

# **CHAPTER - I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Childhood is very important and sensitive stage of human life. We cannot imagine a society without children. Children are influenced by most of the national activities. So, there is no doubt that children are major issue of the nation and it is being established.

It is important to know about their situation at present. This study attempts to describe and explore the socio-economic condition and reason for working as a child worker in local buses of Kathmandu valley.

Children are future of the nation. They are the beginner of every new generation. Childhood stage is the most effective stage of human development. So the type of life, a human being lives depend on the development period of children. A large number of working children are deprived in various ways and are in high risk. So these economically active children are child labours and those children who are deprived, harassed and at risk, are very serious and challenging issues of Nepal currently (CWIN, 2015).

According to the national census of Nepal of 2011, there were 25.22% children in the age group between 5-14 years, where 26.46% are male and 24.0 % are female. About 86% of the children lived in rural areas, among them higher number of children lived in Terai region, secondly in hilly region and thirdly in the mountain region (National Census, 2011).

In Nepal most of the children are working instead of learning, studying, playing, and understanding new things under the safe environment. Child labour is a dark past of Nepalese children. It deprives children from their childhood and adversely affects their physical, mental and cognitive development. Apparently, child labour is taken as working trend of Nepalese society. In Nepal, Children are working more than 60 different working fields (CWIN, 2015).

Child labours are those workers who are below 14 years of age, deprived from minimum level of facilities, work long hours, get low wage and hamper their physical

and mental development. Child labour consists of all economically active children undertake but excludes those aged 12 years and older who are working only a few hours a week in permitted higher work and those aged 15 years and above whose work is not classified as "hazardous", (ILO). So if the work is not harmful for their growth process, then it is known as child work, not child labour. According to Constitution of Nepal (2072), no child shall be employed to work in any factory, mine or engaged in similar other hazardous work(WIPO). Also, according to The Children Act and Labour Act of Nepal (1992), the group of under the age of 16 years is considered as children, because below the age of 14 years children are strictly prohibited to work as labour. But the children aged between 14-16 years can work only for limited working hours. They can work 6 hours per day. If they work 3 hours continuously, they should get a rest of minimum half hours.

Child labour exploitation is a serious problem of the developing countries like Nepal. Thus, the child work is a cause and effect of the exploitation, socio-economic and political structure of the world. Like others developing countries, the rural communities in Nepal are going through a painful period created by increasing social injustice, economic exploitation and backwardness. The growing magnetizations among the rural population, rural migration and urbanization have also contributed to increase in the migration of child labour exploitation (Pradhan, 2010).

Child workers working in the local buses are one of the different forms of working sector of the child labour in Nepal. Child labour/worker in local buses is defined internationally as children with or without wage. Child workers are employed to perform works such as collecting bus fare from travelers, calling the travelers as well as helping bus driver; what he/she request.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In recent years child labour and issue of working children has received a great deal of attention from both researchers and policy makers at national and international level. Child workers in local buses are common and wide spread phenomena in the cities of Nepal. The subsistence economy can hardly support people for their livelihood. Rural peoples are attracted by various pull factors of urban areas such as entertainment, work, education and high quality of life. This makes young teenage children

interested in going to urban areas for better future(Nepal, 2018). Thus child labour is not only the problem of an individual or a family but also the problem of the society.

Children are base for any country. Health care, education, food, protection, security, shelter and cloth are the fundamental rights for the children. However, the majority of child worker are living fearful and uncertain life. Due to poor economic status, families have very limited options for halting children to go for working in the cities.

In Nepal child labour is banned by the country's constitutional and legislative measures. The worst and most hazardous form of child labour are banned unconditionally. The constitution of Nepal 2072 is progressive. The Constitution of Nepal 2072 has well addressed the provisions of rights of children as their fundamental rights. In addition, there are specific provisions for rights of children to justice, education and health including rights of children in conflict with law and rights against exploitation. The right to survival, protection, development and participation of children has been ensured in 10 different clauses under article 39 of the Constitution. The constitution has laid emphasis on the best interest of children through the article 51(j). (CCWB, 2017).

The problem of child worker in local buses is increasing day by day. Instead of improvement in the situation, the present condition of Nepalese children is far below from satisfactory level. 621,000 children's are estimated to be engaged in hazardous work. Estimates suggest that 60 per cent (373000) of children in hazardous workplace.(Nepal I. , 2019) .Many children workers in local buses are compelled to work by the rich bus owner and exploited by them. Six children have been rescued from Lagankhel Bus park; under a campaign named 'Child labour-free transport-2075 BS' in order to free public transport from child labour(Tribune, 2018).

In constitution of Nepal 2072; Child labour has been strictly prohibited but in practice, Kathmandu displays contradictory position. Kathmandu is one of the highly urbanized and situated at the central Nepal. Kathmandu is prone to child worker in local buses because it has higher opportunities for business, jobs and for better life. In reality, they are not getting better life, instead they are exploited by the employer, elite or bus owner and driver. So Kathmandu Metropolitan city has been selected as the

study area to identify the problems of child worker in local transportation. This study has attempted to find out the answers of the following research questions.

- ) What causes children to work as a child worker?
- ) What is the socio-economic status of child working in transportation sector?

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

The general objective of this study is to what extent of children are working as child worker in local buses of the Kathmandu valley. Thus the specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- ) To identify the reasons for working as child workers
- ) To find out the socio-economic status of child workers working in local buses of Kathmandu valley

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

In terms of sociological perspectives, child labor is the consequences of the unharmonious relationship within the family and their unequal distribution of resources; affecting them to fulfill their desires and dreams. This force them to left their home and work to earn for their living. In this way, child labor is created. Such tendency will disastrously affect the overall children development of the family and society halting the development process of the country.

