomes of such studies are presented in various books, research papers, reports, dissertations and journals which are reviewed as follows.

2.1 General Studies on Child labor

Indira Hirway et.al (1992), in their book entitled, "Action Strategy for Eradication of Child Labor" have shown that the problem of child labor remains a pressing problem in greater part of the world today. In industrialized economies, especially of Europe, North America, Australia etc., employment of child labor has been reduced to a considerable extent but they are not fully free from this phenomenon. In some countries, child labor has been originated from social problems, educational system and poverty. But today, many developing countries have indeed faced the serious problem of child labor in various dimensions.

The finding of the book connotes that the problem of child labor, which is a consequence of exploitative system existing at all local, national and international level does not only close the door of better future of million children in the third world countries but also drastically restricts many development prospects of these countries. Therefore it concludes that the existence of child labor is a threat to the overall development, solidarity and peace in the world. Therefore, the book recommends that eradication of child labor is a major goal for the globe especially the third world which must be achieved as far as possible. The finding of this study i.e. the threatening condition of child labor should be reduced with the broad based perspective planning for enriching the free quality education to the children.

Susan Crawford (1995), in her book, "Child Labor in South Asia" has vividly portrayed the real picture of child labor triumphed in South Asia. According to her, child labor in South Asia is widespread and is increasing every year .It is estimated that nearly 90 million children out of 400 million child population are laborers in this region . They spend their formative years toiling long hours for little remuneration at occupations which endangers their health and wellbeing. These children generally do not attend school and thus do not acquire advanced skills which could increase the life opportunities available to them.

Child labor is one of the most pressing issues currently confronting South Asia. Despite growing international awareness of the problem, study indicates that the number of children involved in child labor is increasing. Economic pressure of inflation, effects of structural adjustment programs that placed more families in difficult situations and export –oriented products such as hand woven carpets and garments rely which on cheap child labor are main contributing factors for increasing child labor. So, the study suggests that education and training are necessary for the children to survive in the

modern world to reduce child labor from South Asian countries. This study has focused to the training and education however, the national level strong policy and coordination is equally important for the elimination of child labor in regional level.

According to the book entitled "Child Labor Targeting the Intolerable" (1998), published by ILO, child labor remains a serious problem in the world. Most of the child laborers are in developing countries especially, in African, Asia and Latin America due to the prevailing poor economic condition. Pockets of child labor also exist in many industries which are dangerous and hazardous. They are found mainly in mines, in factories making glass bangles, matches and fire works, in deep sea-fishing, in commercial agriculture and so on.

This book has also clearly stated the negative consequences of children working in dangerous and hazardous occupations where large numbers of children work. The major findings of this book are:

- 1.) Most working children suffer significant growth deficits compared with children in school. They grow up shorter and lighter, and their body size continues to be small even in adulthood.
- 2.) Too many working children are exposed to hazardous conditions which expose them to chemical and biological hazards.
- 3.) In rural areas, it is believed that more children die of exposure to pesticide.
- 4.) Large number of working children work under conditions which expose them to substances with long latency periods, and
- 5.) Children in certain occupations are especially vulnerable to particular types of abuse. Domestic workers are victim of verbal and sexual abuses, beatings or punishments by starvation.

Valentina Forastieri (2002) in his book "Children at Work, Health and Safety Risks" has mentioned that child labor is a worldwide and growing phenomenon in today's world. Many children worldwide work in extremely dangerous, exploitive and abusive condition. The types of hazards that the children face vary according to the occupation involved and the specific working conditions. The nature and extent of child labor, its forms and severity of its exploitation also vary from one country to another.

According to this book, some of the underlying causes of child labor are poverty, insufficient or unbalanced economic growth and in some cases structural adjustment policies of concerned sectors, inequitable income distribution (no general adult access to employment). The book further connotes that poverty is not only the cause for the existence of child labor; deficiencies in the educational system, inadequate regulation to restrict child labor, ineffective enforcement of relevant legislation and lack of public awareness are also contributing factors. In developing countries, economic stagnation and unemployment, massive rural migration and accelerated urban growth aggravated by the rising cost of living have also increased child labor. In industrialized countries, economic recession and unemployment has raised certain forms of child labor.

ILO (2003) has included various articles concerning the rights of workers and their standards. Among them an article named "Protection of Children and Young Person" by Ricardo Herrondez-Pulido and Jania Caron includes that the adoption of national legislation is essential as it establishes a framework within which society determines its responsibilities with regard to young persons. However, the best legislation only takes on real value when it is applied. The article determines that a national policy on child labor is meaningless unless it is coordinated with policy for childhood. It is therefore

necessary to ensure co-ordination with training, child health and employment policies.

According to the experimental statistical survey carried out by the ILO Bureau of Statistics in 2002, there are at least 120 million children between 5 and 14 years of age working fulltime in developing countries, where child labor predominates. This figure would increase to about 250 million if we included those in the same age group who take work as a secondary activity.

This ILO publication has made the following two conclusions that:

There is heterogeneity in the child labor force. Children don't represent a homogeneous category in the labor market in terms of age, sex, ethnicity, social class etc.

There is no argument against general perception that child labor is both a cause and consequence of poverty. Moreover, the household poverty pushes them into the labor market in order to survive or supplement family income.

2.2 Studies on Child Labor in Nepal

Omar Sattaur (1993), in his book entitled "Child Labor in Nepal" has stated that child labor exists in Nepal at different sectors such as agriculture, cottage industry, manufacturing, plantation including tea, sugarcane and tobacco, domestic sectors such as taking care for parents and servants, tourist and travel industry, selling activities such as street hawking, petrol pump attendance, shop assistance, news paper vending and delivery, manual labor such as rock breaking, mechanic, sweeper, road and building site, and catering such as hotels, teashop, restaurants and bars. Children are also involved in rag picking, prostitution and begging.

With the deep analysis of the causes and consequences of child labor, finally, he has concluded that child labor is deep rooted in the history, culture and poverty of Nepal. Landlessness, continuing discrimination against women and girls and development initiatives that are biased towards urban needs are all contributing factors that support child labor. It keeps Nepali children far from the full enjoyment of their rights. The causes raised by this study is related to the all forms of child labor but the unemployment problem may be the major cause for the child labor in bricks kilns.

ILO (1996) referred to adopt appropriate legislative and administrative measures for restricting the world of children and young person below eighteen years of age. ILO has categorized work into: general, light and dangerous. It has categorized countries into: developed and developing. For developing countries, age limit was 14 years or above, 12 years or above and 18 years or above for general, light and dangerous work respectively. The limit for developed countries was 15 years or above, 13 years or above and 18 years or above for general, light and dangerous work respectively. The categorization of ILO is suited in Nepalese context.

An "Atlas of South Asian Children and Women" by UNICEF (1996) reveals that child labor is often directly linked to the poverty of the family in Nepal. It has also mentioned that the necessities of food and shelter, and factors such as unemployment or underemployment of adult family members or death of the bread winner compels children to work at an early age. Many children have migrated to cities in search of better living condition and have few choices regarding the type, condition or quality of their employment.

CWIN (1991) has analyzed the socio-economic and working conditions of child labor as well as their problems. It tried to gather and disseminate information on the exploitation of the child labor in Nepal. According to the

report there were various reasons for the involvement of the children in tea states for example large families, parents' poverty etc.

The report has concluded that in addition of the difficult working conditions, in most of tea estates there were no facilities like medical, recreational, physical, financial, etc. Food, shelter, water and education are the basic needs of human beings and the basic rights of all children. In the case of the tea estates, the treatment of child laborer denied basic rights of all children. In a situation where large majority of people lives in a very harsh poverty, these people can be exploited. CWIN has proposed prevention, protection and rehabilitation as possible techniques to solve the problem.

CWIN (1993) has conducted a survey-study entitled "Misery Behind the Looms (Child Labor in the Carpet Factories in Nepal)", with the objective of getting acquainted with the situation and problems of child labor inside the carpet factories, found out the economic contribution of working children in the carpet factories and also finding out about the different forms and nature of exploitation of child laborers.

This study has concluded that laborers are exploited in many ways such as no job security, no proper registration as workers so that they can be easily fired at any time, live to ill-housed, forced to work in very poor condition with unhealthy environment, no leave, medical or educational facilities. They are made to work long hours, ill treated and poorly paid. Most of the child workers are migrated from rural district.

According to the survey, they are made to work as much as seventeen hours a day. The average working hour for the carpet weaving children is fifteen hours per day. They work seven days a week. Child laborers are paid according to the length of the carpet woven, grade and the quality of the

carpet. Most child laborers come from poverty stricken villages where their poor parents have few employment opportunities. Most of them are suffering from respiratory diseases, poor eye sight, ENT and gastro- intestinal problems, malnutrition, anemia as well as skin problems. Moreover, Girls constitute a great portion of carpet labor force. They are 38 percent of total child labor and 25 percent of total labor. Young girls in the carpet factories have been continuously victimized in several cases of rape and sexual violence.

Pradhan G and Sainju B (1988) have analyzed the realities and challenges of urban child labor in Nepal with the aim of understanding the nature and extent of child labor problem and highlighting and publicizing the situation of child labor. Number of children is increasing both in rural and urban areas, and they missed every opportunity of their childhood. The finding of this study is - in rural areas, most of the children involved in agricultural based activities. In urban areas, the children found in several types of work, for example, carpet weaving industries, hotels/restaurant, rag picking and domestic houses. In fact, they are found more or less every where including printing press, book binding, Street sweeping and so on.

Concern for Children and Environment Nepal (1997) conducted a study to find out the working condition of child porters in Nepal. According to the study, pottering constitutes the major field of child labor in Nepal. Most of child porters were frequently seen in capital city Kathmandu. Further, it has been found that child labor came mostly from the backward communities. The study concluded that 49 percent of the children were from Tamang, Lama, Bhote and other occupational castes. These children lacked proper clothing and shoes. This study shows that a child porter could load up to 70kg on average an adult earned an amount varying between Rs100 and Rs150 per day. As against it, a child porter earned nearly Rs100 per day.

Even though they nearly earn 100 rupees per day, most of child porters have no adequate shelter.

Pradhan G (1995) has taken research report to analyze the problems of child labor against the background of rural migration and urbanization. It has been pointed out that prime cause of child labor in Nepal was the social recognition as a way of life in our society. Poverty, starvation and deprivation were obvious key factors that have contributed to growing number of children in the exploitative labor market. This study reveals that most parents are poor in rural areas. They send their children in urban to work not only an additional income, but also to reduce the number of hungry stomachs.

CONCERN NEPAL (2002) has conducted a national survey entitled "Child Labor in Stone Quarries" with the objective of understanding the situation of children in their workplaces, advocating the improvement of these situations and determining alternative ways to fulfill their rights to education and development. This study is the outcome of 208 stone quarry children interviewed through structured questionnaire and more than 400 children are observed working 14 districts of Nepal. It is estimated that there are at least 32,000 children working in 1,600 quarries throughout the country. Despite large numbers of children working in stone quarries, it has not yet been brought to the national agenda of child labor in Nepal.

The major conclusions of this study are that most of the child laborers engaged in stone quarries comes from hill and lowland districts of the country. They are concentrated around urban and sub-urban areas of the country. They provide financial support for the family but they are underpaid with long working hours and wages for them neither fixed nor fair. The children are compelled to work in stone quarries due to the poverty, lack of

alternative income sources and parental ignorance about the importance of education. They are illiterate and even those who have attended school have dropped out before completing primary level. They largely come from poor, underprivileged and oppressed families. Majority of children do not receive their own wages, rather their income is controlled by their parents and relatives. This study finds that they are largely exploited, harassed and abused in their workplaces physically, economically, mentally, sexually and psychologically.

According to the different studies of ILO/IPEC (1995), child labor is a widespread phenomenon in Nepal. The study stressed on major causes of child labor in Nepal: like high level of poverty and financial pressure, unemployment or underemployment, family disruption, lack of opportunities and prevalence of favorable public adverse condition.

With many researches regarding the child labor, CWIN (2002) believes that child labor is a cause and consequence of socio- economic and cultural relations prevailed in Nepalese society. CWIN is also in favor of progressive intervention for the prevention and control of child labor exploitation where meaningful education can be taken as an effective intervention in this regard.

According to CBS (2003), education is the major fundamental right of every child. There is no legal enforcement regarding compulsory education in Nepal. So child education in Nepal is not satisfactory but it has made significant progress in education to all levels during the past 3 decades.

2.3 Case Studies on Child Labor

Nawa Raj Nepal (1999) has concluded that abolishment of child labor and protecting the rights of children are globally raised voices and prevailing Nepalese laws also are consistent with this. Despite these measures, child

labors are increasing due to absolute poverty. The scenario has endangered not only proper growth and development of children, but also limited the scope for building skill and productive manpower. The study has clearly deduced that child labor can not be easily abolished, but this can be managed and mobilized by implementing minimum conditions to employ children.

Archana 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 labor 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.

Goverdhan Lal Sunar (2002), in his thesis "Child Labor in Nepal: A Case Study of Hotels of Kathmandu Metropolitan City" has analyzed the situation of Child labor in hotel and restaurant in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. This study has found that there are 47.83% of child laborers in hotel in Kathmandu. The finding of the study further connotes that Children have joined in this job to sustain their own life and to support their family. Most of the child laborers are basically unskilled. They are working on an average of 10.6 hours in a day and get an average wage of Rs.752 per month, which is very low.

Dinesh Ghimire (2003), in his thesis "Child Labor in Nepal: A case Study of Hotel/Restaurant of Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City" has aimed to analyze the causes and socio-economic condition of child labor in hotel and restaurant in Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan city. The researcher has concluded that child labor in Nepal is increasing due to the acute state of poverty particularly in rural areas. Most of the people of rural areas could not send their children to the school because they could not afford the direct and indirect costs of

education. For illiterate and financially weak people, the opportunity cost of education for their children is very high. Social values and institutions also create the problem of child labor. The researcher has also found that the child labor working in hotel and restaurant work very long hour with minimum salary and incentives in an adverse situation. The study has concluded that due to the massive poverty of family, insufficient love, care and inattention to their children, they could not regularly go to school. Finally, they become child labor.

Pream Brd. Malla (2003), in this study at exploring the general characteristics and analyzing the socio-economic condition of *Khalasi* children has concluded that the socio-economic condition of *Khalasi* was not good and majority of child workers were forced to this occupation due to poverty, and rest of them have shown other causes such as maltreatment of family and stepparents, unwillingness to go to school, hard work at home etc. The study has displayed that majority of *Khalasi* workers had from backward communities. In an average, they were of 13 years. 80 percent of them were studied in only lower secondary level where as 20 percent had passed high school.

Manoj Pokharel (2004) has conducted a research study entitled "Child Labor in Nepal": A Case Study of hotel Cchild Labor in Kirtipur Municipality" with the objective of comparing the existence of child labor in Nepal with other SAARC countries, identifying the socio-economic status and examining the economic condition of child labor in Kirtipur Municipality. The researcher has found that the condition of Nepal is the worst among with SAARC countries. In SAARC countries, child population is overworked and deprived of their rights to health, education, recreation and childhood. Though, per month income of the child laborers is very low, they are supporting their family properly.

The researcher has also concluded that due to the poverty, illiteracy, and weak financial condition of parents, the opportunity cost of education become high for the children and as a result, there is no educational facilities for children, which in turn results in child labor. They work in hotels and restaurant for long hours with minimum incentives and low salary in adverse condition. The existing legal provision strictly prohibits the employment of the children below 14 years of age but the provisions are not being implemented effectively as well. Therefore, to solve this problem, the government has to mobilize its resources properly in the regarded sector.

Rajesh man K.C. (2004), in an article titled" Child labor: Action Needed", he has concluded that the reasons behind the problem of child labor 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.

However, in this article, he seems to be in the favor of child labor to some extent. He had displayed the reality that in developing countries like Nepal, child labor, to some extent, has become a compulsion due to the prevailing social and economic conditions. Under such circumstances, a complete ban on child labor may not be beneficial for not only the family concerned but for the children themselves.

