

# CHAPTER – I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Child labour has emerged as a major social problem in such of the third world countries where rapid increase in populations, economic stagnation structural adjustment policy implications, draught, war, disease have decreased the ability of families to earn a decent living. As part of family survival strategy used to cope with financial pressures, more and more children are being pushed into the labour market. In terms of the size of the population involved, child labour is probably the issue that involves the largest number of children world wide, (ILO, 1995:1).

Globally, approximately 250 million children of the age group 5-14 work for livelihood in condition of various degrees of exploitation. Among them, 120 million work full time. Regionally, 61 per cent of all child labour lies in Asia. Moreover the number of children victimized by sexual exploitation in Asia alone is almost 1 million. The problem of the child labour is re-emerging even in advanced industrial countries. Despite many laws and regulations, child labour and servitude is an alarming problem in South Asia. Over 80 million children in this region are working in the most difficult circumstances (NESAC-1998:109). In Nepal, an estimated of all children aged 5-14 years, 41.7 per cent (2.6 million) work regularly of the total working children, males and females constitute 1.16 and 1.44 million respectively (K.C. et, al, 1996). Child labour is not a new phenomenon in an agriculturally dominant country like Nepal. It is part and parcels of the feudal economy; children have played a significant role in the family subsistence: Fetching water, collecting firewood, grazing cattle, casing after children and supporting parents in the fields are the most common works that children in the rural areas perform. In addition, many children of poor families also extent support as a family bread winner working as domestic servants in the homes of village merchants. The migration of children to urban areas has been tremendously increasing these days and this has led to the increase of children labour in the urban areas. Industries like carpet, garments, confectioneries, Brick kilns and stone quarries are employing many children as they are

meek and uncomplaining, and a cheap source of labour. The ratio of household and domestic child labour in Kathmandu is 5:1. Street children: mainly beggars, rag pickers, street vendors and workers in sweet shop, restaurants and bars are also very common in the cities. The rising number of slums and squatter areas has also contributed to the growth of the child labour population (Pradhan, 1995:40). Actually, child labour is a severe violation of child rights because they deprive participation and development. Furthermore, child labour jeopardizes child's health, safety, and education as well as physical, mental, spiritual and social development. But many children, in Nepal, are forced to work in difficult and hazardous conditions to sustain their own lives and that of their families without schooling, according to a nationally representative sample survey, conducted by CDPS (1996), about 39 per cent working children are out of school.

The UN convention on the rights of the child (1989) states that children have the right 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. In fact, economic exploitation and worst forms of child labour not only endanger the life of children but also perpetuate poverty and underdevelopment. International Labour Organization (ILO) convention 182 recognizes the worst forms of child labour, in article 3 as follows:

- (a) All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- (b) The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performance.
- (c) The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.
- (d) Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children; similarly, ILO recommendation 190 has shed light on determining the types of work referred to in article 3 (d) of the convention as given below:
  - (a) work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse.
  - (b) work underground, under water at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
  - (c) work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools; or which involves the

manual handling or transport of heavy loads; (d) Work is unhealthy environment which many for example expose children to hazardous substance agents or processes, or to temperatures; noise level, or vibrations damaging to their health. (e) work under particularly difficult condition such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.

His majesty's government of Nepal (HMG/N) is committed to eliminate the worst form of child labour. It has ratified ILO worst form of child labour convention (No. 182) in September, 2001. Similarly, It has already ratified the UN convention on the right of the child 1989 in 1990 making a commitment to protect children from economic exploitation and to work for their rights to physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

As a member of SAARC, Nepal has also endorsed the Colombo resolution (1992) and Rawalpindi resolution (1996) for the progressive and accelerated elimination of worst and hazardous forms of child labour by 2010. Nepal has also ratified the ILO's minimum age convention No 138 in many 1997. Based on this convention, child labour (prohibition and regulation) Act: 2000 has been formed for the protection of child rights. IN addition, Nepal has admitted in IPEC (international programme on the elimination of child labour) time bound program supported by ILO. The time bound programme aims to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labour within a defined period of time. Other various NGO's and INGOs are also taking steps for child rights and elimination of child labour in Nepal.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Though many cultures regard children as the future architects and backbone of their country, the situation is different in Nepal, due mostly to these socio-economical conditions. Children are often neglected, abused and exploited, and exposed to the worst forms of labour such as trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and physically exerting or dangerous work. They have neither opportunity to attend school not to experience normal childhood. Furthermore, the worst forms of child labour rob children's health, their growth, their education and event their lives.

When a child is denied of the opportunity to develop her to his latent potential invariable she or he, in adult life, will not have the life skills required for decent living. Child labour today mortgages her or his future to poverty in adult life. The poverty results in the necessity of the earnings of the child for household survival and in inability to afford the opportunity cost of education. A vicious circle of generational poverty and a child labour trap is created, one perpetuating the other (ILO/IPEC, 2001:39). Suwal et.al, (1997) observed that substantial proportion of children in Nepal are being restricted from schooling because of poverty it means these children deprived of schooling are forced to go to labour market.

The caste system of Nepal is fundamentally hierarchical and hence, exclusionary. Historically, upper caste (Brahmin and Chhetir) dominates not only in relation to ritual domain but also in political power and economic privileges (Gurung 1998). Despite the legal abolition of discrimination against caste and ethnicity in 1962, caste and ethnicity continue to function as universal and salient social and cultural norms. This historical, discrimination has reflected exclusions of 'untouchables' and ethnic minority groups in the several spheres of life. The 'untouchables' lack overall education and hence fundamentally excluded from the outlook of the world. Their overall literacy rate is almost two and half times lower as compared to higher caste (Brahmin) literacy rate and their human development appears to be almost half of the high caste Brahmin, similarly, mean years of schooling is four times lower for lower caste, two and half time for Tharu and two times for hill ethnic groups as compare to high caste. The findings suggest that ethnic groups and the 'untouchables' families are typically very poor and dependent on their children's labour for survival, and can not afford to send them to school, and tend to be reserved for upper caste or upper class children (Subedi), 199:85. So, children belong to these groups have little access to education health and other basic services. Ultimately, they many be forced to engage in child labour due to their vulnerability. In fact, an analysis of child workers in some of the child labour intensive industries shows that children come to work mostly from lower classes indigenous, underprivileged castes or religious minorities. Beside this, there seem variation in child labour by gender and ecological zones.

One of the major problems related to child labour is hazardous environment. Health and safety hazards in the working places are related to the nature of the work, such as hazardous process, hazardous substances and poor working conditions (ILO-1998) chemical, physical, biological and psychological hazards are often found in the work places causing irreversible damage to children's physical development, resulting in permanent disabilities with serious consequences for their adult lives (ILO 1998, world bank, 2000:2). There are numerous children in Nepal working in industries which are simply dangerous and hazardous.

Brick kiln industry is considered as the most hazardous place especially for children. It is also the most labour intensive industries which absorb the great amount of child labour in Nepal. Children hazards like injuries due to falls and falling objects, exposure to harmful dust and noise, extreme weather condition and carrying heavy weight and load. Ultimately, they suffer respiratory diseases. (CWIN, 1991) has observed that 2500 children aged between 1 and 14 years employed in the Brick kilns of Kathmandu valley alone for various kinds of production activities, which constitutes 25 percent of the total force involved.

NGO's and INGO's generally focus their study on the problem of kiln industries of urban areas. They could not pay attention to the problems related to the child labour of rural areas especially in Rupandehi district. Increase of construction and building has demanded much material. To fulfill the high demand of constructing materials especially brick, people invest much in brick factories. They need labourers in low wage which is possible only through child labourers because it is easy to impose force upon them. So, it is easy to impose force upon them. So, it is necessary to study child labourers in brick kiln industries of Rupandehi district.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The overall objectives of the study is to draw out the hidden facts and realities of the child labours employed in Brick kiln Industries in Rupandehi, District adopting purposive sampling to provide overall qualitative as well as quantitative information related to the Brick kiln industries child labours. The specific objectives of this study are:

- To find out the demographic and socio-economic characteristic of children working in brick kiln industries of Rupandehi.
- To examine the present working condition of child labours, and
- To assess the different problems and exploitations faced by child labour,

#### **1.4 Rationale of the Study**

Child labour is a social problem in Nepal. There seems complexity to eliminate all forms of child labour due to its indivisibility with Nepalese society. Because child labour problem is entangled with the socio-economic status of the community. A comprehensive study is required in each and every sector of child labour to cope with the real situation. There has been little studies about child labour of cbrick kiln in Nepal. Child labour in brick kiln is relatively isolated from the view of development activities where as street children and domestic child labour have specially been focused at present. Working in brick kiln is hazardous to children. It is one of the worst from of child labour. Children of the most vulnerable groups in society are engaged in this form of child labour. They are mostly deprived of schooling. They have to face various hazards in the worksite.

In fact, children including adult workers come from outside of the Rupandehi district to work in brick kilns. It is necessary to trace their place of origin to get information in their family background, socio-economic status, cultural setting, social environment and individual situation in order to identifying causes of migrating. It is crucial to understand the complexity of the phenomenon for designing policy, plans and programmes. This study has attempted to give clear illustration on vulnerability of child workers in brick kilns in Rupandehi, district.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

The study focuses to children who are under 18 years age working in brick kiln factory of Rupandehi district.

- ❖ This study is completely based on purposive sampling which might contain the based results.
- ❖ The study covers only a limited portion of child labour in brick kilns of Rupandehi, district. So, the results of the study can not be generalized for national level.

Similarly, the study includes activities like kneading, molding drying or piling, loading, burning in the kiln and our activities in the brick production process. The activities which are not directly related to brick production e.g. cooking for working parents, fetching water and taking care of sibling etc. are not included in this study.

## **1.6 Operational Definition of the Term**

### **1.6.1 Child Labour**

In this study 'child' is defined from the age perspective, where as culture and social factors re important to define childhood in some societies. Hence, only the population under 18 years age are taken as child as defined by ILO convention on the worst forms of child labour, 1999. Specially, there are two dichotomous terms: child work and child labour. Child work has been existed throughout history. It is considered a potential learning experience and normal process of socialization of the child. But child labour is defined by differentiating it from child work as being exploitative by nature and determinants of child's growing process, depriving the right of the ch9ild for survival, protection, development and participation. For this study, child labour has been viewed as work done by children in the brick kiln industries of Rupandehi, district.

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

This study is organized in to seven chapters. The first chapter is concerned with introduction the study dealing with statement of the problem, objectives, rationality, scope and limitation of the study an operational definition of child labour. The relevant literature have been reviewed in second chapter for this study. The third chapter deals with the methodology used in this study. In the fourth chapter, general profile of children and their family is provided containing demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. The fifth chapter reveals the migration and seasonality of work focusing place of origin and migration pattern of child labour. The sixth chapter analyzes working condition and environments in brick kiln for children, their exploitation and perceptions towards their earning and work. Finally, the seventh chapter provides main findings summarizing the study as well as conclusion and recommendation. Some case studies are also illustrated in the appendix for comprehensive information about child labour in Brick kilns.



## **CHAPTER – II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Child labour is serious problem and challenging issues for the figure. It pinpoints the exploitative socio-economic and political structure of the country. In this chapter, the relevant literature pertaining to child labour in general and brick kiln child labour in particular have been reviewed from the theoretical as well as empirical perspectives.

#### **2.1 Theoretical Literature**

##### **2.1.1 Child, Child work and Child Labour**

Child labour exploitation is an alarming problem in Nepal. This is caused by the existing exploitative socio-economic and culture and political reality of the country. The magnitude of the problem is very high and more transparent in south Asia. Exploitation of child labour in this part of the world is so inhuman and intolerable. No sector of labour is completely free of child labour exploitation (CWIN, 1998).

