

# Being on the Street

**Causes, Survival Strategy and Societal Perception**  
**An Empirical Study of Street Children in Kathmandu**

**Candidate no: 3**

**Course Code: SA357S**



UNIVERSITETET I  
NORDLAND

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for

**The Degree of Master in Comparative Social Work,**

Faculty of Social Science, University of Nordland, Norway

August 2014

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As a Nepali citizen, my concern towards the street children of the capital city Kathmandu is not a surprise. What surprises myself is the control of my sentimentalism during the field visits, literature reviews and the issues on child rights and especially street children where the vulnerability is exposed to its maxim. Nevertheless, crossing across various issues to accomplish this research work became my priority though filled with mixed feelings.

To accomplish any research work is not a one man show. There are many people and organizations behind that I must acknowledge. First of all, I am thankful to the Department of Social Sciences for the conducive environment throughout the period. My sincere gratitude to the course coordinator and the entire faculty members for the constant motivation and encouragement. Special thanks to my research supervisor Masudur Rahman for his remarkable comments and suggestions. I am grateful for his scholarly guidance on the various issues that emerged during the writing phase.

I am equally thankful to all the interviewees for their valuable information and time. Without their information this dissertation would be incomplete. Special thanks to all the organizations working for the welfare of street children nationally and internationally.

Finally , I am grateful to my family members. Their constant support and encouragement helped me accomplish this work. Last but not the least, I am thankful to all my friends who always stood by my side listening my ideas, correcting them and helping me polishing.

Loknath Ghimire

Bodo, August 2014

## Abstract

*Globally the problem of street children has been increasing dramatically. There are as many reasons for being on the street as there are street children. The social conditions and economic necessities, under a changing urban environment are forcing more and more children daily into the street life. It can be associated due to the growth of urban centers and its glamour indirectly affecting the raw mind of children those facing and aggravated by various difficulties, deepening their extent of poverty leading to low level of living. Though, after belonging to the street are involved in money making to maintain their family or themselves, the activities they do include “marginal economy” such as shoe shinning, car washing, begging, pick pocketing, garbage collecting, etc. which is against the child right.*

*Within Kathmandu valley street children are living in different places. The place where they live is chosen either according to their necessity or because of other peer groups who encourage to come over there. They start their survival pathways according to the locations and local context.*

*Hence, what can be the actual cause that drags the children into the street? Once they are on the street what can be their adopted survival strategy? Are they considered the part of the society and are there any efforts to reintegrate into the main stream society? These can be the very general questions that need an in-depth research study.*

*Key Words: Street children, survival strategy, substance users, rag picking, pull and push factor, glue sniffing.*

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## **List of Abbreviations**

CWIN: Child Workers in Nepal

CRC: Conventions on the Rights of Children

UNICEF: United Nation's Children's Fund

INSEC: Informal Sector Service Centre

UN: United Nations

HIV/AIDS: Human Immunodeficiency virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

ILO: International Labor Organization

GDP: Gross Domestic Production

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

EIU: Economist Intelligence Unit

IMR: Infant Mortality Rate

CPCS: Child Protection Centre and Services

VOC: Voice of Children

CWS: Child Welfare Society

CCWB: Central Child Welfare Board

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

INGO: International Non- Governmental Organization

GO: Governmental Organization

CRIN: Child Right International Network

US: The United States

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

There is a well saying that children are the pillars of any society. They are often taken as the hope and inspiration for the future building of the nation. This hope binds their rights to be brought up in a positive environment. But unfortunately there are many children in the world who have become synonymous with social deprivation at its worst and Nepal is not an exception ( CWIN, 2002).

According to the passage of time the concepts of childhood has altered a lot. It is believed that a child should not have any worries, should not have any compulsion to work, should be a mixture of happiness, wonder, angst and resilience. It is generally the time of enjoying, playing, learning, socializing, exploring and worrying in a world without much adult interference, aside from parents (Child, Wikipedia, 2012). But this definition of childhood is not universally followed, hence emerging various problems.

There are various grounds where the word 'child' can be defined. Legally, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ( CRC) defines a child as "a human being below the age of 18 years", ratified by 192 member countries. Some English definitions of the word 'child' include the fetus and the unborn. Biologically, a child is anyone between birth and puberty or in the developmental stage of childhood, between infancy and adulthood. Socially, children generally have fewer rights than adult and are classed as unable to make serious decisions, and legally must be under the care of a responsible adult.( Child, Wikipedia, 2012).

According to UNICEF people who are between the age of 3 to 18 are considered to be children ( Pehlivanli, 2008). It clearly specifies the upper age limit for childhood as 18 years, but recognizes that majority may be obtained at an earlier age under laws applicable to the child. But in the context of Nepal, the Nepalese Law Commission defines "child" as a minor not having completed the age of 16 years ( The Children's Act, 2048). Hence, a person below 16 years are treated as children and also declares that after that age the Nepalese law treats

them as an adult. The work permission is granted from the age of 14 as constituted by Child Labor- Prohibition and Regulation Act, 2056.

During the period of 10 long years of insurgency (1996-2006), Nepal has experienced a serious stage of human rights violation. In this decade long arm conflict between the Maoist and the government of Nepal, different groups of people and particularly hundreds of children were victimized directly or indirectly. The war had a serious negative impact on children. Of them many were injured and were killed during this conflict e.g.33160 in 2005 based on INSEC ( Lawati and Pahari 2010). " Many of the abducted were subsequently released but some were killed while others joined the movement voluntarily or under pressure" (ibid). Similarly, the severe conditions on the violation of child right can also be illustrated on the yearly report of the National Right Commission of Nepal ( The State of Children Rights in Nepal 2011) that more than seven thousand children were kidnapped during the war and thousands of people were displaced from their home along with their children who have not still been resettled in Nepal. Those displaced children have been deprived of their basic rights like the right to education, food and shelter which ultimately forces them to enter street life and vulnerable job activities. Beside from this major cause, the other rooted causes like poverty, lack of educational awareness, family problems, etc. has fostered the situation of child labor, child trafficking, child marriage, etc. Among these various issues affecting children, the issue of street children has been gaining significant interest among different groups such as children rights organizations and specially the mass media in Nepal.