2.4 Studies of Child Labor in Brick Kilns

Brick kilns are one of the fastest growing industries in Nepal on account of rapid urbanization. Except a few mechanized kilns, the 75 registered and 100 small kilns in Kathmandu valley are manual based industries involving thousands of workers seasonally each year. The brick kilns of Kathmandu

valley alone are reported to have 2,500 children aged 9-14 years employed in various finds of production activity, (CWIN:1991)

Rupa Dhital (1992) entitled "Child Workers in the Brick Kilns" states that in an average brick kilns, there would be 40-50 working families and most of them have children who assist their parents in work as well as in cooking, washing and looking after the younger siblings.

Brick making is not the only job the children do. In fact many of them are involved in loading and carrying the bricks up to the kiln. It is mostly the 12-14 year olds who are involved in this job. The children work for 10-12 hours a day carrying bricks on their back to the kilns. Besides this, the child workers are also involved in taking the bricks out from the hot kilns and in filling-in or smoothing out the pits and trenches after the brick making season. They are indeed exposed to hazardous condition in dealing with the hot kilns.

The average earning of a child worker comes to Rs 10 a day. Among the 33 wage-earning children, 60% did not direct access to their wages, it belonged to their parents. Those who were paid directly saved as much as they could so that they could give the money to their parents. Thus all the children were supporting their families. The working children had neither means of recreation nor any work for education. Out of the 33 children interviewed 11 were literate, 8 were primary drop-out and 7 were still to be enrolled in school. These school going children accompanied their parents in the work place for six months of the year and while at home they were involved in household cores and work in the farm. The environment in the brick kilns as stated by Dhital, is conducive for a healthy existence because the entire area is full of dust and the workers have to inhale the fine particles constantly.

Bijaya Sainju (2005), entitled the book "Child Labor in Brick Kilns in Nepal", has estimated that there are almost 59,000 child laborers, which is about 34% of total labor force are working in brick kilns. Brick kilns are mostly confined to Kathmandu valley due to the appropriate soil for making bricks, rapid growth of population so that cheap labor could be obtained, unbalanced urbanization in recent years. In Kathmandu valley, almost 90% of the child workers are from outside districts. Male child workers dominate in this sector which occupying 66% of the total child labor force.

A fact and figure based report of ILO/IEPC (2006) named "Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Nepal" resembles that 218 million children between 5 to 17 world wide are child laborers. Of these, 126 million children are involved in the worst forms of child labor as defined in ILO Convention No. 182. The largest number of child laborers roughly 122 million aged 14 below is in the Asia-Pacific Region. This booklet has assessed on 'to what extent the time bound program on elimination of child labor (IEPC) of the ILO and its implementing partners in Nepal are supporting various activities to fulfill the objectives of the TBP within the framework of ILO convention 182'. Governmental, non-governmental, employees' and workers' organizations are the key project partners of IPEC under the TBP. The booklet has been divided in to seven chapters that separately dealt with domestic labor, pottering, bonded labor, trafficking, the carpet sector and mining/stone quarries.

In order to comply the objectives of this report; the situational analysis of the laborer, their living standards, migration trend, working conditions and intervention of TBP of ILO/IPEC and improvement have been deeply analyzed and described. The study has made the separate findings and recommendation for the different forms of child laborers.

In this study, researcher would like to supplement economic geographical and social factors of child labor. Researcher would try to find whether these factors are same to others research report or not.

These and other studies on child labor have been conducted in Nepal. All the Studies have found that, as in other sectors of child labor such as stone quarry, the magnitude of exploitation in economic, physical, mental and psychological aspect on child laborers in bricks kilns is very high. Children are found working whole days at the brick kilns without even minimum basic education and health facilities. Despite hard and long working hours, their wages do not appear sufficient. Most working children and their parents are illiterate so they are often to be cheated in wage payments and timely do not get their wages in a time manner. Form every point of view, there is no room for satisfaction in the brick kilns as for as the condition of the child workers is concerned.

Most of the studies have focused on the magnitude, causes, consequences and types of child labor at local level. Many studies have found that poverty, illiteracy, family disruption, social customs, value an attitude, migration etc. are the main causes of child labor. These all studies have focused to the general forms of child labor and their causes, consequences and remedies in macro level however the micro level study in typical field of child labor especially in Bricks kilns are still lacking thus this study tries to fill up the gaps.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The basic task of this study is to document the situation of child laborers employed in brick kiln industries. Therefore, the present study has been undertaken mainly to study the socio-economic background, terms and conditions of works and to find out the major factors which force children to work in hazardous places like brick kiln industries. This study is primarily exploratory and descriptive in nature. In this study an attempt has been made to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the children and the actual situation under which they are working in the brick kiln industries in Tathali VDC word no.9, Bhaktapur. Actually, following steps and procedures have been applied to complete this study systematically.

3.1 Site Selection

Bhaktapur is a fertile ground for bricks production in Nepal. Mostly, the numbers of brick kilns are located in Tathali and Chittapol VDCs of Bhaktapur district. Out of these two VDCs, heterogeneity nature of child workers according to the place of origin, caste, ethnicity, religion and economic status are found in the brick kilns of Tathali VDC by the key informants Survey. Thus, Tathali VDC word no. 9 (where the majority numbers of brick kilns industries are in operation), Bhaktapur district has been selected as the study area for this study. Brick kiln industries are also increasing for brick production where greater amount of labor force including significant proportion of child labor is engaged in brick making activities in Nepal especially in Bhaktapur. It is the most drudgeries work especially for children because every activity in bricks kilns is hazardous for health of children and it spoils their fertile childhood which otherwise would be given

to education. Hence, thematically, the study on child labor has been specially chosen as the research theme to observe the prevalence situation of child labor in brick kiln industries. In addition, time and economic constraints are also responsible for selecting Tathali VDC ward no.9, Bhaktapur district for study area, which is easily accessible and not too much expensive to conduct research work.

3.2 Universe and Sample Size

The production of the brick kilns industries and the number of kilns have been growing in Bhaktapur district. For which, the increasing number of laborers are required for the operation of these industries. However, it is not very clear that how many children are working in the brick kiln industries in Nepal and in Bhaktapur district particular. Similarly, there is not clear information of accurate population of children aged under 16 years working in brick kilns of Tathali VDC of Bhaktapur district because some of the children and their parents are illiterate and can't note the actual age of their children. For the purpose of the study, five brick kiln industries were chosen purposively. Then, each and every child working in selected brick kilns has been considered as relevant respondent for interview. Altogether, 1570 workers are working in the bricks kilns out of which 160 are child workers and they considered as universe for this study. Fifty percent (80 children) of the universe including male and female has been taken as sample size which has been selected through simple random sampling.

In the five brick kilns surveyed in Tathali VDC, 10 to 15 percent child laborers are involved in each factory. There were a total of 1570 workers on an average of 314 persons per factory. Out of 1570 workers 160 (12.4%) are child workers under 16 years of age. Among 160 child workers, 96 (60%) were boys and 64 (40%) were girls. A total of 80 (50% of total child workers)

children working in the 5 brick kiln industries of Tathali were interviewed. Among 80 children interviewed, 30 were from Shree Bhatta, 17 from Saraswoti Bhatta, 15 from Brahmayani brick factory, 10 from Swet Bhairab brick factory and remaining from Majhi Bhatta.

3.3 Nature and Source of Data

Both primary and secondary data in qualitative and quantitative form were collected and used for the study. Primary data was collected with the help of schedule questionnaires, key informant interviews, observation and case studies of the working children, and secondary data has been collected with the use of previous studies and information. For primary data the child workers, their parents, brick kilns owner served as sources of primary information. The structured, unstructured and open-ended questions were used for interview schedule. The interview was taken from the respondents of sample group.

Key informants survey has been conducted to gather the additional information on the aspect of child labor and its use in brick kilns to find out the difficulties and resolutions regarding child labor. The school teachers near by the kilns and social workers who know the inner reality of the brick kilns' environment have been taken as the key informants.

As in many socio-economic researches, specific checklists were prepared for discussion in this study. The analytical inductive techniques such as PRA based on various sets of questionnaire have been applied. The major issue of discussion was to find out the reality of child labor prevailed in brick kilns.

Similarly, the secondary data was collected from the various publications related to child labor in general and child labor prevailing in brick factories in particular. Reports of different national and international organizations,

research reports, newspapers, magazines, dissertations, books, workshop & seminar papers, audio-visual documentations and journals were consulted as the sources of secondary information.

3.4 Techniques of Data Collection

Various types of tools and techniques have been used to collect the primary and secondary data for the study. The following techniques have been used in course of research.

3.4.1 Interview

The structured and unstructured questionnaire has been used to collect basic information about child labor employed in brick kiln industries in Tathali VDC ward no 9, in Bhaktapur district. The questionnaire is prepared in terms of personal identification of the condition of child laborers and population structure such as family characteristics, sex, age, cast, work, experience, incoming, saving, attitude towards work etc.

3.4.2 Key Informants Survey

Educated and intellectual personnel of the village who were highly respected and had a good knowledge about the local community were selected as key informants in order to obtain information of the people who were involved in brick making.

The ten selected key informants were from different fields. Among them three were government servants of DDC, two were teachers in the local public schools, four were local intellectuals and social workers and one was a former VDC chairman. The informants were enthusiastic and participated actively by answering all the queries that were put forward to them.

3.4.3 Observation

Observation is also one of the techniques of data collection to document the present condition of child labor. Information is collected through observation of the working condition, behavior of employers, physical appearances and even the food pattern. Their daily livelihood from morning to evening was observed closely to sketch their survival condition.

3.4.4 Data Processing, Classification and Tabulation

The collected primary data from the various sources have been processed by using appropriate computer software to make the analysis effective. After processing the data, unnecessary and irrelevant information were eliminated by editing then all the other selected data have been presented by various tables, pie-charts, bar diagrams, graphs and various statistical and arithmetical tools.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

In this study, the analysis of collected information (data) from both qualitative and quantitative method is made through the particular ways. The Quantitative data obtained from pre-coded structured questionnaires processed through editing and responses of open ended questions edited through specific coding keeping them on relevant categories have been analyzed on the basis of the research objectives. The processed data has been analyzed and presented in interpretive form. The population structure, ethnicity, cast composition, age and sex composition of the child labors, size of the family, income status and calculation of mean (average) have been applied for interpretation and analysis of data.

CHAPTER FOUR

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS ON CHILDREN

4.1 International Scenario

Child right cannot be viewed in isolation in our region because it is a cause and consequence of the global socio-economic reality. Child right is not a new phenomenon for world. The concept of child right was introduced by 'Agentine Jew' for the first time and was later recommended by 'Save the Children International Union', in 1923. However, the concept of child right had formally begun in 1924 when League of Nations passed the 'Geneva Manifesto'. Similarly UN Manifesto on Human Right (1948) and 'World Manifesto of Ten points on Child Right' (1959) emphasized on life preservation and all round development of child. There were many other such efforts towards child right preservation in international level.

The following are the major instances of such attempts.

4.1.1 Geneva Convention, 1949

The Geneva conventions are the most universally consented sets of rules applicable in war time. The convention (1949) was made right after the end of Second World War when the world was in the beginning phase of new reconstruction for multidimensional development of nations. The conventions numbered I and IV include some provisions in order to preserve the child right. According to those conventions, the child below the age of 15 should be restricted to take part in war, they should not be maltreated. Orphan should be especially cared and prosecution declared against the criminal below the age of 18 should not be implemented. Thus, this

convention set forth the provision of child right preservation which later became the foundation for further conventions.

4.1.2. Child Right Manifesto, 1959

Although the protections are provided to children by general international human rights treaties and other international agreements, at an early stage in the history of the United Nations, the international communities recognized the need to provide specific human rights protection for children. The Declaration of General Assembly (1959) on the Rights of the Child set out 10 non-legally binding principles aimed at providing special safeguards for children. The Manifesto of Ten Points set up the framework of legal principles and detailed standards which should govern all laws, policies and practices affecting children. These include the promotion of prevention of violence, and responses to protect all children from all forms of violence.

4.1.3 UN Convention, 1989

This is the convention passed by UN on Nov.1989 on the occasion of 30th anniversary of "Child Right Manifesto of Ten Points" manifested in 1959. It was brought into operation on Sep.20, 1990 and it has been endorsed by Nepal on 15th September of the same year.

The convention has declared some 'principles' of child protection along with the concepts of child right and some provisions to preserve the child right as well. Accordingly, it has committed for "the rights of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development'. The following are some important provisions of this convention.

- A person below the age of 18 will be treated as a child unless national law declares otherwise.
- Children's welfare should be highly prioritized while deciding anything related to them.
- State should protect the children from trafficking, sex abuse, physical exploitation and physical or mental torture.
- The children should not be employed in any work. Government should protect them from any economic exploitation or from any thing that hampers their education and health.

4.1.4. Convention on Worst Forms of Child Labor, 1999 (Convention No, 182)

Among various efforts of ILO towards discouraging child labor and preserving their rights, the ILO convention no. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor-1999 is major one. It is the latest and most comprehensive international convention to eliminate the worst forms of child labor from the globe. The convention has emphasized on the immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labor. It has defined a child as the person below the age of 18 and has restricted the employment of a child in any worst and risky works. It has considered the following as the risky works.

- The works that ensure physical or mental torture.
- The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances.
- The works that are to be accomplished in water, in dangerous height or in closed places.
- The works with dangerous machines, equipments and tools or carrying heavy loads from one place to another by bare hands.

- The works that should be conducted under the unhealthy environment, which includes extreme heat, resonance and tremor.
- The works that are to be done under the difficult situation, at a night or for along time and in imprisonment.

A number of other international conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights-1948 and The Slavery Convention -1926 tried to avoid all possible conditions leading to exploitation of children. Nepal is a signatory to all these international initiatives for child rights. Similarly, Nepal has ratified ILO Convention 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment in 1997. Minimum Age Convention, No.138 and No. 146 seeks to regulate the minimum age for employment. In normal conditions, children below 14 years of age are considered not eligible for employment.

4.2. SAARC Level Initiatives

4.2.1. Colombo Resolution on Children, 1992

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has been taking the issues of child rights and child labor as one of the major agenda from its inception. Nepal has been as active member of the SAARC and has been a signatory to most of the resolutions concerning protections of human rights and child rights. SAARC's Colombo Resolution on Children (1992) stressed for the need to expand school access so that most of the children would be at school instead of at labor.

4.2.2. The Ministerial Meeting in Rawalpindi (1996)

The SAARC Level Ministerial Meeting held in Rawalpindi in 1996 adopted a Declaration committing to abolish child labor in forced or hazardous work by 2000 and all labor in general by 2010.

4.2.3. The 9th SAARC Summit (1997)

The ninth SAARC Summit held in Male in 1997 declared the decade of 2000 – 2010 "the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child" All the members countries have committed to minimize the all forms of child right destruction and child labor exploitation in their respective countries.

Similarly, the consequent Summits have also made commitment to protect the child right eliminating the prevailing child labor in all sectors in SAARC regional level.

4.3. National Scenario

There are numbers of Acts that have provisions with regard to child labor or related issues. Earlier legislations such as Military Act-1959, Begging Prohibition Act -1962, Country Code (Muluki Ain) -1963, Some Public (Offence and Punishment) Act-1970 and Traffic in Human Beings Control Act-1986, did contain provisions were not comprehensive and clear enough to deal with the child labor issues.

Nepal has signed on "UN Convention" of Nov.20, 1989 on Sep.14, 1990. Similarly, Nepal has supported the 'Convention on worst forms of child labor' of 1999 in 2002. These and other similar international commitments are noteworthy efforts of Nepal towards eliminating the child labor and preserving child right. Some legal provisions of Nepal to fulfill her commitments are:

4.3.1 The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, 1990

The constitution has some legal provisions to protect the interests of children. For example, article 20 explicitly prohibits the employment of minors in any factory mine or any other hazardous work. Also the sub-article 8 of articles 26 include that "The state shall make necessary arrangements to safe-guard

the rights and interests of children and shall make gradual arrangements for free education.

