

# CHAPTER – I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background:

Now we are in twenty first century but poor things is that our problems of food, shelter and cloths are remained the same or going complicated then past. Millions of people of the developing countries are suffering from hunger, disease and malnutrition and the same number of people are homeless and landless.

This bitter reality of the world today is directly effecting the growth in the number of child labour and increasing child exploitation. While we speak in the mass meeting and writing essays that “children are future of the nation, builders of the nation, twinkling stars of the nation” and so on, but those who are taking even do not care about what is happening to those children at present. The reality exposes the fact that a vast number of child populations is elapsing a dreadful and fearful life under uncertainty. Of course the children are not happy to work in such a young stage but what shall they do for their hungry stomach? So there is no other way except to involve in the economy activities.

Children predominantly work for economic and social reasons. Children work because their families are poor, mostly as a result of inadequate access to productive assets like jobs, credit or land. They work because they perceive that the rewards received from labour are grater then those from educational or because the quality of education is inadequate (ILO, 2001).

Nepal is a small Himalayan country having great geographical, socio-economic and cultural diversity. Despite having different diversity, it is one of the least developed countries with GNP per capita of US\$ 276 (HMG,2004).It is also one of the poorest countries of the world characterized by a low level of saving, lack of resources, both physical and financial, a low level of mobilization of existing resources and a low level of literacy. More then 42 percent of the population are

living under extreme poverty (UNDP, 2001) and more than 81 percent of (HDR, 2001) the population depends upon agriculture

According to the population census 2001, there are 2, 31, 514, 23 people in Nepal and the population of 0 to 14 years age are 8,94,8587 which is 38.65 percent of total population. The total population of 0- 14 years of age comprises 50.99 percent for male and 49.01 percent for female children.

Today's children are the future of the nation. So, they should get ample opportunity to develop themselves physically as well as mentally. On the other hand education is the most important component for the development of a child, but in Nepal 34 percent of the total children do not go to school (UNDP, 2001). Another important component for the development of child is nutrition. To assure a healthy offspring a mother should get sufficient hygienic food during pregnancy period. But in Nepal due to malnutrition the maternal mortality rate is 15 per 1000 live birth and 47 percent of the children (aged less than 5 years are under weighted. (UNDP, 1998)

According to the UN Convention on the right of the child, a child means 'Every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.'(UN, 1989) The ILO Convention 182 defined the child on article 2 as the term 'child' shall apply to all persons under the age of 18 (ILO,1999).In this way in Nepal, according to the "constitution of Nepal ,2047" of every person after completing the age of 18 years are known as adult and they have the voting Right. It means people under the 18 years are known as children .And according to children's Act (first amendment, 1997) and labour Act (first amendment, 1997) of Nepal the group of under the age of 16 years old person are known as children. According to this law, the person below the age of 14 years are strictly prohibited to work as labour but the children the age between 14 – 16 years can work only when they get facilities like less working hour, 6 hour per day

not more the 36 hour per week. In this way if they work 3 hour continuously they must get rest for half an hour. But still this law is only in paper or not in practice.

Now days, child labour in Nepal is being considered very seriously. It has deeply rooted in must part of the country. Traditionally, children in Nepal are involved in agriculture, domestication of animals, handicraft, and other employment's. Many children are compelled to migrate in town to search of employment. Following the tragic calamity in their life, corrupted social relationship, children working in small towns and large cities are increasing continually. These working children are largely increasing in Katmandu alone (CWIN, 2001).

According to ILO, (1996) the main factors contributing of child labour have been identified to be:

1. poverty
2. social customs, values and attitude
3. Illiteracy of parents
4. Lack of access to education for children
5. Agrarian relations
6. Migration from rural to urban areas
7. Family disharmony and diminishing family support
8. Trafficking of girls within the country and across the border and inadequate enforcement of labour and criminal law.

UN had declared the year 1979 as an International children year. Following this declaration, many NGOs and INGOs have started to work in the field of child labour. The growing numbers of NGOs/INGOs, working in this field, indicate seriousness of this problem. But unfortunately, only a little has been done up to now. It is because there is always a large gap between the plan and planning institutions. Even though many institution and individuals have tried to reduce this problem but the problems in the developing countries like Nepal, is increasing rapidly.

So, this study has attempted to find out the present condition of child labour works in small hotel and teashop of Janakpur municipality, Dhanusha and to highlight their socio-economic condition. This study also attempts to overcome the shortcomings of other studies and identify the options to manage child labour and examine the possibility for reshaping the working conditions. Thus, the study will be expected to help to manage the existing situation as well as to reduce the size of child labour.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem:**

Child labour is a serious and wide spread problem particularly in south Asia and Africa. Most of the developing countries are facing the child labour problem and the situation is not different in Nepal. Two million children are working in Nepal (NLFS, 1998/99). Most of the working children in Nepal are engaged in agricultural sector. But at the present situation a large number of children in Nepal are engaged in non-agriculture sector. As earlier mentioned, almost all sector of economy are with child labour. Hotel, Teashop, Momo shop and Sweetshops are some of the main sector where the job opportunities will be comparatively more than other sector.

Today's children are the future of the nation. If they are facilitated with required elements then they can grow up in proper way. Only after that they can contribute in the development of a nation. If the children become labourers, then the country can not hope a creative contribution from them. Because when child become a labourer, he/she suffers from various problem during the childhood which hinders the physical and mental development of the children. These problems, even, may lead them towards criminal activities.

In Nepal, there is an increasing trend of migration of child labour from rural to urban areas i.e. from agriculture to non agriculture sector. Generally child labour in hotel and teashop can be viewed as a normal phenomenon in Nepal, but is a serious social problem. It is because the child labours working in the small hotel

and tea shops are at the top of facing problems. Some of the problems they face frequently are as follows:

- Exploitation by their employers in the name of giving protection
- Uncertain future
- Low wage
- Insecure job
- No Freedom
- Long and uncertain working hours
- Devoid of gaining fundamental requirements.

Nationally and internationally, the child labour is becoming a severe problem in developing countries including Nepal. The present study is directed to surface up the picture of child labour perennially existing and its associated problems. The present case study in small hotels, restaurants and tea shops is guided by following research questions:

- I. What is the socio economic background of child labour working at small hotels, restaurant and tea shop?
- II. How did they become labourer?
- III. What suggestions could be recommended for the improvement of the workers?

### **1.3 Objectives:**

The following are the main objectives of the study

1. To find out the socio economic condition of the child labours in small hotels, restaurants and tea shops.
2. To examine the educational status of the child labours
3. To trace out the existing situation of child labours working in hotels and restaurants.
4. To suggest relevant way outs for the betterment recommend measures for the improvement of their situation and to solve their problem.

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

Child right including right of protection and right of development are exploited by the existing child labour in the country. The right of protection describes that every child deserves protection against discrimination, exploitation, misbehave and insulting behaviors, hazardous works and separation from the parents. According to right of development, every child has a right to attend education, entertainment, supporting activities, and health care facilities etc., which are indispensable to maintain reasonable quality of life. Nepal has ratified that UN child right convention in 14<sup>th</sup> September 1990.

The magnitude and incidence of child labour is quite large in Nepal and is increasing and rapidly owing to lack of authentic and comprehensive research studies, as a result several contradictory information is flown. However there are a few studies, among them the majority of which have focused on quantification of number of child workers, working conditions of the child workers and level of the child workers' exploitation. This study has focused on eradicating the child labour without considering the development of viable options and the economic consequences of eradication of child labour.

So, this study has helped to find out the condition of child labour in Nepal. The study has been significant in different ways, such as to search the remedies of problem faced by hotel child labours for planners and policy makers of NGOs, INGOs, GOs , researchers and civil society. It has also helped to manage the existing situations as well as to reduce the number of child labour in this sector.

#### **1.5 Limitations of the Study:**

For any study, it is necessary to specify its limitations. The most important parts of such study are the time factor and financial consideration. And these factors constitute the limitation of the present study. So the study is limited only in Janakpur Municipality of Dhanusha district, where a large number of child labour are working in small hotels, restaurants and tea shops. This study only includes the

child labours less than 15 years of age. And this study is not a Universal study because it covers a very small area of Janakpur city. The research study presents the child labours employed in small hotels, restaurants and tea shops. So this study does not cover big hotels, big restaurants and other sectors where the child labour is prevalent as well.

### **1.6 Organization of the Study:**

The present study has been organized into six main chapters. The first chapter is concerned with introduction of the study dealing with the background, objectives, research problems and the significance of the study

The second chapter is devoted to literature review. This chapter deals with the review of the available literatures. Studies on child labours in Nepal and outside Nepal have been reviewed in this chapter.

Likewise, third chapter deals with the research methodology applied to collect the necessary data required for the study along with the brief glimpse of approach to the study. And chapter four deals with the location of study area.

The fifth chapter is the analysis and presentation of the data obtained in field survey. It is also the main part of the research.

Finally chapter six summarizes the major findings with conclusion and recommendations. Appendixes and bibliography are also presented at the end of this document.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The review of the literature is unanimously a vital and obligatory part of any research which helps to gain useful and background information about the problem over the study. For the proposed research work the literature review was done through conceptual review, in which different books, journals, previous research works, reports, arts , articles, plans and policies and published and unpublished written documents related to the subject were reviewed and review of empirical study was done while conducting the research work.

The issue of child labour is global, has been quite critical and gaining new dimensions in recent times. Despite this fact, there are only a few empirical and comprehensive studies conducted on this issue.

Child labour in South Asia: Towards a UNICEF strategy, a publication by UNICEF ROSA defines childhood and it should be based on biological and psychological requirement of children by different age group. The reading considers a need of discussion which will offer scientific reasons to determine the ages at which certain types of work can not be performed without hindering the physical, social and emotional growth of the child. It explains the three major interventions- poverty alleviation, primary education and improvement of coping skills – can play a very important and decisive role in strengthening the community and family capacity to manage their own resources in the based interest of children eventually stimulating a significant sift of children from work to learning. Despite these revealing facts the reading evaluations is unable to direct and suggest the role of state in fulfilling these needs.