Whenever we think of the word 'Street Children' we visualize a child involved in petty trade or carrying goods, shoe shining, begging, sleeping on the corner of the street, collecting garbage, sorting the left over as their food, etc. In other words, street children are extremely vulnerable group in all aspect of life, not only the nature of their work. They live in abject poverty, in violent conditions, subject to harsh and unremitting health, social, and psychological pressures, exploited by adults and older youths, and forced into sex work and other marginal, temporary, and episodic employment with demonstrable short, longer, and life-long health and human development consequences. They are deprived of their rights from almost every angle because the type of work they do is defined as child labor by international convention.

Though the phenomenon of street children is worldwide prevalent, it has still been a very difficult issue to be defined. In general, the term Street children can be studied as a child

experiencing homelessness and who primarily resides in the streets of a city. But this definition remains debatable due to lack of precise categories. Hence, this contested definition can be further supported as the term “street child,” that was used by the Commission on Human Rights in 1994, which was developed in the 1980s to describe

“any girl or boy [...] for whom the street (in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults.”

At the time, “street children” were categorized as either children *on* the street, who worked on the street and went home to their families at night; children *off* the street, who lived on the street, were functionally without family support but maintained family links; or abandoned children who lived completely on their own. Based on this definition, the exact number of street children is impossible to quantify, but the figure almost certainly runs into tens of millions across the world. It is likely that the numbers are increasing” (UNICEF, 2005: 40-41).

In the context of Nepal, although there is no exact data on street children, there are 5,000 to 6,000 street children in Nepal, and Kathmandu alone has 1,500 to 2,000 of them, according to the estimated data of Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) in 2010. Hence, the above definition and the estimated number of street children indicate that it is a visible but an unheard problem, such problem which requires a solution. Hence, to address such a huge subject of ‘street children’ since the late 1980s and early 1990s, it has started to capture enormous attention, starting from top headlines of newspaper to human rights issues to the evening news (Hecht, 1998, p3).

## **1.2 How one becomes a street child?**

There are various reasons behind a child belonging to a street. In Nepal, as everywhere else, the most frequently occurred reasons that lead the children to get into the street are poverty, family conflicts and the pursuit of freedom. However, in Nepalese context a child is not born as a street child. Rather each child has his own story becoming a street child willingly or forcefully. The major reasons behind can be the lack of awareness among parents; family disintegration; domestic violence; poor economic conditions, lack of proper child – centered interventions in rural areas; weak education system; unsafe migration; growing attraction

towards urban cities; and peer influence etc. for children to come to the street for their survival. Similarly, children employed as workers in restaurants, factories, transportation services, housekeeping, carriers and rag pickers: they are all exposed to exploitation and abuse due to the long working hours, extra workloads, low wages and verbal, physical and mental harassment. In a nutshell, children choose to be a street child because of the economic factors such as poverty, a low living standard, obliged to work at early age; the familial factors like conflicts in the family, domestic violence, abusive parents\ step parents, lack of love, care and affection; the social factors such as pressure from friends to leave home, attraction of city life to those residing in rural areas; and the psychological factors like their longing of freedom and one's independence, the need of more attraction and so forth.

Whatever may be the factor of plunging into the street, Street Children are those group of children who basically lack self-esteem and respect from others. They are deprived of future perspectives and social interaction. Because of the vulnerability to various kinds of abuses, homelessness, stressful past, violence, exploitation, lack of opportunities, malnutrition, stigmatization, diseases, etc. their life is very difficult to go through. In such circumstances, how do street children survive? How are they perceived by the society? According to various study on street children, majority of the Nepali street children are gainfully employed though it can be legal, partly legal or completely illegal. However, working in the street environment becomes their way of surviving and independency which in fact is hazardous and risky. This is because working on the street means begging, picking plastic items, collecting money in public transport, washing plates, pick pocketing, garbage collecting, etc. for negligible amount of money and without any working regulations, any rights or any rest which clearly highlights them as being misused.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

To make a street child there might be several overt and covert causes from individual to the societal. I have found that there is no research on context specific to causes of being street children. So my focus of doing this research is to carry out the context specific causes, survival strategy and societal perception why and how a child appears in the street, what the measures they adopt to survive are and how the Nepalese society perceives this problem in Kathmandu valley, the capital city of Nepal. When a child reaches in the street, he has to face several problems i.e. what to eat, where to live, whom to live, what to wear etc. To cope all

these problems come under the survival strategy. In this research, I will try to bring out all these factors so that it will be easy for the social worker and policy people to curb the existing problem.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Proposed Research**

The objective of this study is to find out the major reasons that force any children being on the street and the perception of the society towards them. In doing so it is assumed that being on the street is more to do with social practices than with the so called destiny. It is also assumed that this research can be helpful during the process of re integration to the concerned authority as well as the local people when every aspect of becoming a part of street is clear. Hence, the objectives of the study are to find out:

- i. What are the causes behind being on the street?
- ii. What mechanism do the victim adopts for their daily survival?
- iii. How are the street children's perception towards the society and the vice versa.
- iv. Will they be socially accepted? Is it their destiny to be on the street? What are the challenges they undergo to reintegrate into the society?

#### **1.5 Limitation of the study**

This study will be focused on the causes, survival strategy and the societal perception of street children in Nepal. Although the problem of street children is prevalent at almost all urban areas of Nepal but due to time and budget limitation, the study focuses on street children at Kathmandu Valley, the capital city of Nepal. The researcher's aim will be to be with the street children for as much time as he can and study and analyze them within. The researcher would like to experience the life of street children and provoke their life later analyzing the perspective of the society and vice versa. This would help to forefront the real scenario of street children and their daily activities. For this the research site is very near to the residence of the researcher himself from where he can observe, and be with the street children most of the time. Jamal, Thamel, Putalisadak, and Maitidevi will be the places of study where the time frame is limited to 30 days. Being in Norway, to accomplish all the desired task in time is the greater challenge to the researcher. Beside this obstacle, it is assumed that the policy level of the government of Nepal, the donor agencies and other concerned stakeholders as

well as the respondents of the study will provide favorable assistance so as to accomplish the designed study as fruitful one. However, this research will remain purely an academic one.