4.3.2 Labor Act 1992

This Act, in chapter 2, under the title 'Employment and Job Security' strictly prohibits the employment of child in any institution. Similarly, it includes that except in prescribed circumstances, minors (Children of ages 14 to 18 years) may ordinarily be employed for the period from 6 am to 6 pm. They could be employed in light work up to 6 hours a day and 6 days a week. According to this Act, Children between 14 to 16 years can't be employed "in work that is likely to be harmful to their health or to be hazardous to their life".

4.3.3 The Children Act, 1992

This Act is more comprehensive and explicit regarding prohibition of the use of children below 14 years as laborers. The Act has following provisions towards child labor:-

- Child below the age of 14 shall not be employed as a labor.
- A child of above 14 years shall be employed in light working but only during the period from 6 am to 6 pm.
- A child who may be employed in work as a labor shall not be made work against his/her will.
- There shall be equal remuneration for the equal work without discrimination of children on the basis of the child's sex, religion, color, cast and community.
- Child shall not be engaged in work that is likely to be harmful to the child's health or to be hazardous to the child's life.

- A child shall not be engaged more than 6 hours a day and 36 hours a week.
- Generally, after continuous work of three hours leisure of half an hour and a holiday of one day for each week shall be given to the child labor. The leisure of half an hour for each day and a holiday for each week provided to them shall also be regarded as the working hours.

4.3.4 Child Labor (Prohibition and Regularization) Act 1999

A more comprehensive Act has been enacted, called Child Labor (Prohibition and Regularization) Act 1999. The Act enlists different jobs, occupations and work environment as hazardous in which children below 16 years can't be employed. This Act lists harsher penalties for those who don't comply by the Act. The Act also has provisions for a Child Labor Elimination Committee and Child Labor Elimination Fund.

Though the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regularization) Act 1999 has consolidated child labor related provisions in the Labor Act 1992 and Children Act 1992, the activities listed in the Annex of this Act are still not specific enough; also it has not included all the activities indicated by ILO Convention 182.

Various government agencies are responsible for legal enforcement about child rights and child labor. The Ministry of Labor and Transport Management (MoLTM) is primarily responsible for child labor issues. A 'Labor Relation and Child Labor' Section has also been created for this purpose in the Ministry. At a lower level, there are Labor Offices, whose major responsibility is enforcement of legal provisions, including those related to child labor. However, it seems that there are lots efforts which yet to be done in regards of enforcing these acts, laws and regulations in Nepal.

4.4 National Plans and Policies

Beside these legal provisions and international and regional conventions, Nepal has made commitment for all-round development of children since its Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90). In **Seventh Plan**, it was realized that children should be provided with the facilities for their all round development from early ages to make them physically, mentally and intellectually capable in the future.

The **Eight Plan (1992-97)** had directed the policies towards the welfare of children with the emphasis on free primary education and special programs for children in difficult circumstances and had focused on some additional steps to enhance child right and child development.

The **Ninth Plan (1997-2002)** had aimed at developing children physically, mentally and intellectually. For this purpose, it incorporates long-term concepts of 'Child Development' in order to ensure children's right and development. The plan had sought to expand and improve the services influencing child health and to make primary education practically compulsory.

The **Tenth Plan (2002-2007)** had stated that the objective of child development is to improve the physical, mental and intellectual development of children and to protect and promote the right of children. The plan had envisaged four point strategies to overcome the child labor problems in Nepal. The gist of these strategies can be noted as follows.

- As child labor is directly related to poverty, poverty alleviation and child labor elimination programs will be implemented in an integrated manner.

- To implement the child labor related programs effectively, efficiently and the development programs will be launched for concerned persons of ministry, department and offices.
- Worst forms of child labor will be eliminated during the plan period and all types of child labor will be eliminated within ten-years.
- A "High Level Central Co-ordination Committee" will be formed to co-ordinate child labor elimination programs.

During the end of Tenth plan, educational, skill-oriented, public awareness oriented and income-oriented programs have been carried out. The Master Plan (2005 -2015) has been enforced after being formulated. The Child Labor (Prohibition and Regularization) Act and regulations 2006 have been implemented to prevent worst forms of child labor. Through a time-bound program, 16,000 child laborers engaged in worst forms of child labor have been rescued, and another 17,000 children have been saved from being engaged in worst forms of child labor. Daytime Childcare and Informal educational centers are being operated. Continuity has been given to the works on child labor inspection. With the huge investment from the non-government sector, programs like nutrition, awareness programs, formal/informal education, legal assistance, psycho-social counseling, skill development training, rehabilitation, income oriented and employment oriented programs for the guardians of child laborers have been carried out.

The **3 Years Interim Plan (2008 -2011)** has expressed commitments to end all types of exploitative child labor. It emphasizes to promote active cooperation and collaborative works of the government, employer organizations, trade unions, different social organizations, and international organizations to fulfill these commitments, and to control child labor, as a possible cause of future poverty and as a serious social problem.

The plan envisions creating a child labor free society by providing an environment that is safe, healthy, unobstructed and educative which is free from hazardous activities as well as social and economic exploitation. It has aim to create a favorable environment for the control of child labor of all types and eliminate worst forms of child labor on priority basis adopting the following strategies:

-) Targeted programs will be run for children at risk and difficulties on a priority basis.
-) The government, private sector, non government sector, trade unions and donor community will work in partnership or in collaboration.
-) Reforms will be made in the policy, legal and institutional system.
-) The responsibility and awareness of the family will be increased in relation to the entitlements and rights of the children.

Similarly, The Master Plan (2005-2015) has been enforced after being formulated. The Child Labor (Prohibition and Regularization) Regulations 2006 have been implemented to prevent worst forms of child labor.

The strategies and policies envisaged in interim plan however are yet to be implemented. Even though, some programs such as day time Childcare and Informal educational centers are being operated. Continuity has been given to the works on child labor inspection. With the huge investment from the non-government sector, programs like nutrition, awareness programs, formal/informal education, legal assistance, psycho-social counseling, skill development training, rehabilitation, income-oriented and employment oriented programs for the guardians of child laborers have been carried out. But, their effectiveness can be observed and evaluated only after the completion the programs of interim plan. But, despite many legal provisions as well as international and regional conventions set and practiced so far, the

problem of child labor has not declined. And their rights and the issues of welfare are still endangered.

4.5 Co-operation and Initiatives

4.5.1. Initiatives of NGOs and Civil Society

There are now a number of organizations working in the country with the objectives of safe guarding the child rights and helping children in difficult circumstances. This includes NGOs, trade unions, employers associations, community based organizations, academic and research institutions and media. There is a large number of NGOs registered throughout the country working in the areas of child rights and child welfare.

The survey of SWC shows that the major program interventions are focused to awareness building, advocacy, non formal education, school education, vocational training, rescue and rehabilitation in child sector. But, most of the programs are concentrated in the Katmandu valley, particularly focused to carpet factories.

General awareness about the problems of child labor in Nepal is one of the major achievements of the various efforts made. Increased advocacy for the causes of the child rights and child welfare is another outcome of the efforts. Because of the awareness raising and advocacy efforts of different NGOs, the issues of the child labor have now become a consistent topic of public discussions and debates widely covered by media.

As a result of the various initiatives, it was observed that the child labor problem in carpet factories declined in the last five years. Some NGOs have started the services of rescue and shelter for the child labors and children in dangerous and difficult circumstances. Some of major NGOs such as CWIN,

CONCERN Nepal, Child Protection Centre, FNCCI, Maiti Nepal, HTC Nepal, and CWISH are working for protecting the child rights in Nepal and their contribution has made some positive achievement for promotion of the condition of children in Nepal.

Cooperative efforts are also coming up between the government and NGOs. A central level "Child Improvement Home" is being established by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare in cooperation with NGO for children living with their parents in jails and for delinquent juvenile.

There are some issues being raised about the effort of various organizations working in the area of child labor. It is said that they lack comprehensive and coordinated approach. Sustainable outcomes of the different programs are other issues associated with the efforts of NGOs and the different organizations because most of their major activities depend on financial support from external donors.

4.5.2 International Co-operations

The problem of child labor is burning issue over the globe. The issue of child labor in Nepal is rather too big for the country to cope with on its own. However, organizations like ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, World Bank, ADB, GTZ, DANIDA, IDA, DFID, NORAD, FINIDA, JICA, EC, AusAID, World Education, Save the Children, Winrock International Nepal, World Vision, Plan Nepal are extending their help in the form of resources, expertise and materials to eliminate the issues of child labor and ensure the rights of the children to live and grow like children –carefree, playful, joyful, and aspiring.

An informal body called *Child Labor Coordination Group (CLCG)* has been formed to coordinate the funding to child labor programs in Nepal. The

members are ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Bank and GTZ. The following are the brief descriptions of their current undertakings in Nepal.

ILO has launched the International Program for Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) in 1992. Nepal has joined IPEC in 1995 and prepared a national framework of action against child labor to undertake the actions programs for the elimination of child labor in the country.

UNICEF, with its right-based approach has broadened child development programs in different themes that include child labor, girl trafficking, education, gender, health, and maternal health and well being. The concept behind this approach is "right can't be realized if needs are not met, but simply meeting needs is not enough". Thus the emphasis of UNICEF is on "*life cycle approach*" meeting the needs of three crucial stages: 1) a good start for children, 2) the right to education and 3) adolescence. Child labor issue comes as part of UNICEF's child protection and education program.

The World Bank also recognized child labor as a serious problem and established a Child Labor Program in 1998. The emphasis is to ingrate child labor concerns in the programs for poverty reduction, major sectoral projects and policy development.

Since 1998, GTZ has been undertaking improvement of the Situation of Child Laborers (GTZ/ISCL) project. The project emphasizes on the need to improve living conditions of working children and their families as the step towards attaining eventual elimination of child labor. The project focuses on child education, skill training and awareness building among the rural poor.

Save the Children-UK, USA, Japan and Norway are working in Nepal coordinated by the Save the Children Alliance. Their priorities are the needs of children in difficult circumstances like children affected by HIV/AIDS,

discrimination against girl children and dalits, refugee children, etc. Similarly, Plan International, CARITAS, Action Aids, The Asia Foundation, Helvetas, World Education, World Vision, have been undertaking various educational and other action programs related to child rights and child welfare in Nepal. But, the question is always raised on the sustainability of the programs launched by the support of these international organizations, because, most of the programs seems running very good during the support of these organizations and difficult to sustain after they end the support.

CHAPTER FIVE

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

This chapter deals on the socio-economic conditions, working environment, factors that are responsible to produce child workers and analyses the possible measures for solving the problems of child labor, based on the primary data from brick kiln child workers of Tathali V.D.C. Ward no. 9, Bhaktapur district. The detailed study has been attempted to present on the headings and sub-headings as given below:

5.1 Social & Demographic Characteristics of Brick Kiln Child Laborers

The socio-economic condition of child laborers as presented below help us to understand different issues related to the child workers and their family status. This analysis also presents different aspects of child laborers related to their life and life style. The study analyses the family status with their education, working condition, pushing and pulling factors and many others perspectives of being child labor in brick kilns.

As the Brick Kiln child labors, children have to do all kinds of works such as brisk molding, carrying bricks field to Kiln, Kiln to Pile, drying and many more. Their labor is normally hired their labor cost is low in comparison to adult and in some cases they are not paid also.

5.1.1. Profile of Child Laborers

This section deals with the demographic characteristics of the brick kiln child laborers. The analysis includes both universal and sample size with sex composition working in 5 bricks kilns of Tathali VDC, Ward No. 9 Bhaktapur.

Out of 5 industries surveyed, actually the sample frame for child labor adopted in this study has been formed purposively as shown in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: No. of Child Workers Sample Population in Brick Industries

Name of the Factory	Total No. of Laborers	No. of Children				Total	Sample Population				
		Boys		Girls			Boys		Girls		Total
		No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%	
Shree Bhatta	420	35	36.46	25	39.06	60	17	35.42	13	40.62	30
Saraswoti Bhatta	325	22	22.92	12	18.75	34	11	22.92	6	18.75	17
Brahmayani Brick Factory	300	18	18.75	12	18.75	30	9	18.75	6	18.75	15
Swet Bhairab Brick Factory	275	11	11.46	9	14.07	20	6	12.50	4	12.5	10
Majhi Bhatta	250	10	10.41	6	9.37	16	5	10.42	3	9.38	8
Total	1570	96	100	64	100	160	48	100	32	100	80

Source: Field Survey 2008

In the five brick kilns surveyed in Ward No. 9 of Tathali VDC, there were a total of 1570 workers in 5 brick factories on an average of 314 persons per factory. According to the data presented in above table, there are 10 to 15 percent children out of total laborers involved in each factory. Out of 1570 workers total 160 (12.4%) are child workers under 16 years of age. Among 160 child workers, 96 (60%) were boys and 64 (40%) were girls. A total of 80 (50% of total child workers) children working in the 5 brick kiln industries of Tathali were interviewed. Among 80 children, 48 boys and 32 girls were interviewed. Similarly, out of total sample size, 30 children were from Shree Bhatta, 17 from Saraswoti Bhatta, 15 from Bramhayani Bricks factory, 10 from Swet Bhairab brick factory and remaining from Majhi Bhatta.

5.1.2. Age and Sex Composition of Child Labor

Those brick kiln children who are under the age of 16 are selected as respondents for this study. Children (less than 14 years of age) or minor (14-16 years of age) are engaged in greater extent that differ the degree of vulnerability of children because they differ significant growth deficit due to heavy work burden. Actually, the proportion of children involved in brick kiln industries varied with age and sex of the children.

Table 5.2: Distribution of Child Labors by Age and Sex

Age group	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
6-10 years	10	20.83%	6	18.75%	16	20.0%
11-13 years	15	31.25%	11	7.00%	26	32.5%
14-16 years	23	47.92%	15	46.88%	38	47.5%
Total	48	100%	32	100%	80	100%

Source: Field Survey 2008

This survey is the summary of 80 brick kiln child laborers of Tathali V.D.C. Ward No. 9, Bhaktapur. It was found that from the age group 14-16 constituted the highest percent (47.5%) of the total labor forces and the children with the age group less than 10 years composed the lowest percentage (20%) of total brick kiln child laborers. The proportion of boys brick kiln child laborers is higher (48) than girl (32). Above table (5.1.) shows that the percentages of the child laborers engage in bricks kilns is higher with their growing age. This trend is found in both boys and girls.

5.1.3. Cast /Ethnic Composition of Child Laborers

The prevalence of child labor in the brick kilns varies greatly by cast /ethnicity. Most of the children working in these factories surveyed have been

found to be from different caste / ethnic groups and have been doing the same types of job in every brick kiln industries.

Table 5.3: Distribution of Child Laborers by Caste/Ethnicity and Sex

S.N.	Caste/Ethnicity	Boys		Girls		Total	
		No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
1.	Brahmin/Chhetris	5	10.41%	3	9.37%	8	10.00%
2.	Tamang	10	20.83%	9	18.75%	19	23.75%
3.	Newar	4	8.33%	3	9.38%	7	8.75%
4.	Magar	7	14.58%	6	18.75%	13	16.25%
5.	Dalit	6	12.50%	5	15.62%	11	13.75%
6.	Tharu /Rai	6	12.50%	4	12.50%	10	12.50%
7.	Others (Bihari)	10	20.83%	2	6.25%	12	15.00%
	Total	48	100%	32	100%	80	100%

Source: Field Survey 2008

Table No. 5.2 shows that, highest percentage (23.75%) of brick kiln child laborers are from Tamang community, followed by Magar (16.25%), Tharu/Rai (12.50%), Bihari (15.00%), Dalit (13.75%) and Brahmin / Chhetri (10.00%). The lowest percent of brick kiln child laborers are Newar (8.75%). This shows that majority of the child laborers are from the ethnic communities and Dalits. These communities are comparatively backward and there is less practice to send their children to the school thus they are working as laborers in different sectors including bricks kilns. In the gender perspective, both boys and girls child laborers are higher from Tamang community and lowest percentage (i.e. 8.33%) among the boys is covered by Newar community and among the girls is covered by others/Bihari people.