The problem of child worker in local buses is the consequences of many social and family issues such as social exclusion, family break ups, domestic violence, abuse and neglect at home, poverty, depressions, etc. Work that is harmful to the child's physical and mental development falls within the category of the worst form of child labour as the child is mentally, physically, socially or morally deprived. The work interferes with schooling as it obliges them to leave school prematurely or requires them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long working hours and heavy labour (ILO, 2004).

This research will help to bring the exact information and situation and to hold up the attention of the concerned authorities. Child labour in local buses of Kathmandu valley is being gradually recognized by concerned sectors as a problem. Although the number of the study on child labour has been conducted especially focusing on carpet domestic child labour, industries and other small-scale industries, brick industries, and hotel; there are only few numbers of studies on child workers working on the local buses of Kathmandu valley. Thus, it is expected that this study will be helpful to find out the exact situation of child workers in local buses. Thus, this research would be helpful to search the remedies of problems faced by child worker working in local buses for concerned organization, academician and researcher. Moreover, this study is expected to provide accurate information on child labour on local buses which might be helpful to those who are interested to conduct research in this field in future.

### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

This study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter mainly focuses on the introduction of the study that deals with statements of the problems the objectives, significance/organization of the study, and the limitation of the study. Chapter two presents the literature's review. The third chapter includes research methods. Chapter four includes data analysis and presentation. Chapter five includes summary, conclusion and recommendation.

## **CHAPTER- II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Fundamentally, child labour is a reflection of poverty, weak economic and social institutions; it is often equated with child abuse as children are forced to work in unsafe and exploitative environment. Child labour has been recognized as a major social problem in Nepal. To address this problem many studies has been conducted to understand particular forms of child labour at the local and national level by various organization. Here, the researcher has tried to review about the child labour related subjects.

#### **a. Child labourStatus**

Today, throughout the world, around 218 million children work, many full-time. They do not go to school and have little or no time to play. Many do not receive proper nutrition or care. They are denied the chance to be children. More than half of them are exposed to the worst forms of child labour such as work in hazardous environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities including drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict(UN, 2019). According to ILO's statistics, Nepal still accounts for 1.6 million children between the ages of 15-17 engaged in child labour, out of which 62,000 children between ages 5-17 are engaged in hazardous work. There are three international conventions at work in Nepal — ILO Convention number 138 stating the minimum age for admission to employment and recommendation; ILO Convention number 182 and, ILO Recommendation number 190 concerning prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. Although these conventions explicitly calls for immediate and effective measures to secure prohibition and elimination of worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency, the implementation of these are weak and many children are still forced into labour where they are heavily exploited(Basnet, 2018).

The Government of Nepal has clearly demonstrated its commitment to the elimination of child labour. The ratification of two ILO core Conventions on Child Labour No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Employment and No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour was followed by the establishment of a number of legislative and legal

frameworks including the National Master Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour (2004-2014). From 1990 onwards and in line with the spirit of the two core Conventions, the Government is in pursuit of strategies and plans effective for child labour abolition. It is with this view that the 2004-2014 Plan was further improved and updated in 2010 with the elaboration of a revamped National Master Plan (NMP, 2011-2020) on Child Labour which is awaiting the Government's endorsement. The NMP aims at re-energizing Government actions towards the target of elimination of all worst forms of child labour by 2016 and all child labour by 2020 (Spotlight, 2012). There are a wide range of groups involved in efforts against child labour. According to the first comprehensive analysis of child labour related programmes in Nepal, each year a total of US\$62.6 million are allocated to the implementation of 29 international donor agency (multilateral, bilateral or international NGO) programmes directly or indirectly relate to the issue of child labour. 57 Allocations to core child labour programmes (i.e., child labour, trafficking or bonded labour), however, are much less – an estimated US\$18.3 million annually. In addition, it is estimated that about 240 NGOs with a stated objective of helping children are registered throughout the country. Community development and community-based organisations, university and research institutions, and the media are also active partners and important stakeholders in addressing child labour (Committee, 2003).

Child labor remains a widespread problem in Nepal, with more than 2 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 (about 34%) estimated to be engaged in child labor. The highest incidence in child labor occurs in the agricultural sector, but children are also engaged in labor in domestic service, pottering, recycling, and transportation. The most dangerous conditions of child labor are reported in brick kilns, the stone-breaking industry, the carpet sector, embroidery factories, and the entertainment sector.<sup>1</sup> Severe physical abuse of children is reported in agriculture, brick factories, the stone-breaking industry, and domestic servitude. In the informal sector, children work long hours in unhealthy environments, carried heavy loads, are at risk of sexual exploitation, and can suffer from numerous health problems. (Rights, 2016)

Children are our future. Child labour has been considered as a major social problem in Nepal. Nepal labour Act. 1992 defines the term child as a person below the age of 14 years. The term 'work' can simply be considered as "economic participation outside home" The term 'child labour' implies exploitation that children are working long hours for the pay, scarifying their health, education and childhood (New Wave, 1993). In Nepal according to the constitutions of 2007, "every person under 18 year is known as children." According to the Children Act of Nepal (1992), every people under the age of 18 is a child. According to the Children Act and Labour Act of Nepal (2048) the groups of children under the age of 16 years old are known as children. Below the age of 14 years children are restricted and prohibited to work as labours.

