

## CHAPTER – I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Context

Child labor in the transport sector has emerged as a major social challenge due to increasing process of urbanization. Child working in transport sector is found in all types of vehicles such as trucks, microbus, tempo, jeeps throughout the country particularly in major urban centre of Nepal.

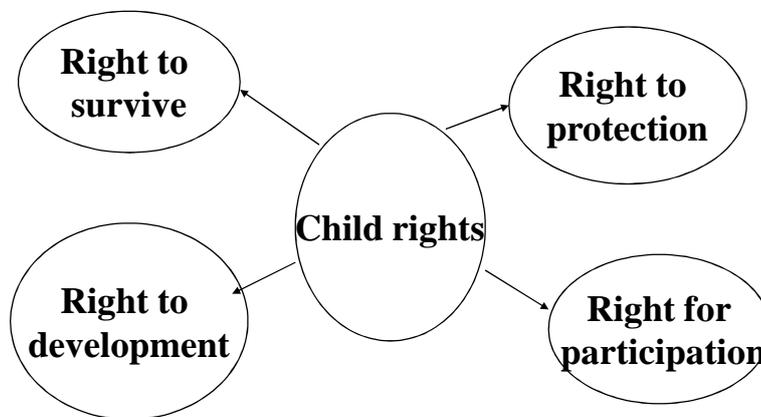
The context of the study is based child labor working at transportation sector particularly at microbus at one of the prime centre of Kathmandu that is Gongabu. The major concern of the study is to find out the underlying and responsible factors of child labor and to conclude whether it is forced or the voluntary choice.

When we speak in the mass gathering and public writings that the “children are the future of the nation, builders of the nation, twinkling stars of the nation” and so on, but those who are taking, responsibilities even do not care about what happening to those children at present. The reality exposes the fact that a vast number of child populations is elapsing a dreadful and fearful life under uncertainty. Of course the children are not happy to work in such a young stage but what shall they do for their hungry stomach? So there is no other way except to involve in the economic activities. But in the mean time some people having the exploited nature do not hesitate to maximize the use of child Labour because of cheapness and easily available.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child means “Every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (UN,1989). The ILO convention 182 defined the child on article 2 as the term “Child” shall apply to all persons under the age of 18 (ILO, 1999). In this way in Nepal, according to the “The Constitution of Nepal (2015)” of every person after completing the age of 18 years are known as adult and they have the voting right. It means people under the age of 18 years are known as children –similarly, according to the “Muluki

Ain-2021” a girl under the age of 18 and a boy under the age of 21 are supposed to be minors to make their nuptial knots without parental consents. Legally speaking, there is child marriage prohibition in Nepal. Similarly, according to Children’s Act (First amendment) 1997 and Labour Act (First amendment) 1997 of Nepal the group of persons below the age of 16 years, are known as children. According to this law, the person below the age of 14 years is strictly prohibited to work as labor.

## Four pillar of child rights



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Fig :1

In this context child workers or child Labour means “a person in the age group of 5-14 years employed for hire or reward on full time basis and includes a self employed child and a child assisting his/her parents in their occupation for two or more hours” (CWIN,1988). Child labor is not only a problem of Nepal but it is also a universal as well as one of the serious problems mainly in the third world countries. In this study the child labor is defined those workers who are between the age 5-17 years.

Child labor remains a serious problem in the world. According to the revised estimates by the ILO’s Bureau of statistics the number of working children throughout the world between the ages of 5 and 14 throughout the world are at least 52.6 million (ILO, Feb.2014). As it may be expected, given prevailing economic conditions, the overwhelming majority of these are in developing

countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. But pockets of child Labour also exist in many industrialized countries. Numerous children work in occupations and industries, which are primarily dangerous. They are found in mines in factories making glass bangles, matches, fireworks, in deep-sea fishing, in commercial agriculture and so on (ILO, 2014).

Nowadays, child Labour in Nepal is being considered very seriously. It has deeply rooted in most part of the country. Traditionally, children in Nepal are involved in agriculture, cow herding, handicraft and other employments. Many children are compelled to migrate in town in search of employment. Following the high ambition, tragic calamity in their native land, hardship in their life, corrupted social relationship, children working in small towns and big cities are increasing continually. These working children are largely increasing in Kathmandu alone.

Child exploitation is the 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 (Pradhan, 1998). Thus child Labour is a cause and effect of the exploitative socio-economic and political structure of the world. Like other developing countries, the rural communities in Nepal are going through a painful period created by increasing social injustice, economic exploitation and backwardness. The growing migration among the rural population, rural migration and urbanization have also contributed to an increase in the magnitude of the child labor exploitation.

After the restoration of democracy in 1990, efforts have been made at different levels (national and international) to eradicate child labor. However the policies and programs are not direct towards the root causes of child labor problems nor has there been effective implementation of these plans of action in reality. Many things regarding the protection of child Labour are mentioned in the laws and national policy. However, it fails to address the problems of economic inequality and correct the mistakes and constraints in the development process. But it is great pleasure that Nepal Government has established “Ministry of Children” within the “Ministry for Women and Social Welfare” since 19 April 2000 with the intention of uplifting and prioritizing children’s issues. In addition, NG has

again signed two optional protocols to the convention on the right of the child regarding the involvement of children in armed conflict, and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography during the millennium summit in 9 September 2000. As well NG has expressed its commitment for the child. Further the ILO convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor came into force on November 19, 2000. Nepal government has also ratified this convention. It is another great opportunity for Nepal to eliminate the child Labour that, according to the ILO, Nepal has been selected as sampling country from Asia to launch the time bound program on elimination of worst forms of child labor by 2005.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Kathmandu is a city where a small girl is worshipped as “Living Goddess” yet other small children are found working for their livelihood. Child labor is a problematic issue because working children are led to physical, mental social and economic problems. Child labor is a serious and widespread problem especially in third world countries like Nepal. Although the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2063 has guaranteed the right of protection against exploitation as a fundamental right and prohibits the practice of trafficking of human being, slavery, serfdom or forced labor in any form and its violation as punishable by law. But it is only in paper or not in practices.

Children are supposed to be the foundation of future world. So it can be said that they are the rays of hope. So, health, education, residence and hygienic environment are the basic needs of every child. In the context of Nepal, thousands of children are struggling only for stomach.

It is the proven fact that children belong to the formative stage of human life. The development of country depends upon the healthy growth of children. If the children are well facilitated with food, care affection, love and education then they will grow in a sound way and they will become a good citizen of the country and consequently they will be able to contribute in their country. If otherwise than this issue they would not grow as normal child. When they fall victim of exploitation in their childhood, the nation could not hope any creative work by

them and contribution for the nation. So, the children should be provided proper food, shelter, care, education, love and affection that will help them to develop their social, physical and mental development. A child will become a responsible citizen only when they spend their life happily. “Psychologically it has proved beyond doubt that happy childhood will lead to happy healthy and responsible adulthood and unhappy childhood causes various problems in the adult life” (CWIN, 1998).

An unhappy childhood does not only destroy a person’s life but also may create havoc in the society by making him/her a monster. It is the most important period to make them knowledgeable, capable, responsible, sensitive and good citizen by including conductive values. If we are trying to create a happy congenial and crimeless society the first task that we have to do is create amenable and sound environment for a child to grow. This will lead a long way towards attaining peace, prosperous and human world. So children need to be well nurtured and educated rather than make them a bread earner.

Protection and promotion of child right is a challenging issue for a country like Nepal, where there is lack of awareness and education among general population and the traditional beliefs are not in the line of children’s rights. In this condition it is not possible for the state alone to bring social change without active participation of the society. So, there is a need of increase in the active participation of the civil society.

Poverty is main factor of child labor because if a family remains unable to afford for their food, clothes and shelter, then child has to work for living. Other factors such as maltreatment of parents, heavy work load at home, no chance for schooling, carelessness of parents are also primary factors for children going to cities and becoming child worker. There has been a few research that has been conducted form sociological and economic aspects in the field of child labour. Several NGOs/INGOs and GOs have been working in this field. However, the problem has been more severe and is highlighted in the media. A large number of child workers in the transportation sector is prevalent, including microbus in Kathmandu district as a *Khalasi*, conductor or helper of driver. This thesis is

about the socio-economic condition of conductors of microbus at Kathmandu district in which the following questions will be discussed.

- 1) What are the major factors responsible for child labor?
- 2) To explore the relationship between background characteristics and child labor?
- 3) What are the major problems faced by them?

### **1.3 Theoretical composition of the Problem**

#### **1.3.1 Sociological perspectives of child labor**

##### **Marxist perspectives:**

According to Karl Marx, this types of production always wants to maximize the profit by reducing the labor cost. For this, they (bourgeoisie) never hesitate to employ children, women and old because of cheapness. They always need cheap man power and poor people have to work in every cost for their survival. According to him, capitalistic economy is exploitative in its nature. The child labor may be the product of this economy.

The result of buying children and young persons of underage by the capitalist is physical deterioration and moral degradation. Karl Marx provided detailed brief for the General Council on social issues likely to meet with immediate agreement. Child labor was deemed such an issue. Marx's position on child labor as "a progressive, sound and legitimate tendency, although under capital it was distorted into an abomination" met with no opposition. Marx believed that no child under nine years of age should work. He then divided older children into three age groups- of 9-12, 13-15, and 15-17 years- and suggested that they should be allowed to work two, three and six hours per day, respectively.

##### **World system perspectives:**

It can be generalized with world system theory of Immanuel Wallerstein. After analyzing his theory, it can be generalized that Kathmandu district as a capitalistic hub and rural areas as a periphery state. Every resource for survival is centralized only in the capital city and rural areas have only human resource to be exploited. That's why rural people are compelled to migrate to the city and children also are not the exception of this fact. So the pull factors of children to the city may be aforementioned three facts, along with anticipation of better life.