## **1.6 Organization of the study**

In order to answer the various proposed research questions, sufficient background information is needed. Accordingly, the study is organized into different chapters. Chapter 1 provides the introductory information about the study. It includes the statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance and the limitation of the study. Chapter 2 deals with the literature reviews. Chapter 3 focuses on Contextualizing Street Children introducing Nepal and particularly Kathmandu and aims at providing the information about the life of children in Nepal. Chapter 4 deals with the Research methodology where chapter 5 focuses on the Theoretical framework and the main issue of the thesis; causes, survival strategy and the societal perception. Chapter 6 will be used for the data presentation and its analysis. Chapter 7 will be used to study the dimensions of street children. Chapter 8 deals with the findings and discussions. Chapter 9 sums up with the conclusion and recommendation.

## **1.7 Significance of the study**

The study seeks to dig out the street children's social practices and their actions for day to day survival. Further the study tries to investigate the probable causes that force the children to choose the urban street as their home. So, it's the study from how they belong to the street to everyday survival activities to their perception to the whole society and the ways of reintegrating them to mainstream children. Hence, this study seeks to expose the street children as their misfortune to tolerate all the pains and agonies being away from home and family, living the disgusting life as against their age, law, etc. Fore fronting the circular life of the street children the researcher hope that this study will motivate the government and the local bodies to hear the voice of the street children helping them with the support to eradicate the children from being on the street. As the issue of street children is of the serious concern, by addressing on such issue it is believed that the concern authority would put an effort to rehabilitate them.



## **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

Street children is a debating and research issue. The debate is on its terminology 'street children' itself which the researcher has tried to deconstruct this rich and vague category used to describe, classify and identify so many little lives: " street children", " children in a street situation", " children on the street", " children at risk" and so on. Hence, within the category street children, there are number of discources concerning what causes street children as a phenomena; trying to understand what they are and what they have to go through. However, based on the various studies carried out on street children, it can be well illustrated as the topic for academic discussion as well as the social research that must be carried out throughout the globe. Most researchers recognize street children as a symptom of something wrong either globally or nationally. This worgn can be due to poverty, instable politics and its influences, the growing urbanization, illiteracy, etc. In the context of Nepal, according to UNICEF, over 40,000 children in Nepal are estimated to have been displaced over the course of Maiost uprising UN Chronicle, (2006).

There are numerous researchers describing street children on their own context. Here, in this research the researcher have reviewed the contextual literature as the General review and the policy review.

### **2.2 General Review: Who says what?**

There have been several discussions and contributions to how street children should be defined. Reading between the lines of different research works there comes different views and issues related. According to Baker, Panter-Brick & Todd, (1997) street children are described as homeless and home based, which varies in developing countries according to location and the socio-economic and political conditions therein. In Nepal, very few children have become homeless through being orphaned or abandoned. Instead they tend to have had poor relations with their biological parents/relatives.

According to Aptekar (1994), street children are a modern phenomenon connected to significant urban centers and not likely to be found in places with strong indigenous cultures. On the other hand researcher like Cunningham (1995) states that street children as a centuries-old problem. To support his claim he further illustrates the report from the Chief of Police in New York in 1849 as: " the constantly increasing numbers of vagrant, idle and vicious children', whose numbers were , he claimed, almost incredible" (ibid).

Descriptions of street children would not be complete without distinguishing between 'runaways' and throwaways'. Runaways are described as children who voluntarily leave home without parental permission while throwaways are those who leave home because their parents have actually encouraged them to leave, have abandoned them, or have subjected them to intolerable levels of abuse and neglect. Hence, the term street children include several different contexts Roux (1996). Existing research suggests street children vary due to their background characteristics such as reason for running away, family attachment, age, gender and caste Baker, Panter-Brick & Todd (1997). Panter-Brick (2002) focused on identifying characteristics of a street lifestyle and the depth or diversity of their actual experiences. It was not surprising that most children do not initially want to talk about the more personal aspects of their life. Hence, a gradual approach is necessary for gathering information.

Roux and Smith (1998) raised an important characteristics that street children are the victims of unfortunate circumstances such as economic hardship, lower socioeconomics strata and being orphaned or displaced by war, but most street children also have unfavorable family histories in common. Roux and Smith further states the interesting finding that the children spend on the streets, the more likely they are to become involved in criminal activities and show signs of cognitive and emotional dysfunction. However, it is important to remember that the deviant behavior is a result of circumstances rather than from negative or fatalistic attitudes. They further argued that at the same time, when street children band together, they represent an exceptional companionship and show a strong loyalty to each other while maintaining a high preference for personal freedom. Above all, street children desire respect and yearn to become someone Roux and Smith (1998).

Another fact about street children is that the male predominate as the number of girls is very less which can be the consequence of either their social and cultural status Baker, Panter-Brick and Todd (1997) or the fact that the girls have been sexually abused and have turned to

prostitution Roux and Smith (1998). Another researcher Lalor (1999) on his comparative study of street children on different aspect like age, gender, reason for being on the street, etc. has concluded that the majority of the street children are aged between 10-14 and most of them are boys. He (ibid) states:" However, the true incidence of working girls may be hidden by the nature of their work, which tends to be less visible than the work of street boys". He further criticized the myth that children enjoy the street without adult interference by stating that street life is without any doubt miserable according to both his female and male informants .

As the demographic characteristics of street children varies, similarly the reasons behind ending up as street children varies. According to Baker and Panter-Brick (1997), due to family problems like alcoholism, mental, physical and sexual abuses, or neglect etc. motivates children to leave home. Similarly, economic reasons, excessive workloads, family stress and a desire for independence, most of the boys leave home before the age of 12. Rapid industrialiation and urbanisation are other major reasons children end up on the streets Roux and Smith (1998). According to Subedi (2002), there is no single reason to explain why street children leave home. He states that the adverse family situations such as the death of parents, presence of a step mother and domestic violence were the major reasons while poor household economic conditions and the desire for modern consumerism were the other reasons for children leaving home.