The interim constitution of Nepal clearly states in article 22 that "every child shall have the right against physical, mental or any other form of exploitation. Such exploitative act shall be punishable by law; and any child so treated shall be given such compensation as may be determined by the law and no minor shall be employed to work in any factory, mine or engaged in any similar other hazardous work or used in army, police or conflict." This overarching legal framework, the constitution and related laws therefore prohibits child labour in Nepal.

#### **b. Challenges of Child labour**

However, child labour exists everywhere in Nepal. No sector of labours is completely free from child exploitation (CWIN, 1998). Inadequacy and ineffective enforcement of labour legislation is the root cause of child employment. The problem of child labour cannot be eliminated overnight but it is not impossible as well. The supply of child labour will remain high if income –generating opportunities are not available to adult household members. The demand will remain high as long as child workers are paid lower wages than adult labour when laws are not enforced effectively.

The rights of the child are both need and demand of the era, so none can deny the importance of their essence. Considerably, there has been progressive change in socio-cultural, political and economic attitudes of the people, community and the government of Nepal in the direction of child's right compared to previous years (CWIN, 1994). In this regard, it explains both government and the non- governmental



agencies of the country that have been making effort to translate the spirit of the UN convention on the rights of the child into practice in spite of all these positive efforts and initiatives. However, different forms of child rights violations still exist in the country as a inevitable fact. There has been very little probing in this sector of unorganized child labour where no protection is granted either by laws or the trade unions. That is apparently the reason why there has been a very little documentation about this matter.

Unlike in the case of developing countries like Nepal, Child labour is a thing of history in most of the industrialized and developed countries. The success relates to realization of the need to stop childlabour and nurture childhood in a protective joyful and educational environment. Today, most of the developed countries have compulsory school education up to 16 to 18 years (grade 10 to 12), whereby the government guarantees free education up to that level and the parents are required by law to send their children to school. However, in many underdeveloped countries, this realization has yet to come not only among the poor rural families whose children are vulnerable to child labour but also among many privileged communities and families who employ children as labourers(Management, 2004).ILO (1995) view that “child work” is a “potential learning experience for the child, and hence not harmful” but “child labour” as exploitative by nature and determined to the child’s growing process, depriving the child of the rights to survive, development, protection and participation”.

In fact, children do various type of works in different conditions. On one hand, the work is advantageous, encouraging a child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral, social development without disturbing schooling, recreation and rest, on the other hand, it is tangible, and destructive such as prostitutes, bonded child labouretc (UNICEF, 1997). Because of rapid urbanization, the rural elites have mostly migrated to urban areas with their domestic servants. Such rural to urban migration is also with the economically poor section of the rural population with the purpose of seeking employment. Thus the level of rural to urban migration is growing day by day. Children in Nepal are found to be employed particularly in informal sector (restaurant, transportation, construction work, agriculture, small and cottage industries, carpet factory, brick factory, Jari factory, porter etc.) and also as domestic

workers. Incidents of involving children in hazardous work by lying their real age have also been exposed (Ministry of Women, 2017).

CWIN 1995 study reveals that some children even from the better families run away from the houses and enter into urban because of several attractions in towns. Child labour exists in this sector in great scale owing to a number of reasons ranging from social reorganization, social attitude of taking the children as the source of income after death of parents and abuse of children by the parents and step mothers. Scarcity and lack of facilities/opportunities in rural areas and unemployment are other reason that compels the children to enter into towns alone with their parents and engage in labour intensive works, either for their own survival or to support their family member.

Most definitions of child labour used by major UN and international organization adopt the concept of 'harmful work' as laid out in article 32 of UNCRC. Any work done by children which harms their physical, mental, social, emotional or overall future development is defined as child labour. Using this definition child labour includes only those economic activities that deny a child the possibility of developing normally into a responsible adult. It includes strenuous or hazardous employment in economic activities by young children (under the age of 15) as well as work by children of all ages in the worst forms of child labour (ILO/IPEC, 2014).

As revealed by a study carried by CWIN 2015, the pioneer movement for the right of child working children in Nepal discloses the following problems.

- ) Low wage and long working hours.
- ) Lack of basic education opportunities
- ) Work at night
- ) Too young to work for children
- ) Economics exploitation by adults
- ) Separation from parents.
- ) Abuse and neglect
- ) Physical , mental emotional exploitation
- ) No rest or entertainment
- ) Not having their basic needs met
- ) Inappropriate child rearing atmosphere

- ) Lack of adequate parental love, care and understanding
- ) Lack of social security and attention
- ) Violations of child's rights law

### **c. Laws, Policies and Research**

Nepal has ratified the convention of the rights of the child and the ILO's minimum age employment conventions. (On the basis of these conventions, Nepal has adopted the labour act 1992 and child right act 1992 and has declared that employing children at the age of 14 is illegal. Problems of child labour are consequences of social injustice, economic exploitation and anti-human development programs.

CWIN 2015 conducted research about the "study of the urban child labour in Nepal" shows that the cause of child labour was to support their family. The representation of child labour was growing with every passing day from the rural to urban. By supporting the above same reason of the child labour, Sattaur, (2013) study mentioned that urban migrant has been increasing by rural poverty to help their families' financial support. This study describes unequal and injustice distribution system, illiterate and cultural tradition as the major causes of the child labour problem in Nepal.

Major causes of child labour in Nepal are identified as poverty and financial pressure, unemployment, underemployment, family deprecation, lack of alternative, inadequacy of the education system, inadequate enforcement of legislation and prevalence of public attitudes (ILO, 2014). Likewise, major causes of child labour are food insufficiency and unemployment because of lack of land owned (Dahal, 2013).