5.1.4. Place of Origin of Child Labor

In this study, place of birth is considered as the place of origin from where migrants have come to Bhaktapur to work in the brick kiln industries. Therefore child laborers in the brick kilns of Bhaktapur district are found to be originated from different districts. Table No. 5. 3 shows that, among the 80 children below 16 years interviewed, the highest proportion of children (30%) are from neighboring districts of Bhaktapur. The percentage of female is highest (34.38%) who come from neighboring districts compared to males (27.08%). It is because comparatively female have higher desire to work as possible as nearby working place from their home zone. Similarly, the next majority are from hilly districts (25%). There are also some (11.25%) children coming from those districts where there is the problem of Kamaiyas. Data also shows that countable number of children (15%) of total of total labor force come from Bihar/India also. There are also 4 local workers (2 female and 2 male).

Table 5.4: Distribution of Child Labor According to Their Place of Origin

Place of Origin	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Neighboring Districts	13	27.08%	11	34.38%	24	30.00%
Other Hilly District	11	22.94%	9	28.12%	20	25.00%
Kamaiya Districts	5	10.42%	4	12.50%	9	11.25%
Tarai Districts	7	14.59%	4	12.50%	11	13.75%
India (Bihar)	10	12.50%	2	6.25%	12	15.00%
Local Areas	2	4.17%	2	6.25%	4	5.00%
Total	48	100%	32	100%	80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Note -Neighboring Districts include Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Kavrepalanchok, Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot, Dhading and Rasuwa.

-Other hill district includes Rolpa, Humla, Kaski, Bhojpur, Sindhuli and Mustang.

-Kamaiya districts include Bake, Bardiya and Dang.

-Tarai Districts include Sarlahi, Dhanusha, Saptari, Siraha, Parsa and Morang.

5.1.5. Arrival in Brick Kilns

Due to different reasons, child laborers arrive in Brick kilns. Some of them come with parents, relatives and friends where as some self from their houses. Following table shows how child laborers arrive in Brick kilns.

Table 5.5: Arrival in Brick Kilns

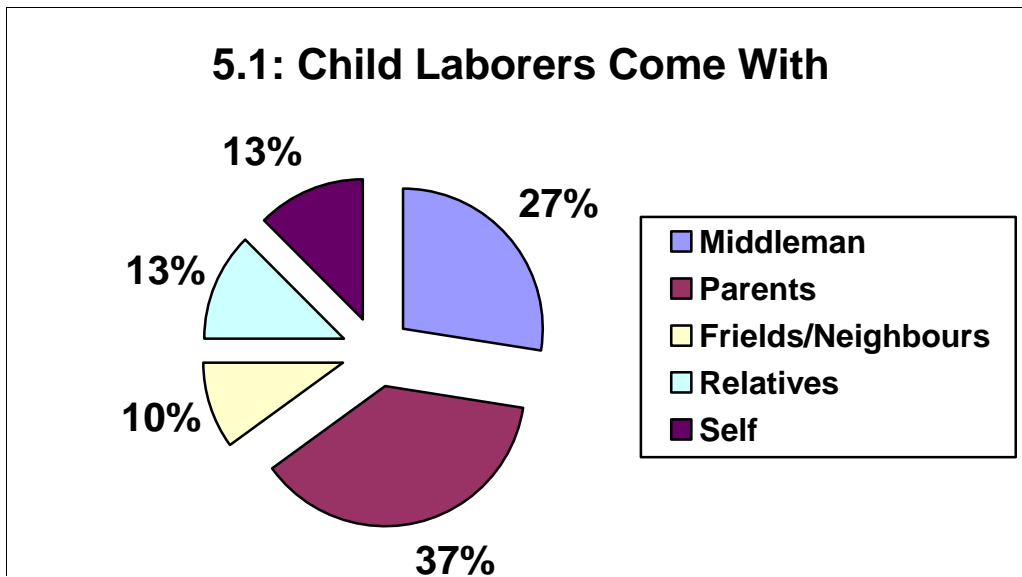
S.N.	They Come With	No. of Child Laborers	Percentage
1.	Middleman	22	27.5%
2.	Parents	30	37.5%
3.	Friends / Neighbors	8	10.0%
4.	Relatives	10	12.5%
5.	Self	10	12.5%
	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

According to the above table, majority (37.5%) of the child laborers is influenced by their parents and come with them in the Brick kilns. Similarly, the second highest numbers (27.5%) of the children come with the Middleman. It is seeing as the middlemen are very active to supply the human resources because they have the link between Child labor forces and the working places. Accordingly, some of the children have to face very difficult environment at their homes as they have to till in others' land but

difficult to even manage *mouth to hand*. Then they search the urban working places and reach to the brick kilns. So, this table also shows that notable number (12.5%) of the total child workers are self coming in brick kilns. Similarly, 12.5 percent have come with relatives and 10.0 percent with their friends.

This can be shown with the help of pie-chart which is presented below.



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.1.6 Reasons for Leaving Birth Place

Children do not want to leave their home with out any compelling reasons. There are different socio-economic factors that influence and push them to leave their own village or home. Generally parents and family are responsible to provide the basic needs of children such as food, shelter, clothing, schooling and affections. When children are deprived of those basic needs, they are bound to leave home and are more likely to be engaged in the most hazardous and the worst forms of child labor. In some instances the child itself is responsible for leaving home.

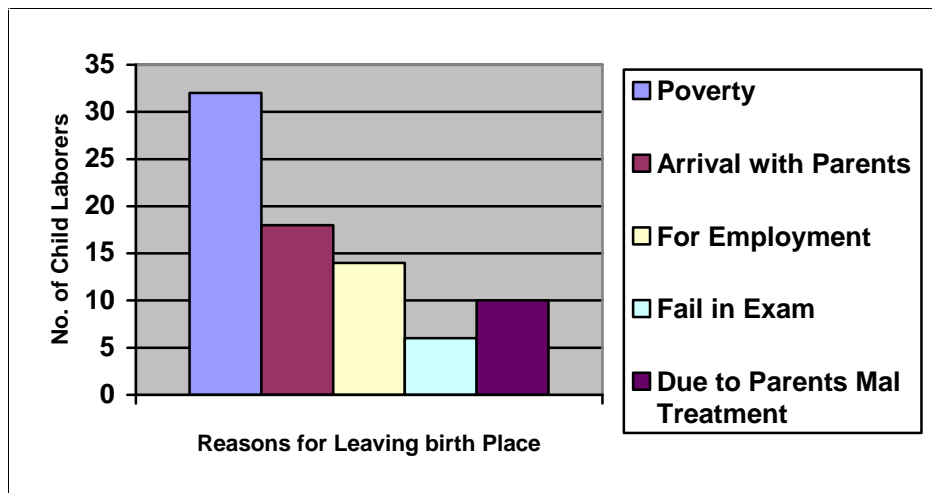
Table 5.6: Reasons for Leaving Birth Place

S. N.	Reasons	No. of Child Labors	Percentage
1.	Poverty	32	40%
2.	Arrival with Parents	18	22.5%
3.	For Employment	14	17.5%
4.	Fail in Examination	6	7.5%
5.	Due to Parents Maltreatment	10	12.5%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above presented data shows that out of the total children interviewed, majority number (40%) of the children of the Bricks kilns stated that poverty is the major cause for leaving home and engaging brick kilns of Tathali V.D.C. According to the respondents they had no sufficient food, clothes and good shelter. They were forced to work in order to support their family. Similarly, 22.5 percent child laborers left their birthplace with their parents who come to earn money for better life, 17.5 percent have arrived in the kilns in search of employment opportunities and 12.5 percent children left their birth place due to their parents' maltreatment. As informed by respondents, those maltreating parents are mainly 'step' ones but sometimes even their own parents neglect them in fooding, clothing, schooling etc. It is notable that 7.5 percent of the children have joined the brick kilns not only by other reasons but due to being failed in the school exam. The reasons behind leaving birthplace of child laborers are presented below with the help of bar diagram.

Figure 5.2: Reasons for Leaving Birthplace



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.2 Economic Status and Characteristics of Family

In this section, the parental occupation, size of family, family income, reason of family disruption and other family characteristics that clearly glimpse the economic and demographic characteristics of the child laborers are closely analyzed.

5.2.1 Parental Occupation.

Nepal is an agricultural country, almost 80% of people are engaged in agricultural sector and 36% of GDP is contributed by this sector in country. The problem of unemployment, under employment and disguised employment are existence in agriculture sector. And, there are equally a number of parents of brick children working in the agriculture sector at their home places. Thus they are exhorted in the agricultural works which give very low income and want to leave to the urban areas for better dreams of employment. Hence, most of the children come to the bricks kilns with their parents from agricultural sector. But the parental occupation of child laborers is not only limited in agriculture but also in various other activities for their survival. The following table shows the parental occupation of child laborers.

Table 5.7: Distribution of Child Labor by Parental Occupation

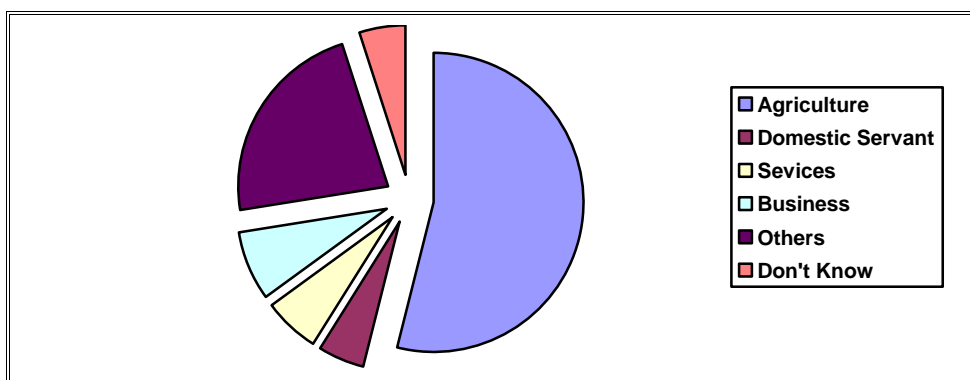
S.N.	Occupation	No. of Child Laborers	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	43	54%
2.	Domestic Servant	4	5%
3.	Services	5	6%
4.	Business	6	7.5%
5.	Others	18	22.5%
6.	Don't Know	4	5%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table No 5.6 shows that most of the children i.e. 54% of total child laborers come from the family with agriculture occupation while just 5% children are from the family having business. Very few percent that is only 4% children come from doing domestic laborers and another 4% children responded that they don't know their family occupation. The data shows that the farmers have difficulty to sustain their family by their agriculture production and send their children to the kilns as laborers. Similarly, their occupation is still in agriculture sector in the off season of bricks kilns.

The parental occupation of the child laborers can also be depicted by the following figure.

Figure 5.3: Distribution of Child Labor by Parental Occupation



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.2.2 Size of Family

The size of family plays a vital role in maintaining the living standard of people. Comparatively, the nuclear families seem happier than the extended families everywhere. If the size of family is large, they can not get proper food, clothing and other requirements. The following table shows the family size of child laborers.

Table 5.8: Size of Family of Child Laborers

S.N.	Size of Family	No. of Child	Percent of Laborers
1.	3 to 5 Members	17	21.25%
2.	6 to 8 Members	43	53.75%
3.	9 & above	20	25%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

According to this table, 53.75% child laborers have from large family. In this study, a family having six or above number is considered as a large family. This implies that majority of child laborers are come from large family. Large family can not afford sufficient food, clothes and basic necessities are unable to get proper care and guidance as well as education from their family and they are always motivated to leave their family.

5.2.3. Economic Status of Family

In Nepal, majority of population are in the crunch of poverty. According to Nepal living Standard Survey (NLSS) 2003/04, almost 30.8% of total population of Nepal is below the poverty line that means the income status of that portion of total population is below the minimum level of income. The following table shows the economic status of the family of child laborers.

Table 5.9: Economic Status of Child Labors Family

S.N.	Economic Status	No. of Child Laborer	Percentage
1.	Poor	43	53.75%
2.	Normal	24	30%
3.	Good	5	6.25%
4.	Don't Know	8	10%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

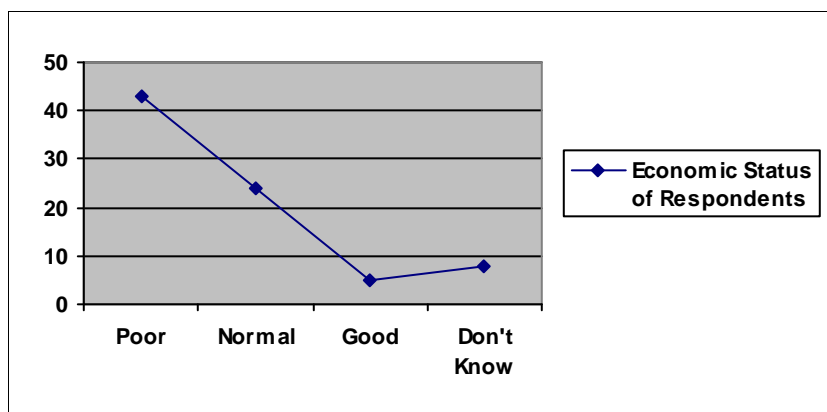
Note: Poor refers to not enough for hand to mouth

Normal refers to just sufficient for hand to mouth

Good refers to enough for meal clothes, school expenses and some saving

According to the table, economic status of family of 53.75 percent child laborers is very poor. This implies that poverty is responsible for increasing the child labor. The economic condition of 30 percent of them is normal and 6.25 percent is good. This also implies that child laborers leave their home due to the lack of proper love, care and parental guidance in the family. Out of total interviewed, 10 percent respondents do not know about their economic status of family. This data can be shown by this graph also.

Figure 5.4: Economic Status of Child Labors Family



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.2.4. Type of Family of Respondents

The following table shows the child laborers came from different types of family.

Table 5.10: Type of Family of Respondents

S.N.	Types of Family	No. of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
1.	Nuclear	17	21.25%
2.	Joint	63	78.75%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Above table shows that majority (78.75) of total respondents has come from joint family and only 21.25 percent of total respondents have come from nuclear family. This implies that joint family highly pushes the children to child laborer because there are various problems for food, clothes and other requirements for children. Joint families need more basis necessities as compare to nuclear family for which these families need more income. But in the rural areas where most of the families are dependent in agricultural sector with high level of disguise employment, and they have less production and their income status is very low thus these families can't bear the family expenditures. Then as the result, the children move to search for employment in urban areas just for survival and reach to the brick kilns.

5.2.5. Parents of Child Laborers

The following table shows the information related to their parents:

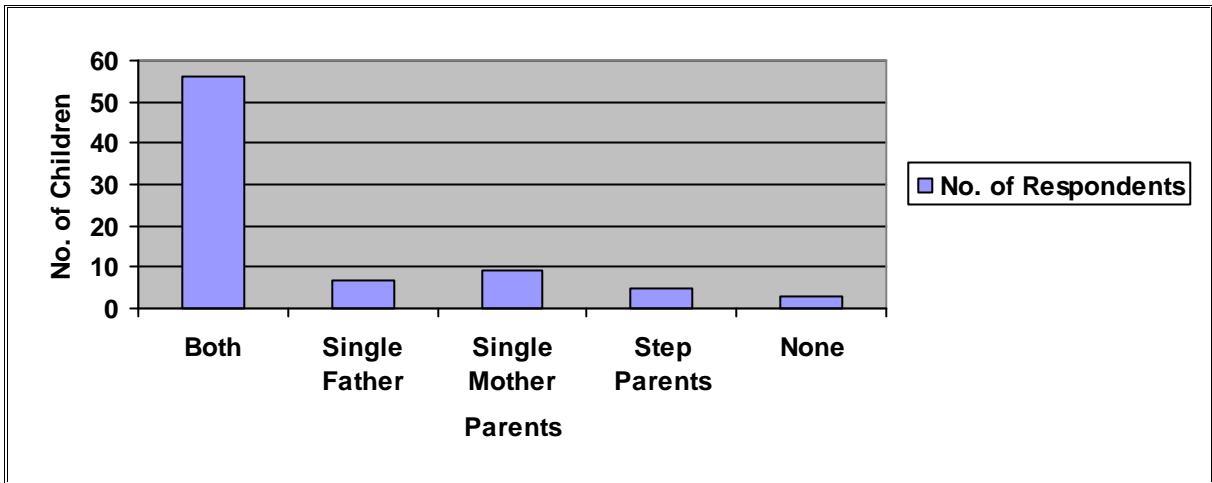
Table 5.11: Parents of Child Laborers

S.N.	Parents	No. of Children	Percentage
1.	Both	56	70%
2.	Single Father	7	8.75%
3.	Single	9	11.25%
4.	Step Parents	5	6.25%
5.	None	3	3.75%
Total		80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

According to the above table 70% of the children have both father and mother while 3.75% have loosed their both parents. Similarly, 8.75% have only father while 11.25% have single mother and 6.25% have step parents. The significant proportion of the children has both parents and they come with their parents. Very few mothers of the children have none of the parents and come with other people. Following Graph further clearly depicts that how many children have both parents, how many have single father/mother, how many have step parents and none of the parents.