Likewise, a study conducted by Ali, Muynck, Shahab, Ushijima (2004) illustrates the common push and pull factors that bring the children into street. In the study, poverty, big family size, family violence, abuses, urbanization ( migration), school abandonment and inadequate parental guidance, etc. were taken to be the push factor while the pull factors included desire for independence, financial security, excitement and glamour of living in cities, and some hope of raising one's standard of living. Although there are several overt and covert reasons ending to streets, street children do not achieve the life they have dreamed. There are several risks and hardship they have to face everyday where abuse is among the biggest. The community often treats them with contempt, they are harrassed and arrested by the police, and even brutalized by older street children. The other abuse is being victimised to drug dealers Roux and Smith (1998). According to the study conducted by Subedi ( 2002) on " Trafficking and Sexual Abuse among the Street Children of Kathmandu" illustrates the sexual abuse street children go through in Kathmandu. He describes that

foreigners/ tourists and the leaders of the street children are the prime sexual abusers. This was followed by the social activists and local people. Similarly sexual abuse of street children in Kathmandu were very clearly pinpointed as Timothy Doyle states that " Kathmandu city looks like the scene of war, but one fought without the use of military", Doyle ( 2002).

According to Baker (1996), street children face different kinds of risks related to ill-health. The risks vary based on the different kinds of income generating work they adopt like rag picker, beggar, rickshaw puller, porter, commercial sex worker, etc. Doing this the common illness or the risk they bear were the dog bites, wounds, diarrhea, cold and hunger. Similarly HIV/AIDS were prevalent among the sex workers. Also, the adverse effect of glue sniffing is increasing withing street children in Kathmandu. According to CWIN, 2002, glue sniffing is fast becoming an addiction among street children in Nepal. It has resulted in various problematic behaviours including self destruction due to hallucinations and fighting amongst freinds, along with long term effects to brain and the nervous system.

### **2.3 Policy review**

There are many policies lunched in favor of child protection in Nepal. Among many the most effective policies is Children's Act 1992 ( 2048 B.S). The comprehensive policy of this Children's Act is the legal provision as there are number of provisions for compensation and punishment against the perpetration.

The Children's Act 1992 when adopted by the parliament of Nepal was taken as the first comprehensive child right law. It covered the very basic rights of children like the child labor prohibition juvenile delinquency and child rehabilitation for the children at risk. This law also guarantees the child's right to education and survival Larsen, (2003). " Child" means a minor not having completed the age of sixteen years ( Children's Act, section 2 a). According to Child Act, boys and girls under sixteen year are considered as children. Children Act constitutes many facilities and justice if they are under sixteen years age. The major sections of Children's Act that are much relevant to this research work are reviewed as below:

### **2.3.1 Prohibition on Torture or Cruel Treatment**

No child shall be subjected to torture or cruel treatment. Provided that, the act of scolding and minor beating to child by father, mother, member of the family, guardian or teacher for the interests of the child himself/herself shall not be deemed to be violation of this Section ( Child Act 1992, section 7).

Defined under this section, no one can beat, threat, or do any type of torture to children. This type of torture is called a crime in this law. So if someone does this crime, the law treats them as a criminal and they may be punished. While in the research the respondents (children) reported that they are victim of this kind of abuse. In the same way observation shows that the street children are abused, threatened and tortured in the street and they are helpless to defend in present day.

### **2.3.2 Child and Criminal Liability**

If a Child below the age of 10 years commits an act which is an offence under a law, he/she shall not be liable to any punishment. If the age of the child committing an offence which is punishable with fine under law, is 10 years or above and below 14 years, he/she shall be admonished and convinced and if the offence committed is punishable with imprisonment, he /she shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months depending on the crime committed. If a Child committing an offence is 14 years or above 16 years, he shall be punished with half of the penalty to be imposed under law on a person who has attained the age of majority. If a child commits an offence under advice or influence of any person, the person doing such an act shall be liable for full punishment as per the law as if he/she has committed such offence ( Section11).

### **2.3.3 Prohibition to Engage Children in begging and to shave hair ( section 13)**

No child shall be engaged in begging and shaving hair except during observing religious or cultural traditions.

#### **2.3.4 Children not to be involved in immoral profession ( section 16)**

No person shall involve or use a child in immoral profession. No photograph of a child shall be taken or allowed to be taken, nor such photographs shall be distributed or exhibited for the purpose of engaging a child in immoral profession. No publication, exhibition or distribution of photograph or personal events or descriptions of a child tarnishing the character of such child shall be made. No child shall be involved in the sale or distribution or smuggling of intoxicating substances, narcotic drugs or any other drugs. Child pornography is not seen as a problem in Nepal. The children's act prohibits taking or allowing to be taken any photograph of children for the purpose of engaging a child in immoral profession.

#### **2.3.5 Maintenance of child having no sufficient income ( section 30)**

A Guardian may submit an application to the Chief District Officer for Government assistance if he could not bring up the child in a proper way due to insufficiency of income or property or the property is consumed by any other in an illegal way, and the Chief District Officer shall, if he deems the statement reasonable, make available necessary Government assistance. In case such assistance is not available, an arrangement shall be made to keep the child in the Children's Welfare Home. In case any child is handed over to the Children's Welfare Home, the responsibility of the Guardian shall be deemed to be terminated from the date of such handover.

Against the child labor protection Nepal has to bring Child Labor Act, 2056. Child labor is a broad issue in Nepal. It is a crime prosecutable under national and international laws. According to the ILO, Nepal's law establishes a minimum age for employment of children at 14 years ( Children Labour Act, 2056). Nepal has ratified the convention on the rights of the child and the ILO minimum age employment convention. Factory and Factory workers act, 2016 (1959) prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 in a factory and in night work Larsen (2003). The Constitution of Nepal stipulates that children shall not be employed in factories, mines, or similar dangerous work. However, huge number of children are working in Nepal as a labor worker. Most working children in Nepal are in the agricultural sector, export oriented industry like carpet , on restaurants as a waiter, on micro bus as a conductor, as a house servant etc. This type of crime and child labor is often hidden.

Child labor has been seen as a way of life in Nepal for years. In the rural economy, children have played a significant role in family subsistence, fetching water, collecting firewood, grazing cattle, caring for younger children and supporting parents in the fields. In addition to farm labor, children can be seen performing different kind of work; breaking rocks, weaving carpets, domestic service, begging, catering in hotels and teashops, pottering, guiding, bus conductors, rag picking and prostitution Larsen (2003). The issue of child labor cannot be viewed in isolation because this is a consequence of the country's exploitive socio-economic and political reality.