Nepal is a rural agrarian country with persistent poverty, which is the most important reason for child worker. So, they compel their children to work as a labour in employee to support financially and to solve the family problem (ILO, 1998). Poverty has been reported as the leading reason for working outside work. Financial trouble has led children to be employed in industries (KC et al., 2010).

Likewise (INSEC, 2014) survey concluded that 12% of child workers search for work, and 7% due to insufficiency of food are the most important reasons for leaving

home and came to Katmandu due to parent's suggestion, 43% because of advice of friends, 6.5% due to dislike of home. The desire to be educated but the lack of adequate opportunity at home 6.55% is also an important cause for leaving home and to earn money and starting to work. The principal reason why children leave home are found mainly from lack of love, care and parental guidance and violence in the family (CBS, 2011)

Family with bigger size contributes to child labour and many parents may face financial difficulties and so are compelled to send at least one child to work (CWIN, 2015). Due to increasing rates of family break up and consequent remarriage, many children are discriminated physically and mentally from their step parent other family member. Children then run away to the towns and end up working in some form or another to survive. (ILO, vol.11 2014).

IPEC (2014) also states that traditionally the caste system has exploited and discriminated. Children of "lower caste" or dalits families are forced to work in the worst work as well as their traditional occupation followed. Likewise, unequal power relationships in communities between landholders and tenants create difficulties in labour force.

Child labour is a widespread phenomenon in Nepal. Child worker in Nepal has been increasing day by day. A series of laws and acts prohibit intolerable form of child work and protect child rights and have been working to eliminate problems method to child labour but no substantial improvements have been achieved so far. In fact, due to economic stagnation, nature calamities and disease, internal conflict as well as implication of structural adjustment policy, child labour has emerged as a major social problem in Nepal. Thus, child labour is not only the problem of an individual or a family but also the problems of the society (Gurung Y.B.et al., 2016).

Patterson (1943) defines that child labour is not only a problem of an individual or a family but it is also the problem in the society. Child labour may be regarded broadly as any work of the child under circumstances that interferes with the opportunities for physical development, education and recreation which are required. It is the working of children at unfit ages for unreasonable hours or under healthy conditions.

Bequele and Boyden (2014) state child labour as a humanitarian issue, which has achieved a worldwide attention in recent years and the concept is still emerging. As a

human being, every child has inherent rights to justice, peace, and freedom and to all kinds of necessary for life such as education, healthcare, protection, love and respect. Information on child labour is relatively scarce because of general tendency to conceal it since child labour is illegal. Therefore, presenting a comprehensive picture of a child labour is a complex task.

But if we reject this simple distinction, we can define 'child labour' as that form of work in which a child is engaged which is determined to growth and development including child prostitution, bonded labour and the economic activities of street children (including begging and stealing). Family labour, which interfaces with a child's education, recreation on physical, mental or moral health would also be considered as child labour. Some forms of child work however clearly are beneficial to growth and development. Where, for example, schooling is inadequate and where work is part of the socialization process for the child (Poudyal, 2013). Children are foundation of hope for the whole nation. Child labour is a global phenomenon. The problem, however, is most critical in the least developed countries. Generally, in developed countries, children do not need to support their families, instead, parents support their children until they are capable. In underdeveloped countries, the reverse is true.

The new ILO convention stipulates that any person under the age of 18 years has to be protected from employment in the worst forms of child labours.

Child labour is a product of low living standards of the population resulting from the low level of income, illiterate and increasingly lack of means of subsistence, food, shelter and clothing and inadequate basic schooling and education. Thus the practices of child labour is considered on 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). Studies have indicated that poverty is the crux of the problem of child labouring in Nepal. There is a direct link between the poverty and child labour in Nepal. So, poverty is the main reasons for emergence of child labour in Nepal (CWIN, 2015, Suwal, et al., 2015).

Even if some children realize that education is advantageous for their future life, either they do not have access to school or they cannot afford to buy stationary and pay the fees. So, children leave home with the hope of acquiring both an income and

an education (K.C, et al., 2010). Other studies claimed that the child labour problem in the urban areas of Nepal is aggregated by the arrival of children to these areas as migratory workers. Child worker usually leave home for a better life in the city. ILO 1998 report shows that about 605 children left home because of burden of work at home and no opportunity to go to school. Step- parents, and maltreatment accounted for another 27% of child workers, about 245 children worked due to the death of an earning member of the family. Due to poor household 20-25% children goes to earn for family support.

The main cause of child labour is increase in poverty and population, which compelled them to seek job in different sector for them and their family's survival. As a result, the consequences of child labour have an adverse effect on the productivity capacity of the children themselves, even when they grow old. They are under paid, which makes them unable to meet their basic needs like housing and food (CDPS, 2013).

Many parents cannot afford money for their children to study. Even if primary education in Nepal is so called free, it is not compulsory. Poor people are always busy solving hand to mouth problems, and they are ignorant of the advantage and the value of education. Children are weighted only from the economic perspective. Even if some children realize that education is advantageous for their future life, either they don't have access to school or they cannot afford to buy stationary and pay the fee.

The main cause of child labour are poverty, illiteracy and lack of social awareness, socio-cultural exploitation and family disintegration, influenced by modernization and urbanization, lack of effective enforcement of laws and capitalistic mode of production in industrial and commercial sectors etc.

Gurung YB et al., (2016) attempts to explore reasons for children's leaving of their home at early ages including the forms of labours they enter in to insufficient or no food and land in the origin, lack of job, domestic violence and dislike of village like are identified as the main reasons behind, migration poverty in the rural areas is the main factory of child migration.