Generally, there is not universal definition of child/child labour. It may depend on culture and differ from place to place even in the same culture. To Boyden (1990:30) indicates that official versions of childhood are based on the ideology that childhood is demarcated by a series of biological and psychological attributes and not social characteristics. Institute for labour studies, Philippines (1994:4) status. "The nation of 'childhood' is not a unidirectional concept. Rather it is a socio historical contract which can be linked to the economic life of a culture or society. In general, however, childhood is taken to mean a period of dependency of younger members on the older members of a family or kin group".

Children are defined as the fraction of population who are between 5-14 years of age from either sex, though the perception of childhood may vary from one culture to another or from one ethnic group to another in Nepal (Subedi, 1998:7). The minimum age convention No 138 (1973) also set working definition of "Child" as a person below the general limit of 15 years. Later on, UN convention on the rights of the child (1989)/ILO convention on the worst form of child labour No. 182 (1999) define a child as being under the age of 18. Specially, a child tends to be defined in terms of age limits which

vary with different activities. So, these seem difference of age bar even in legislated definition of child in Nepal. The Nepal Act, 1992, defines a child as a person below the age of 14 years where as the children's Act, 1992/ child labour (Regulation and prohibition) Act, 2000 broadened the age limit up to 16 years to define children.

Similarly, there are two terms: 'child work' and child labour' which may be very difficult to differentiate with each other. Even the Encyclopedia of social sciences (1979 cited in CW/CCD, 1997) has no clear demarcation between child work and child labour. It states:

"When the business of wage earning or of participation in self or family supports conflicts directly or indirectly with the business of growth and education, the result is child labor. The function of work in childhood is primarily developmental and not economic children's work then as a social good and it is the direct antithesis of child labor as a social evil".

There is always confusion in defining and differentiating child work and child labour due to the overlap. It is better first to clarify the concept and definition. There is too simple dichotomy between neutral 'child work' (To be permitted or at least tolerated) and detrimental 'child labour' to be prohibited and eradicated) (white, 1997 cited in Gurung, 1999). Schildknout defines child work as ".....any activity done by children which either contributes to production, gives adults free time, facilities the work of others, or substitutes for the employment of others' (Nieuwenhuys, 1991: Gurng, 199:22). Child work is not always restricted to be home or with out leaving home and parents child labor is cumbered as those who go auntie the household and are under any type of contact with the employees (Jahwron et.al , 1995: 44) for wage in terms of cash or kind or food and clothes only (gurus , 2000:137) the ILO/ IPEC (Vot. II, 199:1) also distinguishes child labor ' from " child work " in similar fashion. It raters to 'child work' as "a potential learning experience or apprenticeship for the child and therefore not harmful" and child labor ' as exploitative by nature. And detrimental to the child's growing process, depriving the child of the rights to survival, development protection and participation. "RWG- CL (200I:32- 33) has distinguished child labor from child work a little bit clearly. It indicates that child work is good, it develops skills, and children will

need when they grow up. On the other hand child labor damages children's physical growth and education. Child work becomes child labor when it is exploitative. It is distinguished from child work it.

- Children are too young; the hours of work are too long.
- Children are too small; the pay is too little; the work is too hard.
- Children have too much responsibility.
- The work is too dull and repetitive; the working environment. Is too dangerous; children have no choice they cannot leave work; they are not free.

Specially child labor is hard to define and many distinct definition have been used by different researcher/organization. This can be very confuting. In this context CWA/save the children UK (1997:7) has illustrated clear distinctions between child work and child labor broadly (table - 1).

**Table No. 1**

**Differences between Child Work and Child Labor**

<b>Child work</b>	<b>Child labor</b>
Work is appropriate to child's age and physical and mental capabilities	Work burdens the child too heavy for child's age and capabilities.
Supervised by responsible and caring adults.	Child works unsupervised or supervised by abusive adults.
Limited hours do not hinder the child from going to school, playing or resting.	Very long hours of work, child has limited or no time for school, play or rest.
Work place is kept safety and child friendly, does not pose hazards to health and life of the child.	Work place poses hazards to child's health and life.
Child's physical, emotional and mental well	Child is subjected to psychosocial, verbal

being nourished even in work environment.	or physical sexual abuse.
Child work voluntarily to participate in the family responsibility of maintaining the household, developing the family enterprise, augment family income, or even as main family income earner.	Child is forced by circumstances or by coercive individuals to work.
Child is justly compensated materially and psychosocially.	Limited or positive reward for the child.
Child's work is regulated by law or governed by family/community norms and values.	Child's work is excluded from legislation, social security and benefits.
Child work as vehicle for social advancement and improvement in child's quality of life.	Binds the child to poverty and misery
Child's work is utilized for purpose that is human and legal.	Child's work is utilized for exploitive, subversive or clandestine operations or disguised illegal activities.

*Source: CWA/Save the Children UK, 1997.*

### **2.1.2 The Vicious Circle of Child Labour**

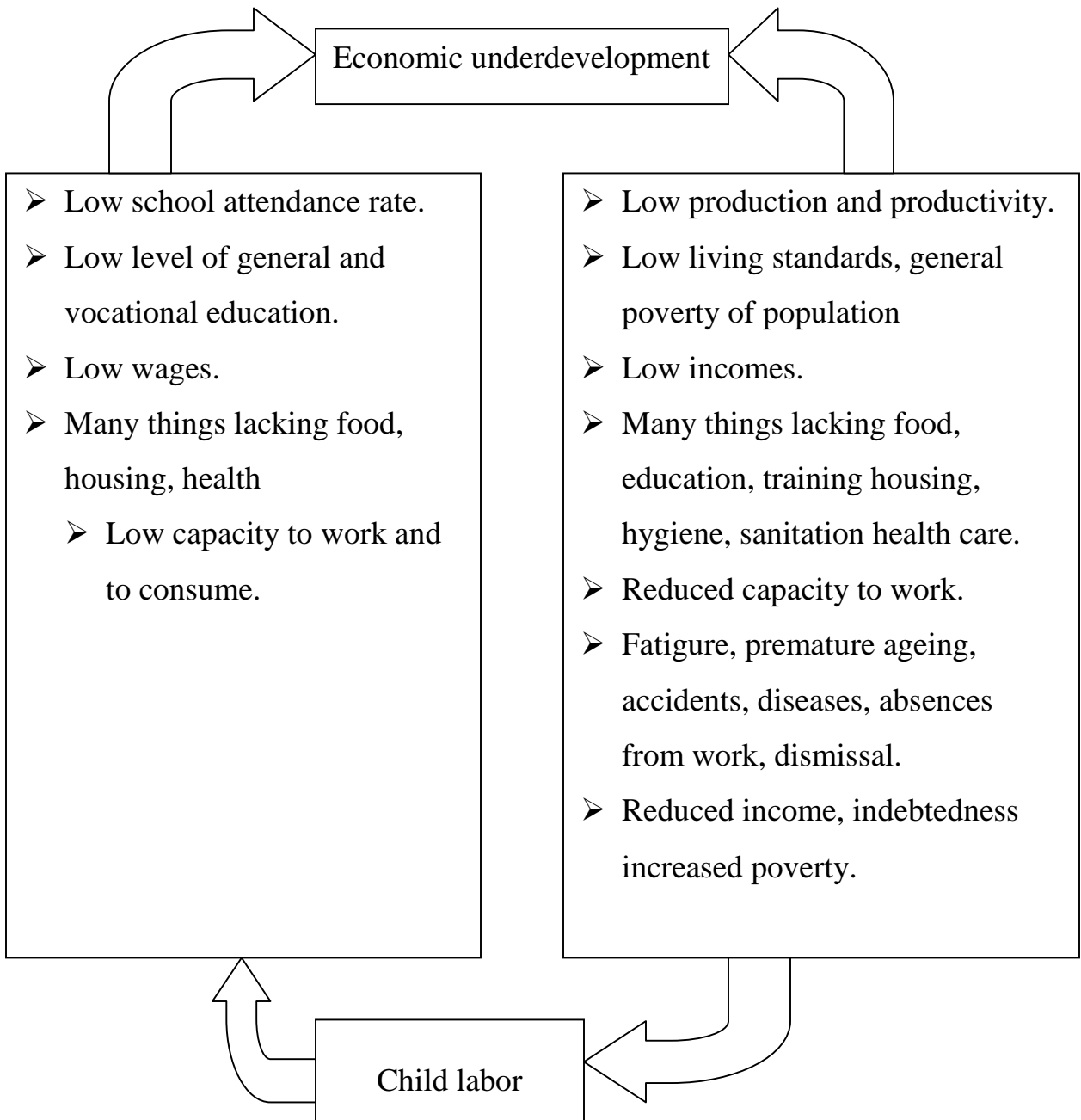
Children labour exists and child workers are increasing in many parts of the globe. There are now among the world's children a great and alarming proportion of those tied to various forms of exploitative child labours which is cause and consequence of poverty. Medalievich (1996:6) has correctly depicted the picture of various circles that exists between child labour and poverty in the society. There is in fact, a vicious circle there on the one hand, child labour increase unemployment among adults and reduces their income, on the other, the unemployment and low wages of adults forces them to put their children to work in order to boost the family income. Thus child labor.

Simultaneously increases and reduces the family income but as in clear, it reduces rather than increase that income. Mehta and Jaswal (1997j:8) also indicated that child labor deprives children of educational opportunities, minimizes their chance for vocational training, stunts their physical growth, hampers their intellectual development and by forcing them in the army of unskilled labourers or blind alley jobs, condemns them to low wages all their lives.

Child labor can be considered as one of the phenomena caused by underdevelopment and poverty and it are not the problem but a symptom of the problem of poverty and inequality (ILO, 1994). A vicious circle persists between underdevelopment and child labor (fig. 1). Child labor is a product of low living standards of the population resulting from the low level of income, illiteracy and increasing lack of means of subsistence food, shelter, and clothing and inadequate basic schooling or education system. Thus, practice of child labor is considered as a effective means of augmenting current level of income among poor families so as to enhance, by and large, their economic well being (Sewal et.al, 1997:3).

**Figure: 1**

**The Vicious Circle of Underdevelopment and Child Labour**



*Source: ILO, 1994 Cited in Suwal, 1997.*

On the other hand Marx analyses the causes of and consequences of child labor from a distinct angle. When the incidence of child labor was at a peak in factories at contemporary periods, he expressed his views. Focusing here on the theoretical ideas, it is interesting to note how Marx in *Capital* (Volume I, chapter 15, section 3) virtually outlined a formal model of the cause of child labor. He first noted how, with the rise of new technology, in particular machinery, there arose scope of employing those "whose bodily development is incomplete but whose limbs are all the stronger. The labor of women and children was, therefore, the first thing sought by the capitalist who used machinery" (Marx: 1867: 372, Houshick, 1998:20).

The availability of machinery can, in an ideal world, create more time for leisure. But Marx noted that since the machinery was used by one agent and labor by another, a diminished need for labor would tend to depress wages. So much so that (1) it may be worth while for the capitalist to use labor liberally and (2) it may be necessary for workers to have their entire family work in order to, make ends meet. Marx (1867:373) writes; "Machinery thus deprecates the man's labour power" (Ibid).

Specially, Marxist theory argues that child labor is the product of capitalism it creates. Karl Marx argues that the new technologies increase the demand for cheap, unskilled labor and that the decrease in the rate of profit leads the capitalist to increase their exploitation of labor. As profits decline wrote Marx, the capitalist buys "with the same capital a greater mass of labour power as he progressively replaces skilled workers by less skilled native labour power by immature, male by female, that of adults by that of young persons or children. Children according to Marx were the industrial reserve army (Weiner, 1994 cited in Pathak, 1998:9).