Rapid urbanization made changes in many societies. When families from rural areas migrate to cities, infrastructural problems emerged due to increasing population. In time those families became the poorest segments of urban life. Child labor became a necessity, as the deepening poverty, and increasing demand for basic needs Pehlivanli, (2008). So, the problem of child labor is universal and is comparatively very high in those countries where there is rapid urbanization. In Nepal child labor is directly linked to poverty. The simple necessity of having food and shelter, and factors such as unemployment or underemployment among adult family members or death of the breadwinner, compel children to work from an early age.

In the ninth plan (1996-2001) as it has been realized the necessity to initiate program for eliminating the child labor. So, a separate national policy, work plan and strategy about child labor will be launched. By adopting multipurpose strategies like awareness enhancement, identification of the income growth of the parents, direct interference, rehabilitation program, education and vocational training, a substantial improvement in child labor situation will be made. Child labor will be eliminated in woolen carpet factories, tea garden and brick furnace. Child labor will be rehabilitated in the family and provided non-formal education through children development and rehabilitation fund ( <http://www.npc.gov.np>).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989 is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights for children, including civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural. Children have the right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development ( [www.goodweave.org](http://www.goodweave.org)).

On paper the right of the children in Nepal are well taken but when it comes to executing these laws and regulations, the situation is different. For instance, child marriage still exists as a part of the social tradition in Nepalese society in spite of the legal prohibition. It is clear from the observation and survey that law and acts signed to prevent child labor also are widely ignored. The population census in 1981 showed that 4.5 million or 60 percent of the child population in the 10-14 age group was economically active ( UNICEF, 1996).

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights constitute the background for child right protection. The Convention on the Rights of the Child , the Declaration and Plan of Action from the World Summit for Children as well as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child however more clearly mention street children and add to the specific understanding of their human rights. The UN Declaration on the right to development and the treaties on the elimination of discrimination mention street children within their contexts Schmidt, (2003).

From a Human Rights perspective, the phenomenon of street children in itself is a violation of a wide range of fundamental human rights. In particular the right to life, survival, development, the right to be cared for by parents and assisted by the State, the right to protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, the right to a standard of living adequate for the physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development including the right to food, clothing, housing, medical care and social services. Factors like poor access to education, poor health care, war, displacement, HIV/AIDS, family break-up and severe poverty increase the vulnerability of children to human rights abuses. It is therefore important to recognize the interrelatedness and indivisibility of all rights to the human dignity of the child Schmidt,(2003) .

The child must grow up in an atmosphere of affection and moral and material responsibility. Education and play are essential for the full development of the child's personality and for discouragement from adopting anti-social modes of behavior. Parents have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child but the State is obliged to take measures to protect the child from all forms of maltreatment. The Convention strongly emphasizes the importance of the home environment for children. Children deprived of family



life, like street children, need protection. Public authority are responsible for the provision of care to those in an obligation. UNICEF recognizes that the well being of children is heavily determined by what happens in the private spheres of the family, households and communities. The alliance with civil society organizations therefore can foster effective private\ public collaboration for implementing the CRC Schmidt (2003).

During the tenth plan period at the national level, institution like National Human Rights Commission, National Women Commission, National Dalit Commission and National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities , have been established for the protection, promotion and monitoring of human rights. National Action Plan related with human rights is under implementation, after being prepared. Modification and revisions have been made in many discriminatory policies and acts ( Three Year Interim plan, Dec.2007).

Nepal is one of the twenty countries, which signed the UN Convention on the rights of the child. Nepal also ratified the Convention the same year. The CRC is the main legal instrument of international law, specialized in the needs of the child, but also other instruments deal with the human rights of street children. Specifically targeting Street Children are the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, the UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their, Liberty and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Also Security Council resolutions have contributed to the legal protection of Children as part of " soft law", which could have a significant impact on the improvement of the situation of street children ( Schmidt, 2003).

Only the General Assembly resolution ( G.A res.47/126) on the Plight of street children, from December 1992 however, explicitly focuses on street children. It expresses concern about the growing number of street children and the squalid conditions in which street children are forced to live and reaffirms that street children deserve special attention, protection and assistance from their families, communities and as part of national and international efforts. It mentions street children's right to an adequate standard of living in freedom from violence and harassment. It recognizes the government's responsibility to investigate all cases of affence against street children and to punish offenders and urges governments to take measures to combat violence and torture against street children, to restore the full participation of street children in society and to provide adequate nutrition, shelter, care and education ( Schmidt, 2003).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first global instrument to recognize the child possessing rights and the state to respect and ensure them. It defines universal principles for the status of children, providing them with fundamental human rights and freedoms ( Schmidt, 2003).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child reflects international consensus on children's rights. It is innovative in that it introduces participation rights for children, including that children themselves are informed about their rights. It expresses a new attitude towards children in terms of inherent rights and not in form of charity ( Schmidt, 2003).

#### **2.4 Four fundamental principles that guide the CRC**

- A. The best interest of the child, which supports a child-centered approach and makes sure that basic services for children are protected at all times.
- B. Non-discrimination.
- C. Right to life, survival, development, which calls for positive measures to be taken to ensure access to basic services and equity of opportunity for children and is based on the principle of distributive justice 140.
- D. Respect for the views of the child ( Schmidt, 2003).

The Scandinavian childhood category can be summarized through the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is below ( Larsen, 2003).

- a) Children have the right to enough food, clean water and health care.
- b) Children have the right to an adequate standard of living.
- c) Children have the right to be with their family or those who will care for them the best.
- d) Children have the right to protection from all exploitation, physical, mental and sexual abuse.
- e) Children have the right to special protection when exposed to armed conflict.
- f) Children have the right to be protected from all forms of discrimination.

- g) Children have the right to be protected from work that threatens their education, health or development.
- h) Disabled children have the right to special care and training.
- i) Children have the right to play
- j) Children have the right to education
- k) Children have the right to have their opinion taken into account in decisions affecting their own lives.
- l) Children have a right to know what their rights are.

But street children are deprived of this fundamental condition. Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Street children cannot participate in the decisions that affect their lives. They are deprived of the convention's general principles and are particularly vulnerable to be invisible, not listened to and not taken into consideration.