Urbanization process is increasing in Nepal, where people have to face busy life. This situation creates high demand of child labour in urban area. On the other hand, children are cheap to employ (being paid only a fraction of their adults counter parts),

docile, easily available as a work force and easier to manage than adults. The younger children cannot bargain for wages or facilities.

At last, the above literature review shows that child labour as a growing problem in the world as well as in Nepal. More seriously, developing countries are victims of it. Children in low socio-economic status as well as deprived from minimum requirements are affected by the vicious problem of child labour.

Most of the studies on the child labours focus on the condition of child labour in different parts of the country. Least study has been focus on the practices of child labour in local transportation, so to fulfill this gap; I am interested to carry out this study.

#### **d. Conceptual Framework of the Study**

Regular interactions with child workers in local buses make me curious to know about their issues problems they are facing. The poor as well as miserable conditions, lack of time to think themselves about their study, domestic violence among them really touch my heart and soul. The poor health conditions they are facing and surviving with inspire me to know more about their constraints and problems. Why they are in this condition? What factors in force them to be a child labour? To pacify the thirst of these queries awaken me to carry out this study as research.

## **CHAPTER - III**

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The research design adopted in this study is exploratory as well as descriptive types. The fundamental objective of this study is to analyze the actual situation of child labour in Kalanki, Koteshowr, Jorpati, Balaju and Ratnaparkof Kathmandu. In this study the exploratory research design helps to know the socio-economic characteristics and to identify the causes of work of child worker. On the other hand, the descriptive research design helps to describe and analyze the major working condition, problems of the child worker and relation between child worker and bus owner. The data obtained through the design have been qualitative as well as quantitative in nature.

#### **3.2 Rationale of Selection of Study Area**

The study was conducted in Kalanki, Koteshowr, Jorpati, Balaju and Ratnapark of Kathmandu. Kathmandu is the largest city and capital of Nepal. Many children's and poor family enter in the capital either for opportunities or attraction of city. Many children are working as a child worker in the local buses of Kathmandu Valley. In this situation, it is very important to know that their condition of work, cause for work as child labor in local transportation, and their relation with each other.

#### **3.3 Universe and Sampling**

Child workers working in the local buses of Kathmandu valley ( Koteshowr, Jorpati, Kalanki, Ratnapark and Balaju) were the sampling area of the study. Universe of the study was the child worker of Kathmandu. The purposive sampling method has been used to collect the information to match the research and availability of cases. The sample size of the study area represents the population of age between 10-17 years of 10 child workers in which 2 girls have been taken for sample. This sampling was based on the purposive none--probability sampling technique.



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

The nature of the data is of two types i.e. qualitative and quantitative. The source of data has been collected from the primary and secondary sources. Both primary and secondary data has been used in this study for obtaining required information. Primary data were collected from the field by using the tools like questionnaire and observation child workers. The secondary data has been obtained from different related sources like published and unpublished books, research reports, journals, newspapers and magazines etc.

### **3.5 Tools of Data Collection**

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaire**

A set of questions were used to collect some of the basic data in terms of personal identification, ethnic/castes, age, main occupation of their family, their previous experiences, future desire, educational background major problem faced by them and about their happiness etc. So the questionnaire was filed through interviews with child labours at the study areas. The data are collected under the major headings namely: name, age, sex, educational background, family, recreation, relation with employer etc.

Structured questionnaire has been used to get the detail information about child worker. It has been kept in mind that the target of the questionnaire schedule was to obtain the personal and socio-economic characteristics, caste, origin, reason for work, income, health and schooling, sexual harassment, relation with each others, attitude towards work and future aspirations of the child worker.

#### **3.5.2 Observation**

Since the overall objectives of the study is to find out and describe the socio-economic and working conditions of child workers working in the local buses of Kathmandu. Observation is one of the basic powerful techniques of data collection to document the present condition. Information was collected through observation about their overall activities, working condition, physical appearance and behaviors of the owner member. Subsequently I observed many child workers standing in the front of the bus, calling travelers and scolded by owner. The observation was done for 4 days

during the entire period of research. The time for the observation was set purposively by the researcher.

### **3.6 Reliability and Validity of Data**

To make the collected information more reliable and valid, self administered questionnaire were distributed among the respondents. Questionnaire was simple and filled by respondents without any bias. So there is a high chance of accuracy is observed because no external influence was there. They fill all answers of questions without external influence, even in the absence of researcher.

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

Both qualitative and quantitative data are used in this study. Gathered data and information from the respondents are classified and tabulated according to nature of data. Quantitative data are processed through editing, amending, processing, tabulation and finally data are analyzed and interpreted using Ms Excel and qualitative information has analyzed through logical comparative analysis.

### **3.8 Limitation of the Study**

This small scale study confines itself to small part of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. So the generalization of the research may or may not be equally applicable to the other parts of Nepal. This study does not cover all age group of childlabour, and then the finding cannot be generalized. Small number of girls is taken in the study. On this study, only child workers were surveyed through purposive sampling. Thus finding from this study will not be the whole representation of the child worker in local buses ofwhole Nepal. These facts may limit the findings of the study.

## CHAPTER- IV

### FINDINGS

This chapter deals with the socio-economic aspects of child worker including background, about its origin place and family background, and health situations. In particular, background and characteristics of respondents such as age, sex, caste/ethnicity, education and family status, place of origin and health situation of owner house are analyzed in this chapter.