## **Structural Functional Perspective:**

Structural functionalism has its family tree in the work of early sociologists, especially Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. Among modern-day scholars, it is most closely associated with the work of Talcot Parsons and Robert Merton. The term “structure” and “function” refer to two separate but closely related concepts. Structure can be compared to the organs or parts of the body of an animal, and functions can be compared with the purposes of these structures. Like a biological structure, a social system is composed of many interrelated and interdependent parts or structures with specific functions. Central to an understanding of social structures is the concepts of “status” and “role”. Simply defined, a status is a socially defined position. Status is both ascribed and achieved. Each social system performs certain functions that make it doable for society and the people who comprise that society to exist. Each serves a purpose that leads to the continuation or firmness of the larger society. The functionalist perspective assumes that these social systems have an underlying tendency to be in symmetry or balance; and system that fails to fulfill its functions will result in an imbalance or disequilibrium. In acute cases, the entire system can breakdown when a change or failure in any one part of the system frequently provokes changes elsewhere in the system.

According to Merton, a social system can have both manifest functions and latent functions. Manifest functions are intentional and recognized; latent functions are neither intentional nor recognized. Merton recognized that not consequences of systems are functional-that is, they do not lead to the maintenance of the system. Some lead to unsteadiness or the collapse of a system. These consequences he termed dysfunctions. Robert Merton’s theory of functional alternatives provides one way to avoid such dysfunctions. Functional alternatives are other ways to achieve the intentional goal.

## **The Labor Market Perspective**

The ‘labor market perspective’ takes a particular view of children, envisaging them as essentially innocent, ignorant of the world and incompetent to fend off its evils or even to recognize their own best interests. They are depicted as helpless victims, or potential victims, dependent on protection and rescue by

adults. This is primarily a modern Western notion of childhood that is historically and anthropologically unusual not only for the radical division it draws between childhood and adulthood, but also for valuing children's helplessness rather than usefulness, and artificially extending their dependency to an advanced age by deliberately delaying instruction in certain life skills essential to survive, make one's living, or raise a family (Zelizer, 1985; Boyden, 1997; Boyden et. al, 1998). Such a view of childhood leaves children free of responsibility and obliges adults to take decisions on behalf of the young that children, owing to their incompetence by definition, are deemed unqualified to take for themselves. There also is a built-in assumption that what is best for adults probably is good for their children as well.

### **The Human Capital Perspective**

This approach views the work of children through the lens of national economic development. It regards child labor as a product of economic underdevelopment, and suggests that the remedy is to eliminate poverty and its causes. At the macroeconomic level this entails raising the Gross National Product, and at the microeconomic providing enhanced income options for the poor. It conceives of the child labor problem in terms of work and working conditions that undermine children's eventual contribution as adults to national economic development and their own economic progress, and makes no objection to children's work, per se. However, a "human capital perspective" would worry about work that stands in the way of children receiving an education, and for this reason economists and others working within it have produced a considerable literature looking at the relationships between children's work, education, and lifetime earnings. The interpretation of findings from literature, which appear ambiguous, is currently a matter of intense discussion. This perspective promotes policies and activities to develop in children the skills, attitudes and other capacities--the 'human capital'-they need to contribute to economic development and become prosperous adults..

The decision to educate one's children has an inter-temporal asset, as discussed by many authors, most notably Becker (1974). Baland and Robinson (2000) make a particularly direct connection of human capital formation to child labor when evaluating the efficiency characteristics of household decisions.

## **The Social Responsibility Perspective**

This perspective regards the work of children in the context of social rather than economic development. It arises out of concern about social inequality, many types of discrimination, unjust concentrations and use of economic and political power, cultural alienation, dysfunctional family and community relationships, social irresponsibility, and the deterioration of values and moral fiber.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to identify the overall socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the selected microbus boys in the Kathmandu district.

The following are the specific objectives.

- 1) To explore the responsible factors for child labor
- 2) To describe their individual and household background characteristics.
- 3) To examine the problem faced by child labor.

### **1.5 Significance of the study**

In this modern age, every person should realize that children are an integral part of an every society. This thesis will be beneficial for those researchers who have a deep concern on child labor r. The contribution of the research is about the deplorable condition of laboring children in public transportation in Kathmandu. Study on this field is not the new one. Nevertheless this study will bring into light the burning problem of child labour and their harsh mental and physical exploitation and help concerned stakeholders to pave and execute policy to curb the problem. In this way, this study will help to find out the status of child labor in Nepal.

Child labor is a serious problem and a challenge for many developing countries. Many countries have enacted various laws and have taken serious initiatives to eradicate child labor, but still the problem is very widespread throughout the world. This research critically examined child labor in transportation more typically a case study of child labor in microbus at Gongabu, at capital city of Nepal Kathmandu. In addition to understanding and investigating different reasons behind the plague of child labor that has engulfed throughout the world and a brief review on how child

labor in Nepal has so far been studied .Further, this paper states how to contribute to in raising the government’s awareness about the importance of issues related to child labor, education and their living condition and the background factors associated worth it.

### **1.6 Delimitations of the Study**

Since child labor is an extremely complex phenomenon, this study is limited to examining the nature and extent of child labor working at microbus. The study focuses on the fight against child labor, and the importance of legislation for working children Because of the limitation of financial support and time limitation this study will be based on the vehicles working children in Gongabo area in capital city of Nepal, Kathmandu. It does not cover the whole scenario of working children in public transportation in Nepal. It will assimilate the qualitative as well as quantitative methods to study the causes of the child labor.

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

This study has been organized into seven chapters; namely, introduction, literature review, research methodology, socio-demographic characteristics, economic characteristics, condition, health and nutrition and lastly summary, conclusion and recommendation. The first chapter presents a brief background of the studies with child labor definition, statement of the problems with research questions objectives of the studies, rationale of the study, and limitation of the study. Second chapter includes literature review. Those related literatures are as well as recent studies. It includes an overview, causes legal provision, economic role of children, major areas of child workers problems and microbus transportation in Kathmandu. Likewise third chapter deals with the research methodology. It includes research design, universe and sampling procedure, nature and source of data, techniques of data collection and method of data analysis. The finding of the study including summary conclusion and recommendation is confined in fourth chapter. The fifth chapter includes socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. This chapter represents residential status and so on. Similarly the sixth chapter presents economic characteristics of children working in micro. It includes parental occupation, food sufficiency at home, salary, saving and expenditure pattern and so on. It also

covers working condition, health and nutrition of child laborers under different headings such as working duration job satisfaction, harassment of exploitation etc. Finally, seventh chapter works with summary of the study, conclusion and recommendation about welfare of child labor.

## **CHAPTER – II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Child labor has been one of the critical and neglected issue for a long time. However, receiving a worldwide attention in recent years, the problems have been still critical. It is due to children work for wages and the employer never hesitates to take advantage of it because of cheapness. “Child Labour refers to the employment of children for national income but in fact it is not a time for work or it is the time for overall development of their lives (Dhital, 2000).” In this chapter, the relevant literature pertaining to child Labour and vehicle conductor is reviewed.

#### **2.1 Child Labor An Overview**

For centuries, child labor has been recognized as normal practice in most part of the country. Though it is the bad practice, it is still ongoing in the society. In England child labor was recognized as a social evil after the emergence of factory system in 18<sup>th</sup> century (Anand,11). Tuttle argues that the industry preferred children to adults because children provided cheap labor as they were “submissive, uneducated and nimble” (Tuttle, 143). The prevalent fact is that poverty and deprivation are main key factors that have contributed to the growing numbers of children in the exploitative labor market. However, parent’s ignorance, family breakdowns and the trend of child exploitation in the country. The challenges of child labor being come across by must of the third world countries have many serious social, economic and political dimensions. He says, if we go through the history of developed countries, they had faced the problem of child labor exploitation in one way or another. The developed countries, such as, UK, USA, Germany, Japan, France, Sweden, Portugal, Cyprus, Belgium and Malta also had a serious child labor problem until less than fifty years ago (*Pradhan, 1996*).

Historically, the problem of child labor first appeared in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in Europe. 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 labor was

obvious in factories: cotton mills, glass and match making and brick kilns, whereas in Norway and Sweden, the problems existed in farming, herding and fishing. In France, a welfare act for child labor was introduced in 1841 and in 1853, the Government of Germany introduced the first law regarding the health and safety of children and trade unions in Europe began to raise the issue of child labor as parts and parcel of their movement. However, the implementations of laws were very poor (*UNICEF, 1998*). With the influence of Karl Marks, the trade unions began to protest against, “the transformation of immature human beings into mere machines.” This had ultimately called for a ban on child labor in the factories and health hazardous for the elimination of child labor had given them opportunity for more jobs, better wages and improvement in working conditions (*Pradhan, 1998*).

Kalves (1991), has mentioned that child labor was practical in Germany in orphanages and workhouses as early as in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century. However, Kostal and Baklund as mentioned by Kalves claim that the new quality of life including technological and economic changes, better organized society for the working class contributed to education society for the working class contributed to education for the child labor system from Norway.

The children in many countries in Asia share the common pain and problems of child labor in their every sector. Statistics have revealed that almost half of the world’s child labor problems exist in South Asia. Because of growing poverty, famine, unfair economic relation and social injustice, the children of this region are forced to tae on a major burden for survival. Despite many national, regional and international commitments to combat child labor, the situation of children in the SAARC Region is far from satisfactory, (*CWIN, 1998*).

There is no any history about child labor that, from when child labor had been started in Nepal. But it might be that, from when traditional agrarian based society had emerged, the children were used in agricultural work. And after development of technology, the use of children had been increased as manpower because of too cheap. Children in Nepal start working at a very young in and around their own homes. In the countryside, most young children are taken care of by older siblings. Food and hygiene for younger brothers or sisters are the

responsibility of elder children, usually girls. Mother leaves their younger children with older siblings at home while they go for work is a common practice in these areas. If they do not have older children they take their babies along with them to the work place, (*Pradhan, 1994*). According to this description, the first step of child labor is start from their home.