Figure 5.5: Parents of Child Laborers



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.2.6. Family Disruption of Children

Poverty calls for scarcity which ultimately brings the family disruption among family members. The respondents were also analyzed for their family cooperation. An attempt of interview has been made to find out whether the respondent comes from disrupted family or not. The following table shows the condition of family disruption of respondents.

Table 5.12: Family Types of Children

S.N.	From	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Disrupted Family	22	27.5%
2	Undisrupted Family	58	72.5%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

According to the table, 27.5% respondents come from disrupted family where as 72.5% come from undisrupted family. Some of the children who have step parents and both father and mother have responded that they have family disruption. The reasons of family disruption are noted as, drinking habit of family member, maltreatment of parents and lack of cooperation is family. This is the positive signal that most of the children have no family disruption

which has eased the daily livelihood of the children though they are working in brick kilns.

5.2.7. Landholding Patterns

Most of the brick kilns laborers i.e. 54% of total laborers are from agricultural background, (*See Table 5.6*). Moreover, the families mostly dependent on traditional agriculture have small scale of land for farming and are compelled to send their children to urban areas for employment. The land holding patterns of the family of brick kilns children can be depicted as follows:

Table 5.13: Distribution of Respondents by Landholding

S.N.	Landholdings	Respondent	Percentage
1.	Above 2 Bigaha	7	8.75%
2.	1 to 2 Bigaha	11	13.75%
3.	Less than 1 Bigaha	28	35%
4.	Landless	19	23.75%
5.	No Response	15	18.75%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table shows that majority number of children's family (i.e. 35% total laborers' families) has less than 1 Bigaha land and secondly 23.75% children families don't have land. Likewise, 8.75% have above 2 Bigaha of land and 13.75% children have 1 to 2 Bigaha of land which are the lower middle class people. About 18.75% percent respondents could not response because they didn't know their landholding size. This shows that most of the children come from lower class family and landless family.

Figure 5.6: Distribution of Respondents by Landholding



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.2.8 Parents Debt

Generally majority of the people are indebted in mostly rural areas of underdeveloped countries like Nepal. Bitterly, the formal sector of financial institutions can't extend their services due to the lack of infrastructural development in the rural areas which we can see in Nepal also. Thus, the unorganized sectors of credit delivery agents are very active in Nepal and they impose the high interest rate. Mostly, businessman, landlords, rich people, relatives, goldsmiths and friends provide the debt to the needy persons. Moreover, the loan is used not in the productive sector. In the festivals like Dashain and Tihar, Marriage Ceremony, Funeral etc., people need money and take the loan with some physical mortgages. Then in order to back the loan, all the family members have to work, thus these parents send their children to work as laborers to the brick kilns.

Table 5.14: Distribution of Child Labor by Their Parent's Debt

S.N.	Debt	No. of Respondents	Percent
1.	Yes	33	41.25%
2.	No	20	25%
3.	Don't	27	33.75%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

This table glimpses here 41.25% of the respondents told that their parents were under debt and 25% told that their parents were not in debt. Almost one third (33.75%) of the total respondent replied in a query that they don't know about debt. The children who don't know about the debt of the parents were more childish. Majority number of the children's family is in debt trap thus they are obliged to work from their very childhoods.

5.3. Educational Status

5.3.1. Educational Status of Parents and Child Laborers

An attempt has been made to identify whether the child laborers are from educated family or not. The family is considered to be educated if any of parents (father or Mother) is educated. The data depends on 'Yes' or 'No' questions and same types of response by the respondents. There were total 72 children who have both parents or single father or mother. The educational status among 72 parents has been depicted followingly.

Table 5.15: Parental Educational Status:

S.N.	Are Your Parents Educated?	No. of Child laborers	Percentage
1.	Yes	21	29.17%
2.	No	44	61.11%
3.	Don't Know	7	9.72%
Total		72	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table reveals that majority of child laborers (61.11%) are from uneducated family. At least one of the parents of 29.17 percent children is educated and 6.75 percent respondents don't know about their parent's education status. It means higher number of parents are uneducated thus they have less income and face difficulty to sustain their family and they are compelled to send their children to the work places. Out of the educated parents, their literacy status also plays the vital role for the working condition of the children. The following table shows the literacy status of parents among 21 children who responded that their parents were educated.

Table 5.16: Parental Literacy Status

S.N.	Literacy	No. of Child Laborers	Percentage of Child Laborers
1.	Father	19	90.48%
2.	Mother	1	4.76%
3.	Both	1	4.76%
Total		21	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table depicts that, the fathers of 90.48 percent child laborers are literate where as 4.76 percent child laborers responded that their only mothers are literate and 4.76 percent of child labor's both parents (father's & mother's) are literate. We can view that among the literate parents male's percentage is dominant because we have patriarchal society mostly in rural areas from where a number of child laborers are flown to the brick kilns.

5.3.2 Educational Status of Child Laborers

From the above table (No. 5.15), we have already known that most of the people are illiterate in rural areas due to poverty. They are unaware and don't understand the importance of education thus they don't send their children to school. But some of the parents are conscious about their children's education

though they are illiterate so they send their children to the school and some of their children have completed the Lower or Secondary level education. However, the poverty trap makes them very difficult to sustain their family without sending their children to work thus they push their children as workers with the expectation of better life, employment and education.

Table 5.17: Distribution of Child Labor by Their Level of Education

S.N.	Level of Education	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1.	Literate	60	75%
2.	Illiterate	20	25%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The data collected from 80 respondents resembles that the rate of literacy is higher among children which is 75% out of total respondents then illiterate rate, which is 25%. It means that the remarkable portion of child workers are encouraged to go to school when they are back to their home ground. Furthermore, their future depends on their level of education. The children who are more educated will have more opportunity except doing in brick kilns. The ratio of children to leaving the brick kilns is found higher among them who study upper classes. Thus, this study has tried to assess their educational level to predict their future placements with use of following table.

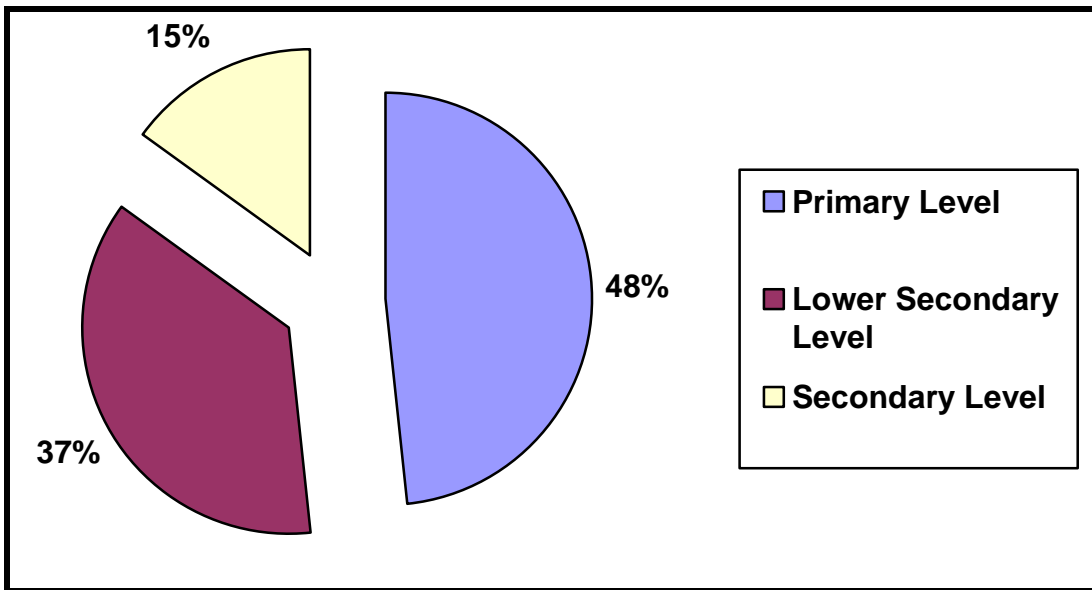
Table 5.18: Distribution of Child labor by Their Educational Status

S.N.	Grade	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Primary Level	29	48.33%
2.	Lower Secondary Level	22	36.67%
3.	Secondary Level	9	15.00%
Total		60	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The data has also been depicted with the help of following figure.

Figure 5.7: Distribution of Child labor by Their Educational Status



Source: Field Survey, 2008

Here, the total number of literate children was 60. Above table shows that the greater level of enrollment is in primary level which compose of 48.33% of total literate children. Similarly, there are 36.67% of literate children studying in lower secondary level and 15% in secondary level which is comparatively less in number. The following table shows the interest of children for further schooling.

Table 5.19: Interest for Further Schooling

S.N.	Interest for Schooling	No. of Child Laborers	Percentage
1.	Yes	26	43.33%
2.	No	34	56.67%
Total		60	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

According to above table, 56.67% child laborers are not interested for further education even if they get chance to go to school. Some of them replied that there is a long gap of schooling due to their seasonal migration to the brick

kilns which absorb their six months of period annually. So, they did not want to go to school. Only 43.33% of them are interested for further schooling. Thus their works in brick kilns have hampered their education and blocked their better future.

5.3.3 Causes of Not Going to School

Education is the basic foundation for human development. With the pace of social changes in modern society, the door of opportunities can only be opened with the development of education. Now, the world is changing to the global village. Thus the education is more important day by day. But, it is very bitter that many people from the underdeveloped country like Nepal are deprived of getting the opportunity of education. Thus, they are illiterate, less skilled and poor in human development. In Nepal, there are many uneducated people (46% are illiterate) therefore the country could not develop smoothly in every sector. Mostly, the underprivileged groups such as child workers are deprived from getting the education. There are 20 children in these 5 bricks kilns of Tathali VDC, who have not even enrolled in primary education though their age is more than the average age of primary level children. The reasons behind them are poverty and many more.

Table 5.20: Distribution of Child Labors by the Causes of not going to School

S.N.	Causes of not Going to School	No. of Proponents	Percentage
1.	Poverty	11	55%
2.	Negligence of Parents	5	25%
3.	Family Disruption	3	15%
4.	No Response	1	5%
Total		20	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Due to poverty the interested respondent which is 55%, towards education, can not go to school. Primary level education is free but due to cost of

uniform, stationary and other materials which they could not afford are deprived of education, 25% of the respondent shows the reasons of negligence of parents and 15% due to family disruption. Total 5% of the respondents did not give any response. This shows that poverty and unawareness among parents are the major factors for not sending the children to school.

5.3.4. Free Time for Study

Generally child workers are too much busy in their work that they did not get time to study. They just obtain the time to sleep at late night and have to wake up at early morning. Their main is to earn the money and in the piece based system, their income can be increased as much as how long time they can contribute to working. Hence, a minute time is also valuable for them for working, thus getting free time is difficult for them. However, some of the children are keen interested to get the education, so, they responded that if they get the opportunity for getting education near by the brick kilns, they could manage the time for study.

Table 5.21: Distribution of Child Labor by Free Time to Study

S.N.	Answers	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Yes	25	41.67%
2.	No	35	58.33%
Total		60	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Above table depicts that the higher number of workers (58.33%) have heavy burden of works so their answers were negative. This shows that they do not get time to study during their working seasons i.e. for 6 months. However, though they can't give full day time to study, they are hopeful to manage few (1/2) hours per day if they get the opportunity to learn in school.

5.4. Working Condition:

The bitter reality is that children are continuously pushed to high risks job in bricks kilns. They are especially involved in molding, carrying and piling the bricks. They are comparatively low paid that means their wage rate is lower than other seniors. Thus, this chapter examines the working environment, income, activities and facilities obtained by children. This analysis mainly focuses on working hours, types of work, earning status and medical facilities. In the bricks kilns, all the children work more than 12 hours a day but their payment is very much nominal which is on piece-rate basis. It is found that children in the brick kilns work in dirty and suffocating environment.

5.4.1. Nature Work

The Child laborers are engaged in various activities, such as digging clay, molding, carrying and drying the bricks and similarly piling and loading the bricks. Data indicates that monthly boys were engaged in digging, carrying and loading works. The children who are trained are involved in filling up the sack because it requires technical skills. These all works are drudgeries for children thus the children seem vulnerable in the brick kilns. The types of work children are involved are as follows.

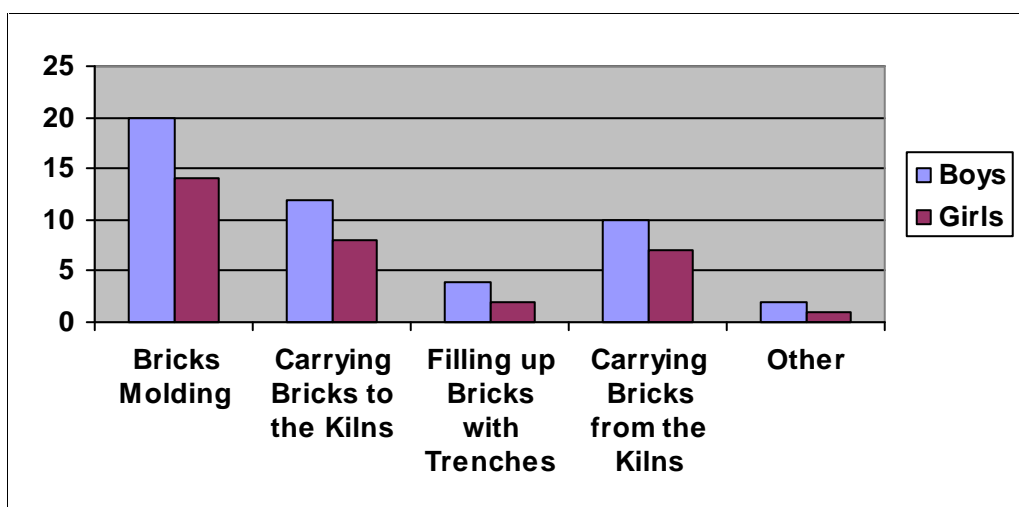
Table 5.22: Distribution of Child Laborers by the Nature of Work

Types of work	Boys	Percentage	Girls	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Bricks Molding	20	41.66%	14	43.75%	34	42.50%
Carrying Bricks to the Kilns	12	25%	8	25%	20	25%
Filling up Bricks with Trench	4	8.34%	2	6.25%	6	7.50%
Carrying Bricks from the Kilns	10	20.83%	7	21.88%	17	21.25%
Other	2	4.17%	1	3.12%	3	3.75%
Total	48	100%	32	100%	80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above data shows that majority (42.50%) of the children are involved in brick molding, digging clay, drying and piling which is very difficult job in brick kilns. Similarly, 25% of the children have to carry the bricks to the kilns and 21.25% are involved in carrying the bricks from the kilns. Very few percent (7.50%) of the children are engaged in filling the bricks because it requires the special skill. In gender perspective, the percentage of girls involving in molding the bricks and carrying the bricks from kilns to piling places are higher than the percentage of boys. Thus, it is resembled that, the condition of girls is more difficult then the boys. It is also found that, the children who are with their parents get the opportunity to learn the skills of easier works quickly and they involve in the easier work comparatively. But the single children whose parents are not there have to work most difficult job in the kilns.

Figure 5.8: Distribution of Child Laborers by the Nature of Work



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.4.2 Working Hours

According to child labor Act 2000 of Nepal, the working hours for children are limited to 6 hours a day and 36 hours a week, but their provision is not applicable for children in brick kilns because this can't sustain their minimum level of livelihood due to piece-basis wage rate system if they work less than 6 hours a day. Some of the child workers involved in bricks molding stated that they wake up as early as 3/4 am to dig and knead mud making sufficient for the whole day, and work continuously till 7/8 pm.