### **2.1.3 Law and Child Labour**

There are several international conventions and Nepalese. Legal provision concerned to child rights and child labor. ILO minimum age convention No. 138 (1973) obliges satisfying status to pursue a national policy designed to ensure the effective abolition of child labor and to raise progressively the minimum age for admission to employment of young person (Article I). Nepal has ratified it in May 1997. The convention says that the minimum age for entry to employment should not be less than for

completing compulsory schooling and should not be less than 15 years in normal circumstances and 13 years for light work in developing countries. The age can be initially at 14 years for normal work and 12 years for light work. It further sets a higher minimum age of 18 for hazardous work. "Which by its nature or circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardy the health, safety and morals of young person. The convention has fixed the age of 16 years instead of 18 years for hazardous work if children are fully protected against such hazards.

The UN convention on the rights of child (1989) also defines the child to be a human being below the age of 18 years, unless under the law of that particular state, majority is attained (minor status crossed) earlier. This convention was ratified by Nepal on 14 September 1990. Article 28 of this convention provides for the rights of the child to education and lays down inter alias, that primary education shall be compulsory of free and that different forms of secondary education including general and vocational education should be developed and made available to every child.

Article 32 specified that state party should be obliged to protect children from engaging in work that constitutes a threat to set minimum ages for employment and to regulate conditions of employment.

Article 34 emphasizes for the protection of child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and requires the state of party of take appropriate national bilateral and multilateral measures. Article 35 addresses the state's obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children. On the other hand, focusing the worst forms of child labour. ILO convention No. 182 emphasizes to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency for each state which ratifies this convention. Nepal ratified the ILO worst forms of child labour convention (No. 182) in September 2001. It says every person under 18 years of age is a child. The convention No. 182 also emphasizes to take into account that importance of education in elimination child labour. It further stresses each member country to take effective and time bound measures to:

- (a) Prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour.



- (b) Provide the necessary and appropriate direct assistance for the removed of children from the worst forms of child labour and for their rehabilitation and social integration.
- (c) Ensure access to free basic education and wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training for all children removed from the worst forms of child labour.
- (d) Identify and reach out to children at special risk; and
- (e) Take account of the special situation of girls.
- (f) The constitution of the kingdom of Nepal and other legal parameters also enforce to protect the interest of children and child labour. Article 20 (2) of the constitution stipulates that no child shall be employed in any factory, mine or other hazardous work. Article 26 (8) further stress that, "The state should protect children from exploitation while safe guarding their rights and interests and shall make gradual arrangement for free education.

According to these constitutional provisions, other legal instruments have been enacted for the prohibition and regulation of employment of young persons. The labour Act, 1992 and the children's Act, 1992 prohibit entirely employment of children under the age of 14 and provide various safeguards to minor workers. The labour Act, 1992 provides for employment of minors (age 14 to 18) only between 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM per day and 36 hours per week. It prohibits minors from working at night particularly 6 o'clock in the evening to 6 o'clock in the morning. These provisions have also been adopted in children's act 1992 regarding a child as a person less than 16 years of age. Following the labour Act, a minor worker between 14 to 16 years of age, a female minor worker of age between 16 to 18 years and a male minor of age between 16 to 18 must not be subjected to carry a load of over 15 kg, 20 kg and 25 kg respectively. Similarly, after adoption of child labour (prohibition and Regulation) act, 2000, the child labour provision of labour Act, 1992 and some provision of children's. Act, 1992 has been repealed and amended for upliftment of child rights. The latest child's labour (prohibition and regulation) Act, 2000 also calls for the prohibition of work for children under 15 years of age and regularization of minors under prescribed condition.

## 2.2 Empirical Literature

### 2.2.1 Causes and Consequences of Child Labour

Child labour is cause and consequence of poverty. Moreover child labour is so pervasive and its course is so deep rooted and diverse that slows down the socioeconomic status of society. It directly and adversely affects the working children themselves. Child labour actually doesn't uplift the child or their families. It doesn't support their studies and doesn't lead to a bright future.

Historically, the problem of child labour first appeared in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This was further expanded in different forms and areas in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and children were further exposed to high risk areas in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. In Germany, France, and the UK, the problem of child labour was obvious in factories. Cotton mills Glass and Match making and Brick kilns, where as in Norway and Sweden the problem existed in farming, herding and fishing. In France, welfare. Act for child labourers was introduced in 1841 and 1853. The government of Germany introduced the first law regarding the health and safety of children and trade union in Europe began to raise the issue of child labour as parts and parcel of their movement. However, the implementations of the laws were very poor (Pradhan, 1995:41).

Poverty; which is itself the product of under development, is the major factor for child labour. Children in developing countries work to survive and to contribute to the survival of their families. But economic poverty is not the only cause culturally derived attitudes and values help to sustain child labour. Child workers in Asia (2000:4) state. Studies in different parts of south Asia have pointed out to five main categories of poverty namely.

- (a) economic poverty
- (b) Geographical poverty
- (c) Social poverty
- (d) Cultural poverty
- (e) Political poverty

Actually, Asian society is generally stratified on the basis of class; caste, community, ethnicity and gender. The social division has various facts that contribute to the

perpetuation of child labour. Further more, CWA/Save the children UK (1997:8) presents the causes of child labour in following points for Asia pacific region.

- (a) Poverty is a deep rooted and major factor in the persistence of child labour in the Asia pacific Region.
- (b) The preference of many parents is for their children to acquire skills over receiving education. Many poorly education parents remain under about the long term significance and value of education gains of child work. For example, the family's dependence on girl's labour at home and in the field, denies them access to educational and other opportunities.
- (c) Family breakdowns due to a range of causes, including in some parts of the region, the effects of increasing HIV/AIDS incidence on livelihood, resulting in more and more children needing to work.
- (d) Educational opportunities remain limited, inaccessible and expensive. The low quality of education and the irrelevance of the curriculum offer no motivation for children to stay in school.
- (e) Markets demands for child labour. Children are preferred as a labour force in some industries and enterprises because they are docile, obedient, hired at cheaper rate than adults and dispensed off early. Children are unprotected, powerless and silent as for as their rights as workers are concerned.
- (f) Children are often preferred in industries that are labour intensive, such as the carpet industry.
- (g) Child labour persists because laws are not strictly enforced and political commitment is weak.
- (h) Macro economic trends at the national and international level, i.e. free market orientation and structural adjustment programmes, resulting in adult unemployment, low income and marginalization, directly influence child labour patterns in this region.

Paradhan (1995:40) states that child labour exploitation is a reflection of the socio-economic reality of the country which is also a consequence of the feudal land holding system which is still a bitter reality of many third world countries. Thus, child

labour is a cause and effect of the exploitative socio economic and political structure, the rural communities in Nepal are going through a painful period created by increasing social injustice, economic exploitation and backwardness. The growing marginalization among rural population, rural migration and urbanization, inequitable distribution of land, lack of people centered and sustainable development programme, poor access of resources to the under privileged sections of population have also contributed to and increase in the magnitude of child labour in Nepal.

Major causes of child labour in Nepal are identified due to the effect of objective poverty and financial pressure, unemployment/under employment, family disruption, lack of alternatives, inadequacy of education system in adequate enforcement of legislation, a production/deception and prevalence of public attitudes and values which tolerate and sometimes condone child labour (ILO, CW/CCD 1997) also cited the main causes of child work/labour as poverty, education, family structure, environmental change, industrialization of Nepal, low bargaining power of child labour, migration, caste system, gender, land tenure/unfair economic relations.

A study by Chhetry (1996) indicates that, in Nepal, districts with high illiteracy rate and the districts with high incidence of poverty tend to have high child labour rate. He concluded that poverty compels children to participate in the labour force. Which in turn deprive them from their right to education (Suwal, et.al, 1997:4). Specially, child migration for work creates more exploitation to them. They have no chance of schooling CW/CCD (Ibid) reveals that there is large difference in attendance of school to those children who are working inside the home and outside of their home. Among the children working outside of their home, more than 80 per cent are out of school in the countryside. In case of children working inside their households, more than two thirds of rural children are attending school. In addition most child labourers have chronic health problems. ILO (1999:6) reviewed that child labourers, especially in the carpet factories, are reported to have developed respiratory diseases, poor eyesight, ENT and gastrointestinal problem. Similarly, the children in tea estates commonly complain of fever, dizziness, headache and tuberculosis. The street children on the other hand, suffer from illness as scabies and colds, as well as headaches, diarrhea, dizziness, tuberculosis and ENT infections. Further more; child labour grows poverty and underdevelopment.

CDPS (1997:3) noted that the consequence of child labour has an adverse impact on the productive capacity of the children themselves, even when they reach adulthood. They are underpaid, which makes them unable to meet their requirements of housing and food. Thus the vicious circle between underdevelopment and child labour is self perpetuating.

### **2.2.2 Child Labour in Brick Kiln: The Worst and the Most Hazardous Sector.**

It is hard to trace the development of brick of making activities in Nepal, but it can be assumed to be a very old activity and to have evolved in the Kathmandu valley before spreading to the other parts of the country as the oldest brick monuments/temples in the country are situated in the three cities of the Kathmandu valley (CWIN, 1992:15).

Urban centre of the Terai region and some other historical towns in other parts of the country have also been using bricks for years. However, brick making in the Terai got a better technology from India. The kilns, known as bull, trench kilns have chimneys to exhaust the gaseous wastes. It is an oval shopped circular kiln and the production process in continues. Raw bricks are stacked with sufficient cavity for charging fuel and burning fuel such as coal, hood and musk or their mix charged from opening on the top otherwise covered with steel cops. The burning process and hence quality can be controlled to a large extent with much better fuel efficiency compared to vertical kilns. (MOL, ILO/IPEC, 1998:1)

At present all commercial Brick kilns in the country are either mechanized or non mechanized chimney kilns. Around 400 to 500 Brick kilns are belived to be operating in the country to which some 16 re mechanized ones. Mechanized and non-mechanized chimney kilns slowly replaced the traditional vertical kilns in commercial sector. Vertical kilns are used in non commercial sector in remote areas (Ibid).

Actually, Brick kiln industry is one of the fast growing industries with urbanization in Nepal. It is also manual labour based industry which exploits huge amount of child labour. According to CW/CCD (1997); the highest proportion of child labourers were found engaged in brick and tile making (43%) followed by match factory (24.2%) confectionery (19.5%) and carpet weaving (8%) among manual labour based industries.

## **CHAPTER – III**

### **METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**

This study is primarily exploratory and descriptive in nature. It attempts to show the socio-economic characteristics of children and major problems associated with them which enable to observe the clear picture of child labour in brick kilns. In this study, all the information's are gathered from quantitative and qualitative field study techniques. Actually, following steps and procedures have been applied to complete this study systematically.

#### **3.1 Selection of the Study Area**

Rupendehi district has been selected for this study, which constitutes two municipalities namely, Siddharthnagar and Butwal. It has extremely been urbanized in recent years. But most of the brick factories are concentrated in the rural areas. This district is multi-religious, multi-lingual, multi-ethnic and multi caste district. Where different people are involved in different sectors for their livelihood.

So, brick kiln industries are also increasing for brick production where great amount of labour force including significant proportion of child labour is engaged in brick making activities. It is the most hazardons work specially for children and exploits their childhood. Thus Rupendehi district is specially chosen as the research site to observe the prevalence and situation of child labourers in brick kiln industries. In addition, time and economic constraints are responsible for selecting Rupandehi district for study area. Which is easily accessible and not too much expensive to conduct field work.