Child worker reflects the poor socio-economic situation of the underdeveloped societies like Nepal. When agriculture is unable to substance and there is only limited alternative employment in rural area, children enter the urban area for employment for better life. Some come with their own relatives and some by agent and friends.

#### **4.1 Background of the Respondents**

The background helps to understand of the child workers working in the local buses to know more about their present conditions. Many child workers worked in local buses due to poverty and maltreatment by step father/mother etc. Before finding out the condition of worker, it is necessary to know about their age, sex, caste/ethnic and educational status.

##### **4.1.1 Caste/Ethnic Composition**

A wide diversity was found in the caste/ethnic composition of at the study site during the field work. Child workers in local buses from different caste/ethnic groups such as Brahmin, Tamang, Magar, Dalit were found. Out of total 10 respondents, 2 are girls. Table No. 1 shows that the distribution of child workers by caste.

**Table No1: Percentage of caste/ethnic groups**

Caste	Total no. of respondents	Percentage ( %)
Brahmin	1	10
Tamang	4	40
Magar	3	30
Dalit	2	20
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

Table no. 1 shows that the percentage of child workers among Tamang, Magar, Newar and Dalit are comparatively higher than that of Brahmin. Parents of these social groups don't earn sufficient money for their family as well as are less aware to get education and to empower themselves. Lower literacy rate of Dalit and Tamang people and less access towards mainstream of development increases their chances as child labour.

#### **4.1.2 Age and Sex Composition**

Age is one of the important factors to be considered while analyzing the situation of child worker. The age under 18 is very important period of child socialization and for the formation of the self identity and self- esteem. So, this situation is most striking for all in this regard. As already defined children are minor below the age of 18 years.

#### **4.1.3 Educational Status**

Each and every child has right to get education but many of child workers don't get educational facility. Education is the light of knowledge and right of child. Without education child cannot achieve liberty and better life also. They have always been the victim of exploitation and oppression. Because of poverty, many parents cannot afford the child to provide education, so child dropout their education.

In this study, all the child workers have a basic primary level education.

Table 3 shows the educational status of child workers.

**Table no. 2: Education status of child workers.**

Educational Status	No. of respondents	Percentage ( %)
Primary	5	50
Lower Secondary	4	40
Secondary	1	10
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

Table no. 3 shows that most of the child worker in Kathmandu has a primary education (50%) whereas only 10% has a secondary level education. 40% has a lower secondary education. This resembles children come to work as a child labour in very

early age with very minimum education. They are interested for further study but they are not getting time from their job.

## **4.2 About Origin Place and Family Background**

Origin place and family backgrounds are most important factors for Child workers in local transportation. Insufficient land leads toward the poverty, successive draughts, tenancy, and share cropping drive them to urban areas in search of employment.

### **4.2.1. Family Status**

Family status is one of the leading factors why many children are pushed into child labour in local transportation. Family is the shelter for the children. Good family has a good access in all aspects. In the process of child socialization family is one of the most important and crucial institution. Family plays an important role to mould a child. The future of child depends on his/her parent's presence and support.

Many of the children are involved as child workers in local buses against their will due to either family conflict. In the family where the children have either stepmother or stepfather are more likely to join the labour force in their early age.

**Table no. 3: Family Status of Child Workers**

Status of parents	No. of respondents	Percentage ( %)
Both parents alive	2	20
Only father alive	1	10
Only mother alive	3	30
Step mother	4	40
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

This shows about 40% of child workers have a step mother so they are forced to work because from new women children are not getting enough affection. 20% have both mother and father alive whereas 30% have only their mother's alive. This condition at their early age pushes child towards child labour.

**Table no. 4: Distribution of Child Workers by Family Size**

Family size	No. of respondents	Percentage ( %)
0-4	1	10
4-6	2	20
6-8	7	70
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

Table no. 6 shows size of child workers families. 70% of respondents have 6-8 members in their family. This shows these families have lack of food, cannot afford for education, and push their children as a labour due to many members and less income. Besides this, 20% have 4-6 member family size.

#### **4.2.2 Family Occupation**

Family occupation always determines to make the good or bad life of the children. In this table we can see the highest percent of child workers have come from the agricultural family occupation and wage labour is the second occupation. It looked that most of the child worker has entered at Katmandu as child workers in local busesto earn money, and for schooling because of their low economic family condition after being not afforded by parents.

**Table no. 5: Status of Parental/Family Occupation**

Occupation	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Agriculture(substance type)	7	70
Job(services, manufacturing)	1	10
Wage labour(construction)	2	20
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

Table no 7 shows that most of the parents of child workers are farmer or wage labour. But they have no more productive land and earn insufficient money to survive. On the other hand, only10% of family has a job(serves and manufacturing). They can't earn

sufficient money to fulfill the requirements of their own family and force the children to do child work in local transportation.

#### 4.2.3 Food Sufficiency for Family Survival

From the study of parental occupation, majority of the family do not receive regular wage. So these families are financially unsecured. Under these circumstances, poverty normally would not allow them for schooling and even sufficient food for their livelihood. Thus, insufficient family income is also the root cause to leave children for child labour.

**Table no. 6: Food Sufficient for Family Survival**

Food sufficiently	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Sufficient(Enough to eat for the whole year)	1	10
Just sufficient(Enough to eat for around 6 months)	3	30
Insufficient(Enough to eat for 3 months)	6	60
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

According to above table only 10% of workers family has sufficient food for their family. If the production from the own or rented land is not sufficient then the family search opportunities to fulfill their food. In the market, workers parents don't get more opportunities and they leave children in work.