A report (Report of Amsterdam conference in Netherlands on 26 and 27 February, 1997) entitled on combating the most intolerable forms of child labour: a global challenge put the view that the exploitation of children is a violation of their



human right and gross waste of human potential. Child labour is one of the main sources of child exploitation and abuse in the world today. The program developed by the conference was to focus on key areas such as education, enactment and enforcement of child labour, legislation as well as poverty alleviation.

ILO (1996), referred to adopt appropriate legislative and administrative measures for restricting the work of children and young person less than 18 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 more, 12 years or more and 18 years or more for general, light and dangerous work respectively. The limit for developed countries was 15 years or more, 13 years or more and 18 years or more for general, light and dangerous work respectively.

CWIN (1991) has analyzed the socio economic and working conditions of child labour as well as their problems. It tried to gather and disseminate information on the exploitation of child labour in Nepal. According to the report, there were various reasons for the involvement of the children in tea estates for example large families, parent's poverty. The report concluded that in spite 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 labourers denied basic rights of all children. In a situation where large majority of people live in a very harsh poverty level conditions, these people can not be expected to support the disadvantaged group and they have encourage the local people to get involved in fighting against social evils such as corruption and exploitation. CWIN has purposed prevention, protection and rehabilitation as possible techniques to solve the problems.

CWIN (2001) conducted a study to identify the status of child labour in Bidi industry in some of the selected localities. The main objectives of the study are to

analyze the socio demographic characteristics of the child labour in Nepal, to examine the reason for working in Bidi industries and to examine various types of risk associated with their work participation.

The report concludes that the significance proportion of children was involved in Bidi making due to lack of alternative economic opportunities for many households. Most of the households are poor and they would like to grab any opportunities that help to support their livelihood. In this context, participation of children in any income generating activities such as Bidi industries is not uncommon. The immediate consequences of this are in two fronts: schooling and health of children. There is high opportunity cost of going to School in relation to work. There are also direct and indirect costs involved in the process of schooling. As a result, there are low school enrollment rates, high drop outs and low performances. The second consequence of children involved in Bidi making is associated with their personal health.

The apparent challenge, according to the book, is to make schooling and work compatible because households are very poor and at this time complete elimination of children's involvement in Bidi making industries is not possible. Awareness creation should be integrated with direct support to children from school program such as provision of incentives: school lunch program, stationary support, school uniform and other indirect cost of schooling incurred at the household level. This can minimize working hour of children.

Pradhan and Sainju (1988) have analyzed the realities and challenges of urban child labour in Nepal with the aim of understanding the nature and extent of child labour problem and highlighting and publicizing the situation of child labour. Number of children is increasing both in rural and urban areas, and they missed every opportunity of their childhood. In rural areas, most of the children involved in agriculture based activities. In urban areas, the children found in several types of work, for example carpet weaving industries, hotel/restaurant, rage picking and

domestic houses. In fact, they are found more or less everywhere including printing press, book binding, and street sweeping and so on.

Timsena (1986) has concluded that child labour is a worldwide problem. And it is a burning problem of our society also. The study found that there were two factors which compelled children to work. Poverty on the supply side was pushing factor where cheap labour was pulling factor on demand side.

Child labour (1997), conducted by ILO Regional Department for Asia and Pacific discusses an effect of globalization and structural change. Researches show that globalization and economic liberalization have led to increased emphasis on efficiency and competitiveness. Modernization and market integration have negative consequences also: rural poverty, migration, liberalization, regional inequalities, consumerism and diminishing family support and community cohesion. These have modified the overall pattern of child employment.

Child labour has undergone such structural changes as urbanization, shift from agriculture to industries and services, a move to wage earning in industry as opposed to unpaid family work. Changes may be worsening the plight of child workers. Due to the movement rapidly from planned to market economy different problems have emerged. Child labour in the urbanized sector used to be virtually non-existent, and well developed social infrastructure looked after the welfare of children. Reforms have led to rising cost of education, while new labour intensive industries have created a demand for cheap labour. Together these factors have made schooling a less attractive option and may have contributed to a higher incidence of child labour. However these publications do not try to give an analyzing aspect of mitigating the situation so developed by globalization.

Crawford (1995), in his work "Child Labour in South Asia: A Review of the Literature published by, UNICEF (ROSA) explains the consequences of child labour. He agrees that child labour has significant consequences for children, their

families, their employers and communities and countries in which they live. Although some types of work by children, such as work for a skilled trade or helping out with light household chores can be beneficial in term of a child's growth and development, on the whole child labour in South Asia is extremely detrimental to children. Wage employment is particularly exploited, since children are vulnerable and do not have the power to organize for their right as workers. Child labourers work at unskilled jobs and many do not attend school; thus in violation of articles 28 and 29 of CRC; similarly numerous South Asian children engaged in prostitution a direct violation of article 34 of the CRC. Crawford explains the situation of working children in brick kiln industry, glass industry, carpet industry and expresses how they are suffering from various diseases, such as chest infection, tuberculosis, etc. Even occupations which do not appear so overtly dangerous can be very detrimental to children's health. Children working in informal sector for hotels and shops are often forced to work very long hours in difficult conditions.

He argues that families of working children generally reap positive short run economic consequences, however slight. In many cases the family needs the income of the working child in order to survive. Parents also argue in some situation that the child is learning skills early which will help them in adult employment. Although the immediate consequences of putting a child to work can appear very attractive to parents, most families are not aware of the long term negative consequences of their children working.

There are also large scales economic consequences of child labour. One economic consequences argued by some export company owners in developing countries is that cheapness of child labour allows developing countries to be competitive in the global market and bring hard currency into their countries via export oriented industries.

The long term economic cost of child labour in South Asia could be quite high. The low wages of child labour can restrict the purchasing power of the family. Cheap available child labour can prevent the payment of minimum wage and in some cases, devalues the labour market of the adults. Domestic consumption is therefore limited, and national production will remain low. The country will be dependent on exports and will be vulnerable to international trade sanctions. Finally, he argues that by allowing children to labour long hours at unskilled jobs, the country is not building skilled and educated future work force. Child labour perpetuates poverty on large scale level as successive generation of children grow up to be adults lacking education and higher skills, who will continue to live in poverty, have large families and put their children to work.

Sattaur (1993) has tried to study the entire scenario of child labour in Nepal. Sattaur has first specified the sector where basically child labours are engaged. He has pointed out the agriculture, cottage industry, manufacturing industry, plantation, domestic servant, catering, selling, manual labour, tourist and travel industry, and others (Rag picking, prostitution, begging) are the sector where child labour are found. Then he came to the conclusion that child work is rooted in Nepali history, culture and poverty. Landlessness, continuing discrimination against women and girl children, biased development initiatives towards urban needs are underlying factors that support child labour. Further he has argued that it will take some time for awareness of child right to sink into the national consequences. Children traditionally help out in the family, particularly in rural areas. Social workers in Nepal generally believe that it is unrealistic to impose a blanket ban on child labour, but they are increasingly concerned that the line between children being asked to help out and children being exploited is being overstepped.

ITAD (1994) conducted a study on “status of child labour in carpet industries”. This study was conducted after the introduction of child labour free certification scheme of Nepal. In course of the study, the research team visited 30 carpet

factories and interviewed 24 owners and 34 labours of carpet factories of Katmandu valley. The principal finding of the study was the children were found to be working in many factories for more than 6 hours a day, hence violating the labour laws. Carpet owners were skeptical and did not think it was practical for a poor country like Nepal to stop employing children.

Black (1995) tries to show the picture of the incidence and condition of children in the hotel, tourism and catering industry in Kenya, Mexico, The Philippines and Srilanka. The main objective of this book is to identify why the children work in hotel, tourism and catering industries. The writer found two major factors, push factor and pull factor, for the children to work in hotel, tourism and catering industries.

Poverty, family break down and special causality within the family, plunging it further towards destitution, may help to precipitate a child's entry into work for cash is the push factor for the children to work in the above maintained sectors. And opportunity of work in this sector is the pull factor. This book concludes that the expansion of the modern travel industries is the very recent phenomenon and its impact on child labour has been insufficiently noticed. There is a need to redress this. This social responsibilities of all participants in the industry as 'de facto', guardian of young people working in or around it need to be understood and shouldered. An agenda for action to be carried out in co operation with government agencies, NGO and leading member of the hotel, catering and tourism industries is urgently needed.

UNICEF (1997) concludes that most children who work do not have the power of free choice. They are not choosing between career options with varying advantages, drawbacks and levels of pay. A few fortunate minorities have sufficient materials, means behind them to be pulled towards work as an effective option offering them more economic advantages. But the vast majority is pulled into work that often

damage to their development by three key factors: the exploitation of poverty, the absence of education and restriction of the tradition.

Standing and Rodger (1981) have edited a book entitled “child work, poverty and underemployment” by compiling several articles. Most of the articles in this book analyze the causes of child labour and conclude that social institution and poverty as well as illiteracy are the factors resulting into the use of child labour. There are several articles incorporated into the book, but two of them are of special significance which is discussed below. However, the depth analysis of other articles cannot be ignored.

Sainju (2003) has conducted study on child labour in restaurants, tea shops in Nepal which was the outcome of field survey conducted in 19 districts of Nepal representing all geographical strata, involving direct contact with 548 child workers and observation of more than 800 children at work. The study has concluded that the majority of children fall within the 14 to 16 years age group, the average of all is 13.5 years. About 95% of them were boys where highest number came from Chhetri families (23%), 32% were from backward communities and 7% from Dalit community's. Only 5% were attending school while working. More than 42% of children were school drop outs for restaurant work due to poverty. Most of child labours were illiterate (71%). Among 80% both parents were alive but most of them were (71%) illiterate, where 51% of their primary family occupation was agriculture but without enough land for survival. Majority of child labour (66%) had to work at least 11 or 12 hour a day. Most of child labours (94%) were working on a monthly wage payment basis while rest receives no wages apart from meals two times a day. The average monthly earning per child was Rs. 519 while Rs. 330 was the average expenditure. More than 55% of child labours were managing their income themselves. Though their income was very low, 65% of them had saving habits. Research report finally concluded that 95% of child labour didn't have any idea about child right.