## **2.2 Causes of Increasing Child Labour**

Child labor is a product of low living standards of the population resulting from the low level of income, literacy, and increasingly lack of means of subsistence, food, shelter and clothing and inadequate basic schooling and education. Thus, the practice of child labor is considered an effective means of augmenting the current level of income among poor families so as to enhance, by and large, their economic well being, (*CDPS, 1997:3*).

The vast majority of children are pushed into work that is often damaging to their development by three key factors: the exploitation of poverty, the absence of education and the restrictions of tradition, (*UNICEF, 1997:27*).

Poverty has been reported as the leading reason for working outside for non-domestic work. The second main reason is economic crisis of the family that's has been blamed for enforcing child labor. Financial trouble causes the children to be employed in industries, (*Suwal. et.al, 1997*).

The director of CWIN, Gauri Pradhan says that, most people easily reach the conclusion that the problem of children at risk are caused by poverty. Whist this is true and so obvious the growing trend of the children in servitude should also be viewed in the broader perspective of the prevailing social injustice, lack of effective enforcement of laws and plans of action and in appropriate development programs. More concretely, the growing problem of children are not properly addressed not they are critically analyzed. If we fail to do so now, the future will be uncertain and will end up no where (*Pradhan, 1996*). According to him, some of the major caused behind this problem are the unfair and exploitative economic relation, socio-cultural exploitation and family disintegration, lack of social awareness and conventional approach of child development.

In the other way, the book “INVISIBLE CHILDREN” published by “CWA/Save the Children (UK) 1997”, presents the causes of child labor in the Asia Pacific region as poverty which is a deep rooted and major factor in the persistence of child labor in the Asia-Pacific region. The preference of many parents is for their children to acquire skills over receiving education. Many poorly educated parents’ remains unclear about the long term economic gains of child work. For example, the family’s dependence on girl’s labor at home and in the field, denies them access to educational and other opportunities. Family breakdowns due to a range of causes, including in some parts of the region, the effects of increasing HIV/AIDS incidence on livelihoods, resulting in more and more children needing to work.

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

Educational opportunities remain limited, in accessible and expensive. The low quality of education and the irrelevance of the curriculum offer no motivation for children to stay in school. Children are often preferred in industries that are labor intensive such as the carpet industry. Child labor persists because laws are not strictly enforced and political commitment is weak. Macro-economic trends at the national and international, i.e. free market, orientation and structural adjustment programs, resulting in adult unemployment, low incomes and margin directly influence child labor patterns in this region.

Nepal is a rural agrarian country with persistent poverty, which is the most important reason for child labor. Poor households need money, which their children can earn. Children generally contribute around 20-25 percent of the family income (*ILO, 1998*).

Due to such reasons, child labor is widespread phenomenon in Nepal and is found in innumerable occupations. The international program on the elimination of child labor (IPEC) of ILO,1999) in its fact sheet for Nepal states the major factors which contribute to child labor have been identified as : (a) Poverty, (b) Social customs, values and attitudes, (c) Illiteracy of parents, (d) Lack of access to

education for the children, (e) Agrarian relations, (f) migration from rural to urban areas, (g) Family split and diminishing family support, (h) Trafficking of girls within the country and across the border, and (i) Inadequate enforcement of a labor and criminal laws.

### **2.3 Child Labor and Legal Provision in Asia and Nepal**

The crusade against child labor in most western countries began in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Since then many societies have engaged themselves seriously and systematically to eliminate child labor. (Basu et al.2003). Child labor is an integral part of our society, is the consequence of an exploitative socio-economic and political reality. The magnitude of the problem is more transparent in South Asia. Out of the total of 250 million child labor in the world as estimated by ILO and UNICEF, South Asia is the habitat for half of the World's child labor population (*CWIN, 1998*).

The system of child employment prevails despite several laws available to the enforcing agencies. For example, India child labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, even legalizes work of children in a number of industries so much so even in hazardous occupations under family trade. In India due to dismal failure in implementation of child labor laws, and alarming rise of 4% per annum, has been observed in child employment. Ironically, the present child labor law which provides for a fine up to Rs. 20,000/- and imprisonment ranging from 3 month to 2 years, has not been to convict a single offender since its enactment. Similarly, Pakistan and Bangladesh also have enacted laws prohibiting forced labor. For example, Bangladesh has some 25 special laws and ordinance to protect and improve status of children. The employment of Children Act 1983 and The Factory Act 1965 has prohibited the employment of children under 14 years. The law also stipulates that workers cannot be employed more than 5 hours a day. The penalty for violation of this act is fine up to Taka 1000/- yet strangely, the law does not cover employment of children in agricultural sectors. In Pakistan, child labour is interwoven with bondage, especially in carpet weaving, agriculture, brick kilning, surgical instruments, sports goods, leather beady making etc. despite the legislation of Bonded labor (Abolition) Act 1992. Surprisingly this country has ratified ILO convention dealing with forced labor (*UNICEF, 1998*).

In Nepal, child labor (under the age of 14) is punishable by law. According to the Children's Act 1992, section 53, in case any person commits any offense in contravention to section 1,31,718 or abets other to commit such offence or attempts to do so, he shall be punished with a fine up to Rs.3000/- or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with both. The gist of new legislation of Nepal is as follows:

### **The Constitution of Nepal 2015**

The constitution of Nepal 2015 prohibits the employment of children in any occupation which is hazardous to life. It also prohibits the employment of children under 14 years of age and make provision that employment of minors, aged 14 to 16, for more than six hours per day and more than 36 hours per week and working between the hours of 18.00pm and 06.00 am. is not allowed.

On 14 September 1990, Nepal endorsed the convention on the Rights of child adopted on 20 November 1989 by the UN General Assembly. Furthermore Nepal Government has endorsed the declaration of the World summit for children held at the United Nations in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990. As a member of the South Asian Association for regional co-operation (SAARC), Nepal has signed the Colombo Resolution. In accordance with this resolution, Nepal has obliged itself to work for the following goals- basic education and elimination of child labour.

### **ILO Conventions Ratified by Nepal**

ILO is the UN specialized agency dealing with work and workplace issues, and related rights and standards. Its overarching goal is to achieve decent work for all so everyone benefits from working conditions that offer freedom, equity, security and human dignity.

In 16 August, the Legislative Parliament of Nepal approved the ratification of the Abolition of Forced Labor Convention (No.105) adopted by the ILO in 1957. Nepal thus becomes the 170th of the 181 ILO member States to ratify this fundamental human rights convention. Nepal has ratified 11 ILO Conventions, including seven out of eight fundamental Conventions:C.29 - Forced Labor

Convention, 1930 (ratified in 2002)C.98 - Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (1996)C.100 - Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (1976)C.105 - Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, 1957 (2007)C.111-Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (1974)C.138 - Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (1997)C.182 - Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (2002).The ratification and implementation of ILO fundamental Conventions are an essential contribution to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals.

## **2.4 Economic Role of Children**

The family who are economically poor, economic activities of their children plays a great role for their livelihood. Nepali society is an agrarian based society and majority of people almost 2/3 percent of the total population is depending on it. That is why, the majority of children who are physically active, are involving in agricultural sector but their economic role is invisible in the family revenue.

According to the data published by ILO in collaboration with CBS in (2012), the children who are active, 87.7% is involved in agriculture related work and the rest 12.3% is in non agricultural work, 0.4% in laundry and shoe polishing as service workers, 2% as construction workers, 0.8% as general technical workers, 0.8% as production workers, 0.2% as slaves workers (domestic servants) and 0.9% others.

The report of the directors – General of ILO (2012), in many developing countries, children are found working in all types of industrial and service establishments in urban areas in both formal and informal sectors and also in commercial agriculture. Often they are working for low wages and for excessively long hours. Child workers are used for reducing labor costs and maintaining competitive advantages and fluctuation in demand. Slow growth of urban employment leads to child employment for generating and supplementing family income. So, children especially from poor families are forced into labor market to work either individually or as part of contracted family labor.

The report of the directors – General of ILO (2015), proposes a three-stage implementation plan and discusses the types of issues that could make up four

“centenary conversations”, which would give preliminary shape to the initiative, feeding into a high-level commission and then the 108th Session (2019) of the Conference.

Nepal’s economically active population increased from 4.852 million (59.3%) in 1971 to 2001. In another words, the labour force participation rate relative to the base population aged 10+ and above increased from 59.3% in 1971 to 63.4% in 1991 (CBS,2002). Due to an easy access in Gulf countries and abroad the remittance workers are much more and economically active population could be more than the 2001 data. About two hundred thousand people are currently added to the labor force each year. The population of Nepal is not able for a high proportion of young persons with approximately 60% being under the age of 25 years and 41.2% under 15 years of age. According to the national population census of 1991, about 22% of the children between the age of 10-14 years are economically active (*Singh, 2000*).

Child labor is closely linked to social, economic and cultural arrangements. Poverty and unemployment are the decisive factors rather than family problems. Children are directly engaged in production as well as release adult family members to undertake other forms of wage employment. The child labor is an outcome of socio-economic system prevailing in Nepal .Economic hardship/dependence and poverty of the under privileged class of the society forces young children to join labor market at tender age. Rural children often must assist their families to help ensure economic livelihood. Urban children contribute to their families’ livelihood or live on their own by their meager earnings in tea-shops and factories and transportations or elsewhere. Poverty also leads to indebtedness, which can result in bonded or semi-bonded labor for children. Many times children are sent to work when a family crisis occurs such as death of head of family or major illness of family members (*Pradhan, 1998*). According to the CWIN (1999), if the family is unable to repay the loan or pay the interest they may strike a deal to train or employ a son or daughter in the city. The children’s wages are thereafter taken as interest on the loan.

## **2.5 Major Areas of Child Workers**

Several CWIN research end survey studies have revealed that child labor is an integral part of labor market. From agriculture to industry, domestic service, plantation, construction and transport service, one can find children employed as labor (CWIN/UNICEF, 1995). The following areas can be taken as the main areas of child labor employment in Nepal which are :

Factory, industry, mines/brick kiln, plantation, domestic Service, apprenticeship in shop, tea shop, Restaurants and bar, transportation works, helper, Porter, street vendors, rag/garbage pickers, shoe shiners, hawkers, newspaper sellers, rickshaw pullers, Construction sites, child prostitution, bonded labor and children in circus etc.