#### **3.2 Population and Sample Size**

Brick kiln industries have been growing in Rupandehi district. It is not very clear, how many children are working in the brick kiln industries in Nepal and in the Rupandehi district particular. Similarly, there seems the lack of accurate population of children aged under 18 years working in brick kilns of Rupandehi district. For the purpose of the study 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 100 child workers are included in this study as the target population. Out of 7 industries surveyed, 5 were from rural areas (different VDCs) and 2 from urban area (Siddharthnagar Municipality) in Rupandehi district.

The sample frame for child labourers selected in this study has been formed purposively as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2:****No. of Child Labourers Selected in Brick Kiln Industries in Rupandehi, 2006**

Name of the Factory	Total no. of labourers	No. of child labourers				Total	Sample population				
		Boys		Girls			Boys		Girls		Total
		No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%	
Kamana Brick Factory, Murgiya, Paroha VDC.	430	30	20.8	20	24.1	50	15	27.8	10	21.7	25
New Manakamana Brick Factory Ranibagiya, Paroha, VDC	375	22	15.3	15	18.1	37	8	14.8	7	15.2	15
Sona Brick Industry Pakalbhedha, Dudharachha VDC.	250	16	11.1	12	14.5	28	5	9.5	5	10.9	10
Kisan Brick Industry Manmateriya, VDC.	230	18	12.5	8	9.6	26	5	9.3	5	10.9	10
Acharya Brick Factory (ABC), Semlar VDC.	300	23	16.00	9	10.8	32	8	14.8	7	15.7	15
Mahesh Brich Factory Siddharthnagar Municipality	350	20	13.9	12	14.5	32	8	14.8	7	15.2	15
Siddharthnagar Brick and Tile Factory Siddharthnagar Municipality	450	15	10.4	7	8.4	22	5	9.3	5	10.9	10
Total	2405	144	100.0	83	100.0	227	54	100.0	46	100.0	100

Source: Field Survey, 2006



In the seven brick kilns surveyed in Rupandehi district, 5 to 12 percent child labourers involve in each factory. There were a total number of 2,405 workers, on an average of 344 persons per factory. Out of 2405 workers 227 (9.4%) were child workers under 18 years of age. Among 227 child workers 144 (63.4%) were boys and 83 (36.6%) were girls. A total of 100 (44.1% of 227) child workers working in the 7 brick kiln industries of Rupandehi were interviewed. Among the 100 children interviewed, 25 from Kamana brick factory, 15 samples child workers are taken each from New Manakamana Brick factory, Acharya Brick Factory and Mahesh Brick Factory. And 10 samples are taken each factory from Sona Brick factory, Kisan Brick Industry and Siddharthnagar brick and Tile factory in Rupandehi district.

### **3.3 Nature and Sources of Data**

Both qualitative and quantitative data has been collected and used in the present study. The data was collected using both primary and secondary sources.

#### **3.3.1 Primary sources**

Specially, this study is based on primary sources of data. Primarily, quantitative data has been gathered by administering structured interview schedule and qualitative data specially case studies of working children in brick kilns have been used to support the quantitative data. In addition, some key information's (middleman, adult workers and brick kiln manager/supervisor) are interviewed by using semi structured questionnaire. Some selected case studies have been taken for child workers.

#### **3.3.2 Secondary Sources**

The secondary data was collected from various published and unpublished information sources which were collected by visiting different libraries, information and documentation centers of governmental and non governmental organizations. Among the major places visited include, Rupandehi Ita Babashahi Sangh, VDC offices. Tribhuvan University Central Library, Centre Department of Population Studies, international Labour Organization and books of different authors, journals research reports, newspapers, magazines and other reliable sources were also reviewed.

### **3.4 Data Collection**

Primarily, data have been collected using structured questionnaire schedule (Appendix - II) in this study. The questionnaire schedule has been designed to obtain socio-economic as well as demographic background of the working children, their caste/ethnicity and working environment. Similarly, a semi-structured questionnaire schedule (appendix - III) is prepared for interview with some key informants to observe their knowledge child labour and child rights. In addition, a few selected case studies have been prepared to collect qualitative information in which past and present situation of child workers and their future plans have been observed by interviewing individually with them.

### **3.5 Data Analysis**

In this study the analysis of collected information (data) from both qualitative and quantitative method is made through the particular rules. The quantitative data obtained from pre-coded structured questionnaires are first processed through editing and responses of open ended questions have been edited through specific coding keeping them on relevant categories. After this the processed data have been presented in tabular form and interpreted and analyzed. The population structure, ethnicity/caste composition, age and sex composition of the child labourers size of the family and income have been applied for interpretation and analysis of data.

## CHAPTER IV

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTIC OF BRICK KILN CHILD LABOURERS

This chapter deals with the background characteristics of the brick kiln child labourers of Rupandehi district. The analysis included age and sex composition, caste ethnic composition, educational status of schooling and drop out of child workers as well as their family background including family size parental status, poverty and indebtedness of their family.

#### 4.1. Age and Sex Composition of Child Labourers

Those brick kiln child labourers who are under the age of 18 are selected for this study. Children (less than 15 years of age) or minor (15-17 years of age) are engaged in greater extent. The proportion of children involved in brick kiln industries varied with age and sex of the children.

**Table 3:**

**Distribution of Child labourers in Brick kilns of Rupandehi District by Age and Sex, 2006**

Age group	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No,	%	
< 10 years	7	13	4	8.7	11
10-14 years	19	35.2	17	37	36
15-17 years	28	51.9	25	54.3	53
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

This survey is the summary of 100 brick kiln child labourers of Rupandehi district. Of them the age group 15-17 constituted the highest percent (53%), and the age group less than 10 have lowest percent (11%) of brick kiln child labourers. The proportion of boys brick kiln child labourers is higher (54) than girls (46).

**Box 1: Small Kids Mould Bricks with their Parent**

Tetari Harijan, aged 9 years from Bangai VDC, Rupandehi is working for brick moulding with her brother and sister –in- law at ABC Brick factory at Semlar, Rupandehi. Though she was enrolled in Somaithan Primary School, Bangai, she came to work in brick kiln accompanying with her Daju, Bhauju. Her brother said that she works as she wants to work instead of playing. She seems to be engaged in brick moulding with her soft hands. In the question, "do you have no preference for study?" Tetari states for performing study. Unless she study teacher will slap to her, she talks.

**4.2 Caste/Ethnic Composition of Child Labourers**

The prevalence of child labour in the brick kilns varies greatly by caste/ethnicity. Surveyed have been found to be engaged. Table 4 shows that child labourers came from different caste/ethnic group and have been doing the same types of job in every brick kiln industries.

**Table 4:**  
**Caste/ Ethnicity Variation of Child Labourers in Brick kilns of Rupandehi by Age and Sex, 2006**

Caste/ethnicity of child labour	Age		Sex		Total
	≤14	15-17	Boys	Girls	
Brahmi/Chhetri	5	7	8	4	12
Dalits	5	1	4	2	6
Tharu/Machhiyar	9	15	16	8	24
Harijan/Quary	5	5	5	5	10
Lodh/Muraw	8	12	11	9	20
Others (Rachi/Bihari)	15	13	20	18	28
Total	47	53	54	46	100

*Note: 1 Dalits includes Kami, Damai and Sarki.*

*Sources: Field Survey, 2006*

As revealed by different studies, the prevalence of child labour in brick kilns varies greatly by caste/ethnicity. Most of the children working in these factories surveyed have been found belonging Harijan/Quary (10%) Lodha/Muraw (20%) Brahmin/Chherti (12%) and the other caste/ethnic group Rachian/Bihari from Indian district constitutes highest proportion of child labour (28%) as shown in Table 4.

### **4.3 Literacy and Educational Status of Child Labourers**

Education is one of the important child rights. It plays tremendous role in the physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual development of an individual. Though ILO Minimum Age Convention (1973) specified that the minimum age for admission to

employment shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, shall not be less than 15 years. Most of the Nepalese children involve even in hazardous sector depriving of the ray of education and dropping out of schooling. Hence, this has tried to find out the educational status of child workers in brick kiln industry.

**Table 5:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers by Education and Sex**

Educational status	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Literate	37	68.5	16	34.8	53	53
Illiterate	17	31.5	30	65.2	47	47
Total	54	100	46	100	100	100
Level completed						
Less than 5 class	30	71.4	12	28.6	42	100.0
5 class and more	7	63.6	4	36.4	11	100.0
Total	37	68.5	16	34.8	53	53.0
Currently attending	12	70.6	5	29.4	17	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

Table 5 shows that majority (53%) of brick kiln child laboureres are literate. Compared to girls (34.8%) higher percent of boys (68.5%) are literate those who are literate, the highest percent (42) have completed less than 5 class, followed by those who completed 5 class and more level of education (20.8%). Out of 100 children interviewed, only 17 children are currently attending school and at morning and evening time they work in brick kilns.

**Box 2: Schooling and work in brick kiln phoolmani Tharu (Girls), 25, Kamana Brick factory. Paroha Rupandhi**

She works with her parents currying raw bricks field to kiln. Every day early in the morning at 4 am comes to work and go back at 8 am because she studies in class 7. she says that she goes to school at day time. Sometimes she comes to work evening also. She earns about NRs 100 for her 4- hour per day, about two thousand to three thousand rupees in a month. Phoolmani certainly support her family expenditure as well as own educational expenses.

A great number of Nepalese children don't have access to educational facilities. Although primary level of education is free in Nepal, other types of expenditure associated with schooling such as, uniform, school supplies etc were beyond the reach of poor families.

The major problem that the children were not able to continue their school. Besides was the financial master follow by their parents. They have little land to produce food for themselves around the year. Their parents had not continues income sources for children working in Brick kilns of Rupandehi district surveyed, major reasons for never attending school and dropped out has been revealed in table 6.

**Table 6:**  
**Distribution of Child Labourers by Reasons for not Going to School or Dropping out from School by Sex**

Reasons	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Low economic status	15	35.7	5	12.2	20	20
Due to work	7	16.7	16	39.0	23	23
Parents did not sand	9	21.4	5	12.2	14	14
School far away	4	9.5	1	2.4	5	5
Not interested	5	11.9	6	14.6	16	16
Other	2	4.8	13	19.5	22	22
Total	42	100	41	100	83	100

*Note: Other reasons include punishment by teacher, marriage, arrival of parent for work, etc.*

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

Table no 6 shows that, for girls children, household work is reported as the main obstacle in non-schooling/dropping out of school where as most of the boys children 15 (35.7%) working in Brick kilns reported low economic status of family as the main reasons of non-schooling/dropping out school.

About one fourth(23%) of children working in Brick kilns surveyed have deprived of schooling because of household work followed by financial reasons (20%) not interest for schooling 16% , other reasons 22%.



## 4.5 Family Size

Generally, demographic and socio-economic status of family plays a vital role in the process of socialization and overall development of children. They should be engaged in labour force of schooling is determined by family size of children. Table 7. indicates that the majority of children working in Brick kilns come from large family size having 5-8 family members and more.

**Table 7:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers According to Family Size by Sex**

Characteristics	Sex				
	Boys		Girls		Total
Family size	No.	%	No.	%	No. (%)
4 or less	10	18.5%	6	13.0%	16
5-8	30	55.5%	28	60.9%	58
More than 8	14	26.0%	12	26.1%	26
Total	54	100.0	46	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006,*

Highest percent of respondents 58% belong to families with 5-8 members, followed by 26% respondents with more than 8 members is the family.

### **Box: 3 Parents deserted**

Keshav Chhetri, 12 years old, from Palpa is working in Sona Brick Factory, Pakalbhedha Rupandehi with his friends. He was deserted by his parents due to unavoidable death. He doesn't know when his parent died. His family have 5 members as poor that their own farming does not carry on to the family comes in Brick kilns seasonally for carrying bricks from field to kiln.