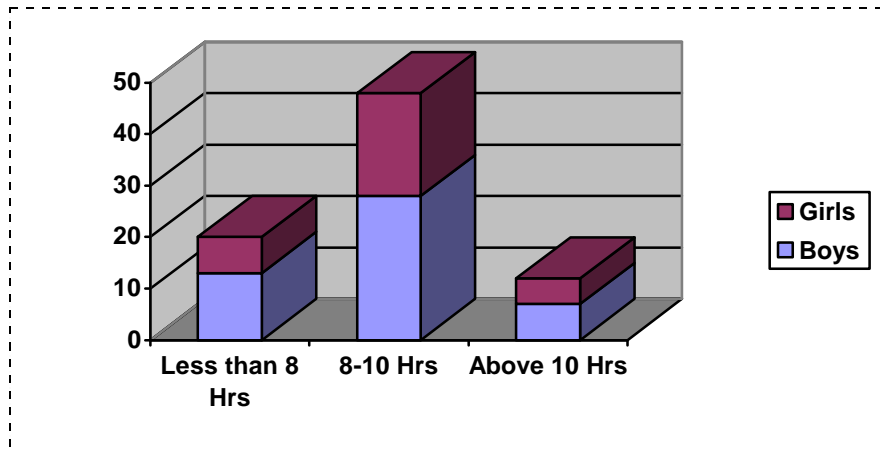
Table 5.23: Distribution of Child Labor According to Working Hours

Average Working Hours	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Less than 8 Hrs	13	27.08%	7	21.88%	20	25%
8-10 Hrs	28	58.33%	20	62.50%	48	60%
Above 10 Hrs	7	14.5%	5	15.62%	12	15%
Total	48	100%	32	100%	80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The data has been further presented with the help of the following graph.

Figure 5.9: Distribution of Child Labor According to Working Hours



Source: Field Survey, 2008

Above table shows that majority (60%) of child workers surveyed in bricks kilns work 8-10 hours per day. Similarly, a significant proportion (15%) of children is reported having longer working hours i.e. more than 10 hours a day. This shows that children are compelled to work for longer period of time in a day. Thus, there is child exploitation in regards with time period and there was no such significant distinction between male and female by working hours. The analysis of working period of children in kilns indicates that the child laborers have to work immensely each and every time. They have to work from early morning to late evening. They said that they feel tired due to continuous work but there is not any compensation to them for such over exploitation of child labor.

5.4.3. Working Situating

Child laborers are pushed to work for the individual or family income, and income is possible that much how long they are involved in work. So, child laborers work rigorously in the kilns. They don't get any leisure time and if anything goes wrong with them, they have to get punishment.

Table 5.24: The Work Satisfaction Ratio of Child Labors

S.N.	Response	No. of Children	Percentage
1.	Happy	20	25%
2.	Unhappy	36	45%
3.	Don't Know	24	30%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table glimpses that comparatively few children i.e. 25% of total children are happy with their work and remaining 45% of the children are unhappy. The children who are dissatisfied responded that they are getting very low wage rate. And if they don't work properly, they have to face the scolding from the bricks owners and punishment from their guardians. Even, some of the children want to escape from there but they don't have alternative and compelled to stay there. Similarly, 30% of children didn't answer because they don't know the degree of satisfaction and they want to say that they are dissatisfied but they seem hesitating because they are forced from the factory owners not to say dissatisfied.

5.5. Earning Status

Child work is naturally difficult because the children don't achieve the labor efficiency. So all the works at rain, sun light, carrying heavy load, dust around the kilns are the main signs of hazardous work. They get salary as they work more but not in daily basis. Children are the cheap sources of labor and they are compelled to work more hours but give less payment. Usually, workers in brick kilns receive wage in piece rate basis i.e. payment is made on the basis of work done. Generally, all members of the family work in kilns. However, they have very low earning status; most of the children are bound to work in these sectors for livelihood. Normally they are working

from early morning to late evening and they can mould and pile up 500 to 1000 bricks a day.

Table 5.25: Wage Rate

S.N.	Works	Wage Rate (In Rs.)
1.	Brick Molding (per 1000 pieces)	300-350
2.	Carrying Bricks to the Kilns (1000 pieces)	70-75
3.	Carrying of Fired Bricks from the Kilns (1000 pieces)	40-50
4.	Labors Contractors/Naike (per 1000 pieces)	5-7

Source Field Survey, 2008

During the working period of six months, they can earn up to Rs. 4500 hardly per month. They can use this income to join mouth and hand and to manage clothes for family. So they have very nominal saving or most of them return back home after doing six months with empty hand.

Table 5.26: Distribution of Child Labors by Average Earning per Month

Average Earning per Month	Boys		Girls		Total	Percentage
	No.	%	No.	%		
<1000	9	18.75%	5	15.63%	14	17.50%
1000-2000	21	43.75%	15	46.87%	36	45.00%
2000-3000	10	20.85%	8	25.00%	18	22.50%
>3000	8	16.66%	4	12.50%	12	15.00%
Total	48	100%	32	100%	80	100%

Source: Field survey, 2008

Above table provides the glimpse of average earning of child laborers by gender perspective. This portrays that the higher portion i.e. 45% among the child workers earn only Rs. 1000 to 2000 per month. Similarly, 22.5% of the child workers in the bricks kilns earn as much as NRs. 3000 followed by 17.5% who earn below 1000 NPR monthly. The income ranges from lower to

higher scale depends on skill, type and duration of work and can't determine their average monthly wages. Recently, Government of Nepal announced that the minimum scale of salary for factory labor per month per person should be determined to 4600 NPR. Hence, it shows that almost all children earn less than minimum scales of government for labor. Thus, the children are underpaid and there is high degree of labor exploitation in income aspect.

5.6 Expenditure Status

Some of the children have to be self sustained thus they have to manage everything for daily livelihood with their income. Thus their income mostly used to the daily expenditure and livelihoods.

Table 5.27: Monthly Expenditure Status of the Children

Average Expenditure	No. of Children	Percentage
Up to 1000	31	38.75%
1000 to 2000	30	37.50%
2000-3000	9	11.25%
No Response	10	12.50%
Total	80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table shows that total 38.75 percent children cover their monthly expenses within Rs. 1000. Similarly, 37.50% spend 1000 to 2000 monthly. It means total 17.50% children who earn less than 1000 rupees can't save their income. Total 9% children among the 45% these children who earn 1000-2000 can save some portion of their income. Similarly, 10.75% children who earn 2000-3000 can also save monthly. The children who have higher earning seemed happier as compared to lower paid laborers. However, all the children are not satisfied with the payment structure of the brick kilns.

The analysis resembles that the children with parents do normally less expenses as compared to the single children. It is because their expenditure

for fooding is covered by their parents. Accordingly, some children who earn above 3000 have also no saving because they are single and have drinking and smoking habit which requires more expenditure. This shows that the number of children who can save from their income is very few. So they are just struggling for mere survival.

5.7 Control over Income

The child laborers come to the kilns either with their parents or relatives or friends or self. It is found that children who comes to work in the kilns and live with their parents/guardians as well as brother/sister, do not get their wage in their own hands. Whatever they earn is almost controlled by parents and brother/sister. The children who come with the relative or self are independent and self sustained. They have their control over their income. The children who obtain their income themselves seem more happy and satisfied than those whose income is under control of their parents.

In terms of gender insight, majority of boys (child workers) have control over their earnings as compare to girl workers.

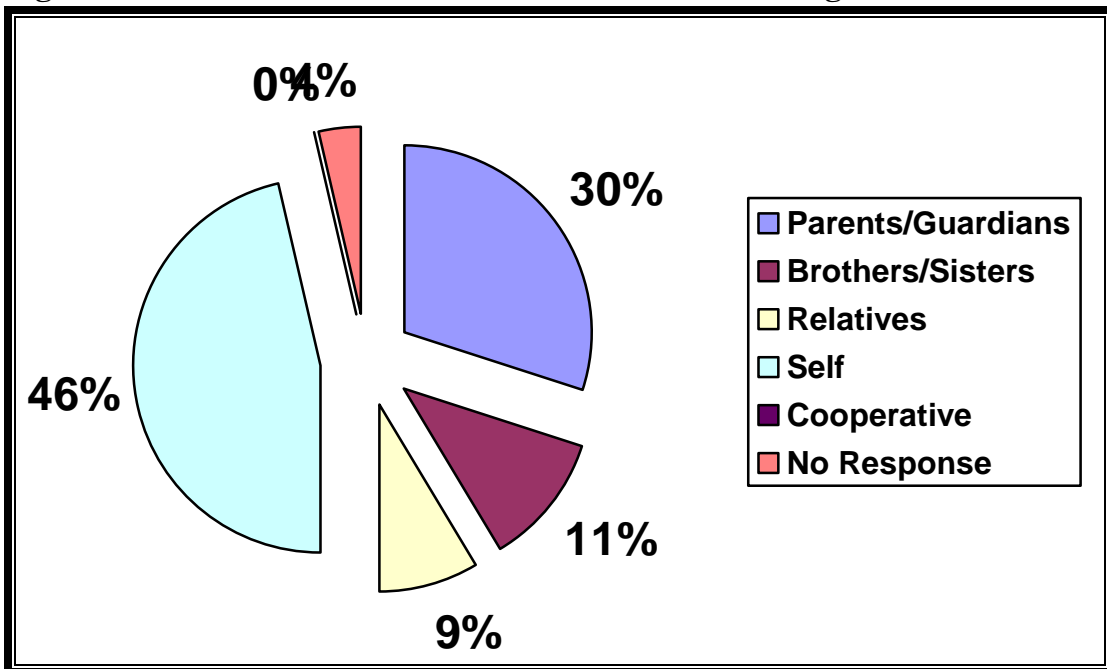
Table 5.28: Distribution of Child Labors on Controlling over their Earnings

S.N.	Particulars	No. of Children	Percentage
1.	Parents/Guardians	24	30%
2.	Brothers/Sisters	9	11.25%
3.	Relatives	7	8.75%
4.	Self	37	46.25%
5.	Cooperative	0	0%
6.	No Response	3	3.75%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey 2008

This data has been shown in the following figure which gives the clear picture for more precision.

Figure 5.10: Distribution of Child Labors on Controlling over their Earnings



Source: Field Survey 2008

Although the majority of child workers in brick kilns do not receive direct payment, at least 46.25% of children have obtained their wages themselves. Similarly, wages of 30% children are paid to their parents and another 9% have wages paid to brothers/sisters. Similarly, a number of the children i.e. 7% have wages paid to relatives. No cooperatives exist in the brick kiln industry. This shows that they don't have easy accessibility to the formal sources of saving in the brick kilns.

5.8 Health Condition

5.8.1. Health and Safety Concerns

The environment in and around brick kilns is polluted and unhygienic, which directly affects the health of workers in general and child workers in particular. Despite a dusty environment exacerbated by smoke pouring from kills, child workers are not provided facial masks or other types of safety measures. Gross negligence towards employee's health and hygiene is in

blatant violation of national as well as international legal and mandatory provisions. There condition to be absolutely no monitoring on the part of the government. In this section health status is discussed.

Table 5.29: Distribution of Child Labor on the Basis of Illness

S.N.	Illness	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	Yes	56	70%
2	No	24	30%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

This table shows that out of the total interviewed 70% of the respondent replied that they have fallen ill during their work period and 30% replied that they were not ill during the work period.

Sometime they do not have much time to eat. These instances that child workers in brick kilns were seen eating while working. Many child workers complained that they had congested rooms because of which they cannot properly sleep. The heavy burden, long working hours, little rest, lack of entertainment, inadequate food, unhygienic living and working conditions often cause children to get sick. Health problem is most common among the child workers. These children have suffered from varied kind of sickness like cold, cough, backache, fever, eye/visual problem, joint pain, muscle pain tuberculosis, chest pain, respiratory problem and dysentery.

Table 5.30: Distribution of Child Labors According to Sickness

S.N.	Types of Sickness	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	Respiratory Problem	6	10.72%
2.	Fever	24	42.86%
3.	Joint Pain	4	7.14%
4.	Headache	15	26.78%
5.	Backache	3	5.35%
6.	Other	4	7.15%
Total		56	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

This table shows that most of the children i.e. 24 are reported to have suffered from fever followed by the problem of headache faced by 15. Children suffer from respiratory problem, like flu, cough, chest pain and throat problem in the kilns. These types of the children are found 10.72% in these factories. Similarly, there are 4 children who reported that they are facing the joint pain problems and 3 have backache problem. This is found that the types of the work are seen according to the nature of their works. The children who carry the bricks are facing mostly the back-ache problem and who are in digging the mud and drying the bricks have faced the respiratory problems.

5.8.2 Injuries and Accidents

Injuries and accidents are other frequent health related problems among child workers mainly because of a lack of job training and occupational safety measures. Work involving the carrying of brick on the head or back causes injuries with getting hit from falling bricks or falling under the heavy load. Burns are also a problem in brick kilns as child workers do not wear gloves or protective clothing and do not have proper equipment to use when placing or removing fired bricks. In addition some are responsible for maintaining

heat and firing the chimneys which puts the child workers at further risk of suffering burns.

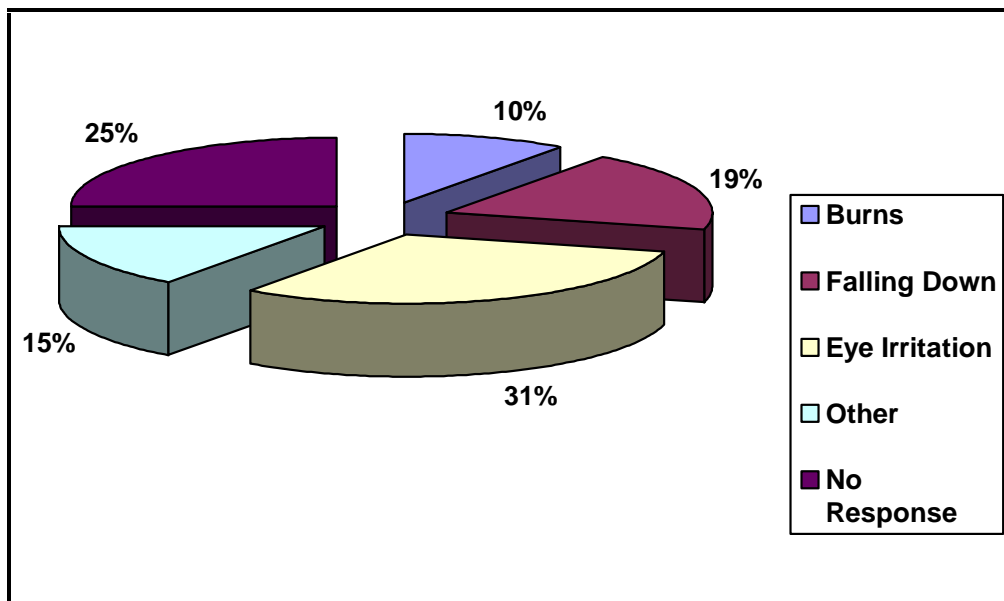
Table 5.31: Distribution of Child Labors According to Injuries/Accidents

S.N.	Types of injuries/accidents	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Burns	8	10%
2.	Falling Down	15	18.75%
3.	Eye Irritation	25	31.25%
4.	Other	12	15%
5.	No Response	20	25%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The data has been shown in the following figure.

Figure 5.11: Distribution of Child Labors According to Injuries/Accidents



Source: Field Survey, 2008

The data depicted through above table indicates that most (31.25%) of the child laborers face the eye irritation problem due to the continuous emission of dust and smoke. There is a small pond in every brick kilns which is made to control the smoke to some extent which is found to be open, thus the children are vulnerable and there is a high chance to fall down in the pond.

The data also shows that 18.75% of the children have already felled down in the pond. Similarly, countable portions (10%) of the children who mostly work for drying the bricks have suffered from the burning. Other many types of the injuries such as pinching, wounding etc are normal phenomena in the bricks kilns from which no child is escaped.