**Table no. 7: Distribution of Cause for Working**

Reason for working	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Poverty	5	50
To pay loan	3	30
Influenced by others	2	20
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

This table shows that about 50% of child workers are working due to poverty, 30% are working because to pay loans taking by their family and 20% had said they were influenced by others to work. From above studies we saw that their family have no sufficient food, don't earn adequate money, and in their birth place don't have good institution for study. So the workers come Kathmandu to get better education and in expectation of better life.

#### **4.5 Entry into the Child labour**

Yet the motivation comes mostly from the parents. It entails whether they joined by their personal interest or by any other forces.

**Table no. 8: Entry into the Child labour**

Who brought labour force	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
By parents(10-14 years)	4	40
By relatives( 14—16 years)	3	30
By friends(13-17 years)	3	30
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

This shows that highest percentage of children is brought into child labour by own parents and followed by relatives. That means lack good job, have no sufficient food, poverty etc causes parents to force their children into worker of local transportation. Relatives also play great role to encourage to children to do work.

#### **4.6 Working Condition of the Child Labour in local Transportation**

In particular, working condition of work, working hours earning activities, living condition etc are analyzed in this sub- chapter.

##### **4.6.1 Working Hours**

Generally, working hours for child workers in local buses are higher. It can be said that they have no better status. The working hour per day varies from below 7 hours a day to more than 10 hours.



**Table no. 9: Distribution of Child Worker by Working Hour**

Working hour	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
7—12	4	40
10-12	3	30
Above 12	3	30
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

This table shows that 40% of child workers work for 7--12 hours daily. They don't go to school due to work load. Similarly more than 30% of the child workers work for more than 10--12 hrs. Their owner always says work & work and 30% of the worker work above 12 hours. This causes weaker in reading and writing and cannot complete their study.

#### **4.6.2. Sustain Through Income from Working as Child Worker in local Buses**

Children are cheap labour and they are compelled to work more than adults. They work hard, but in return the payment is found to be very low; which is limited for buying food, clothes, education, sending money to home and pay loan.

**Table no. 10: Earning Status of Child Labour**

Monthly expense	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Food/clothes/education	3	30
Support at home(financially)	6	60
Pay loan( local loan provider)	1	10
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

This table shows that owner of half of the child workers support economically for their family. Parents of child worker have lack of land, lack of food and lack of good job. So they depend on their children income for their expenditure. On the other hand about 30% of workers had paid for their food, clothes and education expense and 10% have said they have paid their loans.

#### 4.7. Health Condition of Child Worker

Health aspect is a crucial factor for everyone. The study also attempts to explore the health condition of child workers. Because of unhealthy working environment and dirty work, they are likely to meet diseases.

**Table no. 11: Distribution of Health Status of Child labour During Work**

Type of Illness	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Cold cough	2	20
Fever	2	20
Respiratory	5	50
None	1	10
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

The table No 15 shows that highest number (50%) of the children suffered from respiratory, 20 percent of child workers faced cough and cold, 20% percent of them suffered from fever in the past. Most children suffer from respiratory diseases due to air pollution which they have to expose for more than 9 hours+ day.

The study found that most of the child respondents suffered from fever and were medically treated in the past. Among the treated children, they reported that doctor's bill was paid by owners. At the illness time, owner members helped for the treatment. A few child workers got no help for treatment. They were eventually supported by their family on the basis of loan taken from local loan providers.

#### 4.8 Helping Conditions

**Table no. 12: Distribution of Helping Condition**

Helper	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Bus owner	3	30
Driver	4	40
Self sufficient	3	30
Total	10	100

Source: Field study, 2019

Table no. 16 shows that 40% of the child workers are helped by their driver during illness whereas 30% said they are self-sufficient to look after them during illness.

#### **4.9 Job Satisfaction**

Children were asked whether they are satisfied with their present job or not. This question helped to know the attitude of children towards their current job and satisfaction with it.

**Table no. 13: Satisfaction of Job**

Satisfaction	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Satisfied	4	40
Not satisfied	6	60
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

This shows that majority of child worker are not satisfied with their current work. Some of them said that they have no more time for read & write while other say they want to be free from this job. Similarly minority of child worker agree with this job because they are getting better condition than in their own family. So they want to continue their present job.

#### **4.10. Future Aspiration of Child Worker in Local Transportation**

The life of child worker is uncertain and unpredictable. It is full of confusion. In fact, they pass their days with a hope of better future. Another aspect of child perception on work is their future intention to work. Majority of the children intend to change current work and don't to know what they will do next. They do not know how to change current work and to do for betterment and survival.

**Table no. 14: Future Aspiration of Child worker**

Aspiration	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Teacher	2	20
Model	2	20
Doctor	1	10
Business	4	40
Not decided	1	10
Total	10	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

Above table informs that about 2 child workers want to be teacher, 2 wants to be model, 1 wanted to be doctor, 4 wanted to be doctor and 1 is not yet decided. They have desire to do some new things for their community. They want to contribute their knowledge in different fields of society.

## **CHAPTER- V**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Summary**

Most of the child labour in local buses of Kathmandu valley was found in between the ages of 10-17 years. This is the age most favored by the employers. Out of the 10 child workers interviewed via questionnaire, 2 were girls and remaining 8 were boys. A majority of child labor were from ethnic/caste groups and poor economic background.

The percentage of child labour whose family engaged on agriculture were found to be 70%, whereas child labour family engaged on wage labour were 20%. Similarly child labour's family engaged in small job noticed to be 10%. 60% has insufficient (Enough to eat for 3 months).

The health factor of most of the respondent was found to be satisfactory. Only few get medical support from the bus owner. Only 30% had received medicinal support during the time of sickness. But others could not get help from their employers.