Occasionally, Nepal Government has provisioned various types of program and opportunities by national action plans for child protection and rights. Still, despite of many national plans only few programs have been successful.

## **2.5 Eight Plan ( 1990 to 1995 A.D)**

The objective set in the eighth plan was to reduce the mortality rate of the children below 5 from 165 to 130 ( per thousand live births). The eighth plan has been implemented to facilitate the re-habitation of growing child labor used in woolen carpet industries, steps have been taken after the regular inspection and follow up actions against the carpet factories where child labor have been used.

Similarly for the human resource development and mobilization, the policies and implementation strategies has been adopted for the elimination of child exploitation and child labour, programmes targeting the welfare and rehabilitation of children will be implemented through government and nongovernment organizations. Special programmes would be implemented for nutrition, education and health of the poor children ([www://www.npc.gov.np](http://www.npc.gov.np)).

The achievement made in the primary education sector during the Eighth Plan period is that, net enrolment of children between 6 to 10 years of age was targeted to make 90 percent with the establishment of 2025 additional primary schools and the appointment of 8,000 additional teachers. According to the statistics of 1996, 3524 additional primary schools were established and 14483 additional teachers were appointed and net enrolment percent stood at 69.4. In lower secondary education sector, the plan aimed to make education facility available to 45 percent children of 11 to 15 years of age and set a target to establish 900 additional schools and appoint 5404 additional teachers. However, at the end of the plan, 1461 additional schools were established; additional 6699 teachers were appointed; and children enrolment percentage on lower secondary was 50.3. In secondary education, 824 additional schools were established, 4796 additional teachers were appointed; and net enrolment percentage was 34.7 ([www://www.npc.gov.np](http://www.npc.gov.np)). During this plan, a research about child labor and street children was just started. So no program and policy was stimulated in this plan.

## **2.6 Ninth Plan (1996-2001 Year)**

The main objective of the ninth plan for the children development has to develop children physically, mentally and intellectually; and protect and promote rights of children as they are the pillars of the country for the future. Similarly to attract the common people to have small family according to the concept of two children which can help to develop children physically, mentally and intellectually ([www://www.npc.gov.np](http://www.npc.gov.np)).

During this plan period government launched the programme for the development of child health services, programmes for safe motherhood, extended vaccination, diarrheal and respiratory diseases to be extended. Child treatment services based on referral system planned to be developed. In this context, child health research centre was planned to be established ([www://www.npc.gov.np](http://www.npc.gov.np)).

## **2.7 Tenth Plan (2002 to 2007 Year)**

The major strategies adopted in the Tenth Plan are: the initiation of timely reforms in labour laws to promote private investment, promotion of better industrial relations, increasing productivity and elimination of child labor. Similarly, to make Nepal free from child labor,

legal measures was planned to be adopted along with strict monitoring; and the ongoing programs for rehabilitation of child labor was strengthened ([www://www.npc.gov.np](http://www.npc.gov.np)).

The Tenth Plan had program such as minimum standard of institutional care, support of children in especial need such as children affected by conflict and so on. However, due to lack of resources and procedural norms, effectiveness of these programmer was left to be improved.

## **2.8 Three Years Interim Plan**

Key issues addressed in this plan are protection and development program for the displaced, deserted, children at risk and street children. Social awareness an re-integration campaign to end all types of child labor. Programs of skill and employment oriented trainings for youths above 14 years an children from remote an backward areas. Awareness programs through media for the protection and promotion of children's rights, integrated and targeted policy programs for the conflict-affected children and children at risk ( girl child, children fo the people with disability and marginal community, street children) for rehabilitation including psychosocial counseling, education and skills (Three year interim plan, 2007).

## CHAPTER 3: CONTEXTUALIZING STREET CHILDREN

### 3.1 Introducing Nepal and Particularly Kathmandu

Nepal is a sovereign landlocked country with linguistic, cultural, environmental and geographical diversity, having a population of 26,620,809 ( Population Census Preliminary Report, 2011). Officially, it is named as the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, a republic in South Asia. Nepal is bordered by two powerful nations in the world i.e. China to the North, and India to the East, South, and West. It has the area of 1,47,181 sq.km. Though it is a small country in terms of its area it is ethnically diverse and complex with more than 75 ethnic groups speaking some 50 different languages ( Skar, 1997). Nepal has the world's highest Mt. Everest at 8848 meters height along with other 60% mountains that are higher than four thousand meters. Nepal has adopted the policy of open market and economic liberalization and other special policies that attracts foreign investment.

Nepal is a country with a very distinct topography and ecological diversity which can be divided into three levels i.e. Terai, Hills and Mountains. The Terai region that stretches in the south constitutes about one-sixth ( 17%) of the total area, and is known for its agricultural and tropical richness. The hilly area covers about 68% of the total area where the capital city Kathmandu is located. The mountainous region hold about one-sixth ( 15%) of the total area where the world's highest peak Mt. Everest situated.

History reveals that Kathmandu as the capital city of Nepal was founded by the then king Gunakamadev in the year 724 AD. It is said that the negative aspect of this culturally rich city forbidden the communities of untouchables (*Asuddha*), sweepers ( *Podey and Chyame*) and low caste butchers ( *Kassain*) to live within city walls, the walls that defined the limits of old Kathmandu. It was only after the conquest of King Prithivi Narayan Shah that the walls were destroyed in the 19th century now extending beyond the old administrative limits consisting 35 wards with varied population.

Kathmandu as the capital city of Nepal is a densely populated fertile area which covers more than two hundred square miles of the area right within the Mahabharat range, the lesser Himalayas of Nepal. Kathmandu valley has the suitable climate and fertile land for

agriculture. For centuries, its central occupation is trade and commerce. The valley has three royal cities, Kathmandu, Patan (Lalitpur) and Bhaktapur. The population has increased considerably during the last decades and Kathmandu and Patan now form a single conurbation ( Regmi 1993).