## 4.6 Parental Status

Similarly, among the children interviewed, majority of children (65%) have both parents alive. The significant proportion of children (8%) reported to have both died and only mother alive. Step parents (7%) only father alive (10%) only mother alive (9%). Both died (8%) and either mother or father deserted (1%). Therefore most of the child labourers are both father and mother alive.

**Table 8:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers by Parental Status and Sex**

Parental status	Boys		Girls		Total %
	No.	%	No.	%	
Both alive	37	68.5	28	60.8	65
Both died	5	9.2	3	6.5	8
Only father alive	6	11.1	4	8.7	10
Only mother alive	4	7.4	5	10.9	9
Step parents	2	3.7	5	10.9	7
Either mother or father deserted	-	-	1	2.2	1
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

## 4.7 Poverty and Indebtedness

Specially, cultivable land is the major source of income in the rural areas but the majority of people possess too small plats of land for cultivation. In a agrarian economy, it is reflected the economic, political and social status of people whether they own productive assets such as land for cultivation, buildings, livestock, houses, stores of food

and other products or not, children are also forced to engage, into different sectors of labour market to escape from indebtedness as well as for their own survival. Children working in bricks kilns of Rupandehi district. The large percentage of child workers reported to have their own house and form land in the village at their organ. However, almost 9 percent child workers are from agricultural landless families.

**Table 9:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers According to Ownership of House, Cultivable Land Indebtedness and Main Source of Surviving of their Family by Sex**

Status		Boys		Girls		Total %
		No	%	No	%	
Having own house	Yes	52	96.3	43	9.3	95
	No	2	3.7	3	6.5	5
Total		54	100.0	46	100.0	100
Having own Farm land	Yes	49	90.7	42	91.3	91
	No	5	9.3	4	8.7	9
Total		54	100.0	46	100.0	100
Indebtedness	Yes	38	70.4	25	54.3	63
	No	8	14.8	6	13.0	14
	Don't	8				
	Known	8	14.8	15	32.6	23
Total		54	100.0	46	100.0	100
Main source of surviving						
Own farming		32	59.3	29	63	61
Wage employment in agriculture		5	9.3	4	8.7	9
Wage employment in non agriculture		17	31.5	13	28.3	30
Total		54	100.0	46	100.0	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

Table 9 shows that more boy children are reported to be engaged in brick kiln industries coming from landless and indebted families compared to girls. The figure indicates that 5 (9.3%) and 38 (70.3%) among boy child workers reported their family being landless and indebted. The corresponding figure for girls children are 4 (8.7%) and 25 (54.3%) respectively.

Generally, there is variation of child labour on Brick kilns according to their family's main source of surviving (main economic activity by sex). In forms of gender, more girls children 29 (63%) have been reported to be engaged in Brick kilns having own family farming as the main source of surviving for their family with contrast 59.3% for boy children. But who have wage employment in agriculture and non-agriculture as the

main source of surviving for their family, boy children exceed to girl child workers. Out of 100 children interviewed, majority of children 61% reported their family being engulfed by Indebtedness. Only 14% children reported their family having not been indebted condition.

**Box 4 Landlessness, Contributing Factor**

Manoj Uraw, 14 years old from Rachi, India. Works in Brick kiln at Acharya Brick Factory, Semlar. His family have not own farm land, so his large family having 10 members has to strive food deficiency. Taking suggestion of his parents, Manoj came have with a mistri (middle man). His father works to build house in his village area. Due to poverty, he did not get any chance for schooling.

Dhan Bhadur Mahat, 16 years works in Mahesh Brick Factory. His family have 8 members having own house but not own farm land. His family is engaged in farming for landlord. (Adhiya) only half of the production belongs to them.

**4.8 Conclusions**

Basically, child labour in Brick kilns is an alarming issues for development agenda. It under mines child rights and their potentialities. The survey study reveals that nearly half of the children engaged in such as hazardous work are under 15 years. Almost of all children are deprived of their schooling. There seems also a marked variation in child labour by caste/ethnicity usually, the caste/ethnic groups like Harigan/query Dalit are prone to sent their children in Brick kilns for earning. In fact, household poverty and indebtedness are recorded as a catalyst for engaging in such a worst form of child labour. So, step towards minimizing social discrimination as well as uplifting the poverty ridden society.

## **CHAPTER - V**

### **PLACE OF ORIGIN AND MIGRATION**

Brick kiln industry is one of the most child labours demanding sector. And most of the brick kiln industries are also rural areas of Rupandehi district. According to Rupandehi Ita Byahasihi shangh, Siddharthnagar out of 32 Brick factories 30 Brick kilns are in rural areas in Rupandehi district. These factories demand boys labour more than girls labour. This chapter deals with migration of child workers and seasonally of work. It provides general description about migration status, place of origin, migration pattern including nature, medium and reasons of migration as well as duration of engagement in a season.

#### **5.1 Migration of Child Labourers**

##### **5.1.1 Status of Migration**

Generally, rural poverty contributes to migration of children where they get work. Due to lack of work in there rural areas during slack agricultural season in the winter, low wage rate, and lack of income from non – agricultural sources/economic opportunity, a large number of workers including children are faced to migrate seasonally for earning in those places where they get works. Child labour in Brick industries has a direct correlation with child migration from rural areas which is the major source of child labour/work.

Most of the workers including children are migrated seasonally from outside. Almost all of them go back to home, when Brick kilns are closed down in rainy season. Majority of children are working in brick kilns of Rupandehi coming with their parents.

**Table 10:**  
**Distribution of Child Workers in Brick kilns of Rupandehi District Migration**  
**Status by Age and Sex**

Migration Status	Age		Sex		Total %
	≤14	15-17	Boys	Girls	
Migrant	38 (80.9%)	40 (75.5%)	39 (72.2%)	39 (84.8%)	78%
Non-Migrant (local)	9 (19.1%)	13 (24.5%)	15 (27.8%)	7 (15.2%)	22%
Total	47 (100.0%)	53 (100.0%)	54 (100.0%)	46 (100.0%)	100.0%

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

Table 10, clearly indicates that boys and girls each (39) have migrated to work in Brick kilns of Rupandehi district. Among 100 children surveyed. When as the comparable figures for non-migrant child labourers remained boys 15 (27.8%) and girls 7 (15.2%) respectively. Actually child migration in brick kilns of Rupandehi district seems quit high.

Among the children up to 14 years of age 38 (80.9%) as non-migrant child workers. The comparable figures for minor workers are 40 (25.5%) and 13 (24.5%) respectively.

**Box 5: Seasonal Migration Due to Poverty**

Karni Uraw female 35 year, New kamana Brick factory, Rachi India.

She is working in brick kilns seasonally since last 7 years her husband and their 3 kilns work brick moulding. Daughter Parbati aged 14 years, other kids sita and Ramesh aged 12 and 10 respectively did not go to school at all. The adult worker Karni states. "There is lack of sufficient food for sustaining life throughout the year in the village. So, we came there per year for rearing children".

### 5.1.2 Place of Organ of Child Labourers

Child labourers in the Brick kilns of Rupandehi district are found to be originated from diverse districts. Among the 100 children interviewed, it is observed that majority of child workers re from. Terai districts liked Rautahat (11%) Sarlahi (5%) Mahottari (8%) Dang (8%) where agricultural production is low. Even the hilly districts such as Palpa, Gulmi and Arghakhachi are also recognized as child labour sending area for Brick kilns in Rupandehi district. In addition, a huge amount of Indian children originated from Rachi and Bihar (28%) are working in Brick kilns surveyed for Rupandehi. Table – 11

**Table 11:**

**Distribution of Child Workers by Districts of Their Origin, 2006**

<b>Districts</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Hill districts	3	3	6
Dang	5	3	8
Sarlahi	2	3	5
Mohottari	4	4	8
Dhanusa	1	5	6
Rautahat	5	6	11
Nawalparasi	1	1	2
Kapilbastu	2	2	4
Rupanedhi (local)	15	7	22
Others (Bihar/Rachi)	16	12	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Hill districts include Palpa, Gulmi and Argha Khanchi and others include Indian child labourers specially from Bihar and Rachi

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

### 5.1.3 Medium of Migration

Primarily, huge mass of seasonal migrants outside of the Rupandehi district are engaged in Brick kilns. Even, Indian workers including children originating from Rachi and Bihar come to work in brick kilns of Rupandehi district. In one way or other, they are transferred by Broker (middle man), stated Naike in Nepali and mistral for Indian worker from poor rural areas. The middle man (Naike/mistri) are the key person taking workers including children from their home in brick kilns of Rupandehi. They attract the children as well as their families for working in Brick kilns of Rupandehi district giving some money as an advance provided by employ they get a monthly wage from the brick kiln owner as well as commission from the workers who are under their supervision.

As indicated by key informants (middles and adult worker) children, who directly come in contact with middlemen, leave home together. Children who are influenced by friends, older brother/sister and other relatives come with them. Due to the chronic household poverty, parents come to work in brick kilns and their children are accompanied by them. The table 12 shows the medium of child labourers migration.

**Table 12:**

**Distribution of Child Workers According to their Medium of Migration (Ways for Joining Brick kilns) by Age and Sex, 2006**

Migrant child coming with	Age		Sex		Total
	≤14	15-17	Boys	Girls	
Middleman	14 (47.4)	16 (40)	16 (41)	15 (38.5)	31 (39.7)
Parents	28 (47.4)	11(17.5)	14 (35.9)	15 (38.5)	29 (37.2)
Relatives	2 (5.3)	6 (15)	4 (10.3)	4 (10.3)	8 (10.3)
Friends	3 (7.9)	7 (17.5)	5 (12.8)	5 (12.8)	10 (12.8)
Total	38 (100.0)	40 (100.0)	39 (100.0)	39 (100.0)	78 (100.0)

Note: Middlemen include Broker/Naike. Parents includes brother/sister, father/mother.

Figurer in parenthesis refers to percentage.

Source: Field Survey, 2006.



#### **5.1.4 Reasons for Leaving Home**

Generally, parents and family are responsible to provide the basic needs of children such as food, shelter, clothing, schooling and affection. When children are deprived of these 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 labour. In this regard, a major attempt has been made to find out the major reasons which forced children for leaving home and joining brick kilns of Rupandehi district. As indicated in Table 13 poverty/no food at home is the most prevalent reason for leaving home of children and joining these industries. Among the migrant child workers up to 14 years, 11 (29%) reported poverty/no food at home as the reason for leaving home. While significant proportion of children, 18 (47.4%) stated to be accompanied by their parents. Among the minor workers, on the other side, 13 (32.5%) revealed poverty/ no food at home as the reason for leaving home; 11 (27.5) of them pointed out arrival of parents for working in brick kilns as the reason for leaving home. It is evident that children up to 14 years of age compared to minor workers are more likely to be accompanied with their parents. A significant proportion of minor workers 3 (7.9%) reported abusive behaviour of step parents (Appendix – I case - 3) as the reason for leaving home.