In the scenario of education of child labor in local transportation, 50% has a primary level education while 10% has a lower secondary level education. Moreover, research showed that very few child workers have a literacy rate.

Among the child labour most of the respondent i.e. 60% child labor reported that they worked for 9-12 hours a day, followed by 40% who reported to have worked for less than 7 hours a day.

In the case of job, 60% of child labor is not satisfied with this job. Most of the workers are not getting better chance to read and write as well as salary. They are dreaming to be different personalities in the society such as doctor, teacher, government officer, model, businessman etc.

## 5.2 Conclusion

Children are the future pillars of society. Many children are compelled to work in difficult condition as child workers to support their family and themselves also. The problem of child worker is serious in Nepal. According to the constitution of Nepal, every citizen before the age of 18 years is known as children.

This study was carried out on the situation analysis of the child labour in the local buses of Kathmandu valley. This study focused on the socio-economic status of the child labour and rationale behind to become a child labour.

The findings are based on the questionnaire of 10 children age between 10-17 years working currently as child labour in local buses of Kathmandu valley as a co-driver in the area of Koteshowr, Balaju, Kalanki, Ratnapark and Jorpati. In the field survey, purposive sampling technique and descriptive research design is adopted.

From above studies we saw that the respondent's family has insufficient (Enough to eat for 3 months), has a family breaking due to step mother arrival and don't have completed school level education. So, the workers come to Kathmandu for getting better opportunities to survive and to support their family. The most significant cause of child labour found to be on the study are identified as poverty and its underlining effects of family related issues (Insufficient livelihood and family breaking). In addition to this, majority of child labor were from ethnic/caste groups.

While in Kathmandu, it was found out that majority of the child labor has been supporting their family by working 7-12 hours resulting to the effect of respiratory problem on their lungs due to air pollution. Child labor was found not satisfied with the job they are doing. Despite the fact that they are not satisfied with the job but still they forced to work to support family and their living in Kathmandu. This makes them harder to achieve their dreams of becoming doctor, Businessmen, Teacher and Model.

Generally, childhood is considered to be a time-period for children's socialization and self-identity formation. Above scenario makes it difficult for them to rights to live

with their families and creates barriers for childhood development. This resulted to the deprive them of love and family caring.

Given this, it is urgedfor localgovernment that steps should be taken to protect working children and enable them to improve their life standard through access to educational opportunities in particular.

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## APPENDIX

### A. Personal Information

Name:.....Sex:.....Age(Completed yrs.):.....

Caste/ethnicity:..... Address:.....

### B. About the Origin Place and Family Background

1. Where did you get your birth?

District.....VDC/Municipality.....Do not know.....

2. Do you have your home in your village?

a. Yes            b. No

3. Do you have your own parents?

Father:            a. Yes            b. No

Mother:           a. Yes            b. No

4. Do you have also step parents?

a. Yes            b. No

5. If yes which one you have?

a. Step father   b. Step mother

6. How many members are in your family?

.....

7. How is your association with your Father/mother?

a. Good            b. Bad            c. Normal

8. What is the occupation of your family?

a. Agriculture                            b. Services  
c. Small business                        d. Porter/worker  
e. Driver                                    f. Security guard  
g. Wage labour                            h. Do not know

9. Does your parent earn sufficient for family's survival?

a. Sufficient                                b. Just sufficient  
c. Insufficient                              d. Do not know

**C. Education, Health and Migration**

1. Can you read and write?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
2. If yes, Grade.....
3. At present time are you going to school?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
4. If no, reason for not joining school,
  - a. Negligence of Bus owner/ driver
  - b. Busy at work
  - c. Not interested
  - d. Do not know
5. How did you come here?
  - a. With my parents
  - b. With relatives
  - c. With house owner
  - d. With middle men
  - e. Self
6. Have you been suffered from illness/injury while you were working?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
7. If yes, from what types of illness/injury?
  - a. Cold coughs
  - b. Fever
  - c. Skin problem
  - d. Diarrhea
  - e. Respiratory
8. Who helped you at that time?
  - a. Bus owner
  - b. driver
  - c. Self-sufficient
  - d. No help
9. Have you faced any sexual harassment since working here?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Do not know
10. If yes, what types of harassment?

.....
11. Who harassed to you?
  - a. Bus owner
  - b. Bus Owner's son/daughter
  - c. Local boy/girl
  - d. driver

**D. Reason for Work and Working Condition**

1. How many places did you work in?  
a. One            b. Two   c. Three            d. Four and above
2. What types of work have to do here?  
a. Collecting bus fare from travelers   b. helping   c. driver  
c. Some time helping bus owner's family      d. Other.....
3. What reason you are doing these types of work?  
a. Poverty                      b. To pay loan  
c. Forced by parents      d. Expectation of better life  
e. Influenced by others      f. Others.....
4. How many hours you have to work in a day?  
.....
5. What do you get from this type of work?  
a. Only lodging footing            b. Owner pay for parents  
c. Parent took loan                d. Schooling
6. How is your relation with your Bus owner and driver?  
a. Good                      b. Normal  
c. Bad                        d. Do not know
7. Are you satisfied with this job?  
a. Satisfied                      b. Indifferent      c. Not satisfied
8. If not satisfied why?  
.....
9. Would you like to leave these types of work?  
a. Yes                        b. No
10. If yes what do you want to do new?  
a. Go back home            b. Study  
c. Do other work            d. Other.....
11. What will you like to do in future?  
.....

**Thank you!**

**Annex**