Save the Children UK (1997) divided working children into two forms. One is visible and another is invisible. According to this publication, the forms of invisible child worker are as follows. Work within their own household seen as a part of growing up. Work in private homes (domestic work) work in agriculture, on populations and family farms, hidden purposively by employer (inside factories, ship etc.), work as unpaid helpers for adults, or as part of a “Group-work contract, work in illegal trade (done very discreetly).

## **2.6 Problems of Child Labor**

As revealed by a study carried out by CWIN, the pioneer movement for the right of the child, working children in Nepal comes across the following problems (*Pradhan, 1995*). Too young to work/inappropriate work for children, health hazardous/ long working hours, low wages and long working hours, work at night, economic exploitation, lack of basic education opportunities, Separation from parents, abuse and neglect, physical, mental and economical exploitation, no rest and entertainment, not having their basic need met, in appropriate child rearing atmosphere, lack of adequate parental love, care and understanding, lack of social security and violations of child’s right laws.

The factory and factory workers Act 1959 prohibit child labor employment in health hazardous condition. Nepal has ratified the convention on the rights of the

child and the ILO minimum Age-employment convention. On the basis of these convention, Nepal has adopted the Labour Act 1992 and Children's Act 1992 and has concerned authorities have neither effectively implemented the law nor formulated and plans of action for the children's welfare and rehabilitation (*Pradhan, 1995*).

## **2.7 Microbus Transportation and Child Labour**

It has been estimated that a significant percentage of the child labor force is involved in transportation. This includes rickshaw pullers, vehicle drivers, bus conductors, van conductors and microbus conductors (*CWIN, 1995*). According to this survey the driver prefers the underage assistants because they can squeeze into a small space, they do not weight much, they can hang off the window if the microbus is overcrowded with passengers, they can be put to other jobs such as Tempo/micro washing and domestic chores ,and can be employed for meager pay or just two times meals a day, and are risk-free workers,

According to the *CWIN News Bulletin, Dec. 2010*, there are still more than 450 child workers in micro buses in Kathmandu Valley.

The children who are working as *Khalasi* in Tempos, Micros and other buses, most of them spend their night in the vehicles and suffer various mental and physical problems. (*CWIN 2009*)

About 12,000 children are trafficked every year from Nepal. The local history implies that trafficking has long been associated with poverty, social exclusion and ignorance, as well as with the practice of slavery and the bondage labor system. Trafficking of girls seldom takes place before the onset of puberty, about age thirteen (*ILO, 2008*). In rural economy of Nepal amidst social injustice and economic backwardness, children have played a significant role in the family subsistence: fetching water, fuel wood, herding cattle, caring for siblings and helping parents in farm and of farm jobs are very common. In the changing context of urbanization, many children work outside their homes to support the family income. Child migration thus is on the increase (*TU/CDPS, 2000*).

Child labor in Nepal is being considered very seriously nowadays. It has deeply rooted in most part of the country. Despite Nepal's commitment to several international, regional and national human rights instruments to protect children's rights, innumerable Nepali children are deprived from their fundamental rights, also adopting the positive approach towards laws and regulations from government. Many children compelled to migrate in town in search of employment are increasing in small and big cities. It is everywhere in Kathmandu alone.

A report shows that about 25 hundred million children have been working in the different various labor sectors in the world. Among them, 60% children have involved in Asian country. Similarly, another report shows that among the all over the world total number of child labor are 80% have found in south Asia. In context of Nepal, about 26 lakhs children have been living by doing any kinds of labor. Among them 27 thousand children have must work very lower and hazardous condition. Orphans, deserted by parents and without adoption children have been seen in the street. Among them, many children have found in domestic worker, factory/ Industry worker, rickshaw puller, transport helper , brick-kilns worker, street and hand business worker, newspaper seller and garbage pickers (August 27, 2011 Nepal Samachar Patra).

Number of working children, aged 5 to 14 is 250 million. Nearly half (about 120 million) are working full time. Many of them are in hazardous and exploitative jobs, notably in agriculture, mining and quarrying, brick making, carpet weaving, construction, fishing, match and firework production, domestic service, prostitution and pornography and armed conflicts (ILO, 2003).

Child labor is a humanitarian issue, however, in practice, socio-economic conditions of the large majority of the children of today's developing countries are very tragic. They have been the victims of the prevailing social, economic and political system that exploit and suppress them. In many instances, children are seen as a source of cheap labor to augment profit/incomes in various enterprises and families. As a result, many children in today's developing countries are being deprived of their right to education and compelled to join labor force (CDPS, 2003).

Child labor exploitation is an alarming problem in Nepal. This is caused by the existing exploitative socio-economic and cultural structure of the country. Landlessness, illiteracy, exploitative labor relations and poverty are the basic long-term causes of Child labor whereas large family size, dropping out of school and domestic violence are amongst the immediate causes (CWIN, 2002).

Worldwide, the number of working children, aged five to fourteen are 250 million. Nearly half about 120 million are working full time. Many of them are in hazardous and exploitative jobs, notably in agriculture, mining and quarrying, brick making carpet weaving, construction, tanning, domestic service, prostitution and pornography, and armed conflicts (ILO, 2003).

Child labor in Nepal should not be defined in terms of paid and unpaid jobs. Rather, it should be defined in terms of the nature of work whether it is tolerable of exploitative or intolerable (CWIN,2001).

It is difficult to present the actual statistics since not being a national level survey study on Child labor. However, it is estimated that 2.6 million children are involved in different works, among them large proportion are found in agriculture sectors followed by other formal and informal sectors such as the carpet, garments, brick kilns and hotel/restaurants in Nepal. As of statistics, there are nearly 500,000 children migrated from rural areas to urban areas in Nepal. They are doing different kinds of jobs nearly 27,000 are street children, 5,000 rag picking children, 12,000 women and children trafficked annually to India and 40,000 bonded child laborers (CWIN, 2003).

Parent's perceptions on Child labor have been documented as influencing the Child labor in a society (Action Aid, 1995). In the case of schooling, parent's perception is dubious. While some regard the possibility for children to learn how to read and write, others consider education as irrelevant.

Also when school and labor schedules conflict, they tend to give more importance to work which has immediate benefits for the subsistence of the family. The effect of poverty on school enrolment has been often adverse because

of direct and indirect cost involved in schooling via heavy workload of children (CWIN, 2001).

Child labor exploitation is a reflection of the socio-economic reality of the country and a consequence of the feudal land holding system. Thus, it is a cause and effect of the exploitative socio-economic and political structure of the world. The rural communities in Nepal are going through a painful period created by increasing social injustice, economic exploitation, rural migration and urbanization have also contributed to an increase in the magnitude of Child labor exploitation (Pradhan, 2001).

The livelihood problem of the family is created by continuous margin of the poor due to unequal land distribution, massive land fragmentation, and lack of labor market in the rural areas. In these contexts, family is not able to protect their children and provide appropriate facilities that needed for children's development. Due to gap within the inter-generation, children did not find safe future and their parents' interest. As an effect of modernization, structural differentiation explains these changes well. As a result, children have a compulsion to look for work (Gurung,2001).

The children population in the age group 0-14 years is 8,948,587, which is 39 percent of country's total population. About 27.3 percent male and 30.4 percent female children aged 10-14 years were economically active in 2001 (Shrestha, 2003). In Nepal, more than 86 percent people live in rural areas and over 38.5 percent below the poverty line. The share of child population under age 18 was almost 43.6 percent and children between 5 to 17 years are 33.0 percent in 2001 (CBS, 2002).

Childhood is more than just the time before a person is considered an adult. Meaning much than just the space between birth and attainment of adulthood, childhood refers to the state and condition of a child's life: to the quality of those years. A child who has been kidnapped by a paramilitary group and compelled to bear arms or forced into sexual slavery cannot have a childhood, nor a child put to hard labor in a garment workshop in the capital city, far from family and home village. Children living in abject poverty without adequate food, access to

education, safe water, sanitation facilities and shelter are also denied their childhood (UNICEF, 2005).

Of 4.7 million children aged 6 to 14 years in Nepal, 22.5 percent are economically active and about 9.9 percent wageworkers. Among the children working for wage almost 40 percent or some 83,000 children work in the informed service sector, which is largely comprised of domestic labor (NLA, 2001).

Child labor is both a cause and a consequence of poverty. Poverty definitely forces children to work in order to meet the subsistence expenses of their households, to attenuate the risk of debts, bad harvests, illness or loss of work of the adult members. Worldwide, it is estimated that 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty, on less than \$1 a day.

They are almost entirely supported by the earning of the 500 million workers among them, including child laborers. Millions of girls and boys around the world are being exploited everyday. They are an estimated 250 million in total, half of them laboring full time and not attending school. Fifty million children at least are involved in the worst forms of child labor (ILO, 2001). According to a nationwide study by Tribhuvan University Central Department of Population Studies in 1999, 2.6 million children more than 27 percent are at work as child laborers and 60 percent of those children are between the ages of 6 and 14 years. However, 1.7 million are economically active and 0.9 million are working without pay. Although the country has ratified several international and regional conventions concerning protection of the rights of the child, including the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), children's rights continue to be violated in practice. The UNCRC has yet to be translated into reality: best interests of the child, rights to education, leisure, recreation and cultural activities, and the rights to be protected from all types of exploitation and abuse are not seriously considered to date (UNCRC, 2002).

## 2.8 Conceptual Framework of the Study

Based on the review of literature made above the following conceptual framework has been designed for this study.

The conceptual framework of the study is based on finding the root causes of child labor more typically in transportation sector. The major cause of the child labor may be broadly classified as push factors and pull factors. Poverty, maltreatment of family, heavy workload at home, no schooling/ family split Peer pressures are the major push factors whereas modernization, urbanization, capitalistic mode of production and the anticipation for the better life may be treated as pull factors.