ILO/IPEC (1995) Vol I on “Child Labour in Nepal” contends the exploitative form of child labour in Nepal. The report argues the child labour is a consequence of the feudal land holding system, which is still a bitter reality of many third world countries.

For the elimination of child labour, ministry of labour and transport management, HMG, child labour elimination program has designed a national plan on child labour (2002). This draft explains the lack of comprehensive well coordinated and concerted plan to address the problem of child labour which is one of the reasons why the issues have reminded ever expanding. In view of these circumstances in Nepal ILO/IPEC has developed the strategy time bound program in collaboration with government. Despite the effort made by HMG and ILO/IPEC, the implementation of the programs/policies is in vain.

CWIN (2002) has analyzed that as in other countries drugs are strictly illegal in Nepal but they have found their way into the market place via various channels. The easy access and availability of drugs has created an extremely conducive social environment for people to start taking such substances, especially among young people and children. For most street children taking drugs is inevitable while living on the streets. As regards to glue sniffing, it has been viewed as one of the major coping strategies for street children all over the world. However, the easy accessibility and availability remain temptations for children to take up the habit of sniffing. Glue sniffing amongst street children in Nepal can be taken as an initiation to the use of other hard drugs. Peer pressure and easy availability of glue ‘dendrite’ are two prominent reasons for addiction to sniffing. Addiction to glue sniffing is making street children more dependent on substances. This dependency is resulting in an increase in street children carrying out thefts. This trend in the course of the time, will lead children to ever more violent and unsocial activities. The book has concluded that the street children of Nepal are visible community and are definitely the vulnerable group of children, who are at risk of exploitation, drug use, sexual exploitation and being forced into criminal activities. As in other



countries, due to their harassing living condition, street children seem to start using drugs as major coping strategy. However street children in Katmandu claim that if they are provided with a favorable environment for their overall development and are given proper opportunities, they are willing to leave street for better life. But street children's problems cannot be solved in isolation; they are cumulative of various exploitative and discriminative backgrounds. Consequently 'transformation' or a socializations and reintegration of street children, some of whom are addicted to street life, are tough challenges. Street children's problems need to be addressed by all concerned with much seriousness with commitment to empower them for their self reliance to give them respect for their dignity and potential.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

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

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Research design is the most important component of any social research. The basic objective of this study is to identify the situation of child labour employed in small hotel, restaurant and tea shops in Janakpur municipality. So, mainly descriptive in nature, is used to attain the objectives of this study. This research design is descriptive research design.

#### **3.2 Site Selection**

This study has been conducted in Janakpur Municipality of Dhanusha district. The primary reason for selecting this area is that these places are densely populated with several small hotels, restaurants and tea shops. Janakpur Municipality ward number 1, ward number 2, ward number 3, ward number 4 and ward number 8 are selected as research area because this area covers main market area, bus stands, railway station and trading areas where many small hotels, restaurants and tea shops are situated.

#### **3.3 Nature of Data**

Primary and secondary data were collected for the present study. Primary data are inevitable because of comprehensible analysis of situation of the study area that would accomplish its prime and foremost objective.

Besides, the various published and unpublished materials were equally consulted to the extent that the present study is related to.

### **3.4 Sample Size**

In the absence of the information of the total number of the child workers working in the hotels, it was decided to interview the number of child workers and their employers that fulfill at least the minimum criteria of large sample. Hence in this study a total of 50 randomly selected child workers.

### **3.5 Sampling Procedure**

For the purpose of present study, the term ‘hotel’ has been used in the sense as general people here take it. These restaurants, tea shops, Momo shops, coffee shops etc are grouped in hotel in this study.

The undertaken study has used simple random sampling for the purpose of selection of samples. 20 respondents from small hotels, 15 small restaurants and 15 tea shops were selected randomly. And one child labour from each hotel was selected randomly. Whenever there were one or more child labours in the sampled hotels, then the sampled unit was selected by lottery method by putting the name of the child labours in a cup. And each selected was interviewed with the help of structured questionnaire. Hence, it has been assumed that the distribution of child workers is homogeneous in the different type of hotels. In total 50 child labours owners were interviewed with the help of structured questionnaire.

### **3.6 Techniques of Data Collection**

The following two approaches have been applied to collect data.

#### **a. Questionnaire Approach**

Structured questionnaire has been used to get detail information about child labour employed in small hotels, restaurants and tea shops. It was kept in mind that the target of the questionnaire schedule (survey format) was to obtain the personal identification and family characteristics, caste, sex, age, nature, hardship at work, experience, saving, expenditure, health, attitude towards work and future aspiration.

### **b. Non Participant Observation**

To know more detail about their attitude, behavior, physical, working and living condition, the non participant observation approach has been applied.

### **3.7 Data Analysis and Presentation**

Data analysis is the most crucial constituent of any research work. Data do not speak themselves unless and until the researcher categorizes, manipulates and places them in certain order so as to make them easily comprehensible. The data collected through various methods and techniques was put together and analyzed in a separate chapter interpretation and analysis of data.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **STUDY SITE DESCRIPTION**

#### **4.1. Socio-demographic Background:**

Dhanusha district in general:

Among the five development region of Nepal, Dhanusha district belongs to the central development region of the Janakpur zone. This zone comprises of six districts among which, three falls in mountainous belt and three falls in the terai belt. Dhanusha at an altitude of 25.35 degrees to 27.05 degree north and a longitude of 85.05 degrees to 86.20 degrees east. It covers an area of 11806.82 hectares, out of which cultivated land covers 65.78 percent, forest land- 23.28 percent, inhabited land 1.28 percent, uncultivated land – 0.14 percent, submerged land and ponds – 1.70 percent, pastoral land – 1.32 percent, shrub land – 0.02 percent, airport area – 0.04 percent, desert land – 4.16 percent, land registered under various institutions – 0.05 percent, land under land slide – 0.02 percent, nursery – 2.42 percent, swamps- 0.01 percent, river – 0.03 percent and land under forestation- 0.04 percent. The major rivers in Dhanusha are, Kamala, Jallad, Dudhmati, Jamuni, Charnath, Rato, Badahari, Jagadar and Parsuram khola. The climate is tropical but is prone to extreme cold and hot waves with average temperature ranging from 10.7 degree Celsius to 29.7 degree Celsius. Average rainfall is 1479.8 mm per annum. (District profile, 2002).

Dhanusha is not only significant for having the largest number of village Development Committees and the largest number of population; it is also a religious site with cultural importance for Hindus from all over the world. In the ancient days Janakpur used to be known by the name of 'Mithilapur' or 'Mithila Pradesh' and Janakpur town which is today the administrative headquarter of Dhanusha district used to be the capital city of 'Mithilapur'. Famous for its Vedic background, 'Mithilapur' civilization is supposed to have attained great heights in the 'Upanishad' era. The spiritual teachings and philosophy and the development of the 'Upanishad' were quite noble because it is said that its rulers were extremely

civilized and magnanimous. However, according to Pauranic documents, the glory slowly began declining once the Buddhist religion and Vaisali Bihar of the Lichhivi republic in Mazzaffarpur began to rise. During the latter half of the middle ages the flowers of the Vaishnav god Bishnu was said to have rediscovered Mithilapuri was rehabilitated under the name of Janakpur. In 1868 when king Prithvi Narayan Shah united the various principalities under one state, the importance of Janakpur since then went flying high. (District profile,2002).

Legend tells that during the Satya Yug (the era of truth – each Yug began of one thousand years) when lord Ram (incarnation of Bishnu) was successful in breaking the massive bow in a demonstration of his qualification for being an eligible bridegroom of King Janak’s daughter Sita (incarnation of Laxmi), one of the three pieces fell in Dhanusha district. The word “Dhanusha” itself means “Bow”. In commemoration of this heroic feat an historical marriage between Ram and Sita, Bibaha Panchami is observed every year in Ram/Janaki temple by scores of devout Hindus who throng to Janakpur from all over Nepal and India. Besides this, every year during the month of Magh religious devotees complete a 15 days march starting from Kachuri Thera VDC about 15 kilometers from Janakpur by circumnating all the paths both in the district and adjoining district of Mahottari including some parts of India to honor the God Mithila Bihari (District Profile, 2000)

Dhanusha district today has five election constituencies and is dividing into seventeen ‘*ilakas*’ it is composed of 101 VDCs, it has one municipality. The administrative headquarter is situated in Janakpur that houses 62 government offices. Various institutions including commercial institutions number to 30. Registered NGO number to 1960. It is surrounded by Siraha district in the east and Mahottari district in the west, Sindhuli district in the north and Madhubani Bihar, India in the south (District Profile, 2002)

According to district profile of Dhanusha Vol I, 2002, the following services and facilities are available in Dhanusha district:

**Educational Facilities:** It has nine colleges and 15 higher secondary schools, 81 secondary schools, 27 lower secondary schools, 311 primary schools and 9 pre primary schools.

**Health Facilities:** There is one zonal hospital, one eye hospital, five Primary Health Care Centers, nine health posts, 88 sub health posts, one leprosy health center, one acupuncture hospital, three Ayurvedic treatment center, one dental hospital and four Nursing Homes.

**Drinking Water:** 18.8 percentage of the population do have access to safe drinking water facilities.

**Roads and Transportation Service:** Total length of the motorable roads is 684 kilometers. It has road networks that link it with other part of Kingdom with daily bus service operating both within and with out the district. Dhanusha district is also accessible by air with direct flight to and from Kathmandu. The airport is in Janakpur and currently four private airlines are operating in the area. The district is also linked to Jainagar, India through a railway network spanning 29 kilometers.

**Telephone Service:** Altogether 8000 telephone lines have been distributed. Total number of subscribers is 3811 with 3429 in urban sector and 3881 in rural sector. There are 71 MARTS lines and public telephone service are also available.

**Postal Service:** Postal services are not operational in 15 VDCs but rest of the 86 enjoys the postal service.

**Banking Services:** Apart from the major banks, finance companies are also operating in Dhanusha district.

Festivals: The major festivals observed in Dhanusha are Dashain, Tihar, Chhad Parba, Bibaha Panchami, Ram Nawami Mela, Dhanusha Mela, Parikrama, Indra Puja, Chaud Chandra, Eed, Shaubharaj etc.