In terms of gender, 14 (36%) among boys child. Labourers stated that poverty is the major cause for leaving home and engaging. Brick kilns of Rupandehi. The comparable figure for girls children seems 10 (25.6%). The succeeding reasons for leaving home of child workers are arrival of parents for working in brick kilns and other reasons like interest to visiting Sahar. (Siddharathnagar Nagarpalika Bhairahawa): Further more; a significant proportion of girl children are bound to leave home for working in brick kilns due to abusive behaviour of step parents 5 (12.8%) and death of bread owner 2 (5.1%)

**Table 13:****Distribution of Child Workers According to Reasons for Leaving Home and Joining to Brick kilns of Rupandehi District by Age and Sex, 2006**

Reasons	Age		Sex		Total
	≤14	15-17	Boys	Girls	
Poverty/ No food	11 (29)	13 (32.5)	14 (35.9)	10 (25.6)	24 (30.8)
Abusive behaviour of step parents	3 (7.9)	4 (10)	2 (5.1)	5 (12.8)	7 (9.0)
Death of bread winner	- (-)	2 (5)	- (-)	2 (5.1)	2 (2.6)
Arrival of parents	18 (47.9)	11 (27.5)	14 (35.9)	15 (38.5)	29 (37.2)
Others	6 (15.8)	10 (25)	9 (23.1)	7 (18.0)	16 (20.5)
Total	38 (100.0)	40 (100.0)	39 (100.0)	39 (100.0)	78 (100.0)

*Note: Other includes, looking for work, arrival with leader etc.*

*Figures in parenthesis refer to percentage.*

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

Similarly, some key informants (Adult workers pointed out that lack of food at home; no opportunity for schooling, maltreatment of step parents, influence of peer groups (Friends), are the major factors for leaving home by children. They also opinion that several girls including minor girls children elope with the boys of own origin place or other area from work site. In addition, they are victim of sexual harassment

## 5.2 Migration and Seasonality

### 5.2.1 Nature of Migration

Generally children working in Brick kilns of Rupandehi come from agriculture based rural family. Most of them leave home seasonally for earning. They come to work at Brick kilns since October/November and come back to home in May/June while these brick kiln factories are to be closed down in rainy season. The table 14 explicitly depicts that (71) children are seasonal migrants, while only. (7) Child workers reported to be migrant as semi permanent among the total 100 children interviewed. Those children identified as semi permanent migrant work in Brick kilns living temporarily since 2 years and more in this district. It is also evident that the proportion of boy children is higher compared to girl child workers for both seasonal and semi – permanent migrant.

**Table 14:**

**Distribution of Child Workers in Brick kilns of Rupandehi District According to their Nature of Migration by Age and Sex, 2006**

<b>Characteristics sex/ age</b>	<b>Seasonal</b>	<b>Semi permanent</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
Boys	34 (63.0)	5 (9.3)	15 (27.8)	54 (100.0)
Girls	37 (80.4)	2 (4.4)	7 (15.2)	46 (100.0)
Age group				
≤14	35 (74.5)	3 (6.4)	9 (19.1)	47 (100.0)
15-17	36 (68.0)	4 (7.5)	13 (24.5)	53 (100.0)
Total	71 (71.0)	7 (7.0)	22 (100.0)	100 (100.0)

*Note: Figures in parenthesis refer to percentage.*

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

### 5.2.2 Duration of Engagement in a Season

When, Brick kilns start to come into existence after clearing up rice fields on November/December, numerous labourers including children are transferred for working in these factories. Usually, child workers are migrants outside of this district. Specially, the middlemen (Mistri/Naike) provides some money as an advance to people including children before coming in Brick kilns per year. Then, they are forced to engage in these industries in off form season. Some workers leave for home before closing down the brick kiln factories to involve in farming and others work in Brick kilns for whole season. This is a painful case stated by key informants (Middlemen/adult workers) and children themselves that this trend persists each year for poor families. In the survey study, a question "How many months do you work here in a years"? Was raised towards child labourers. The response in collected as given in Table 15.

**Table 15:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers According to Duration of Engagement in a Season by Age and Sex, 2006**

Characteristics	Duration of engagement		
	< 6 months	6-9 months	Total
Age/Sex			
≤14	21 (44.7)	26 (55.3)	47 (100.0)
15-17	30 (56.6)	23 (43.4)	53 (100.0)
Sex			
Boys	22 (40.7)	32 (65.3)	54 (100.0)
Girls	29 (63.0)	17 (34.7)	46 (100.0)
Total	51 (51.0)	49 (49.0)	100 (100.0)

*Note: Figures in parenthesis refer to percentage*

*Source; Field Survey, 2006*

The table – 15 pinpoints those 21 (41.2%) children among child workers up to 14 years of age reported to be engaged in brick kilns for less than 6 months in a season. The comparable figure for minor workers seems 30 (58.8%). Furthermore, a significant proportion of children up to 14 years of age 26 (44.2%) and minor workers (55.9%) work in brick kilns for 6 to 9 months. In terms of sex, more girls compared to boys pointed to be engaged in brick kiln factory for less than 6 months whereas the opposite trends seem for children who work for 6-9 months i.e. more boys compared to girls reported to be engaged in the establishments for 6 -9 months in a season. In total 51 and 49 children are reported to be engaged in brick kilns for less than 6 months and 6-9 months respectively.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

At Rupandehi district the children work in brick kiln industries coming from outside of this district. In fact, the middlemen (Mistri/Naike) plays vital role for recruiting children and other workers in Brick kilns. Providing some money as well as an advance to guardian and children themselves, they motivate to engage in brick kilns. In addition, children are accompanied with their parents due to migration of parents. Specially, children working in this field are reported mainly originated from Rautabhat, Mahottari, Dang Hill districts and others Rachi/Bihar of India. Almost all of them are seasonal migrants. That extreme poverty and indebtedness enforce to children for leaving home and joining to brick kilns of Rupandehi district.

# **CHAPTER - VI**

## **WORKING CONDITION, EXPLOITATION AND PERCEPTION OF CHILD WORKERS**

### **Introduction**

This chapter is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the working conditions and environment of child worker in brick kilns industry. The analysis mainly focuses working hours, types of work, earning status and controlling over their income. The second part deals with the information about living condition and health of children dealing with housing and basic amenities, food intake, illness and accidents/injuries and recreation for child workers in brick kiln industry. The third part deals with the perception and aspiration of child labourers on their earning and current work preference to study as well as aspects of harassment in brick kiln industry.

### **6.1 Working Condition and Environment of Child Labourers in Brick Kilns**

#### **6.1.1 Working Hours**

According to child labour (Prohibition and regulation) act 2000, Nepal, the working hours for children are limited to 6 hours for a day and 36 hours a week but this provision is not applicable for children and minor workers in brick kiln because they cannot get minimum livelihood due to piece rate system in wage if they work less than 6 hours a day. Specially most of the children engaged in brick kiln work for long hours per day. Some minor workers and adult workers involved in brick moulding stated that they wake up early as 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning to dig and knead mud sufficient for the day. Then they continue working till 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening.

**Table 16:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers According to Average Working Hours by Sex**

Average working hours	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
< 8 years	16	29.6	10	21.7	26
8-10 years	30	55.6	30	65.2	60
>10 years	8	14.8	6	13.0	14
Total	54	100	46	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

Above table shows that majority of child workers (60%) among 100 children surveyed in Brick kilns work 8-10 hours per day. A significant proportion of children 14 are reported having more than 10 working hours per day and 26% child workers revealed that their average working hours is less than 8 hours per day.

**6.1.2 Type of work**

Especially, the brick kiln industries uses large mass of labour force including child labour. There are different types of work in the process of brick production. The first is brick mudding which covers the most strenuous work including digging up and kneading the clay, moulding bricks by hand with the mould and sun drying the bricks. The second types of work is transportation of brick from field to kiln (raw bricks) and kiln to outward backed bricks. Labourers including children carry raw bricks from field to kiln to their heads with the help of a flack called in Nepali whereas workers specially Indians involving children carry the baked bricks from kiln to out outward putting on their head. The other work comprises of sacking bricks on the kiln and throwing away to rained raw bricks from the kiln. Children are involved on these all types of work.

**Table 17:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers Types of Work in Brick kilns and Sex**

Types of work	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Brick moulding Carring bricks	16	29.6	14	30.4	30
Field to kiln	12	22.2	24	52.2	26
Kiln to pile	18	33.3	5	10.9	23
Other	8	14.8	3	6.5	11
Total	54	100.0	46	100.	100

*Note: Other work includes stacking bricks on the kiln and throwing away to ruined brick from kiln. And load and unload bricks in Trock/Tactors to customer*

*Source: Field Survey, 2006*

Children are involved on these all types of works. The survey study indicates that must of the children are involved in carrying raw bricks from field to kiln followed by brick molding. For currying bricks from field to kiln they use cycles and donkey's by boys. And girl's child laboures use flack then 15 to 30 risks on their head.

Table 17 shows that it is also observed that more boys 16 are engaged in brick molding compared to Girl children (14). Although majority of children involved in carrying backed bricks from kiln to pile are boys 18 (33.3%) compared to girl children 5 (10.9). Generally, 2 boy children against of one grils children have been found to be involved on other types of work like stacking bricks in kiln and throwing away to rained bricks from the kilns. On the other hand more girl children 24 (52.2%) compared to boy 12 (22.2%) are involved in Brick kilns for carrying bricks from field to kiln.



### 6.1.3 Earning Status

Children are the cheap sources of labour and they are commuted 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. They are not paid monthly only certain amount of money is given to propend for their fooding per week. Actually, working in Brick kilns is very strenuous for children. They have very low earning status.

**Table 18:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers According Average Earning per Month by Sex**

Average earning (NRS) per month	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
< 1000	10	18.5	4	87	14
1000-2000	14	26	17	37	31
> 2000	30	55.5	25	54.3	55
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

Table 18 shows that majority of child labourers 59 among 100 have earn more than NRS 2000 and 14 children earn less than Rs. 1000 per month.

Actually, whatever they earn per month working in Brick kilns, they expand in daily consumption. A few children are save small portion of their earnings. It is observed that more children 55 can make more than Rs. 2000 overage earnings in a month.

In the Brick kilns surveyed, the key informants that workers engaged in brick molding get Rs. 250-300 per 1000 raw brick as a piece rate. Similarly, workers who carry raw bricks from field to kiln and kiln to outward receive Rs. 70-80 and 40-50 per 1000 respectively, whereas the employer sell in Rs 3600 per baked bricks. The workers of

bricks kilns receive 200-300 per week from their wage for their daily expenses. Whatever they save from their wage, that is calculated even in their own diary and the final calculation is done at the end of a season. The adult worker engaged in brick moulding in dictate that they are not given any compensation if the bricks are rined by he a rain before pilling up sun diried bricks. In this case their whole labour is just like water in sand. Even among the piled up the sun dried bricks; only half percent of bricks are compensated if huge amount of bricks is ruined by heavy rainfall.

**Box: 6 Hazardous Work; Little Money**

Buddhe Nepali, aged 13, from Kapibastu. 6 members are in his family. His father has already died and only mother in alive. He has been working in Brick kilns seasonally with his uncle since last 2 years. He carries backed bricks from kiln to pile as well as loading trucks keeping 10 bricks in his head. He has been injured several times falling bricks from his head. His face is not recognized really because his whole body is covered with red dust struggling in this way for earning what he gets just 50 rupees carring 1000 bricks.

**6.1.4 Controlling Over Income**

Similarly, child labour are taken in Brick kilns by broker, Naik/Mistri child also come to work in Brick kilns with their parents/guardian and brother/sister. It is found that children who come to work in these factories and live with their parents/guardian as well as brother/sister do not get their wage in their own hands. What ever they earn, is almost controlled by their parents. Other who has control over their income also has to provide their income to their parent/guardians in the home. Thus all children working in Brick kilns directly support their family.

**Table 19:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers by Sex According Controlling Over their Earnings**

Person who keeps their earning	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Self	24	44.4	19	41.3	43
Parents/Guardian	15	27.8	13	28.3	28
Brother/Sister	6	11.1	4	8.7	10
Broker	3	5.5	3	6.5	6
Others	6	11.1	7	15.2	13
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100

*Note: Others include Naike/Mistri, Group leader, and supervisor.*

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

In terms gender, majority of boy's child workers (24) have control over their earnings. The girl children is control their earning self (19). The rest of the children reported their earnings to take their parents/guardian, brother/sister. 13 percent children life their earning to keep safely for maike/mistri, group leader, supervisor and center.