This study is based on socio-economic condition of microbus conductor/*khalasi*. However, it tries to explore that the cause of child labor or what is the pull or push factor for their migration from village to city? After becoming a child conductor, what types of problems are they facing? By whom they are being harassed? Along with it, this study tries to excavate the past condition, present situation and the future plan of the transportation minors and also their relationship between them and other factor such as employer, driver and passenger etc.

After reviewing above existing literature, the main cause of child labor are; poverty, illiteracy and lack of social awareness, socio-cultural exploitation and family split or parental discord, influenced by modernization/ Urbanization, lack of effective enforcement of laws and action plan of inappropriate development programs, capitalistic mode of production in industrial and commercial sectors etc. As result child labor is engaged in different sector and children are facing different kind of problems such as abuse and neglect, low wages and long working hours, physical, mental and economical exploitation, lack of social security, lack of adequate parental love and so on. This situation is not a new phenomenon, historically the problems of child labor first appeared in 16<sup>th</sup> century in Europe. This was further expended in different forms and areas in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the children were further exposed to high risk areas in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century in France, Germany and U.K. But in Nepal, actual data is not found that from when the problem of child labor was prevalent and how much

child labor is involving in organized and unorganized labor force. After reviewing the existing literature, it is also found that driver prefers the underage assistant in every transportation sectors because – they can squeeze into a small space, do not have weight much, can be employed for little payment and risk free workers etc.

Among the child labor force in the capital city are mainly rural areas of the country or it can be assumed that above 90% child labor force is migrated from different areas of the country. That's why after study of their present socio-economic condition, their problems and means of solution, it is necessary to know that, what may be the cause of migration to the city. For this, we should know the push and pull factor of migration and those factor may be the prime cause of child labor.

The pull factor of their migration to the city may be the modernization, urbanization and capitalistic mode of production. By the modernization and urbanization, means of earning, factors of development such as transportation. Communication, means of entertainment, college, university, opportunity of employment etc. are centralized only in city. Because of different opportunity, the city is attraction point for every rural people attracting towards happy city, by this, the speed of migration to the city is increasing and as result, the labor force is gathering in city and this situation is creating exploitative socio-economic condition. This situation may be the product of modernization. The other attraction is industrial and commercial sector..

The push factor of children to the city may determine by socio-economic condition of family. However different social factor may be responsible for this. The unequal distribution of land and other natural resources may be one of the causes of poverty they (children) have to force to work by their parents. The other cause or push factor to the city from village in labor market may be familial mismanagement and split. The family disintegration may be the cause of child labor or it may be the product of child labor. Family split and discord may create domestic violence and consequently children have to leave their home or run away from native land. Others factors such as heavy work load, no schooling, influenced by peer groups and dissonance of family etc. may be responsible for

child migration to the city area. Regarding all these factor child labor is increasing in organized and unorganized sectors as micro/tempo workers. After reviewing existing literature, micro/tempo boys may be facing different types of problems as mentioned above framework and they may be harassed by master, driver, senior, friends, police, hooligans and indecent passenger. However it may not be true in every aspect. This process show the relationship between transportation boys and other social factor and this relationship is the responsible condition. To identify their present socio- economic conditions is the main objective of this study. During the beginning of the industrial revolution children were forced to work around family farms, in factories, tending crops or preparing food. They work in industries and their conditions of work were very dangerous and often deadly. At that time, the industry preferred children to work because children provided cheap labor and more malleable workers (Basu et al. 1999). In 1833 and 1844 the first legislation came to ban child labor. It implied that children should not work, and the idea was to remove all children from labor which interfered with school. However many children continued to be involved as child labor which was prohibited by law (Bhat 2011). Indeed child labor was almost completely reduced from the developed world, however currently, child labor still continues to rise in developing countries because of rapid population growth, high rates of unemployment, inflation, poverty, malnutrition, bad leadership, 14 corruption and low wages (Bass, 2004). Child labor is taking place everywhere in the world particularly in low income countries and these children are working in all sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, manufacturing, fishing, construction, domestic service street vending etc. In addition to that children are normally unregistered as employers and working in very poor and dangerous conditions without social protection. (Serwadda-Luwaga ,2005)

The incidence of child laborers throughout the world is difficult to verify because of the lack of reliable statistics of child labor. The reason is that the governments usually do not collect current data regarding child labor, and many child laborers are invisible (Das, 2012). Although reliable data is not available, ILO has estimated the number of child laborers in 2008 were 215 million boys and girls aged between five to seventeen years worldwide, with 115 million of them working in hazardous jobs (Aqil, 2012).

## **CHAPTER - III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

As it is indicated in the title, this chapter includes the research methodology of the dissertation. In more details, in this part outlines the research strategy, the research method, the research approach, the methods of data collection, the selection of the sample, the research process, the type of data analysis, the ethical considerations and the research limitations of the project. The literature review is mostly based on research papers of different scholars and reports provided by UNICEF, ILO and World Bank in terms of international labor standards and human rights conventions.

Besides this the theoretical approaches are contextualize from sociological theories .Secondary data were also extracted from central bureau of statistics, labor forced survey and relevant articles. This paper attempts to provide with realistic overview of the child labor situation. Peer reviewed online resources and academic articles written by different scholars, were used in this paper to determine the existing child labor policies.

#### **3.1 Rationale of the Study**

To make a country developed, human resource plays a pivotal role. It does not mean that while developing the country, one need to use the labor of the miners. In Nepal the children are found working either to help family in the agriculture being invisible workers of in the hotel, transportation, laundry, brick kiln and elsewhere. When we deploy them either in the income oriented job or invisibly in the farm, it hinders the overall growth and development of the children which ultimately hampers the sound development of the nation. Apparently, this study highlights the deplorable status of the working children in the microbus in Gongaboo area and their exploitation both economically and physically. Furthermore it will help the concerned authority to launch policy to curb the number of working children in the country.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The present study is based on exploratory as well as descriptive research design. It is exploratory research because its objective is to gather preliminary information that will help define problems related to the child labor in the transportation sector. It is more descriptive research in the sense that it describes the characteristics of various aspects, such as demographic, socio-economic, status, background as well as characteristics factors. Descriptive research is a comparative design which is prepared according to the study and resources available. It minimizes bias and maximizes reliability.

Due to the lack of available researches about microbus boys, exploratory research design is made to investigate the minimum acquaintance about those boys. On the other hand, descriptive research design is made to describe the socio-economic condition of them and major problems associated with them.

### **3.3 Sampling Procedure**

The present study covers the microbus conductors (*Khalasi*) comprising 47 in numbers of Kathmandu district, who have been working as helpers. The site of Gongaboo is selected because it is the centre for many routes such as Gongabu-Ratnapark, Buspark-Ratnapark, Manamaiju-Ratnapark, Baniyatar-Ratnapark, Greenland-Ratnapark, Samakhusi-Ratnapark, Tokha-Ratnapark etc which emerges at the centre of city Ratna park and New Road. This place can be the best sample of the study because it is the center route of microbus and is observed that more children are involving as *Khalasi*/helpers in this route earning the meager salary.

### **3.4 Nature and Source of Data**

This research depends upon both primary and secondary data. The primary data and information have been collected from the field work through structured questionnaire and analyzed. And the secondary data are obtained from different sources such as Central Bureau of Statistic's data, CWIN report, ILO report etc. Beside this the main source of data are- books of different author from libraries, publications and reports published by different related national and international

organizations, journals, research reports, newspapers, magazines and other reliable source.

### **3.5 Techniques of Data Collection**

The following techniques were applied to collect the primary data.

#### **3.5.1 Interview Schedule**

Structured and semi structured questions were used relating to economical, sociological, demographic and behavioral aspects of microbus boys to get detail information. The interview have taken to transportation boys on different issues such as personal and family characteristics, work experience, income, saving, expenditure, health and hygiene educational status, attitude towards jobs and future aspiration etc. And semi structured questions were asked to their service holder, driver and other known person to know more detail about them. The cross-sectional questions also applied for the possibility of getting multi purposive variables.

It had to be worked hard to manage the time for interview because microbus boys were busy from early in the morning to late evening. The time for interview was managed during the launch time and after microbus stopped its service that is after 8:00 PM. Various aspects of socio-economic, age and ethnical composition , status, background and responsible factors and the problem faced by them were comprised in questionnaire schedule that helped to draw the clear picture of the status and overall information of the boys working at microbus. Total thirty six structured questionnaires were prepared for the study purpose.

#### **3.5.2 Non-Participant Observation**

To know more in detail about their attitude, behavior, physical, working and living condition, the non-participant observation has been obtained. Here the related person with the *Khalasi* boys will be consulted without the notice of the boys working in the transportation. The language they use, physical built, and the clothing of the boys will be the source to know about their health, education and income level.

### **3.6 Method of Data Analysis**

In order to satisfy the objectives of the dissertation, qualitative and quantitative data have been collected and analyzed through the particular rules. The quantitative data obtained from preplanned questionnaires are first processed through editing and coding. After then, the processed data have been presented in tabular form and interpreted and analyzed. Finally, it is concluded and some recommendations are put forward on the basis of received information. On the other way, the qualitative data are received by discussion to the micro boys, their employer and observing their habit and working condition.

### **3.7 Research Limitations**

As it is for every study, this dissertation had the following limitations:

The size of the sample can be consider relatively small to generalize the conclusion. A bigger sample would probably enhance the reliability of the research, However due to time constraint and budget limitations sample from different locations could not be conducted. Qualitative research is not allowing the measurement of the examined problems .The respondents may be bias in giving answers. And its hard enough to check the reliability of their answers.

## CHAPTER-IV

### Background Characteristics of Child Labor

The analysis presented below helps to understand the background of microbus boys and their working and socio-economic condition of their lives. Many children are found who have left home due to poverty, heavy work load at home, and maltreatment by (step) parents. Before finding out the life standards of micro/tempo boys, it is necessary to know their socio-economic, cultural origin, demography, place of origin, ethnic and their educational status.