According to 2001 census on housing and population, the total population of Dhanusha district is 671,364. The above data shows disaggregated data by sex, household and population density. Out of this population those living in extreme poverty account 33.04 percentages. The poor make up 17.44 percentages, middle 20.4 percentages and rich 23.9 percentages.

The district profile of Dhanusha Vol I, shows an impressive array of 59 towering personalities who were/are in influential position of power and active social workers and have carved themselves a name in the history of the country. Out of these only three women are mentioned.



## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

This chapter presents the findings of the study, deals with the background characteristics, family status, education status and economic characteristic of child labour. All the necessary data have been collected from small hotel/restaurants and tea shops in Janakpur Municipality. The data have been arranged in a systematic way to make up with the real situation of child labours employed in hotels and restaurants.

#### **5.1 Socio Economic Aspect**

Child labour reflects the poor economic situation of the under developed societies. Many children leave their home due to economic reason as well as family and social constraints. Usually problems of the child labourers start when agriculture income is not sufficient to sustain the whole families in the rural areas. It is because; there are only limited alternative employment opportunities in rural areas. In such a situation, one of the viable opportunities is to send children in the urban level market. Sometimes they come with their own parents and relatives but some run away from the village without their parents consent. So the migration of child workers to the cities indicate that they are in search of a better livelihood, but the children end up with getting exploited and often experience a life long trauma. In this chapter an attempt has been made to analyze the data on social and demographic aspects of the child labours in the restaurants and hotels. The analysis covers socio economic characteristics, family background, causes of migration, working conditions and attitude and future aspirations of the children.

## 5.2 Age and Sex Composition of Child Labour

During the field survey it was found that there was no any child respondent below the age of 7. This survey also revealed that most of the lower aged group children belong to very poor families. Almost all the lower age children said that they had bread and butter problem while they were with their family and hence they were bound to work due to malnourishment. Almost all the children's physical growth was lot less then the normal growth of Nepalese children. So they seem to be younger than their actual age. Table 1 shows the distribution of sample children by their age group 5-8, 9-12 and 13-15 categories.

**Table 5.1: Age composition of child labour**

S N	Age Group	Number of Child	Percentage
1	5 to 8	6	12
2	9 to 12	30	60
3	13 to 15	14	28
Total		50	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

**Fig. No. 1**

**Age composition of child labour**

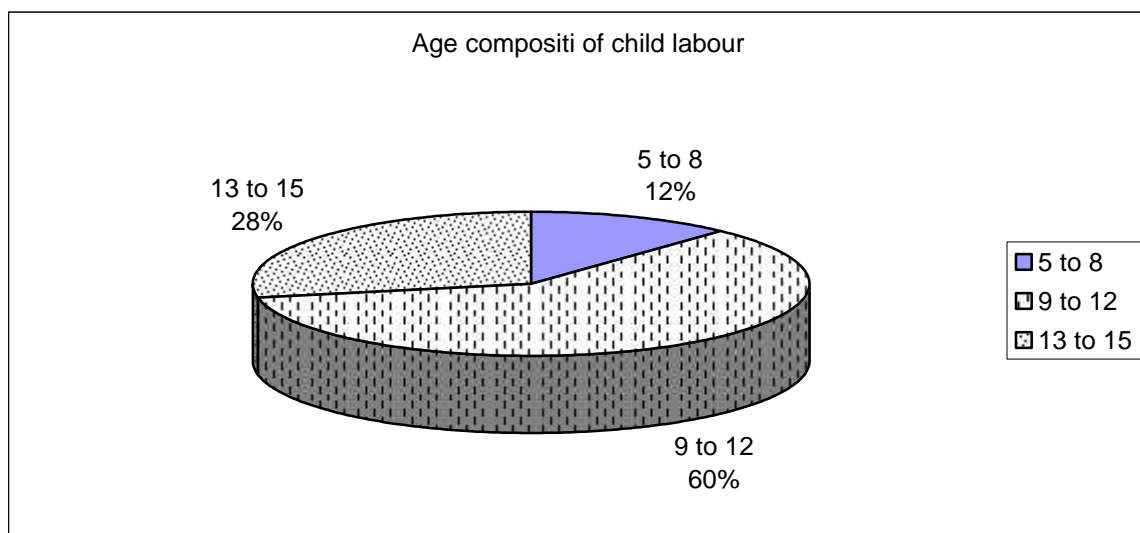


Table 5.1 shows that most of the children (60%) belong to age group between 9 and 12 years and 28 percent of the total children belong to 13 to 15 age group. Only six children (12%) belong to age group 5 to 8, it may be because the children of this age group cannot work the way that older can do. Beside this they need more guidance and follow up to their work. So, the maximum number of child labours was from age group 9 to 12. It may be because they can acquire important occupational skills easily. Beside this, the older children get employment opportunities more than younger because they can work more than younger. Other reason may be that relatively older children may better serve the interest of the employers. Hence, the employers prefer to hire older children in comparison to younger ones. The parents may not allow their children below 8 years of age to work. The children below 8 years may not be able to run away from their home. And the brokers may be less interested to arrange job to this age group. It is because brokers may be making only a nominal amount of money by arranging job to this age group.

**Table 5.2: Sex composition of child labour**

S. N	Particulars	Number	Percentage
1	Boys	42	84.00
2	Girls	8	16.00
Total		50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

Despite the fact that nearly 50% of the total population of Nepal is female, table 2 exhibits that there were only 16% female child labours working in sampled hotel and restaurants. This lower percentage of female child labours in sampled hotel and restaurants may be because boys were preferred by owners than the girls. But female child labours are easily found as domestic servants, street children, carpet weaver etc. considering this, it looks like the owners of the hotels and restaurants prefer boys to girls.

### 5.3 Ethnic/Caste Composition of Child Labours

The field study shows that the 50 respondents come from various ethnic/caste groups. Among those are Shah (Teli), Jha, Bhujel, Mandal, Yadav etc. The table below presents the ethnic/caste composition of respondents.

**Table 5.3: Ethnic/Caste Composition**

S. N	Ethnic/Caste Group	Number	Percentage
1	Bhujel	3	6.00
2	Singh(Chhetri)	2	4.00
3	Chaudhary	2	4.00
4	Budhathoky	2	4.00
5	Mandal	5	10.00
6	Magar	2	4.00
7	Shah (Teli)	15	30.00
8	Tamang	2	4.00
9	Sunuwar	1	2.00
10	Yadav	4	8.00
11	Paswan	1	2.00
12	Jha	6	12.00
13	Sharma	1	2.00
14	Mahat	1	2.00
15	Agrawal	1	2.00
16	Karna	1	2.00
17	Gurung	1	2.00
Total		50	100.00

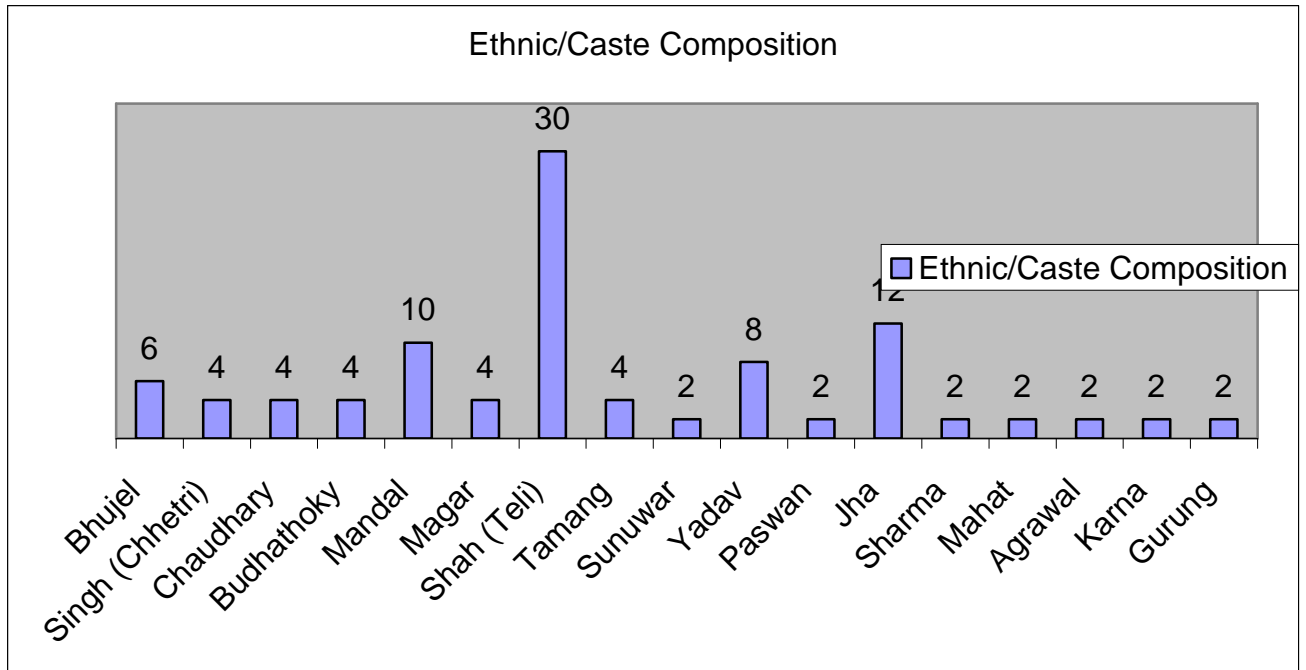
*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

The table shows that the majority of child labours in the field survey were Shah (Teli) (30%). After Shah Caste, children from Jha were dominant which comprised of 12% of total respondents. Thereafter Mandal comprised 10% of total respondents followed by Yadav (8%), Bhujel (6%), Singh (Chhetri), Chaudhary, Budhathoky and Tamang comprising 4% each. Rest of the 14 % respondents was from Sunuwar, Paswan, Sharma, Mahat, Agrawal, Karna and Gurung.

Lack of economic opportunities, low agriculture productivity, lack of alternative income sources, hard life, illiteracy, death of parents and poverty are the major push factors for these ethnic groups to leave their ancestral place and join in the

hotels and restaurants for their survival. The number of respondents was highly dominated by the low caste and ethnic groups whereas the number of high caste and advantaged groups was very nominal.