## **6.2 Living Condition and Health**

### **6.2.1 Daily Food Intake**

Food is the baric need for human being the children who do work in brick kiln have to work hard for survival but they not they don't get adequate food as they required. In the informal disunion, children. Indicated that their daily earning and work level determine the daily food intake. Children who come to work from their own home have relatively batter fooding habit than those who stay in rented rooms as well as temporary hats of the kilns. Most of the children staying in temporary huts of the kilns they prepare

food in their rooms themselves but some of them take meals in hotels especially in the kilns of urban area (Siddharthnagar Nagarpalika ) and some said that their meal is prepared by their family members.

**Table 20:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers according Their Daily Food Intake**

Daily food in take	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Twice	35	64.8	30	65.2	65
Thrice and more times	19	35.2	16	34.8	35
Total	54	100	46	100	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

The above table shows that 65 percent children are reported to have taken meals twice a day and 35 percent of children taking meals thrice a day. In terms of gender girls working in Brick kilns 65.2% have been reported to have taken meals only two times compared to taking meals three times 34.8% girls for a day. Whereas the proportion of taking meals three times 35% seems a little bit lower than proportion of taking meals two times 65% a day for both boys and girls respondents.

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.

### 6.2.2 Housing and Basic Amenities

Generally, child labour in the brick kilns live in thatched but and small attached butts (Chhapra) made off raw bricks. Straw and tin sheet along the premise of the kilns. The floor of the huts is wet and damp having been paddy field. It is lived with brick for sleeping.

**Table 21:**

#### **Distribution of Child Labourers According to Their type of Housing**

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Rented home	8	8
Temporary hut	70	70
Others	22	22
Total	100	100

*Note: others include own house, relative's house.*

*Source: Field survey, 2006.*

Most of the labourers including children involved in brick kilns are deprived of Toilet facilities and electricity. Among the children surveyed, 68 children are reported to be far from toilet facilities. Generally, 69 percent children stated having no electricity facilities in their residence. Only 31 percent and 32 percent child workers reported to have got electricity and Toilet facilities respectively. But 76 children pointed out they got hand pump water. And 24 children are reported using well and public taps.

**Table 22:**  
**Distribution of Child Labourers by Sources of Drinking Water Supply,  
 Electricity and Toilet Facilities**

<b>Amenities/Facilities</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>%</b>
Electricity	31	31.0	69	69.0
Toilet	32	32.0	68	68.0
Sources of Drinking water				
Hand Pump	76		76	
Well	13		13	
Public Taps	11		11	
Total	100		100	

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

Table 23 shows that 28% children work in brick kiln surveyed living with their parents and 10% children stated living with brother/sister. Other children are living relatives friends and broker. Actually with whom children are living in work site is the serious matter and concern. Separation from parents/family create many problems related to child's development children who are deprived of their parents care and affection in work site might be exploited and harassed from their employers as well as co worker.

**Table 23:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers According Person with Whom they Live by Sex**

Persons with whom they live	Boys		Girls		Total
	No	%	No	%	
Parents	15	27.8	13	28.3	28
Brother/sister	6	11.1	4	8.7	10
Relatives	10	18.5	10	26.7	20
Friends	20	37.0	16	34.8	26
Broker	3	5.6	3	6.5	6
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

**6.2.3 Illness and Injuries/Accidents**

The deterioration of the children health seems to be an alarming problem. The whose area of Brick kilns is fully dust, smokes come out from kilns. All the workers including children work in these polluted sites without any marks which deteriorates their health. The workers, in Brick kilns suffer from serious health hazards due to heavy work burden as well as suffocating working environment. They are always exposed from the risk of falling in injuries/accident working in Brick kilns. On the survey study, most of the children 78 among 100 mentioned to have been ill during this working season. On the other hand, 39 children are reported to be fallen in injuries/accident working in Brick kilns to survey study.

**Table 24:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers by Incidence of Health Hazard**

<b>Health Hazard</b>	<b>Responses</b>		<b>Total</b>
	Yes	No	
Illness	78	22	100
Injuries/accident	39	61	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

The Brick kilns child mainly suffers from respiratory problems, fever, headache, joint pain, backaches and more. The table 25 shows that generally, out of 39 children who have ever fallen in injuries/accidents, 9 children stated to have wounded seriously. On the other hand most of the children 35 are reported to have suffered from fever followed by headache 22 survey study. Children suffer from respiratory problems, like flu, cough, chest pain and throat problems 9, joint pain, 5 and backache 3.



**Table 25:****Distribution of Child Labourers According to Sickness and Types of Injuries/Accidents by Sex**

Characteristics	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Types of injuries/Accidents						
Very serious	5	19.2	4	30.8	9	23.1
Minor	21	80.8	9	69.2	30	76.9
Total	26	100.0	13	100.0	39	100.0
Types of sickness						
Relating to respiratory problems	5	11.6	4	11.4	9	11.5
Fever	19	44.2	16	45.7	35	44.9
Joint pain	2	4.7	3	8.6	5	6.4
Headache	13	30.2	9	25.7	22	28.2
Backache	1	2.3	2	5.7	3	3.8
Other	3	7.0	1	2.9	4	5.1
Total	43	100.0	35	100.0	78	100.0

Note: Respiratory problems includes cough, chest pain and throat problems.

There are no special facilities for health care provided to children working in Brick kilns. Some key informants (Adult workers) and children themselves argued that sometimes only Citamol and other general medicine is provided when they are ill. But,

they have to cure themselves so extreme illness and injuries. If they are provided some money for treatment, that is cup up from their wage. Therefore, there is not provision of compensation is extreme illness and injuries/accidents.

The table 26 shows that a significant number of children are reported to be deprived of getting treatment on their illness out of children suffered from illness.

**Table 26:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers According to Getting Treatment for their Illness by Sex**

Getting treatment	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	36	83.7	27	77.1	63	80.8
No	7	16.3	8	22.9	15	19.2
Total	43	100	35	100	78	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

**6.4.4 Recreation**

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 things that children are bound to work on brick kilns for their livelihoods in the time of schooling. They work nearly a whole day with adult workers and get leisure time for entertainment rarely. Table No. 27 shows that out of children surveyed 59 children reported having time for recreating only for some time. Children 42 compared to girl children 17 are reported to have got leisure time for entertainment. Usually, more children 29 watching T.V. in the shop near by as the means of recreation followed by hearing ratio 23 and playing games 6.

**Table 27:**  
**Distribution of Child Labourers According to Getting Time for Recreation and Means of Recreation by Sex**

Characteristics	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Getting time for recreation					
Yes	42	77.8	17	37.0	59
No	12	22.2	29	63.0	41
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100
Playing Games	3	71	3	17.6	6
Listening Radio	15	35.7	8	47.1	23
Watching T.V	23	54.8	6	35.3	29
Cinema	1	2.4	-	-	1
Total	42	100.0	17	100.0	59

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

### **6.3 Perceptions of Job and Aspiration of Child Workers**

Children might have certain expectations and aspirations when they entered into brick kilns, because child perception on their work is one of the important aspects of policy.

#### **6.3.1 Perceptions on Earning and Current Work**

Factually, children of today become the active member of new society of tomorrow. And the whole future of the country depends on the present condition of

today's children. But most of the children seem to be deprived of their basic rights. They are bound to engage in the most hazardous work like brick kiln. Table 28 shows their earning and current work.

**Table 28:**

**Distribution of Child Labourers According to Attitude towards their Earning,  
Current Work by Sex**

Earning	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Sufficient	23	42.6	19	41.3	42
Insufficient	31	57.4	27	58.7	58
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100
Attitude towards Current work					
Satisfied	20	37.0	15	32.6	35
Not satisfied	34	63.0	31	67.4	65
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

Above table 28 shows that majority of working in brick kiln surveyed are reported to be dissatisfied with their earning and current work. Out of the children interviewed, 58 child workers expressed that their earning is not sufficient and at the same time, 65 children among 100 are not satisfied with their current work.

The children not satisfied with his current 65, overwhelming majority of children (47) reported that they are not satisfied with their work due to very hazardous work. The significant number of children 13 stated to have dissatisfied being low wage for their work.

**Table 29:**  
**Distribution of Child Labourers According Reasons for not Satisfying with Current Work by Sex**

Reasons for not satisfying with current work	Boys		Girls		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Low wage	4	11.8	9	29.0	13	20.0
Hard and Hazardous work	27	79.4	20	64.5	47	72.3
Not good employer	2	5.9	2	6.5	4	6.2
Other	1	3	-	-	1	1.5
Total	34	100.0	31	100.0	65	100.0

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

Another aspect of child perception on work has been observed on the course of survey study whether they want to work again in brick kiln for next season or not. Table 30 shows that majority of children 59 among 100 are not interested to work for next season.

**Table 30:**  
**Distribution of Child Labourers According to their Interest to Work for Next Season by Sex**

Interest to work	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Yes	22	40.7	19	41.3	41
No	32	59.3	27	58.7	59
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

### 6.3.2 Incidence of Harassment/Abusive Behaviour

The children working in brick kilns have been observed to be badly treated by their middlemen (Naile/Mistri), manager's supervisors of brick kilns and adult workers cold, insulted and sometimes slapped in the work site. Mostly, working children are deprived of their basic rights. They become even victim of harassment abuse behaviour of their employer as well as co-workers. Table 31 shows that children out of 100 are reported to have harassed/bused by their Naike/Mistri, manager, Supervisors of Brick kilns and adult workers. Among those, a significant/abusive behaviour made by their work provider and even adult workers. But 44 children reported to have harassed/ abused only for sometimes. In terms of gender more boys (34) compared to girl children (15) are reported to be harassed/abused by their work providers as well as adult workers. Though girl children might be sexually harassed/abused due to prevalence of male domination those incidence have not been indicated by them.

**Table 31:**  
**Distribution of Child Laborers According to Harassment/Abusive Behaviour Made by Master/Broker and Adult Workers**

Characteristics	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Abusive behaviour/harassment					
Yes	34	63.0	15	32.6	49
No	20	37.0	31	67.4	51
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100
If yes, time of frequency					
Often	3	8.8	2	13.3	5 (10.2 %)
Sometimes	31	91.2	13	86.7	44 (89.2%)
Total	34	100.0	15	100.0	49 (100.0%)

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

**Box 7, Abusive Behaviour of Employer**

Trira Choudhary and Phursa B.K. Work of load and unload of Bricks on Tactor they come from Neighbouring some village in Kamana brick factory. They are 15 and 17 years old respectively. When they unloading Bricks from Tactor at custrmer's home. They started quarrel and tried to fight each other. They return for another trip 3 hours late at kiln then, the employer came to know the cause of late arrival he pushed into the ditches of water slapping both of them instead of spreading them from quarrel.

**6.3.3 Preference for Study**

Children particularly, working in Brick kilns have been found to be never attended or dropped out schooling. Though most of the children have interest in studying. The proportion of children currently attending school is negligible. Generally, education is the rights of children by birth. But many children remain deprived of schooling. Household work and financial problem are the main obstacles of schooling for children working in brick Kinls. The deal aspiration and interest towards schooling of these children has been shown in Table 32.