The capital city is the gateway to tourism in Nepal. Apart from agriculture, its economy is focused on tourism which accounted for 3.8% of Nepal's GDP in 1995-96. But this tourism sector declined during the decade long civil war, but since then has improved a lot. Kathmandu is an important trading center over the centuries. Its trade flourished since centuries back along an offshoot of the Silk Road that linked India and Tibet. Kathmandu is also the most industrial and commercial center in Nepal. The Nepal Stock Exchange, various head offices of national and international banks like the Chamber of Commerce, Tele-communication companies, Electricity Authority, Water Supply, etc. are located in Kathmandu. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/kathmandu>

**Figure 1** Kathmandu City



Source: [http://myweb.unomaha.edu/~jchadwick/geog3000/maps\\_files/image018.gif](http://myweb.unomaha.edu/~jchadwick/geog3000/maps_files/image018.gif)

The figure of the Kathmandu city projects that it also covers some area of surrounding municipalities i.e Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, and Kritipur municipalities. The Valley consists of seven different areas that are listed as the cultural heritage site by UNESCO, namely the Durbar Square of Hanuman Dhoka, Patan and Bhaktapur, the Buddhist Stupas of Swayambhu and Bauddhanath and the Hindu temples of Pashupati and Changu Narayan. (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121>) .These heritages has been the other source of attraction within and outside Kathmandu valley.

The decade long civil war called "The People's War" initiated by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and the government of Nepal in 1996 was the result of the widespread poverty in Nepal. But this civil war further led to an instable economic and political situation leading to internal migration and population growth. The war toned political situation retained economic development of Nepal as 80% of the economically active population live in rural areas and depend on subsistence farming ( EIU Country Profile 1999- 2000). The high population growth and the low income rate resulted nutritional deficiency ( Skar 1997) leading to high level of foreign dependence. The population growth and the economic situation has lead to increasing migration towards cities. People from the hilly region migrate to Terai with the hope of easier and better life. Due to hill to terai migration, terai covered the population of 46.6 % of the national population in the year 1991 (ibid). Similarly people migrate from rural to urban areas which has more than tripled over the past two decades and has lead to urban squatter settlements ( Sattaur 1993).

Kathmandu as a capital city of Nepal not only has the highest density of population but also has the highest decadal population growth ( 60.9) when compared to other cities of the nation ( Preliminary Census Report 2011, P:17). As a centralized capital city, it is an over crowded because the entire administrative centers are located there. The very basic infra structure and the basic necessities like the facility of good hospitals, universities, international airport, job opportunities, luxurious hotels and restaurants, etc. attracts the flow of people everyday into the valley. But the contrast is great between the Kathmandu , its backwardness and the poverty of the surrounding areas. Because of the rapid urbanization and construction activities it has become the most polluted city of the country.

(<http://www.ekantipur.com/2012/09/06/capital/kathmandu-the-maskedcity/359841.html>) .



But still the glamour of the city world as the place of opportunities, comfort and happy life draws the attention of every people and children with dysfunctional families are the center of attraction. Hence, Kathmandu represents the meeting point between the traditional rural mind and the sophisticated urban lifestyle.

### **3.2 Life of Children In Nepal**

It is always difficult to define the life of children in Nepal because of its variation. The geographical, cultural, religious, social, and linguistic differences within a small country has led to multiple life standards. For example, the tall mountains with lack of accessibility in terms of basic infrastructure has created a difficult life. Similarly, the cultural and religious enforcement of the so called upper class\cast people has created the untouchable groups and bonded laborers with a very tough life.

As one of the poorest countries, children in Nepal are not an exception to the hardship they have to undergo. Various research have analyzed that the situation of Nepalese children is one of the worst in the global context as there are 2.6 million child laborers as estimated by the International Labor Organization ( ILO). The population census in 1981 showed that 4.5 million or 60 % of the child population in the 10-14 age group was economically active ( UNICEF 1996). Most of the working children were in developing countries, over 50% of them in South Asia. The child labor Force Survey of the year 1998/1999 showed that about 2 million (14%) children in Nepal out of the total population of 4.9 million of ages between 5 to 14 years were involved in work. In spite of the legal prohibitions it clarifies that the rights of the children in Nepal are only limited to paper works as it is very inactive when it comes to executing the laws and regulations. As simple as to this example that child marriage still exists as a part of the social tradition in Nepalese society. It is vivid from the observations and surveys that the laws and acts signed against child labor are widely ignored. The figure below very briefly illustrates the rights of the children in Nepal.

**- UN Convention on the Rights of the child**

Nepal is one of the twenty countries, which signed the UN Convention on the rights of the child.

Nepal also ratified the Convention the same year.

**- Children's Act 1992.**

The children act that was adopted in 1992 by the parliament has stood out as the first comprehensive child rights law of Nepal. This act covers the very basic rights of the child including child labor prohibition, juvenile delinquency and child rehabilitation for the children at risk. This law also guarantees the child's right to education and survival.

**-Nepal Factory and Factory workers act. Section 27(a)of the Nepal**

Factory and Factory workers act, 2016 (1959)prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 in a factory and in night work.

**-ILO Minimum age employment Convention.**

Nepal has ratified the convention on the rights of the child and the ILO minimum age employment convention.

Larsen, (2003). Conventions, acts and laws concerning children rights in Nepal ( after Sattaur 1993).

It is the very basic right of all children to grow and develop all round physically, mentally and socially. All children should be provided with food, clothing, shelter, health facilities, entertainment, protection and freedom. But in the context of Nepal, approach to these basic rights are not always inevitable. The very basic necessity of food , shelter and clothing and the associated factors like unemployment or underemployment among the adult family members or the untimely death of the breadwinner in a family leads the children to work from an early age. Hence, in the rural economy, children are highly engaged playing dominant role in family subsistence, working with agro stuffs- planting, fetching water, harvesting, etc. which are mostly manual. Similarly, works like collecting firewood for personal use and for sale, grazing cattle, looking after siblings and cooking and cleaning activities highly engage children. In addition to farm labor, children are most often seen breaking rocks, weaving in the carpet factories, domestic services, dishwashing and cleaning in hotels and restaurants, pottering, begging, pick pocketing, rag picking, begging, working as a conductors in bus and

tempos etc. These sorts of daily activities done by the school going age children suffice the level of poverty and on the other hand the inactive legal provisions on child right.