#### 4.1 Residential Status

Mainly, all microbus boys can be categorized into three groups, in terms of their migration and residential status. The first category consists of those microbus boys, who have left their home and are living in town. They migrated to their place in search of jobs with close relatives. The second category is those, whose family have migrated from the village in search of better life and live nearby town. They are maltreated by their guardians or influenced by other and run away from their homes. And the third category is those who are the proper resident of Kathmandu district. They are influenced by their friends or negligence of parents and become the conductor of microbus. Mostly, the respondents said the reason of leaving home are expectation of better life, heavy work load at home, no chance of study, parents' maltreatment, poverty and fail in examination.

#### 4.2 Caste/Ethnic Composition

The ethnic and Caste Composition of the respondents represent various ethnic and caste groups as the table shows below.

**Table 4.1 :** Distribution of respondents by caste/ethnicity.

Caste/Ethnic group	Number	Percentage
Brahman	8	17.02
Kshetri	6	12.77
Janjati	21	44.68
Others*	12	25.53
Total	47	

Field Survey, 2016

(\* Kami, Damai, Sarki and Sanyasi)

The Caste Composition of microbus working boys in Kathmandu has a wide diversity. Table shows microbus boys from various caste and ethnic groups such as Brahman, Kshetri, Janjati (Magar, Gurung, Rai, Limbu etc.). Among them, majority (44.68%) were from janjati followed by 25% others Kami, Damai, Sarki, sanyasi etc. Brahman and Kshetri have 17.02% and 12.77% respectively.

### 4.3 Age Structure

From the Child development perspective, the age under the 17 is a very important period for child. Socialization and formation of the self-identity or self-esteem are given shape that will be carried unto adulthood. So, this age is much striking for all. Those children, who are seemed to under the age of 17 are selected for this study. In this regard an attempt has been made to know the age structure of the microbus boys.

**Table 4.2 :** Distribution of the respondents by age.

Age Structure	Number	Percentage
10-12	4	8.51
12-14	10	21.28
14-17	19	40.43
Greater than 17	14	29.79
Total	47	100.00

Field Survey, 2016

As demonstrated in table, most of them working as Khalasi in microbus are age of percent. 14-17 years .It is found that children under the age of 17 are almost 70 percent .Only 30 percent were found above the age of 17.This resembles the presence of child labour in transportation sector.

### 4.4 Arrival in Kathmandu

Due to different reasons like poverty, natural calamities and many others reasons the children migrate into Kathmandu and start to work in different sectors. Some of them came with parents; friends and relatives whereas some of them were found ran away from the house of their own way or without permission of guardians. The table shows how existing microbus workers arrived in capital city as follows:

**Table 4.3:** Distribution of respondents by the means of their arrival.

They came with	Number	Percentage
Came with parents	8	17.02
Came with relatives	15	31.91
Came with friends	6	12.77
Run way from home	16	34.04
From KTM Valley	2	4.26
Total	47	100.00

Field Survey, 2016

In the case of migration of children from their native land to the capital city, the table 4.4 shows that majority 34.04% of came running away from home to Kathmandu in search of better life. Whereas 31.91% arrived to Kathmandu with relatives in dream of prosperous life. Likewise, 12.77% of boys came with their friends and 17.02% came with their parents.

#### 4.5 Reasons for Leaving Native Land

The table given below shows the reason of microbus labourers who are underage and the cause of their leaving the native land.

**Table 4.4 :** Distribution of respondents by the reasons for leaving native lands

Reasons for leaving native lands	Number	Percentage
Anticipation of better life	18	39.02
Parental maltreatment	11	33.33
Poverty	14	22.86
Charm of Kathmandu Valley	4	4.76
Total	47	100.00

Field Survey, 2016

In the survey, it was found that anticipation of better life is the main reason for leaving native land. Most of them (39.02%) left their village in search of better life in the city, 33.33% children had left their home by the maltreatment of their parents for the cause of failed in exam, heavy work at home etc.

In this way, 22.86% children were by the cause of poverty because they could not get chance of study and not get food nicely. So, they come in this field for getting better life.

Lastly, 4.76 % of children were in Kathmandu valley and they are working as a *khalasi* because of the negligence and absence of well treatment at home by their parents and in this group little children had left their home thinking that they may get work in the city easily.

#### 4.5 Parental Status

Family is the most important foundation for the development of child life. So, it is very necessary to know about their family background or parental status, who are involving as a child labour in microbus which is shown in table as follows-

It is found that that 72.34 % microbus boys have their father alive but some have got their stepmother . In this way, 4.26% is left by their father or do not know about them and 10.64% is left by their mother or do not know about them. Similarly, 23.40 % children's father and 19.15% children's mother are dead. In the survey, it was found that some children have stepfather and step mother which are as follow:

**Table 4.6 :** Distribution of respondents having foster parents based on Field Report, 2016.

Step parents	Number	Percentage
Step father	4	8.51
Step mother	10	21.28
No step Parents	33	70.21
Total	47	100.00

Field Survey, 2016

In the survey, it was found that out of 47 microbus boys, 29.57 have step parents. some of them have stepmother and some of them have stepfather. And 70.21%o boys do not have step parents. The 8.51% boys have stepfather and 21.28% have stepmother. Some of them said that after death of mother, father remarried step mother and some of them said that after death of father mother eloped with another man and he become foster son of that man.

**Table 4.7** : Distribution of respondents by educational attainment

Attainment class	Number	Percentage
1-5 class	7	14.89
5-8 class	16	34.04
8-10	14	29.79
Slc pass/or higher	10	21.28
Total	47	100.00

Field Study, 2016

The above table shows their study level clearly. In this table the microbus working boys who have attained up to grade five is 14.89%. Among the literate boys, who attained five to eight grade are 34.04%. During the period of data collection 29.79% children were found over class eight and 21.28% were found to be SLC pass.

#### 4.7 Parental Occupation/Source of Family Income

Occupation of parents also responsible for the carrier development of their children. The occupation determines their economic status and economic status determines their personality and carrier. Therefore, the occupation is most important factor to determine the development of child in every sector. Here, the table shows the parent's occupation of source of income of the house of the boys working in the microbus as *khalasi*.

**Table 4.8** : Distribution of respondents by their parental occupation

Occupation	Number	Percentage
Agriculture	22	46.81
Business/service	7	14.89
Daily wage/driving	12	25.53
other	6	12.77
Total	47	100.00

Field Survey, 2016

The above table shows that the large number of boys whose parents are involved in agriculture or cultivation which accounts 46.81%. There is few percent of parents involved in the sector of street business or service which is 14.89% and next the daily wage/driver is 25.53% but the 12.77% of respondent respond that their parents involve in

other occupation. By the study of this data, it is found that low-income occupation is the one of the cause of child labour. Here, the agriculture and business means not a large firm. So from their occupation it was found that they had low-income occupation.

#### 4.8 Food Adequacy at Home

Nepal is a poor country and also found poor people except some professionals, businesspersons and some landowners. So, to fulfill the hand to mouth problems the children must have to work. The following data are found about food sufficiency.

**Table 4.9 :** Distribution of respondents by food adequacy at home

Food adequacy	Number	Percentage
Yes	21	44.68
No	26	55.32
Total		100.00

Field Survey, 2016

In the study of this topic, 44.68% did not have food problem in their house. However they migrated from the village for the purpose of living freely and did not like to stay in village due to hard work. In this way, 55.32% of respondents did not have enough food at home.

#### 4.9 Previous work before this Job

Some transportation boys are newly involved in microbus as child labour and some had worked in different sectors before becoming *khalasi*. It has been shown by the following table.

**Table 4.10 :** Distribution of respondents by their past experiences

Had you worked before	Number	Percentage
Yes	33	70.21
No	14	29.79
Total		100.00

Field Survey, 2016

According to the above survey data, 70% had worked previously in different sectors but 30% did not work previously at all or they were at home before doing this work in this new field. They were as the invisible workers in their native land.

**Table 4.11** : Distribution of respondents by the sort of their previous job

Kinds of previous work	Number	Percentage
Same as this work	19	40.43
Domestic servant/ helper	7	14.89
Carpet weaver	5	10.64
Other*	16	34.04
Total	47	100.00

(\* News paper selling, restaurant worker, etc) Field Survey, 2016

Among the 47boys, 40.43% were found same as this work, 14.89% were domestic servant, 10.64% were carpet weaver and 34.04% were in other sector such as Hotel/Restaurant, Rag picker, street alming, news paper seller on street and garment/ Industries etc.

#### 4.10 Reason of leaving previous job

And lastly, when the question about the reason of leaving previous job was asked the respondents were found as follows:

**Table 4.12** : Distribution of respondents by the reason of leaving previous job

Reasons	Number	Percentage
Hard work	13	27.66
Maltreatment of boss	7	14.89
Low wages and Facilities	12	25.53
Other*	15	31.91
Total	47	100.00

(\*Not getting salary, dislike job and Kicked out by masters) Field Survey, 2013

Among the 47 working boys in Kathmandu district, 27.66% did not like their previous job due to the hard work 14.89% of them left the previous job because of maltreatment by their master and 25.53 percentage of them left the job by the cause of low wages and

facilities. And at the last, 31.911% were left by the cause of other such as not getting salary, dislike job and kicked out by master.

#### 4.11 Salary of Microbus Boys

The salary scale of micro boys is very low in the proportion of their working hours a day. As informed by them, all of them have been employed on daily wages as well as on temporary or monthly basis except a few numbers. The table given below shows the salary scale of micro boys.

**Table 4.13 :** Distribution of respondents by their daily wages

Daily wages in Rs.	Number	Percentage
No money (only meal and clothing)	0	
Rs. 1-100	3	6.38
Rs. 100-200	8	17.02
More than 200	36	76.60
Total	47	100.00

As informed by micro boys out of 47, 6.38% of them get Rs 100per day. Instead of remuneration, they get only meal and clothing by their master. In the course of study, it was found that 17.02% gets Rs. 100-200, 76.60% gets Rs. more than 200 per day. This illustrates that the daily wages of child working in micro bus is very less and insufficient for livelihood.