**Fig. No. 2**



#### 5.4 Child Labour by District of Origin

Majority of children are from out of the Janakpur city. The table below presents the district of origin of the child labours sampled.

**Table 5.4: Child Labour by District of Origin**

S. N	District	Number	Percentage
1	Siraha	4	8.00
2	Dhanusa	17	34.00
3	Sarlahi	8	16.00
4	Sindhuli	6	12.00
5	Okhaldhunga	4	8.00
6	Mahottari	3	6.00
7	Jhapa	1	2.00
8	Udayapur	3	6.00
9	Ramechhap	4	8.00
Total		50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

The table shows that 66 percent of the children are from outside the Dhanusha district and among them the majority is from Sarlahi which holds 16 percent of the total respondents. Following Sarlahi comes Sindhuli district with 12 percent Siraha, Ramechhap and Okhaldhunga 8 percent each, Mahottari and Udayapur with 6 percent of respondents each and Jhapa with 2 percent of total respondents. Rest of the 34 percent sampled children comes from the Dhanusha district itself. The table also illustrates that majority of child labours from rural areas. Due to the lack of infra structure development and hardship, the children migrate from these rural areas in search of better life and work.

### **5.5 Family Background of the Child Labour**

Child labour's family status is affected by various factors such as family structure, parent's educational level and economic condition. Nepalese society is basically male dominated society and although the existing law prohibits polygamy, it is not totally eliminated from Nepalese society. In our society, if one of the parents of a child dies, the remaining parent usually gets married. Beside this if the parents are separated or divorced, the parents usually get married. As a result of these factors in most of the cases, the children are usually neglected or abused by step father or step mother. So, to understand the family status, this section tries to investigate the

family environment, such as parental status alive or dead, educational status and overall awareness of the parents as well as their economic conditions.

### 5.5.1 Size of the Family

The level of education, culture, tradition, customs and religion are some of the factors that play a significant role to determine the size of family. Besides, economic condition also plays a vital role to determine family size. Uneducated and poor families are usually found to have bigger families. Most of the children of this study were from big families.

**Table 5.5: Size of the Family**

S. N	Family Size	Number	Percentage
1	Up to 3	7	14.00
2	4 to 6	18	36.00
3	7 to 9	22	44.00
4	10 to 12	3	6.00
Total		50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

The collected information shows that only 14 percent are in up to 3 member family size category. Similarly 36 percent, 44 percent, 6 percent are in 4 to 6, 7 to 9 and 10 to 12 family size category respectively. This shows that the most of the children are not from the small family. They are from big and moderate sized family. This shows nuclear family structure is not prevalent in the rural areas where the economy is based upon agriculture. The poverty ridden family with relatively large sized family can not afford significant food, clothing and other basic necessities of life. The condition is further aggravated by the lack of economic resources and alternative income. This situation leads the children to leave the home and seek the work in urban areas.

### 5.6 Parents Alive or Dead

Children are forced to work to support their parents. For instance, if the parents cannot work or earn and if they do not have any alternative sources of income, in

that situation children are bound to work and support their parents. One or both of the parents death leads to fulfill the vacancy by step parents, which is one of the main reasons for driving children out of their homes. This observation may not be true in all cases because most of the respondents of this study had their both parents alive. But, it is almost definite that the death of any one of the parents brings stress and strain beyond the management of the child and it finally invites family dissolution.

**Table 5.6: Parents Alive or Dead**

S. N	Particular	Number	Percentage
1	Father alive	45	90.00
2	Father dead	5	10.00
Total		50	100.00
1	Mother alive	36	72.00
2	Mother dead	14	28.00
Total		50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

The study shows that 10 percent of the child labours are fatherless and 28 percent of the child labours are motherless. It signifies that loss of mother is more likely case to drive the children away from their home for work. But the hard fact is that though the parents are alive, still a significant number of children are running out of their home for labour works.

### **5.7 Parent's Occupation**

The finding reveals that the main occupation of child labours' family was agriculture. The table below presents the family occupation of the respondents.



**Table 5.7: Parent's Occupation**

S. N	Occupation	Number	Percentage
1	Farming	36	72.00
2	Wage Labor	8	16.00
3	Domestic Servant	3	6.00
4	Service	1	2.00
5	Business	2	4.00
Total		50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

The study shows that the agriculture is the main profession of most of the child labour families but it cannot sustain them all round the year. The table shows that occupation in agriculture occupies 72 percent, wage labour 16 percent, domestic servant 6 percent, service holders 2 percent and finally business 4 percent. Except a minute number of families, all other are involved in less productive occupations as a result the parents send their children to labour market or the children run away from home to labour market expecting a better life.

## **5.8 Education**

### **5.8.1 Parent's Education**

Ignorance is the night of mind and a night without moon and stars and there is no cure for it other than the education so there could be no clue against the immense magnitude of education. Education is at the same time a guiding factor to push others towards education and more especially in the case of parents and children. Unless the majority of the people are educated the development of the nation is impossible. Illiteracy in society causes many social problems. It is also one of the factors to contribute in the creation of child labour. The table presented below gives the child labours' parents' literacy percentage.

**Table 5.8: Parent's Education**

S. N	Particular	Literate	Percentage
1	Father	7	14.00
2	Mother	1	2.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

The above table demonstrates that just only a slender 14 percent of the fathers of the sampled respondents are literate and it is more pathetic in the case of mothers as only 2 percent mothers are literate. So it clearly signifies that there is great cloud of ignorance among the parents of the child labours which might well could have been the major factor for creation of their status as child labour.

### **5.8.2 Educational Status of Child Labours**

Education is essential in order to be liberating from all sorts of exploitation and oppressions. Education is the most important component for the development of child. Children are categorized in the following table.

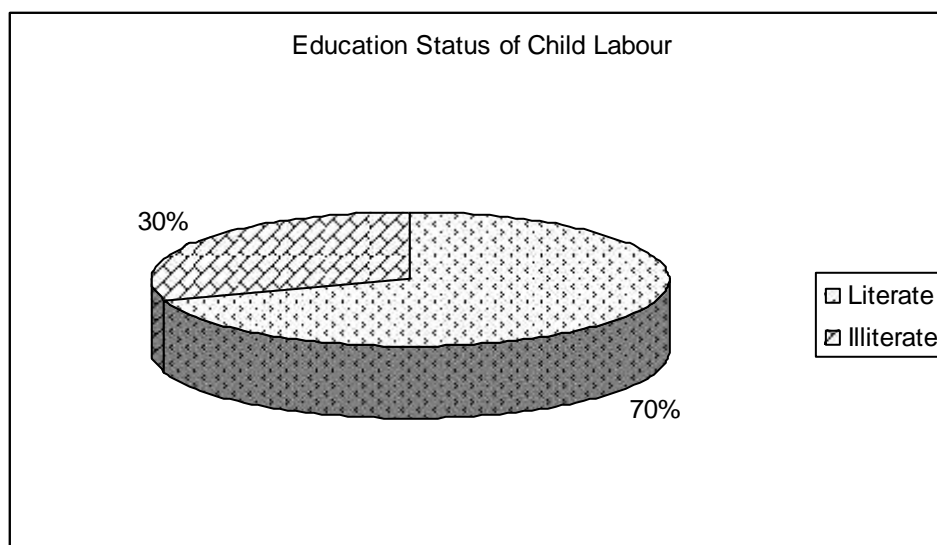
**Table 5.9: Educational Status of Child Labours**

S. N	Particular	Number	Percentage
1	Literate	35	70.00
2	Illiterate	15	30.00
Total		50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

The literacy rate of working children in small hotels, restaurants and tea shop was found to be 70 percent, which is a significant proportion. Most of the children were found to be attending school only up to primary level and are forced to leave the school because of poverty, parent's inability to provide basic requirements for schooling. Further education of child is given the least preference by the parents and they do not encourage their children to attend school, as they are of the opinion that education does not give immediate return. Thus they are pushed to labour market in many urban areas.

**Fig.No. 3**



### **5.9 View of Child labours towards Education**

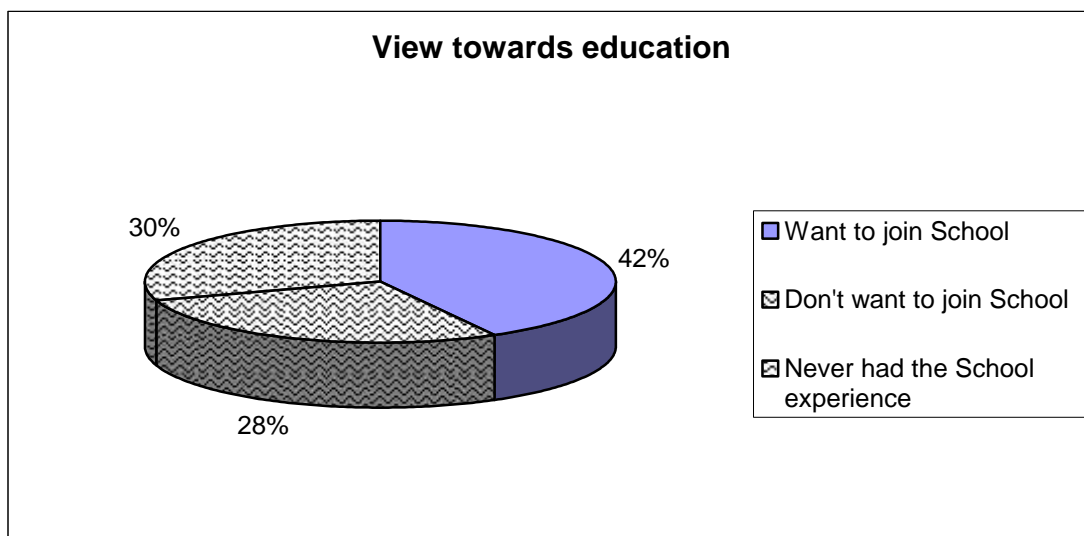
The study reveals that 42 percent of the dropped out children want to continue or rejoin the School if any chances is offered. Most of them have an intention to collect money and go back to home and rejoin their study which in real is quite unlikely. 28 percent of child labours no alternatives than continuing the profession what they are currently doing and do not have any thoughts of rejoining School. Rests of the 30 percent have never been admitted to School and they have no idea of schooling and about education so there can't be any question regarding their willingness about studying. The mentioned details are illustrated in the following table.