5.8.3 Food and Shelter

5.8.3.1 Shelter Provision

Although the floors and walls may be damp or dusty, child workers most often live and sleep on the floor. They put baked bricks on the floor and sleep on a straw mat although some do not even have that little bit of protection. A few have thin cushions to put on top of their mats but half of the children have no quit, blanket or sheet to cover themselves with it in winter.

Table 5.32: Distribution of Child Labor Shelter Management

S.N.	Particular	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Straw Mat	32	40%
2.	Straw Mat with Quilt	40	50%
3.	Bed	4	5%
4.	Table	4	5%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The children cook and eat in the same room or shades where they live. As the area is filled with the cloud of dust and smoke, food often gets contaminated. Just the 5% of the children use the table for cooking. The area where they live and work is unhygienic. As a result, child workers are often exposed to health hazards and suffer from various kinds of diseases.

5.8.3.2 Daily Food Intake

Food is the basic need for human being. The children who work in brick kiln have to labor hard for survival but they don't get adequate food as they require. In the informal discussion with them, children indicated that their daily earnings level determines the daily food intake. Children who come to work from their own home have relatively better fooding habit than those who stay in rented rooms. Most of the children who are staying in rented rooms prepare food in their rooms themselves but some of them take means in hotels. The children who stay at home said that their meal is prepared by their family members.

Table 5.33: Distribution of child labors by their daily food Intake

S.N.	Daily Food In-take	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
1.	Twice	38	47.5%
2.	Thrice	42	52.5%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table shows that (38) among 80 children surveyed are reported to have taken meals twice a day and corresponding figures resemble that the number of children who are taking meals thrice a day is 42. The bricks owners responded that the children who take the food thrice a day can perform more work than those to take twice a day. The children who work loading or carrying or digging or molding normally works have a meal thrice a day.

The key informants (adult workers/middlemen) and children themselves stated that rice is only staple food for them. They use only one curry like lentils (Dal) or vegetable (Sabji) in their meal. Sometimes, they take meat for their meals, when they get wages for their weekly expenses.

5.9 Receptions

Actually, working in brick kilns is the most tedious for children due to heavy work burden. Every child has a right to have a time for recreation. It is very sorryful thing that children are bound to work on brick kilns for their livelihoods in their age of schooling. They work nearly a whole day with adult workers and get leisure time for entertainment rarely.

Table 5.34: Distribution of Child Labors According to Getting Time for Recreation

S.N.	Getting Time for Recreation	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents
1.	Yes	49	61.25%
2.	No	31	38.75%
Total		80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table No. 5.34 shows that out of the children surveyed, 49 (61.25%) children reported having time for recreation only very short time a day. But even, they could be busy if they want to work. However, the tedious and regular works during whole day make them tired thus they use to take some short time leisure. Especially, the time before and after the meal, lunch, dinner and late evening hour is free for them.

The perception towards the work and their previous condition at home also play the vital role on how they response to their prevailing work. If they have faced very difficult condition at home and had to do harder works like wood cutting in jungle, full day wage laborers in agricultural sector and got neglect from their parents seem more positive in their present work. Thus they replied that they have got the opportunity to play and take recreation in this job. Hence, more children (i.e. 61.25%) children responded with positive reply. Out of these 49 children who responded that they get the recreation opportunity, almost fifty percent reported that

they use television to watch in free time. The means of recreation as reported by child laborers can be presented as follows:

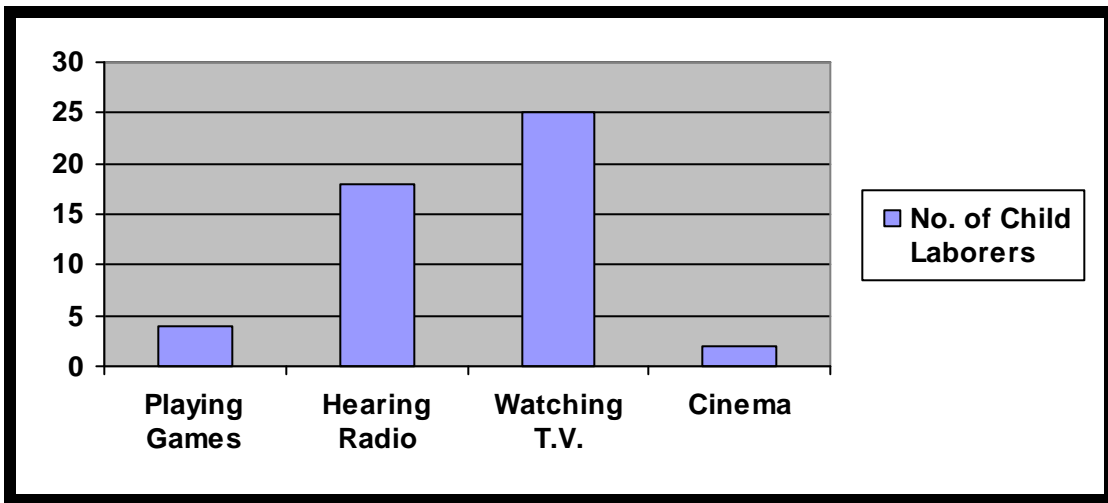
Table 5.35: Distribution of Child Labors According to Means of Recreation

S.N.	If yes, means of recreation	No of respondents	% of Respondents
1.	Playing Games	4	8.16%
2.	Hearing Radio	18	36.73%
3.	Watching T.V.	25	51.03%
4.	Cinema	2	4.08%
Total		49	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Above table shows that remarkable number i.e. 25 children (51.03%) of total respondent children use their leisure time with watching Television. They mostly spend their evening time in front of T.V. However, they showed their dissatisfaction that nowadays their time to watch the T.V. has also been decreasing due to the heavy load-shedding. Secondly, there are 36.73% children who normally listen Radio in the free time because they don't have Television. Some (8.16%) of the children use their time by playing in the evening. Mostly, the early aged children are in this category. The younger and teenager children go to look cinema also. Total 4.08% children lie in this group.

Figure 5.12: Distribution of Child Labors According to Means of Recreation



Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.10 Future Plans

In course of the study, the child workers were asked whether they would like to return home and live with their family. Majority of them appeared to be fed up with the present job and were, of course, interested to change the job in their future. Most of the children kept their interest to join especially- in the army or to be Driver or run self business etc at the time of interview. Their future plan has been demonstrated with the help of following table.

Table 5.36: Distribution of Child Labor by their Future Plan

S.N.	Future Aims	Boys		Girls		Total	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
1.	Army/Police	10	20.84%	2	6.25%	12	15%
2.	Driver	7	14.58%	0	0%	7	8.75%
3.	To Study	3	6.25%	6	18.75%	9	11.25%
4.	To Continue this Work	11	22.92%	11	34.38%	22	27.50%
5.	To Earn Money	9	18.75%	6	18.75%	15	18.75%
6.	Don't Know	8	16.66%	7	21.87%	15	18.75%
Total		48	100%	32	100	80	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table shows the future plans of brick kilns workers. In the perspective of looking the interest of children in two dimensions whether they are interested to continue this job in their future or not, we found that most of the children want to leave this job in their future. However, a countable number of children i.e. 27.50% of total interviewed wanted to continue the same work because they don't have any alternative and support from the family. Interestingly, 18.75 percent of the respondents wanted to earn money as they don't explain how they could earn the money. Similarly, the equal number that is 18.75% percent of the respondent doesn't know what to do in the future. Some children see the life of driver is dynamic and interesting thus 8.75 percent of the respondents in this study also wanted to be a driver in their future. With the same question girls didn't response anything. It is very important that 11.25 percent of the respondents wanted to continue their study and 15 percent wanted to join in Army or in police force. Thus, the children with diverse desires are working in the bricks factories. Their interest is also guided by their family background and their friends or relatives networks.

5.11 Child Rights

The issue of child right has been a national agenda for the last couple of decades. However, these child workers are not aware of their rights nor their parents are know-how on it. Thus, there is the high chance of child right violation in the factories.

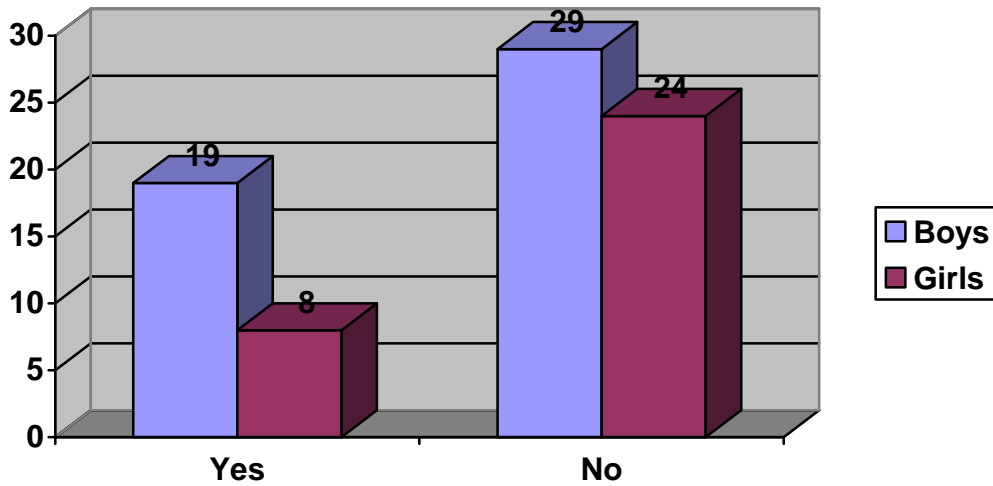
Table 5.37: Distribution of Child Labor on the Basis of Knowledge of Child Rights

S.N.	Knowledge of Child Rights	Boys	Girls	Total	
				Total No.	Percentage
1.	Yes	19	8	27	33.75%
2.	No	29	24	53	66.25%
Total		48	32	80	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The following figure further shows the level of child rights information among the children working in the bricks kilns.

Figure 5.13: Distribution of Child Labor on the Basis of Knowledge of Child Rights



Source: Field Survey, 2008

During the field survey, the entire respondents were asked about the knowledge of the child rights. Above table shows that out of 80 respondent 33.75 percent were able to express some ideas about child rights while 66.25 percent could not know what is child right. Although some children know about the rights of the child, they express helplessness. They said they could do nothing even though they know about their rights.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary

The child labor is a growing problem in Nepal. Poverty, backwardness, illiteracy and deprivation of resources are the major causes for increasing the child labor. The children who are in traditional agriculture sector are highly dependent in subsistence economy, thus, due to the lack of production efficiency they are trapped in to vicious circle of poverty and deprivation. As the result they are deprived of basic needs as well as humiliation, exploitation and illness. Consequently, most of the children from remote rural areas are migrating towards cities to solve their own problem of hand to mouth. The migrated children in search of job to the cities areas are compelled to work in difficult, dirty and danger areas where they have to perform their physical or manual work rather than mental works. These children are deprived of education thus they are skill-less and have to sell their labor in nominal payment. Bricks kiln factories especially in Kathmandu valley are the major areas that absorb the child labor seasonally during the winter 6 months of production period.

It has been estimated that there are almost 59000 child laborers, which is about 34% of the total labor force in Nepal. Bricks kilns are mostly confined to Kathmandu Valley due to rapid growth, urbanization and heavy migration of population in recent years. In Kathmandu valley almost 90% of the child workers are from outside districts. Male child workers dominate in this sector which occupying 66% of the total child labor force. Out of the total labor force, 37% labor force is occupied by children in Kathmandu valley, which is higher as compare to outsides valley. These children today are working in the

extremely intolerable condition in the brick kilns. They are living and working in the most health hazardous and dangerous situation. They are deprived of their right to physical, social, emotional and spiritual development. They are deprived and denied for their right to education.

Nepal is a signatory country of CRC 1998 and ILO Convention No. 182 as well as His Majesty's Government Children's Act 1992 and Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Act 2000. These national and international instruments prohibit the use and exploitation of child labor in any form. However, children are found working whole days at the brick kilns without fulfillment of even minimum basic necessities. Despite hard and long working hours, their wages do not appear sufficient. There are many reasons behind it and results after the increasing trend of child labor in the bricks factories which are most necessarily the burning subject matters of study so that the problem of child labor could be lessened in the days come ahead. Thus, this study with the Title of "A Situation of Child Labor in Bricks Kilns (A Case Study of Tathali VDC-9, Bhaktapur)" has been attempted with the aims of studying the socio-economic condition of child labor in Brick factories, analyzing the causes and consequences of increasing trend of child labor and their remedial measures.

This study has been based on the survey of 80 child laborers working in the 5 brick kilns of Tathali VDC Ward No. 9, Bhaktapur among which 48 were boys and 32 were girls. In this study, both qualitative and quantitative analyses have been done. Significant and relevant literatures were reviewed. Both primary and secondary data have been consulted and various research techniques with interview, observation, group discussion were used to collect the required data for the study.

The study is basically descriptive and explanatory. The major findings of the study are summarized as follow.

- J In the five brick kilns surveyed, there are a total of 1570 workers in 5 brick factories which composites on an average of 314 persons per factory. There are 10 to 15 percent children out of total laborers involved in each factory.

- J Among brick kilns child workers, 60% are boys and 40% are girls.

- J The children with the age group 14-16 constitutes the highest percent (47.5%) of the total labor forces and the children with the age group less than 10 years composed the lowest percentage (20%) of total brick kiln child laborers.

- J The sampled child laborers are found coming from different development regions of Nepal mostly from Mid-Western Development Region.

- J Majority of the child laborers are from the ethnic communities and Dalits. Highest percentage (23.75%) of brick kiln child laborers are from Tamang community, followed by Magar (16.25%), Tharu/Rai (12.50%), Bihari (15.00%), Dalit (13.75%) and Brahmin / Chhetri (10.00%). The lowest percent (8.75%) of brick kiln child laborers are Newar.

- J Among the child workers below 16 years of age, the highest proportion of children (30%) are from neighboring districts followed by hilly

- districts, Bihar of India, Terai Districts and Districts of Kamaiyas respectively. Very few numbers of children are working from local areas.
-) The majority (37.5%) of the child laborers comes with their parents in the Brick kilns and secondly with Middleman. Accordingly, a notable number (12.5%) of the total child workers are self coming in brick kilns.
 -) Poverty is the major cause for leaving home and engaging brick kilns. Out of the total children interviewed, majority number (40%) of the children joins the Bricks kilns due to poverty. Similarly, parents' and step parents' maltreatment, failing in school exam, influence with parents are the other factors that lead the children to the brick kilns.
 -) Most of the children i.e. 54% of total child laborers come from the family with agriculture occupation while just 5% children are from the family having business. Very few percent that is only 4% children come from doing domestic laborers.
 -) Out of the total child laborers, the highest percentage i.e. 53.75% child laborers are from large family having six or above family members.
 -) Poverty is responsible for increasing the child labor. A total of 53.75 percent child laborers are from very poor (it means very difficult even to manage hand to mouth) family. Similarly, 30 percent of them are from normal and 6.25 percent are from good family.

- J It is found that that most child laborers leave their home due to the lack of proper food, shelter and clothes as well as proper love, care and parental guidance in the family.
- J The significant proportion of the children has both parents and they come with their parents. Total 70% of the children have both father and mother while 3.75% are parent less. Similarly, 8.75% have only father while 11.25% have single mother and 6.25% have step parents. Very few mothers of the children have none of the parents and come with other people.
- J Most of the children (72.5%) have no family disruption which has eased the daily livelihood of the children.
- J Most (23.75%) of the children come from lower class family having less than 1 Bigaha land and 23.75% children are from land less families.
- J Among the parents of total respondents 41.25% of the respondents' parents are under debt.
- J The majority of child laborers (61.11%) are from uneducated family while the parents of 29.17% children are educated.
- J Out of the total children sampled, 75% of the respondents are literate and 25% of total respondents are illiterate. Ironically among total literate, the greater portion i.e. 48.33% of total literate children are in

- primary level 36.67% of literate children are in lower secondary level and 15% are studying in secondary level.
- J Total 56.67% child laborers are not interested for further education even if they get chance to go to school. Only 43.33% of them show interest in continuing education if given the opportunity.
 - J Out of 20 illiterate children, 55% of the children are deprived for study is due to poverty which is the major reason and other reasons are negligence of parents and family disruption.
 - J The higher number of workers (58.33%) does not get time to study during their working seasons so they can't give full day time to study.
 - J Majority (42.50%) of the children are involved in brick molding, digging clay, drying and piling and 25% of the children have to carry the bricks to the kilns and 21.25% are involved in carrying the bricks from the kilns. Very few percent (7.50%) of the children are engaged in filling the bricks because it requires the special skill.
 - J Total 60% of child workers surveyed in bricks kilns work for 8-10 hours per day while a significant proportion (15%) of work for more than 10 hours a day.
 - J Comparatively few children i.e. 25% of total children are happy with their work and remaining 45% of the children are unhappy.