#### 4.12 Expenditure pattern of Microbus Boys

The expenditure pattern of boys is not same because of their low and unequal income and their interest. Given table tries to show the expenditure pattern of micro boys on different items is according to their priority which is as follows:

**Table 4.14 :** Distribution of respondents by their priority of their expenditure

Expenditure items	Number	Percentage
Food	5	10.64
Clothing	23	48.94
Entertainment	14	29.79
Other*	5	10.64
Total	47	100.00

(\* medical treatment, family support, study etc.)

Field Survey, 2016

Most of the boys spend money on clothing and entertainment only a very few save money for family support.

#### 4.13 Saving from the Salary

It is found that the remuneration of micro boys is very low. However, the question is raised whether do they save money? If they save, how much? and if not, what is the reason? The table solves the above questions.

**Table 4.15 :** Distribution of respondents by their saving

Do you save money?	Number	Percentage
Yes	12	25.53
No	35	74.47
Total	47	100.00

Field Survey, 2016

The above mentioned table shows that, majority of micro boys cannot save money from their actual remuneration because of different reasons. However, 25.53% responded that they can save a little amount. The respondents who can save money from their salary is asked about their saving level is given in the table below.

**Table 4.16 :** Distribution of respondents by their saving amount based on Field Survey, 2016

Saving in Rs. per month	Number	Percentage
Rs. 100- Rs. 1000	5	10.64
Rs. 1000- Rs. 1500	4	8.51
More than 1500	3	6.38
No saving	35	74.47
Total	47	100.00

Table 4.16 shows that almost 75 % of the boys can't save their money . Only 10.64% micro boys can save Rs. 100-1000 ,8.51% can save Rs. 100-1500 and 6.38% can save Rs. More than 1500 per month. This shows that the the scenario of remuneration of the labourers in the transportation sector is very insufficient for livelihood.

#### 4.14 Reason of not saving

At the end, the question about the reason of not saving was asked to those respondents, whose response was "Can not save" from their salary is given below.

**Table 4.17** : Distribution of respondents by their reason of not saving

Reasons	Number	Percentage
Not enough	17	48.57
No idea	3	8.57
Others*	15	42.86
Total	35	100.00

(\*Playing cards, alcohol and watching film)

Field Survey, 2016

The response of respondents is found that 48.57% boys do not save as salary is not sufficient. 8.57% respond they don't have any idea about saving .During the course of fieldwork, it is found that the children who do not need money to spend for food, clothes and residence and who have been living with relatives, master/driver and family have some saving. About 42.86% spend on entertaining, alcohol, playing cards etc.

## CHAPTER- V

### WORKING CONDITION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION

This chapter includes working duration working hour, probability of accident, food and health status etc of the boys working in the transportation of microbus in Gongaboo station of Kathmandu.

#### 5.1 Working Duration in Microbus

After arriving in Kathmandu the children in general, suffer for livelihood and survival in the absence of employment. Some of them have contacted to their friends and relatives for job and some of them get job with their individual efforts. The table's here presents the duration of (the work child labors) as since how long have they been involved in microbus as *khalasi*.

**Table 5.1 :** Distribution of respondents by their working duration in micro bus

Duration of work	Number	Percentage
1-4 months	23	48.94
4-8 months	18	38.30
More than 8 months	16	34.04
Total	47	100.00

Field Survey, 2016

The table 5.1 shows that most of the child workers have been working as helpers or *khalasi* for four or less than four months; whereas 38.30% was found working for four to eight months and 34.04% were working for more than 8 months. This indicates that the microbus boys working as *khalasi* are searching for new job as their retention in job is very low.

#### 5.2 Working Hour of the Microbus Boys

According to the "Children Act 2048" a child under the age of 14 shall not be employed in any work as labor. But in practice in our country the child labors have been observable in every sector such as hotels, carpet\garment industries, construction work, in transportation sector etc. The table shows the working hours of the microbus boys.

**Table 5.2 :** Distribution of respondents by their working hour per days

Working hour	Number	Percentage
Upto 8 hours	4	8.51
10-12 hours	7	14.89
More than 12 hours	36	76.60
Total		100.00

Field Survey, 2016

Table 5.2 shows that 8.51% boys have been found working for upto 8 hours per day and 14.89% of them are worked for 10-12 hours per day while 76.60% are working for more than 12 hours a day. But the Article 47 of "children Act 2048", children should not be employed more than 6 hours per day and 36 hours per week. So, above data show the lapses in law of our country are not in implementation. They were forced to work more hours without extra pay.

### **5.3 Other Facilities Instead of Salary**

In the study period, it is found that the wages of microbus boys are very low in the proportion of their working hour. So, the questions were asked to them about their other facilities instead of salary. The following data are found.

**Table 5.3 :** Distribution of respondents by getting other facilities

Do you get other facilities?	Number	Percentage
Yes	35	74.47
No	12	25.53
Total	47	100.00

Field Survey, 2016

Table 5.3 shows that 74.47% boys are getting different facilities including their daily wages. But 25.53% microbus boys are not getting any other facilities excluding their salary scale. The microbus boys, who are getting other facilities, were asked about their major facilities, which are given below.

**Table 5.4 :** Distribution of respondents by the facilities, which they are getting along with salary.

Getting facility for	Number	Percentage
Food	30	63.83
Clothes	5	10.64
Residence	7	14.89
other*	5	10.64
Total		100.00

(\* medical and tips)

Field Survey, 2016

Table 5.4 shows that 63.83% and 10.64% microbus boys are getting the facilities of food and clothes. Similarly, 14.89% of them are getting residence facility and 10.64% gets other facility such as medical , entertainment etc.

#### 5.4 Job Satisfaction

This is the opinion of microbus boys where they are satisfied or not in their job and the reason of satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

**Table 5.5:** Distribution of respondents by their job satisfaction

Are you satisfied?	Number	Percentage
Yes	35	74.47
No	12	25.53
Total		100.00

In the study, period 74.47% boys were happy with their job and only 25.53% of them were not satisfied. The reason of satisfaction and dissatisfaction are given below respectively.

**Table 5.6:** Distribution of respondents reason of satisfaction towards their present job

Reasons	Number	Percentage
Food	23	65.71
Clothes	4	11.43
Resident	6	17.14
Others*	2	5.71
Total	35	100.00

(\* medical and entertainment)

Field Survey, 2016

Table 5.6 shows that 65.71% boys were satisfied in their job because from the present job that they don't have problem in fooding and there is less burdensome than the work they had to do at home. On the other hand, they yield some money too in the city area where they can get the facility of cinema, alcoholism and occasionally prostitution. 11.43% boys get the facility of clothing. Similarly, 17.14% are getting resident and 5.71% gets other facilities such as medical, entertainments etc. which make them satisfied to their job.

**Table 5.7:** Distribution of respondents by the reason of dissatisfaction with their present job

Reasons	Number	Percentage
Heavy work load / more working hour	4	33.33
Maltreatment of master	3	25.00
Not getting Salary	2	16.67
Low Wages	3	25.00
Total	12	100.00

Field Survey, 2016

Table 657 shows that the main causes of dissatisfaction by their job are heavy workload, low wage and maltreatment..

### 5.5 Place for Staying or to Go for Sleeping

This topic shows the place of sleeping at night of microbus boys as follows.

**Table 5.8 :** Distribution of respondents by their sleeping place:

Staying	Number	Percentage
Family	5	10.64
Master's house	6	12.77
In vehicle	15	31.91
Others*	21	44.68
Total	47	100.00

(\*rent house, relative and friends)

Field Survey, 2016

Table 6.8 shows that 31.91% boys sleep in a vehicle in garage at a night and other 44.68% in rented house, with relatives, friends and driver's family etc. Similarly, 12.77% of them sleep in master's house and 10.64 %in family .

## 5.6 Love and Affection

Love and care is the most important things for living beings. So, everybody in the world wants love. When this question was raised among respondents, following result was found.

**Table 5.9:** Distribution of respondents by the behavior of their owner

Does your master love you?	Number	Percentage
Yes	37	78.72
No	10	21.28
Total	47	

Field Report, 2016

From the above table, it is found that 78.72% boys were loved by their owner but 21.28% boys were not cared and loved. So they were treated by their owner by the following ways.

**Table 5.10 :** Distribution of respondents by the treatment of their owner with them

How does your master treat with you?	Number	Percentage
Shouting/ scolding	5	50
Keep hungry/ do not allow to eat in time	3	30
Misbehave or neglect	2	20
Total	10	

Field Report, 2016

## 5.7 Extra Involvement at Master's House

In the course of study of microbus boys, it is necessary to know that about the relationship between boys working in the microbus and their owners. So, following table shows the relationship between them.

**Table 5.11** : Distribution of respondents by the work at master's house

Do you have to work at your master house?	Number	Percentage
Yes	4	8.51
No	43	91.49
Total	47	100.00

Field Report, 2016

Table 5.11 shows that 8.51% employees have to work at their owner house. And 91.49% replied that they have not work so on. In this way what types of work they have in their master's house is given below.

### **5.8 Behavior of Passenger**

The work of microbus boys is related with people. So, what types of behave people do with them are given below.

**Table 5.11:** Distribution of respondents by the behavior of passenger

How do passengers behave you?	Number	Percentage
Good behave	27	57.45
Speak harsh	11	23.40
Misbehave regarding fare	9	19.15
Total	47	100

Field Report, 2016

It is sure that behavior of human being is not same. So, many people have different behave. In this way, from above table 57.45% boys generally get love from passenger, 23.40% boys are faced by harsh words of passenger, 19.15% of them are misbehaved by passenger. This fact reflects the culture which we are developing and how the child or workers working in transportation sector are treated by the user community.

### **5.9 Harassment and Exploitation**

When the researcher wanted to know the figure of harassment of microbus boys, the following data were found.