**Table 5.10: View towards education**

S. N	Particular	Number	Percentage
1	Want to join School	21	42.00
2	Don't want to join School	14	28.00
3	Never had the School experience	15	30.00
4	Total	50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

**Fig No. 4**



**5.10 Causes of Drop Out/Not Joining School**

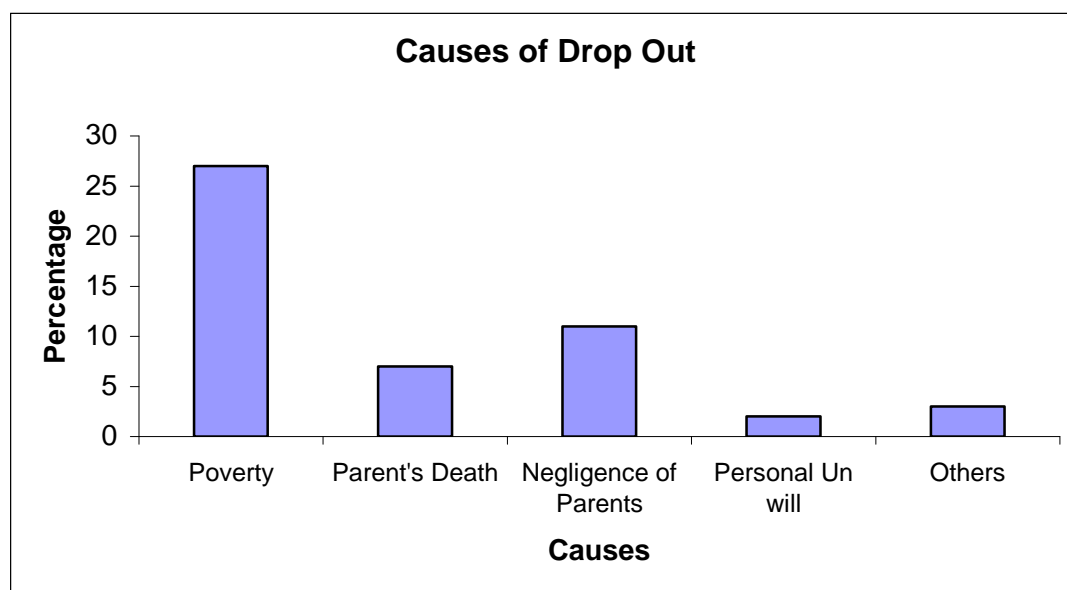
The below table shows that poverty and financial constraints faced by the family are the primary reasons experienced by the children for not joining or dropping out of their children from school as 54 percent of the respondents blame the poverty for their hindrance for education. Similarly negligence of the parents was another vital factor for the drop outs. 14 percent of the children were affected by their parent’s death whereas 4 percent of them left out due to their own unwillingness and 6 percent gave other reasons.

**Table 5.11: Causes of Drop Out**

S. N	Causes	Number	Percentage
1	Poverty	27	54.00
2	Parent's Death	7	14.00
3	Negligence of Parents	11	22.00
4	Personal Un will	2	4.00
5	Others	3	6.00
6	Total	50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

**Fig No. 5**



### **5.11 Reason behind Leaving Home**

Poverty, home conflict, hard work at home etc are working as the decisive factors to enforce the children to migrate to urban areas in search of work and better opportunities. When agricultural income, which is the main source of income of most of the villagers, is not sufficient to sustain large families, villagers migrate to urban areas. Rural families migrate to urban areas because there is hardly any employment opportunity in the village. It is often said that some of the children come in the urban areas along with their family members. Sometimes rural children run away from their home.

**Table 5.12: Reason for Leaving Home**

S. N	Causes	Number	Percentage
1	Poverty	26	52.00
2	Hard life in the Village	10	20.00
3	Influenced by Friends	3	6.00
4	Ill-treatment by parents	7	14.00
5	Others	4	8.00
Total		50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

**Fig No.6**

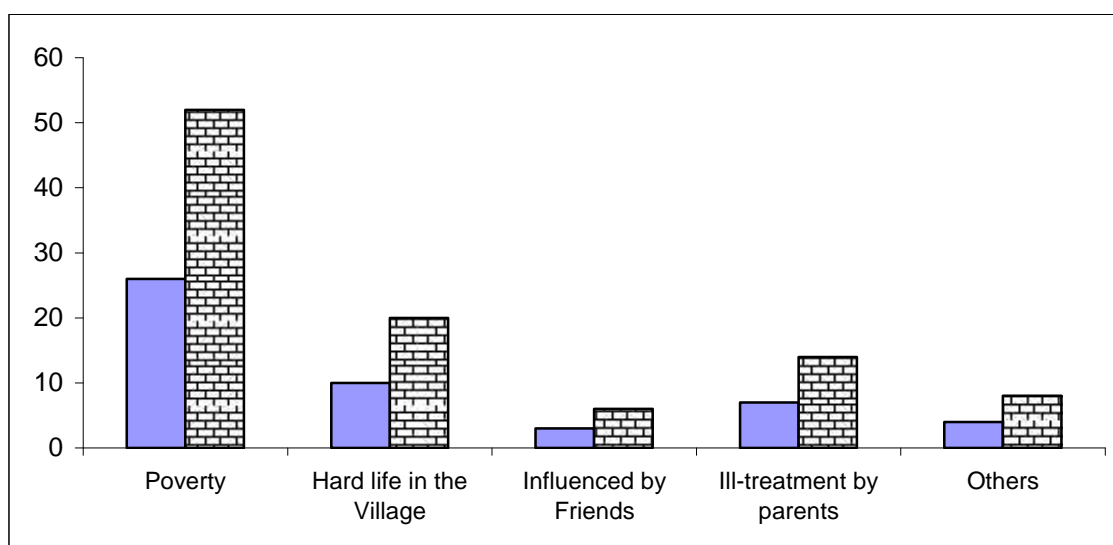


Table 5.12 shows that 52 percent of child labours left home due to the unfavorable economic condition or insufficient basic necessities fulfillment of their family. They were bound to work because of poverty. Out of the total respondents 20 percent of them left their house due to hard life in the village. 14 percent of the children migrate from their houses due to ill treatment by their parents. Other causes were found to be the influence by the friends (6%) and some other reasons being 8 percent.

### **5.12 Income Distribution of Child Labour's Family**

This study supports to the general assumption that child labours are directly related to the poverty of the family. Fulfillment of basic requirements of the children has been the obligation of their parents. The children of the under employed or unemployed parents and poor families must have to work for the family survival. Income less than sufficient to survive is one of the factors that forces children to work.

**Table 5.13: Income Distribution of Child Labour's Family**

S. N	Family Income	Number	Percentage
1	Sufficient	6	12.00
2	Just Sufficient	10	20.00
3	Insufficient	30	60.00
4	Don't know	4	8.00
Total		50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

Table 5.13 shows that only the 12 percent of child labours' family income is sufficient for survival, 20 percent child labours' family income is just sufficient for survival. Data reveals that about 60 percent of the respondent family have not sufficient for survival for whole year. 8 percent respondents reply that they don't know the income distribution situation of their family.

### **5.12 Nature of Work**

The working condition of child labour at hotel, restaurant is very miserable. Children had to work hard from early in the morning to late night. They serve the customers, collect and do the dishes clean. The children are assigned different types of work in hotel such as waiters, cleaners, cooks, dish washers etc. This researcher carried out the field survey during the monsoon season of Ashad. While observing the situation of child labour in most of the hotels it is witnessed that during this season children have to work in severe chilly condition due to the lack of various necessities (warm clothing, shoes etc). They look rough dressed, wearing damp clothes. Sad and wrinkled faces can be seen obviously with cramping frequently.

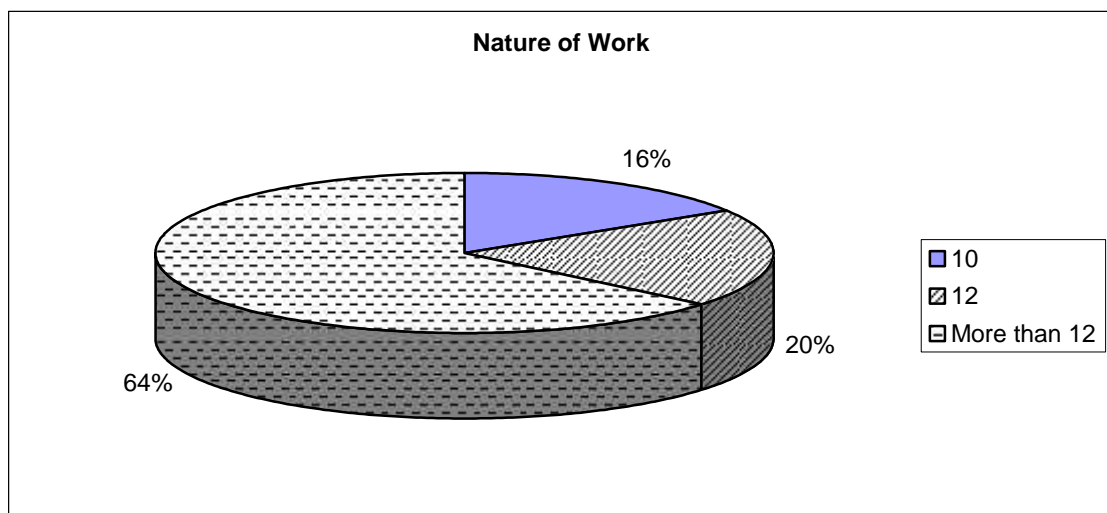
**Table 5.14: Nature of Work**

S. N	Hours	Number	Percentage
1	10	8	16.00
2	12	10	20.00
3	More than 12	32	64.00
Total		50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

According to above table the study reveals that only 16 percent of the children are working for about 10 hours a day whereas 20 percent of the children were found to be working for about 12 hours. Rest of 64 percent of the child workers were found to be working more than 12 hours a day. The study reveals overwork is prevailing fact in most of the hotel/restaurants.

