

**A DISSERTATION
ON
STUDY OF STREET CHILDREN
(A CASE STUDY OF RATNAPARK AREA)
KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

**Submitted to:
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of Rural Development**

**For the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
of Master of Arts in Rural Development**

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2011**

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This is to certify that Nirajan Paudeyal has completed this thesis entitled “STUDY ON STREET CHILDREN (A Case study of Ratnapark area)” under my guidance and supervision. I forward this dissertation for examination and approval as per the regular procedures in the department.

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LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

This thesis work entitled “ STUDY ON STREET CHILDREN (A CASE STUDY OF RATNAPARK AREA)” by Nirajan Paudeyal has been accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Masters of Arts in Rural Development.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost I would like to express my gratitude and gratefulness to my supervisor, Mr. Suman Baskota, Lecturer of the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu for his valuable time, motivation, guidance and time to time encouragement to carry out this work successfully.

I would like to express my deep gratitude and sincere thanks to the Head of Department, Professor, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka, and all the professors and lecturers of Central Department of Rural Development, for their direct or indirect assistance and encouragement.

Likewise, I would like to my special thanks to the CWIN Shelter for their valuable material, data and information related to the street children in Nepal. Without their profound suggestions and help this study could not be possible in time.

I cannot resist myself without extending my gratitude to dearest friend Mr. Radium Adhikari, who keeps inspiring and empowering me in so many ways. In his continuous support and enlightening words I find the strength for myself to move forward in life with positive attitude and with a desire to do at least something to make the world a better place to live. Lastly, I would like to remember and thank my families and friends who assisted me in different ways with their valuable time to complete this thesis work.

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ABSTRACT

The problem of street children is universal phenomenon. It is comparatively very high in those countries where there is rapid growth of urbanization. The number of street children has grown in recent decades because of widespread recession, political turmoil, civil unrest, increasing family disintegration, natural disaster, and growing urbanization. The street children could be orphaned or abandoned children or simply neglected or runaways. They could be with or without family. They are also termed as community children. Because of the various reasons such as family causes, social causes, economic causes, political causes that force them to be in the street.

During the research, 50 samples from Ratnapark area were taken along with semi observation technique to acquire relevant information and data. Secondary data from social workers and NGOs are used significantly. Majority of the street children aged between 9 to 13 years are migrating to Kathmandu for survival and being street children. The highest number of the street children was found from Brahmin/Chhetri family and rest of them were from privilege groups like Tamang, Newar, Sherpa etc. The literacy status of the respondents is low. Most of them dropped out school due to economic crisis in family and not paid school fee. Many children do have homes and parents. Even do, they are in the street because most of the parents are alcoholic, economic crisis in family, for searching jobs in Kathmandu, city attraction from their friends, etc. It was observed that extreme household poverty is the contributing factor for migration of children and engaging in street work. Street children were involved in different economic activities such as rag picking, begging, hotel, tempo/micro bus conductor, domestic work etc. Those children who feel bad with their jobs, they get inhuman treatment from their employers and have not secured in the street. Being risky and hazardous work for children they encounter with various injuries/accidents and illness during working period. But, they are not provided medical expenses. On the other hand, they are extremely harassed and abused by adults. Mostly they use drugs just for relax. They need more freedom and forget any kind of problem. But some children use drugs for killing sadness and fear. They use when they have to involve in crime, stealing and pick pocketing jobs. Almost all children want to leave drugs to fulfill their future plan and for betterment of their life.

Keywords: Street Children, Origin, Causes of street children, Ethnicity, Involvement

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

BS	:	Bikram Sambat
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistic
CRS	:	Child Right Convention
CS	:	Chandrodaya Shelter
CWIN	:	Child Workers in Nepal
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	:	Gross National Product
HDI	:	Human Development Index
ILO	:	International Labor Organization
INGO	:	International Non Government Organization
JJ Act	:	Juvenile justice Act
km	:	kilometer
m ³	:	cubic meter
m	:	meter
NGO	:	Non Governmental Organization
NRs	:	Nepali currency
P	:	Page
SF	:	Swiss Franc
SLA	:	South Lebanon Army
UK	:	United Kingdom
UN	:	United Nation
UNCRC	:	United Nation Child Right Convention
UNICEF	:	United Nation International Children Education Fund
UNDP	:	United Nation Development Program
US \$:	United State's currency
Yrs	:	Years
%	:	Percentage