**Table 5.12 :** Distribution of respondents by their harassment

Are you harassed by anyone?	Number	Percentage
Yes	18	38.30
No	29	61.70
Total	47	100.00

Field Report, 2016

Above data shows that 38.30% boys faced harassment but 61.70% boys were not by anyone. When the researcher wanted to know about the persons who harassed them, following data were found.

**Table 5.13:** Distribution of respondents by whom they are harassed

Harassed by	Number	Percentage
Master	3	16.67
Police	4	22.22
Passenger	8	44.44
Other *	3	16.67
Total	18	100.00

(\* master's wife, senior friends and Hooligans)

Field Report, 2016

Table 5.13 shows that 44.44 % boys are harassed by passenger which is followed by 22.22% by police. Similarly, 16.67 % boys were harassed by their master ,master's wife, seniors , local boys etc.

## **5.10 Health and Nutrition**

We know that health is wealth for every living being. So, it is necessary that to know about the condition of health and nutrition. The given description shows the condition of health and nutrition.

### **5.11 Food**

Food is the basic need of all human beings, may be either rich or poor. The table below shows food condition of microbus boys.

**Table 5. 14 :** Distribution of respondents by the number of times food they take.

How many times per day?	Number	Percentage
2 times	28	59.57
3 times	14	29.79
4 times	5	10.64
Total	47	100.00

(Field Survey, 2016)

Table 5.14 shows that 59.57% boys take food two times per day, whereas 29.79% of them take three times and 10.64 % take food four times . In the study period, it is found that more of them go to hotel for food with their master/driver in daytime. But in evening, some of them cook themselves in the room, some of them go for food to their family of relation or their owner's house and only few of them go to hotel for meal. It is also observed that generally all of them take tea and snack with their driver in the morning.

### **5.12 Aims in Life of the Microbus Boys**

Everyone has aim in life because man without aim cannot get success in life. In this regard an attempt has been made to find out the aims of life of the microbus boys as follows.

**Table 5.15:** Distribution of respondents by their aims

Aim to be	Number	Percentage
Driver	27	57.45
Army/police	4	8.51
Others*	5	10.64
Go abroad	11	23.40
Total	47	100.00

(\* businessman and mechanics)

(Field Survey, 2016)

The above table shows that most of the microbus boys have aim to be a driver in future. When the reason for being driver was asked, all of them immediately replied that they would have a very happy life and more money. As noted in the field that some of them have been given opportunity to learn driving by driver and some of them has been in learning only by looking the driver as how he drives. But other boys gave different

priorities such as Army/police 8.51%, others 10.64% likes mechanics, businessman etc.  
But 23.40% replied that they want to go to abroad for job.

## CHAPTER-VI

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

#### 6.1 Summary

This chapter entails the research problem, objective of the study, methodology applied in research and the major findings of the study.

Child labor is a serious problem and a challenge for many developing countries. Many countries have enacted various laws and have taken serious initiatives to eradicate child labor, but still the problem is very widespread throughout the world. This thesis critically examined child labor in typically in transportation sector in Kathmandu Nepal.

The objective of the study is to find the major factors responsible for child labor and to explore the relationship between background characteristics and child labor along with the problem faced by them.

The present study is based on exploratory cum descriptive research design. Characteristics of various aspects, such as demographic, socio-economic, status, background as well as characteristics factors underlying in the child labor is studied. Both primary and secondary data have been used and various research techniques. Such as interview schedule, unstructured questions, non-participate observation were applied to collect the required data for the study. The quantitative data obtained from preplanned questionnaires are first processed through editing and coding. After then, the processed data have been presented in tabular form and interpreted and analyzed. The site Gongaboo is selected because many routes originating at different point that has destination to the centre of the city namely, Ratna park and Newroad.

The respondent were selected by accidental sampling procedure. In this study, 47 microbus boys were selected randomly for interview. This thesis covers the microbus boys of Kathmandu valley who have been working as helpers, *khalasi* in microbus transportation.

The literature review is mostly based on research papers of different scholars and reports provided by UNICEF, ILO and World Bank in terms of international labor standards and human rights conventions. Secondary data were also

extracted from international organizations like the ILO, the UN and the World Bank and central Bureau of statistics, Nepal.

It is found that most of the child labor in microbus was from Janajati caste and of age group 14-17 years. Majority of them arrived with their relatives and escape themselves from home due to poverty. The poverty was the major underlying factor. Most of the boys left their school after class eight and about 21 percent peruse SLC or higher degree. The 55 % of the boys did not have food adequacy at their home. It is found that though these boys were engaged in microbus they were not paid even the minimum wage defined by government. Their remuneration is very low. So they can't save their money.

The other part of the research reveals the fact that about 76 % were forced to work for more than twelve hours per day which is strongly against the children act 2048 which states the no children were employed for working more than 6 hours per day and 36 hours per week The working for more than 12 hours a day with harassment is not their voluntary choice at all.

## **6.2 Conclusions**

The problem of child labor appears in severe form and various factors are involved. The reasons for the incidence of child labor are complex and deeply rooted into the society. Poverty seems to be the main cause. In general poor children contribute to household income. Child labor can be found in urban and rural areas. However the vast majority of child labor occurs in rural areas since poverty is more rampant. Although, many poor rural families struggle for a better life in urban areas, this pushes families to force their children to work in order to increase the family income and ensure survival. Study found children under the age of fourteen years are still engaged in economic activity in transport sector in Nepal. These children tend to work more consequently; they are not regularly in school. However, besides poverty there are other causes such lack of schools, lack of regulations and enforcement, corruption, lack of awareness and rapid population growth.

Children in transport sector usually works for more than twelve hours a day .Working hours are one of the indicator in identifying whether or not a particular form of child labor

is one of the worst form of child labor. By this criterion child in transport sector in Nepal are falling in worse form of child labor. It is found from the study that child or even the elder workers in microbus are harassed both mentally and physically while they are at work.

Most of the documented variation in child labor is at the household level. Thus, household factors are more important than community or child specific-factors in determining child labor supply. The earnings opportunities available to children within the household, household composition, and household living standards are three key factors that appear particularly important in explaining why children work.

In recent years or especially after the restoration of democracy and establishment of republican system in 2063 BS, the issue of child labor has been becoming one of the hot cakes both in mass media and in academic circles the agenda of researches. Some efforts have been made by the government to eliminate the child labor by making different laws and political commitment. But complete abolition of child labor abuse in Nepal has been failure due to various factors. Yet there has been the legal end of bonded slavery viz, *Kamlary* in Nepal. The main source of child labor in Kathmandu is the fact of the migrated rustic children who get easy job in transportation sector as the microbus boys.

And the root causes of child labor are poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, family split, unjust social atmosphere and lack of awareness to the future of the parents. Because of lack of adequate food, clothes, educational opportunities, maltreatment of parents (specially of step parents), hard working and negligence of family, children are forced to work as hotel boy(*kancha*), *khalasi*, cook, domestic servant, carpet weaver and shoe shiner etc. Poverty and anticipation of better life are found to be main reasons that drive them to the city. No chance of study and heavy workload at home is another reason for leaving home. **Thus child labor prevailing is not a voluntary choice but is a forced.** Though modernization is found the pull factor towards city the underlying cause is the poverty, food in adequacy, lack of environment of education that forced them to earn early for the anticipation of better life.

The present survey shows that their existing working condition is unhealthy. They get very low payment on the basis of present market price. Instead of working hours and don't have saving for support to their family. Long working hours, meager payment, lack of shelter, job insecurity, risk of an accident, over exploitation etc. are the main problems

and the reasons their dissatisfaction of the microbus boys. However, most of them preferred the job because their main ambition was to be a driver in future.

The relationship between employer and employee is found as master and servant or boss and servant, because some of them found working personal work of their owner such as cleaning house, washing dishes and clothes, shopping vegetables etc. And relationship between passenger and microbus boys is also not so good because sometimes they have been abused and bitten by the passenger. Because of improper influence and hazardous condition the abuse words for them is found common and some of them found fall in bad habit such as smoking and alcoholism.

Generally, the main reason for increasing child Labour in the city is found influence of friends or the main role for their runaway from village to the city is found their senior friends. And other major pull factor for their migration to the city and becoming child conductor is found influence of modernization and urbanization, for example, 30.48 Percent Tempo boys runaway from native land without permission of their parents, this may be the cause of attraction of urbanization. And another minor pull factor for their migration to the city is found capitalistic economy. And family disintegration or domestic violence also the responsible for child Labor.

It is found that, the child labor could be abolished through the economic prosperity, rapid literacy program of school facilities and strict enforcement to anti child labor laws in Nepal. The necessity of today is to protect working children from being exploited. Abuses, improper influence and hazardous conditions are fatal to develop their physical, mental, social and moral development.

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- [12] What is your parent's occupation?
1. Agriculture
  2. Business/Service
  3. Daily wage/driver
  4. Other
- [13] Were you involved in other job previously?
1. Yes
  2. No
- [14] If yes, what types of work had you done?
1. Same as this work
  2. Domestic helper
  3. Carpet weaver
  4. Others
- [15] Why do you leave previous job?
1. Hard work
  2. Maltreatment of boss
  3. Low wages and facilities
  4. Others
- [16] How much do you earn daily?
1. No money
  2. Rs. 1-100
  3. Rs. 100-200
  4. More than 200
- [17] Where do you spend your income?
1. Fooding
  2. Clothing
  3. Entertainment
  4. other
- [18] Do you save money?
1. Yes
  2. No
- [19] If yes, how much do you save per month?
1. Rs. 100-1000
  2. Rs. 1000-1500
  3. More than 1500
  4. No saving
- [20] If no, what is the reason of not saving money?
1. Not enough
  2. No idea
  3. Others

Group - 'B'

**Problems faced by child Labour**

- [1] How long you have been working here?
1. 1-4 months
  2. 4-8 months
  3. More than 8 months
- [2] How many hours do you work per day?
1. Upto 8 hours
  2. 10-12 hours
  3. More than 12 hours



1. 2 times

2. 3 times

[16] What do you want to be in future?

1. Driver

3. Army/Police

2. Others

4. Go abroad

*-The end-*