- J During the working period of six months, they can earn up to Rs. 4500 hardly per month. The higher portion i.e. 45% among the child workers earns only Rs. 1000 to 2000 per month and 22.5% of the child workers in the bricks kilns earn Rs. 3000 followed by 17.5% who earn below 1000 NPR monthly.
- J Total 17.50% children who earn less than 1000 rupees can't save their income.
- J 46.25% of children have obtained their wages themselves. Similarly, wages of 30% children are paid to their parents and another 9% have wages paid to brothers/sisters. Similarly, a number of the children i.e. 7% have wages paid to relatives.
- J Out of the total interviewed 56 (70%) of the respondent have faced an illness during their work period. Out of the total 56 children 24 are reported to have suffered from fever followed by the problem of headache faced by 15.
- J All the children have fallen in accidents or faced injuries. In injuries, most of the children face the eye irritation.
- J 40% child workers sleep on a straw mattress without even a simple blanket causing severe problems during winter.
- J A total of (38) among 80 children surveyed are reported to have taken meals twice a day and 42 children are taking meals thrice a day.

- J Out of the children surveyed, 49 (61.25%) children reported having time for recreation only very short time a day.
- J The remarkable number i.e. 25 children (51.03%) of total respondent children have accessibility to Television and there are 36.73% children who normally listen Radio in the free time.
- J A countable number of children i.e. 27.50% of total interviewed wanted to continue the same work because they don't have any alternative and support from the family.
- J It is very important that 11.25 percent of the respondents wanted to continue their study and 15 percent wanted to join in Army or in police force.
- J Out of total respondent, 33.75 percent were able to express some ideas about child rights while 66.25 percent could not know what is child right.

6.2 Conclusion

Child labor is not only an emerging issue but it has taken a speed in its own development. The challenges of the child labor can be viewed in a social, political and economic level. In conservative societies like ours, children have been regarded as the "Economic Assets" and contribution from children for the family substances is expected by their parents. The growing marginalized situation in the family and community has ultimately pushed them into more vulnerable situation where children have no other choice besides the work. Due to this reason the children are forced to work under the senior people and they are deprived of the basic necessities like education and

health facilities. Present study shows that child laborers are in hazardous and exploitative condition as well as in unhealthy environment.

The child labor especially in the brick factories is the worst form of labor in Nepal. It reflects not only the poverty crunched in the society but also illiteracy, lack of employment opportunity, traditional mode of production and the ongoing conflict in the past years. After the restoration of democracy, Nepal has ratified a number of national and international human as well as child rights instruments, thus, we have several legal grounds for protecting the child labor but enforcement of these legal instruments is lacking.

The condition of child labor in Kathmandu valley, mostly in Bhaktaur is challenging. The brick factories are situated in open places and usually don't have shed to mold the bricks. The child workers use to work for long hour in unsafe and unhygienic working conditions. There is lack of clean drinking water, adequate toilets and bathing facilities within the premises of brick kilns. There is a lack of adequate first aid facility in almost all brick kilns. Mostly, the children from rural areas are migrated alone or with families, have become a common trend for seeking alternative sources of the income and join the bricks kilns however there are no occupational safety provisions for workers. The children do not attend school beyond the primary level as they are forced by their parents to earn and contribute to the family income. Enduringly the children are deprived of getting education and skill for their better future. They have to struggle for survival for their whole productive life and lastingly they don't have their option in their future.

The present need is to protect working children from exploitation, abuses, illiteracy, ignorance and many other hazardous conditions to develop their physical mental, social and moral development. To take action on remedies

of child labor government and non governmental sectors have to mobilize their resources effectively in these sectors.

6.3 Recommendation

As per research outcomes the following recommendations have been designated in order to improve the situation of child laborers and to solve the problem of child labor.

- The employment of minor child labor under the age of 12 should be prohibited strictly with the strong monitoring mechanism from the governmental sector including non governmental organizations.
- Poverty is the leading cause for behind the child labor. So the appropriate planning, policies and programs should be introduced to alleviate poverty and improve the economic condition of the child laborers.
- Education plays a very vital role for the prevention and control of child labor. An overwhelming majority of the children in our society is deprived of the right of education thus they are forced to bricks kilns as child laborers. Therefore, the popular slogans of the compulsory education should be materialized addressing the underprivileged children and both formal and non-formal education including vocational education and functional education have to be provided to the children.
- Although the issue of the child rights has been spread throughout the country, many community people, especially illiterate ones living in rural areas are still not aware of child rights. There must be a collaborative effort to create the public awareness

among the governmental and non governmental with media sectors about the issue of the child rights.

- Trafficking of the children, in search of jobs, to urban areas is a growing problem in our country today. This has caused the increment of child laborers in the bricks kilns. Hence, the village centered development programs should be introduced and prevention of the rural migration of the children and family for urban areas should be adopted. For this, children should be provided necessary economic alternatives for the subsistence of the family.
- As per the existing Child Labor Prohibition Regulation 2000 and Children's Act 1992, the working hours of the children should not extend beyond 6 hours a day and 36 hours a week. Wages should be fixed on the basis of time and not on the bricks produced. For this, all stakeholders should take the initiative.
- Some of the protective measures such as compulsory registration of child laborers in the Labor Office and introduction of the special law on child labor and effective implementation of the law to stop the employment of children under 14 years of age should be accomplished.
- The programs of action for elimination of child labor should be designed and implemented as matter of urgency, in consultation with relevant governmental institutions and employers' and workers' organizations, taking in to consideration the views of the children directly affected by the worst forms of child labor their families.
- A large portion of children are from migrant families as well as a significant number who have migrated without parents. These are once who often become victims of exploitation. Children

disconnected from families should be reconciled with their respective families so as to secure their futures.

- Under the rehabilitation measures for the child laborers such as community rehabilitation, medical rehabilitation for the sick children, formation of the transit centers for ultimate rehabilitation and child care centers for homeless and orphan children should be established.
- The parents should be rescued from the debt bondage. Similarly, the flexible finance system should be introduced to the children in order to develop the saving habits of the children for their better future.

This study has attempted to give idea, knowledge for formulation for national as well as local policies however, it is not sufficient for the formulation of national policy for child labor. There is still lack of comprehensive and integrated information on the child labor in Nepal. It is necessary to formulate an effective strategy and programs to deal the problems of child labor.

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Appendix-1

Research Questionnaire for "A Situation of Child Labor in Brick Kilns (Case Study of Tathali VDC Ward No. 9, Bhaktapur)

Questionnaires to Brick Kilns Laborers

Section A: Personal Information

1. Name:..... Name of Brick Kiln:
2. Address:
 - a) VDC/Municipality:.....
 - b) Zone:..... c) District:.....
3.
 - a) Age:..... b) Sex:.....
 - c) Cast:..... D) Language:
4. Who bought you here?
 - a) Parents b) Relatives
 - c) Friends d) Self
5. Why do you leave your home?
 - a) Poverty b) Seeking the Chance of Study
 - c) For employment d) for better Life
 - e) Fail in examination
6. Whom are you staying with now?
 - a) Family b) Relatives
 - c) Friends d) Employers' House
 - e) Others (Specify)

Section B: Family & Family's Economic Background

1. Do you have parents?
 - a) Yes b) No

11. What is your family type?

a) Joint family

b) Nuclear family

12. No. of family members:

a) Parents

b) Brothers

c) Sisters

d) Total

Section C: Education Background

1. Have you ever been to school?

a) Yes

b) No

If yes, in which grade?

If not, why?

a) Poverty

b) Negligence of Parents

c) Don't want to say

d) Family Disruption

e) Others

2. Are you interested in future education?

a) Yes

b) No

3. Are your parents educated?

a) Yes

b) No

If yes, who?

a) Both of them b) Father

c) Mother

Section D: Working Condition

1. What types of work do you do?

a) Brick molding

b) Carrying Brick to the Kilns

c) Loading the dried bricks in truck from the kilns d) Other (Specify)

2. How long have you been working there?

- a) Less than 6 months
- b) 6 to 14 hours
- c) 8 to 12 months
- d) 12 and above

3. Do you get wages?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If yes, do you get daily or monthly?

- a) Daily
- b) Monthly

4. How much money do you earn?

Rs.....

8. Do you get other facilities from your employer?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If Yes, what kind of facilities do you get?

- a) Studying
- b) Fooding
- c) Clothing
- d) Medical Facilities

9. Do you get Holiday?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If yes, how many days in a week?

- a) One day
- b) Two days
- c) Three Days
- d) If More Specify

10. Where do you mostly use your income?

- a) Food
- b) Clothing
- c) Medical treatment
- d) Alcohol
- e) Entertainment
- f) Lost
- g) Smoking
- h) Family support

11. How do you use your income?

- a) Self
- b) giving parents
- c) Giving others
- d) Any other (Specify)

12. Do you save money?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If yes, how much..... per month? year?

13. Where do you want to sue this saving?

.....

14. Do you support your family?

a) Yes b) No

If yes, how much ? Rs..... per month?

15. Are you satisfied with parents work?

a) Yes b) No

If yes, why?.....

No why?..... ,

16. What is your relation with employer?

a) Good b) Very good

c) Bad d) Worst

If not good, how does he/she treat you?

a) Breathing b) Shouting

c) Giving more work load d) keeping hungry

e) Others (specify)

17. Are you abused with someone?

a) Yes b) No

Yes, how?.....

18. Who often abuse you?

a) Local boys b) Friends

c) Masters d) Any one (Specify)

19. What do you want to be in future?

a) Businessman b) Police man

c) Can't say d) Others (specify)

20. In your opinion, what do you think is necessary to fulfill your desire?

Section E: Health and Hygiene

1. Are you suffering from any illness?

- a) Yes
- b) No

2. What types of the sickness are you suffering from?

.....

3. Have you ever fallen in any accident or face injuries?

- a) Yes
- b) No

4. If yes, what types of the accident or injuries have you faced?

.....

5. What do you think the reasons for getting the injuries?

.....

6. What are the dangerous things that led you to accident in the kilns?

.....

7. Who is more responsible for accidents and injuries?

- a) Brick Owners
- b) Laborers
- c) None of them
- c) Both of them

8. What do you suggest to control these accidents or injuries?

.....

Section F: Food and Shelter

1. Do you get enough food?

- a) Yes
- b) No

2. How many times do you have meal in a day?

- a) Once a Day
- b) Twice a Day
- c) Thrice a Day
- d) Other (Specify)

3. What do you use to stay or sleep in your room?

- a) Straw Mattress
- b) straw mat with quilt
- c) Bed
- d) Any Other (Specify)

4. Do you feel you apartment easy?
- a) Yes
 - b) No

If yes/no, why?

Section G: Recreation

1. Do you want to take the entertainment?

- a) Yes
- b) No

2. Do you get the free time for entertainment?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If yes, how do you use your free time for entertainment?

.....

3. Which do you think the most important means for entertainment?

- a) Cinema
- b) Television
- c) Games
- d) Radio

4. Why don't you get the free time for entertainment?

.....

5. If you get free time what would you do?

.....

Section H: Others

1. Do you want to continue the same job in your future? Why?

.....

2. What is your future plan?

.....

3. Why do you want to leave this job?

4. Do you have any skill?

a) Yes

b) No

5. If you want to leave this job, how do you think to get your desired job?

.....

6. Have you ever listen about child labor?

a) Yes

b) No

7. If yes, what is child right?

.....

8. Do you want to listen what is child right?

a) Yes

b) No

Why?

.....

9. What do you think is necessary to preserve the child rights?

.....

Appendix-2

Research Questionnaire for "A Situation of Child Labor in Brick Kilns (Case Study of Tathali VDC Ward No. 9, Bhaktapur)

Questionnaires to Brick Kilns Owners

1. How many laborers are working in your bricks kilns?

.....

2. How many children are working in your bricks kilns?

.....

3. Do you prefer child Labor?

a) Yes

b) No

If yes, why?

a) Cheap

b) Easily Available

c) Other (specify)

4. How much wage rate do you pay for each child for his/her labor?

Average Rs.....per month/day/year

5. What are the other facilities you give the child laborers?

a) Clothes

b) Food

c) Shelter

c) Leave

d) Leisure of entertainment

e) none

f) If Any Other (Specify)

6. Do you provide any insurance facility for the child laborers?

a) Yes

b) No

If yes, what types of the insurance facility do you provide?

a) Medical Insurance

b) Life Insurance

c) Accidental Insurance

e) Any other (Specify)

7. Do you want to substitute child labor with other types of labor force?

8. a) Yes

b) No

9. Will child labor raise your product price?

a) Yes

b) No

10. Have you ever been informed/ suggested about not to use the child labor?

a) Yes

b) No

11. Do you know about the law against the use of child labor?

a) Yes

b) No

12. What are the major problems do see the children are facing in the kilns?

.....

13. What do you think the causes and consequences of the child labor?

.....

14. Is there any remedial measure that you think better to control the problems of the child labor in the brick kilns?

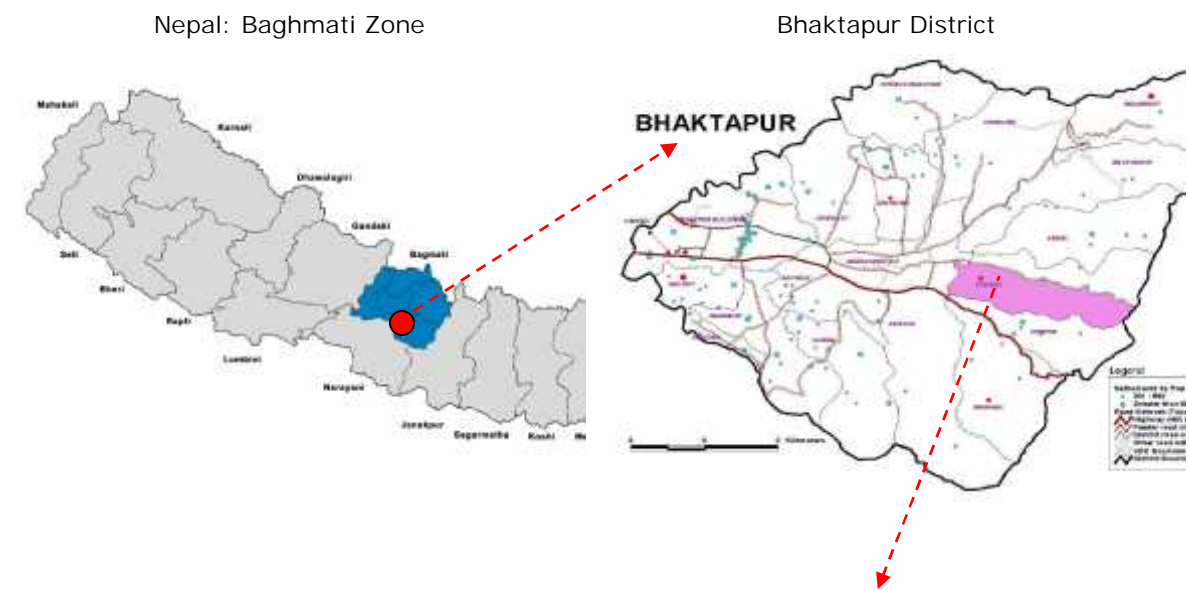
a) Yes

b) No

If Yes, list out them

Appendix-3

Map of Tathali VDC



Source: District Profile, 2063, Bhaktapur

Tathali VDC