**Fig. No. 7**



### 5.13 Working Period

According to the table 5.15, it shows that the duration of work varies from one to four months, five to eight months, nine to twelve months and over one year depending on the children and nature of work.

**Table 5.15: Working period of Child Labours**

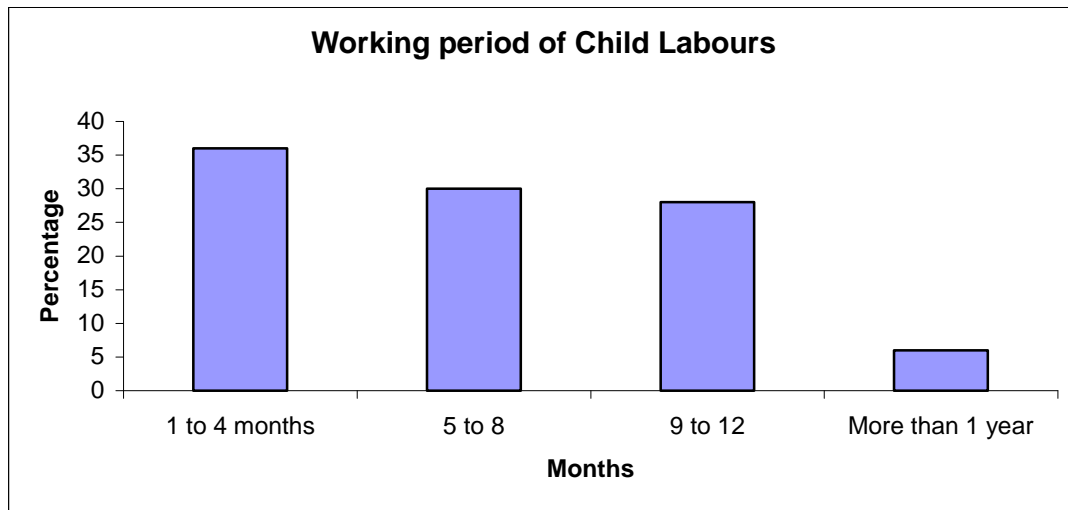
S. N	Duration	Number	Percentage
1	1 to 4 months	18	36.00
2	5 to 8	15	30.00
3	9 to 12	14	28.00
4	More than 1 year	3	6.00
Total		50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*



The study reveals that 36 percent of the children have been working for one month to four months; only 6 percent have experience of working for more than one year whereas 30 percent children had worked for 5 – 8 months. The table shows that 28 percent children have worked in hotels for 9 to 12 months. This signifies that child labour job mobility is very high.

**Fig No. 8**



#### **5.14 Problems Faced by Child Labours**

Most of the working children in hotel and restaurants seemed to be facing various problems. While questioned about problems at their work place, most of the children expressed no intention of disclosing any information that might be perceived as negative for their employment. From the study it is found that a lot of the workers are facing the problem of over work. They wake up early in the morning at 5 am. and go to bed at around 12 pm. Only a few of the respondents answered that they have no any problem.

**Table 5.16: Problems Faced by Child Labours**

S. N	Abuse Experience	Number	Percentage
1	Physical	27	54.00
2	Mental	15	30.00
3	Nothing	8	16.00
	Total	50	100.00

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

**Fig No. 9**

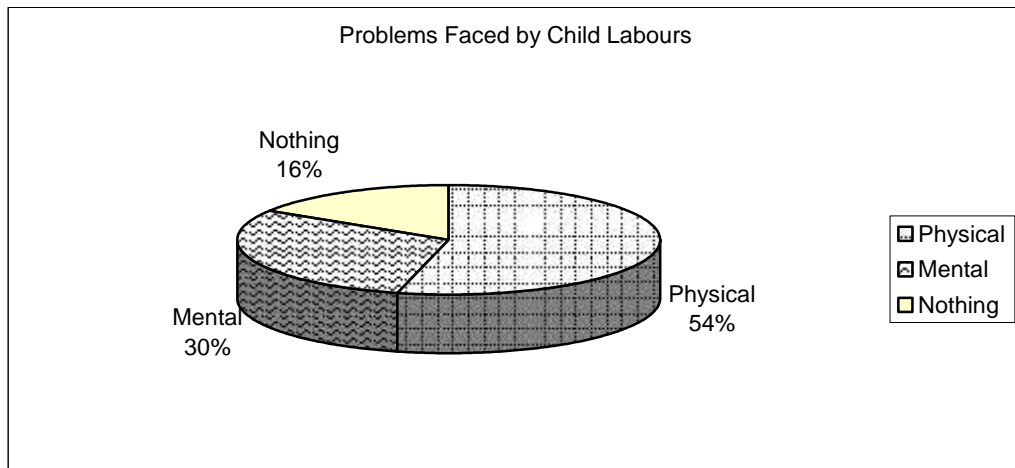


Table 5.16 shows that 54 percent of the children are physically tortured whereas other 30 percent of the respondents are mentally abused. The rest of the 16 percent children experience no abuse. The observation shows that working children are not in comfortable position that means they are not feeling better way out in getting the facilities of feeding and lodging.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **6.1 Summary**

This study on child labour in small hotel, restaurants and tea shops is the outcome of field survey conducted in 1,2,3,4 and 8 wards of Janakpur municipality of Dhanusha district.

The present study covers 50 child labours of hotel and restaurants. The small hotel, restaurant and tea shop work is one of the most visible and hazardous forms of child labour. All of the working children are found to have been living in bleak and deplorable conditions, suffering unhygienic working environment and long working hours at low pay. Both children and owners lack knowledge on the provision in national legislation, the Children Act, UN convention on the right of the child and other ILO related conventions. This lacking of knowledge on legislation found to be the most vital causes for reinforcing child labour situation.

Both qualitative and quantitative data have been used in this study taking 50 respondents (child labour) by purposive sampling procedure. Descriptive and explorative research design was formulated regarding the nature of the study. Observation was employed in collecting the qualitative data including few case studies. The objectives of this study are to examine the socio- economic condition of child labour in small hotel/ restaurant and teashop, to find out the education status of child labour, to trace out the existing situation of child labours working in hotels and restaurants, to suggest relevant way outs for the betterment recommend measures for the improvement of their situation and to solve their problem. The summary of the finding is as follows:

Regarding age group of child labourer, 5-8 age groups occupied 12 percent and 9-12 age group 60 percent and 13-15 age of group occupied 28 percent. It's showing that 9-12 age children are the majority of children working as a child labour.

For all caste/ ethnicity, males were predominantly higher than females. Out of 50 sample taken, 84 percent were boys and only 16 percent were girls.

A wide ethnic/ caste group of children were found in this study. Shah Teli (Low caste in Terai) are in highest numbers. This had covered 30 percent of total respondents. And others are Bhujel (6%) , Singh (4%) , Chaudhary (4%) , Budhathoki (4%) , Mandal (10%), Magar (4%), Tamang (4%), Sunawar (2%), Yadav (8%), Paswan (2%), Jha (12%), Sharma (2%), Mahat (2%), Agrawal (2%), Karna (2%) , Gurung (2%). This study shows that the Marginalized population in socio- economic stratum is more vulnerable to enter into the child labour market.

Most of the children working in hotels / restaurants in Janakpur Municipality were migrant and most of them were from the adjoining districts of Dhanusha such as Mahottari, Sindhuli, Siraha and Sarlahi. This type of respondents covers 66 percent. From Dhanusha they were found to be 34 percent.

Regarding to family size of the respondents were divided into four categories up to 3 ( 14%), 4-6 (36%), 7-9 (44%) and 10-12 (6%) where 4-6 and 7-9 family size were found to be the largest ones. The findings were that the family of larger size could not sustain all of its members for the ultimate survival. This is one of the push factors to increase the child labours.

Among 50 child labourers about 10 percent and 28 percent were fatherless and motherless respectively and 90 percent and 72 percent respondent of father and mother alive. Deaths of the parents, though, functioned as the main contributing factor to make enter them into child labour market the finding of this study shows that only few of them 38 percent were parentless.

Main occupation of 72 percent of the child labourer's family was agriculture. About 16 percent of child labourer's family was wage labours, 6 percent used to work as domestic servant and 2 percent were involved in services and small business respectively by 5 percent of the child labourer.

Education is obviously an important factor in the development of a child and therefore, development of a nation. Illiteracy of the parents of children makes them enforce their offspring to work in their early age. It was found that only 14 percent of children's father and 2 percent mother were literate. Maximum of them were found to be illiterate. It can be said that the higher illiteracy rate of children the greater the chances of encouraging with child labour situations.

A large number of children were deprived of the rights to education. Out of 50 respondents 30 percent were illiterate and rest of the other 70 percent were literate. High rate of literacy does not mean that they have been provided with the chances of education but the situation was that the dropout rate was found to be very high so that they could not stand the schooling for higher education. Among 50 respondents for higher education. Among 50 respondents 42 percent of the respondents wanted to join school if chances provided whereas 28 percent of them did not want to join school and 30 percent of children never joined school.

Nearly 54 percent of the respondents left the school due to poverty. Among the death of their parents, while 22 percent become victim of their parent's negligence. And 4 percent of them discontinued going to school at their personal will. Rest of the co- percent children left school due to various reasons.

52 percent of children left their own houses due to causes of poverty. Among the respondents 20 percent left their home due to hard life in village and 14 percent of respondents left their house due to ill-treatment by their parents. About 6 percent of children left their homes due to their friends. The rest 8 percent left house due to various other reasons.

The result of this study indicates that only 12 percent of the child labourers said that their family income was sufficient enough 20 percent of respondents said that their family income was just sufficient for survival. As reported by the children 60

percent of the children's family income was not sufficient for survival and 8 percent of the children did not have any knowledge about their family earning.

Regarding the nature of child labourer's work it was found that the working condition of them were very miserable, since the researcher carried out the field survey during rainy seasons it was witnessed that the children had to work in severe chilly conditions due to the lack of warm clothes, shoes etc. They worked for long hours and they were found to use benches or straw matters to sleep in the floor. This research found that 16 percent of children were work for 10 hours, 20 percent of respondents worked for 12 hours, whereas majority of them 64 percent of children worked for more then 12 hours. This situation tells us that the children worked for tedious hours in improper working environment that exhausted them mentally and physically.