**Table 32:****Distribution of Child Labouers According Preference for Study by Sex**

Preference for study	Boys		Girls		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Yes	41	76.0	32	69.6	73
No	13	24.0	14	30.4	27
Total	54	100.0	46	100.0	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2006.*

Table 32 shows that majority of children 73% working in Brick kilns their interest to study if they are given a chance for schooling and children who are currently attending schooling. In terms of gender, the proportion of girl children for preferring to study is a little bit lower than boy children due to prevalence of traditional belief on unnecessary of schooling for girl children.

## **6.4 Conclusions**

Brick kiln industry is one of the most exploitative and hazardous sector for child labour. It deprives of children from minimum childhood. They work long hours in brick kiln living in a stuffy thatched huts along the premise of the kiln. But, they earn little money in piece rate system. What they earn carrying or nutrition's bricks in these industries they lose all their earning on their consumption. Due to lack of nutritious food intake as well as injurious and poor working condition, almost all children become the victim of injuries and illness in brick kiln. But, they are abused/ harassed and treated unkindly working in brick kilns.



## CHAPTER - VII

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 7.1 Summary

The study on child labour in brick kiln industries: A case study of Rupandehi District is based on the sample interviews of 100 children of seven different brick kilns industry. In this study labourers are found males and females. Child labour is a big and ever increasing social economic problem in Nepal. Due to existing socio-economic inequality, child labour is interlinked with poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. Many children are forced to work even in abusive and exploitative conditions for their own and family survival. In this situation, they are not only deprived of their basic child rights but also suffered from abuse, exploitation, neglect and human libation. This study has the main objective of examining into the realities of child laboures of Brick kilns in the study area. Its' specific objectives were to assess the economic condition of the child labouers in the brick kilns industries.

This study utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data has attempted to analyze this situation of child labour in brick kilns of Rupandehi district. Brick kilns are one of the major areas which exploit a large proportion of child labour. The present study is based on the interviews of 100 child labourers under 18 years of age and some key informants working in seven selected Brick kilns industries of Rupandehi district. The survey sites are selected on the basis of purposive sampling method from both quantitative and qualitative information, the following finding and conclusions are drowning.

The study observed 9.44% child labour on an average in 7 Brick kilns surveyed within Rupanedhi district.

Out of 7 brick kilns industries 100 child labourers interviewed, 54% are males and 46% are females. Data shows brick kilns child labourers in age and sex selective with more boys than girls older children predominate over younger children.

The proportion of child involved in brick kiln industries differs by age, caste/ethnicity, their schooling, and district of origin as well as their family background.

In terms of age, the majority of child workers 53% fall in the age group 15-17 years of age whereas a significant proportion of child labours are less than 10 (11%) and 10-14 years of age 36%. It shows that there is majority of older children than comparison to younger one.

The children belong to different caste as well as ethnic groups. There is Brahmin/Chhetri (12%), Dalits (6%) Hariran/Quary (10%) Tharu Machiyar (24%) Lodha/Muraw (20%) and others (Rarian/Bihari) 28% most of the children working in brick kilns of Rupandehi come from out side of the district. In his study the sampled child workers are found coming from different districts of Nepal and India Namely Rautahat (11), Dang (8), Mahottari (8) Dhanusa and Hill District each from (8) Sarlahi (5) Kapilabastu (4) and Nawalparasi (2) And Rachi and Bihar of India (28). And 22 Workers have been found to be engaged in Rupandehi district.

## **7.2 Conclusion**

This study is based on the interview with 100 children and some key informants working in seven selected brick kiln of Rupandehi district. Both quantitative and qualitative information have been used in this study which captures following conclusions.

- ) Despite the legal provision lays down not to employ children under 14 years of age and working hours for minor workers not more than 6 hours a day, it does not seem applicable in brick kilns in of Rupandehi district. A significant proportion of children aged even less than 14 years is working in Brick kilns. In addition, children working in these industries work long hours and are underpaid mostly on the piece rate basis. Actually, working hours and wages for children is neither fixed nor fair.
- ) The overwhelming majority of child workers in Brick kilns are seasonal migrants from other districts out side of this district including Rachi and Bihar of India. Among them, most of the child workers are largely from poor. Underprivileged and oppressed caste/ethnic community.

- J A significant proportion of children working in brick kilns seem illiterate and most of the children who have attended school are reported to have dropped out before completing primary level.
- J Actually, there is no direct relation between workers and real employed of brick kilns. Most of workers including children are transferred by middle man (Naile/Mistri) from rural areas into brick kilns giving some money. For advance. They get monthly wage as well as commission by supervisor.
- J The workers including children working in brick kilns are paid per week for their fooding and other express. The final payment is made at the end of the season when these (May/June). But a significant proportion of child workers do not receive their own earning rather their earning is controlled by their parent and other relatives.
- J There has been no mechanism for monitoring child labour in brick kilns and their condition, children these factories work under hazardous and exploitative condition as well as unhealthily working environment. They have to face various kinds of insuries/accidents by sports, bricks and hot kilns. In addition, most of the child workers suffer from different kinds of illness like respiratory problems, fever, headache, joint pain and backache. But there is not facility of health care provided to children in brick kilns surveyed to Rupandehid district.
- J A significant number of children working in brick kilns are exploited, harassed and abused in work places by one or another form. Being the worst and the most hazardous form of child labour in brick kilns, most of the children reported to have been dissatisfied with their earning and current work.
- J In conclusion it is observed that extreme household poverty is the main reason for migration of children and engaging. In brick kiln. Raising presents economic status many reduce the magnitude of child migration and child labour. In addition, lack of work opportunities in off form season, arrival of parents in brick kilns. Abusive behaviour of step parents is also contributing factors. For children to be engaged in such a child labour. The complete elimination of child labour from these factories is a national challenge for future because most of the children lose physical, mental, social and moral development engaging in such a intolerable forms of child labour.

### 7.3 Recommendations

Child labour is a complex problem. It is entangled with socio-economic aspects of the society. Clearly, it is the result of existing poverty and exploitative socio-economic relations of the country. There is no easy solution for eradication of child labour particularly engaged in brick kilns. The findings of this study show that the poverty has forced many children to be engaged in Brick kilns of Rupandehi District with their parents as well as friends especially coming from rural areas. On the basis of this study; some preventive and protective measures have been recommended to phase out child labour in brick kilns of Rupandehi district and other areas.

- ❖ Mechanized Brick kilns should be replaced in stead of Smokey non mechanized chimney kilns which exploit large amount of labour force. In addition, there should be provision of labour inspection and monitoring in the field of brick kilns.
- ❖ In fact, working in Brick kilns is the most hazardous and life threatening for children. So, state should be immediately removing the worst forms of child labor like existing is Brick kilns. Usually the legal instruments of Nepal seem to be just like paper tiger. Because various acts and rules as well as other international conventions and their commitments related to child and child labour have been adopted in Nepal. But there is still a big problems is implementation level. So, a clear mechanism. Should be made for the strict enforcement of existing laws and legislation for the elimination of child labour. Parallely, a pressure group should be formed comprising workers, employers, VDC/Municipality members, local leaders, representatives of NGOS and other CBOs as well as trade union and children to develop the mechanism for monitoring the Brick kilns.
- ❖ Public awareness campaign should be launched to enhance the awareness about child rights and child labour, legal provision, importance of schooling of children, and impact of child labour upon their overall development employing on the hazardous environment like Brick kilns. Actually, without involvement of child workers or communities at the grassroots level, the awareness raising programme cannot be successful. So, the awareness programme should focus to children themselves, their

parents, employers, worker's organization children at school, teachers NGOs and other CBOD.

- ❖ Though primary education is free in Nepal but there exists still indirect cost of schooling such as charging admission fees, school uniforms and other stationery. So, children of poor families should be motivated for schooling providing these facilities. There should be meaningful, quality and child friendly education system which sustain their regular schooling. In addition, non formal education and other literacy programmes should be launched for vocational training to adult workers and regular schooling of children.
- ❖ Almost all children including adult workers come to work in Brick kilns from outside of the district specially from underprivileged and poor families. So, there should be implement rural centre poverty alleviation programmes targeting the poor families of children working in Brick kilns, children and their parent should be given vocational training. So that they can be self employment. Specially, local resource and traditional skills and occupation based training like bamboo works (making basket and other artistic goods). Jute (hemp) works (knitting) blanket using hemp and good will is effective for the economic sustainability of communities. In addition agro-based industries should be established in the region from where labour force for brick kiln originate. So, that parents and other family member of children can be employed on these industries. People should also be provided loan on low interest or micro. Oredit for income generating activates.
- ❖ Many children and their families are affected from present conflict and violence created by political instability. They are bound to engage in Brick kilns of Rupanedhi for their livelihood. So a special package progammme should be launched for their socio-economic support.
- ❖ Generally, children and adult laboures working in Brick kilns come from disadvantage and oppressed caste/ethnic community. They are excluded and marginalized on their socio-economic status. So, the state should step to wipe out all forms of discrimination related to caste/ethnicity and gender. Each and every

community should be taken on the main stream of development so that child labour problem will be reduced in the country.

### **7.3.1 Further Research Issues**

This study gives general background about child labour in brick kilns of Rupandehi. It does not speculate the overall child labour situation on brick kilns in Nepal. So, taking national representative sample survey, a comprehensive action research should be launched in all regions where brick kilns are running seasonally to observe the national scenario of brick kiln child labourers. Actually, the further research should be focused to analyze the social system of seasonal migrants working in brick kilns and the causes and adverse impact of child labour employing in this particular area.

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## Appendix – 1

### Selected case studies

#### *Case – 1*

##### *A Case study of Chinak Harjan* (Kisan Brick Industry, Rupandehi)

Chinak Harijan a young child from Kapilvastu has been working in the brick kiln industry for last six months. He carries brick from the field to the duck every six days of a week, starting early in the morning 5 a.m. and continues it until 11.30 a.m. with some rest and food he starts again working at around 2.00 p.m. and continues it until it become dark. There are 6 members in his family Chinak earns about 70 rupees per day, which is kept by his father who is also a warder in the factory. Although Chinak is 13 years old, he looks very small he came with his parents. He wants to go to school and become a service man in the future. He is very poor, illiterate and lack of sufficient land at home. He has no idea of children's rights. He is not sure if he will come back to work again.

#### *Case – 2*

##### A Case Study of Awatar Lodha (Sona Brick Factory Rupandehi)

Awatar Lodha 14, years old are also from Kapilvastu. He looks very thin and stunted but he works for brick moulding with his father and elder brother. There are 7 members of the family. All of them except his mother work in brick kiln. His mother does not work with them because she has been mad since two year. He said, "When I was reading at class 5, my mother tired my books and try to slap me." So Awatar and his small brother and sister are deprived of maternal love and affection. They have very small piece of land but that is not sufficient for living a life throughout the year. His father started to have engaged in brick kilns since about 5 years. He says indicating the piece rate wage system that it is the work which is done and wage is given but wage is not given without working. He has also been harassed several times by the naike. Even while working hard, the naike and the owner should he and sometimes they don't even pay anything for his work. "They do not give medicine while I'm sick". Says Awatar he does not think he will come back to work again.

### *Case – 3*

#### A Case Stud of Nirumati Kurmi (Kaman Brick Factory)

Nirumati Kurmi is 14 years old and she comes from Nawalparasi she came to Rupandehi with her father and has been working in the factory for last 6 months. Her mother died, when she was nine years old. There are five members in her family. They are very poor having no land, and depending on their own labour for their survival. She has been coming and working during the brick making season for last two years. She completed class two and now she can only write her name and read simple letter but she is not confident enough to write letters. She was drop out of school because she was not interested but due to his family's poverty. She is not happy and she thinks that the job she dong is very bad. She does not have any plans as she believes without education she will not get any good job although she wishes to have one. She wants to study further, but she also knows that it is not possible for her because she is poor and she will have to support family for which she needs to work.