Child labourers working in hotel/ restaurant do not remain at one place for long time. They were found to shift from one working place to another more frequently. It means all the children were found working on temporary. The children were found working in the state of insecurity of job. Only 6 percent of child labourers were found to work at a place for more then 1 year. Similarly, 36 percent were found to remain for one month to 4 month, 30 percent for 5 to 8 month and 28 percent for 9 to 12 months.

The children working in hotel and restaurant were facing a lot for problems. Abuses experienced by child labours were also different. 54 percent of the children were physically tortured whereas 30 percent of them were mentally abused. The rest of the 16 percent children were no abuses experienced. By this observation it was found that working children were not in comfortable position except in getting facility of fooding and lodging.

## 6.2 Conclusion

Children are the formative stage of human life. The development of country depends upon the development of children. Children are an integral part of the nature. Without children, we can not imagine the existence of the world nor can we think of any new creation as children are the rays of hope. So health, education, residence and healthy environment are the basic needs of every child. In spite of assuring these amenities, thousands of children in Nepal are struggling only for stomach. It is said that the problem of child labour, in Nepal, is principally due to the acute state of poverty of the people particularly in the rural areas. So, most of the people of rural areas can not send their children to school, just because they cannot afford the direct and indirect cost of education for illiterate and financially weak people, the opportunity cost of educating their children is very high.

The problem of child labour is not conducive to build up a civil society and attain prosperity in future. The welfare of the children has been hindered by not implementing proper policies in this issue.

- \* Usually problems of child labour start when agriculture income is not sufficient to sustain the whole families in the rural areas. It is because; there are only limited alternative employment opportunities in rural areas. In such a situation, one of the viable opportunities is to send children in the urban labour market.
- \* Most of the child labour is of the age between 9-12
- \* Due to the food insufficiency in their homes, children leave from urban area to work as a child labour.
- \* Male child labours are the majority
- \* So called lower caste (Shah Teli) group children are more involved as a child labour.
- \* Most of the child labour in Janakpur Municipality is from Dhanusha District followed by Sarlahi and Sindhuli.

- \* Uneducated and poor families are usually found to have bigger families. Most of the children of this study were from big families.
- \* Children are forced to work to support their parents.
- \* The main occupation of parents in the study area was found to be from agriculture background (72%).
- \* Illiteracy is also a factor to contribute in the creation of child labour.
- \* Most of the children (42%) want to continue or rejoin the school if any chance is offered.
- \* Poverty was the main reason for children to quit their school.
- \* Most of the children were left their home because of poverty (52%).
- \* Lack of sufficient income of children's family is one of the factors that force children to work.
- \* The working conditions of child labour at hotels is a very bad situation. They work hard from early in the morning to late night. Most of the children (64%) were found to be working more than 12 hours a day.
- \* Most of the children (36%) work for not more than four months which indicates that their job is not permanent.
- \* Most of the child labours were found to be physically tortured (54%) in the study area.

### **6.3 Recommendation**

On the basis of the analysis and personal observation of the researcher of this study, the following strategies are recommended to be undertaken to solve the problem of child labour.

- \* **Poverty alleviation:** Child labour is highly associated to poverty. So government and non-government organization should make efforts to poverty alleviation as soon as possible.
- \* **Educational Support:** Children are needed to be provided with educational support for school expenses, especially younger working children. A compulsory school attending system is required to minimize school dropouts.



- \* **Avoid Parental Negligence:** Significant number of children have left and not joined school due to parental negligence. To raise awareness, NGO, INGOs, and Government should convey benefit of education by media.
- \* **Government Policy:** Rural and underdeveloped ethnic groups are prone to supply child labour. On one hand they are poor so they could not afford school expenses. On the other hand, after completing school education they won't get job. To tackle these problem first of all government should provide complete free education with breakfast for backward ethnic group. Secondly, if any of ethnic group has passed S.L.C. should provide either scholarship for further education or job.
- \* Government family programme should cover poor and ethnic group not only to control population growth but to minimize child labour problem as well.

## Appendix 1

United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child Summary of some of the key rights stated in the 54 articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which came into force on 2nd September 1990. AS of 20th April 1993, 134 states were parties of the Convention including Nepal. The main areas covered are survival, protection, development and participation.

- ) Children have the right to enough food, clean water and health care.
- ) Children have the right to an adequate standard of living.
- ) Children have the right to be with their family or those who will care for them best
- ) Children have the right to protection from all exploitation, physical, mental and sexual abuse.
- ) Children have the right to special protection when exposed to armed conflict.
- ) Children have the right to protected from all forms of discrimination.
- ) Children have the right to protected from work that threatens their education, health or development.
- ) Children have the right to special care and training.
- ) Children have the right to play.
- ) Children have the right to education.
- ) Children have the right to have their opinions taken into account in decisions affecting their own lives.
- ) Children have the right to know what their right is.

## Appendix 2

### The Colombo Resolution on Children

At the second SAARC Conference on Children in South Asia in Colombo in September 1992, ministers and senior government officials from South Asia recommended intermediate targets towards the goals for the year 2000. Some of these include.

- ) Access to, and enrolment in primary education for at least 80 percent of boys and 75 percent of girls; and completion of primary education by at least 50 percent of girls as well as boys by 1995.
- ) Progressive reduction of gender disparity in all goal-related indicators.
- ) Rising the minimum female age of marriage to at least 18 years.
- ) Progressive and accelerated elimination of child labour.

Strategies for achieving these goals include:

- ) Increasing resources for human development, reduction of poverty and organizing and empowering communities to meet basic needs.
- ) Assisting communities, especially of the poor, in mobilizing, empowering and activating themselves as viable groups in responding to the needs of children.
- ) Devolution of power to local level in order to establish a system of effective local self-government responsible for the community's goals for children.

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Others

*Constitution of Nepal (1990), Labours Act (1992), Children Act (1992)*.

## APPENDIX - 3

### Questionnaire for Child Labour

#### Section A: Personal Information

1. Name :
2. Age:
3. Sex:                      Male [  ]      Female [  ]
4. Caste :
5. Home/Address:
6. Where did you live before being to this place?  
House [  ]    other (specify) [  ]
7. What is the reason to leave your home?  
a) Expectation of better life      b) Too much work back home  
c) Poverty    d) Influenced by friends  
e) Maltreatment by parent      f) Other (Specify)
8. Who did bring you here?  
a) Broker    b) Parent  
c) Step-parent      d) Own self  
e) Other (Specify)
9. Duration of away from home?  
Ans: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Does your guardian come here?  
Yes [  ]              No      [  ]
11. What types of work you used to do when you were back home?  
a) Farming    b) Take care of siblings  
c) Study    d) Grazing animals  
e) Service    f) Domestic works      g) Others (Specify)

#### Section B: Family Background

1. Are your parents alive ?  
Father :              a) Alive              b) Dead              c) Don't know  
Mother :              a) Alive              b) Dead              c) Don't know

2. Parent's Education:  
 Father a) Literate      b) Illiterate      c) Don't know d) Other  
 Mother      a) Literate      b) Illiterate      c) Don't know d) Other
3. Number of siblings at your home:  
 Brother [   ]      Sister [   ]
4. Do you have stepparents?  
 Yes [   ]      No [   ]
5. What is your family's (parents) occupation?  
 a) Agriculture      b) Domestic servant  
 c) Service      d) Porter / worker  
 e) Business      f) Don't know  
 g) Other (Specify)
6. Do you family earn sufficient income for family's survival?  
 a) Sufficient      b) Insufficient  
 c) Just sufficient      d) Don't know
7. How much your parents earn monthly?  
 Rs. \_\_\_\_\_
8. How much land does family have ?  
 Ans : \_\_\_\_\_

### **Section C: Working Condition & Economic Status**

1. For how long you have been working here?  
 a) 1-4 months      b) 5-8 months  
 c) 9-12 months      d) more than 12 months
2. How many hours do you work per day?  
 a) 2-6 hours      b) 6-10 hours  
 c) 10-12 hours      d) 12 and above
3. Do you save money?  
 Yes [   ]      No. [   ]  
 If yes, how much Rs.?  
 Ans : \_\_\_\_\_

If no, why?

- a) No idea
- b) Robbed by others
- c) Loss
- d) Not enough
- e) Others

4. Do you have support your family

Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, how much Rs. Per months / year?

Ans : \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you get other facilities from your employer?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, what kind of facilities you get?

- a) For study
- b) For food
- c) For clothing
- d) Medical facilities
- e) Others

6. Are you satisfied with your parent work?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

a) If yes, why? \_\_\_\_\_

b) If no, why ? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Whom are you staying with now?

- a) Family
- b) Relatives
- c) Friends
- d) In master's house
- e) Others

8. Do your master love you or not?

Love Don't love

If not, how he treat you?

If not, how he treat you?

- a) Beating and shouting
- b) Give work load
- c) Keep hungry
- d) Maltreatment
- e) Others

9. Do you have any problems?

Yes No.



If yes, what sort of problems are you facing not in this city?

- a) Difficulties to get job      b) Difficulties of get room
- c) Risk of accident              d) Being sick
- e) Not fixed job                  f) Others

#### **Section D: Educational Status**

1. Are you literate?

Yes [  ]                      No. [  ]

A) If yes, how much have you studied?

- a) 1-3 class                      b) 4-7 class
- c) 7 and above

B) Are you going to study now?

Yes [  ]                      No. [  ]

2. If anyone wish to help you in study and give another job, at that time would you like to give up this job.

Yes [  ]      No. [  ]

If no, what is the reason?

Specify : \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Section E: Health and Nutrition**

1. Have you any diseases?

Yes [  ]                      No. [  ]

A) If yes, which disease?

- a) Related to chest                      b) Related to stomach
- c) Related to bone                      d) Related to head

B) From when you are suffering by this diseases?

- a) Before working this work
- b) After working with work

2. Do you have any suggestion for the betterment of your live?

Ans : \_\_\_\_\_