In terms of health and hygiene, Nepalese children are in poor condition. It has very limited resources to spend on medical care. A number of Nepalese children suffer from undernourishment and vitamin and mineral deficiencies. The single greatest cause of death among infants and children under the age of five is dehydration from chronic dysentery and malnutrition ( Cammeron, 1998). In the Kathmandu valley diarrhea is caused by polluted drinking water ( Skar,1997). Most of the sewage pipes in the Kathmandu valley are located next to drinking water supply pipes in which water only runs 2 to 4 hours per day, causing vacuums in the drinking water pipes and sucking the sewage in. The table below shows that the infant mortality rate in Nepal as high but slowly improving:

### 3.3 Infant Mortality Rate

**Table 1** Infant mortality rate

	<b>1971</b>	<b>1974</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>IMR/1000</b>									
Male	176	175	156	148	120	110	108	104	100
Female	168	167	148		114	104	102	100	96
Both sex	172	171	152	144	117	107	105	102	98
<b>Percent reduction per annum</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	

(Nepal Human development report, 1998)

Corporal punishment is very common to Nepalese children. It is often used to threaten for not allowing children to be on the wrong path and always obey elders. In general a child is treated with indulgence and progressiveness. It is a fact that no sooner the child starts crawling, his or her care will most likely to be given over to older siblings or grandparents ( UNICEF 1996). The socialization of younger children is on the hands of other children. Most often, the older children are more responsible to help the younger siblings read and write. As the significance of education is very less to most of the Nepalese parents, they do not see the relevance of the children's education compared to the values of daily work and social life. Nowadays it is so fortunate to see the school participation in Nepal in an increasing trend but still the dropout rates are high and so is the number of repeaters ( Burbank 1994).

### **3.4 Street Children in Nepal**

The problem of street children has become the issue of serious concern all over the world due to various socio-cultural, economical and other reasons. In South Asian countries and particularly in Nepal, the problem of street children is growing yearly with increasing urbanization and urban-focused opportunities and facilities. The very common causes like poverty, broken families, domestic violence, migration, job search, freedom, influence of friends, etc. forces the children from rural areas to end up on city streets which depending on the trend and time are classified as "street children", "children in a street situation", "children on the street", "children at risk" and so on.

#### **3.4.1 Definition**

The concept "Street Children" is a vague to define. It often appears to be daring and embarrassing. The European federation of street children defines it as "an extremely vulnerable group of children, living in most severe situations well beyond the usual notion of 'poverty'. They face a gross violation of their human rights, such as violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, chemical additions and numerous other human rights violations." Similarly, UNICEF has its own way of defining street children. UNICEF has made a distinction between the two significant categories as "Children on the Street" and "Children of the Street". European Commission's Communication on the Rights of the Child (2011-2014)

#### **3.4.2 Children *ON* the Street**

Children who are *on* the street and who are engaged in an activity of an economic character, from begging to sale. Most of them go back home at the end of the day and share their earnings with their close relatives. They can go to school and keep a feeling of belonging to their family. As a result of the fragile economic environment of their family, they can progressively choose to permanently live on the street.

### 3.4.3 Children *OF* the Street

Children who are on the street (and outside their normal family environment). They can keep some family ties, but these are "occasional" ([http://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/ZIM\\_01-805.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/ZIM_01-805.pdf)).

Further, UNICEF's definition of street children are highly adopted by many organizations. UNICEF identifies street children as boys and girls below the age of 18 and who lives in the street- which includes vacated sites- and/or for whom the street functions as a source of subsistence and survival. The UNICEF concept on street children also encompasses the children who lack or have less access to protection and supervision of their wellbeing. ( Black, 1993).

In "Wikipedia" following observation has been made: ' Street Children' are increasingly recognized by sociologists and anthropologists to be a socially-built category that in reality does not form a clearly defined, homogenous population or phenomenon ( Glauser, 1990; Ennew, 2000; Moura,2002). [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/street\\_child](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/street_child).

Child Protection Center and Services ( CPCS) Nepal and The European Network on Street Children Worldwide has some similar definition on street children:

'Street children are those who for the majority of the time sleep on the street and retain limited or no contact with their family of origin'. These are in the majority, " abandoning" rather than abandoned children, who have generally left home for the street as a result of family breakdown and violence almost invariably linked to the stresses of extreme poverty. ( CPCS and VOC Nepal 2008)

Their definition of street children holds the common notion that street children are distinguishable from other children in terms of their special relationship with the street. Moreover it is also clear that the street children cannot be identified as a homogenous group. There can be multiple causes and situations that the street children's relationship with the street can be characterized. There can be as many stories as there are street children.

But working as a social worker helping to eradicate or reduce the increasing problems on street life it is very unlikely to indicate the street children as an "object". Rather, the International Network of Street Workers supports by recommending to abandon the "street children concept" replacing it by "children in a street situation" and much as "street population". To commence, the concept "street children" can be better defined as 'children in street situation' which highlights that all children are individual beings and their situations are all unique. As the problem of street children is a complex one, to reduce this burning problem, one needs to know the tentative street population.

### **3.5 Street Children in Number**

There are various estimations regarding the actual number of street children all around the globe. UNICEF's estimation made in 1989 indicates that there are a 100 million children growing up in urban streets worldwide ( Benitez 2007). Report says that even after the course of fourteen years the number has remained the same ( UNICEF 2003, 37) . But these figures are argued to lack validity ( Benitez 2007, 64). To the latest ' The exact number of street children is impossible to quantify, but the figure almost certainly runs into tens of millions across the world. It is likely that the numbers are increasing as the global population grows and as urbanization continues apace' ( UNICEF, 2005: 40-41). Recently, UNICEF claimed figure is as high as 100-150 million worldwide; where, South America is announced to occupy half the amount and Asia about thirty million ( UNESCO). According to UN data of 2011, there are nearly 150 million street children in the world today and the number increasing daily. That means nearly one of every 60 people living on the planet is a child living on the street. Half of them die without first four years of their street life. In other words, a child who ends up in the street at the age of 8 has a 50 percent chance of dying before the age of 12. The 100 million figures are still commonly cited, but have no basis in fact. Similarly it is debatable whether numbers of street children are growing globally or whether it is the awareness of street children within societies which has grown. The typical age of a street child varies from place to place. In developed countries, street children are usually over the age of twelve. The proportion of girls among street children is reported to be less than 30 percent in developing countries and about 50 percent in many developed countries (as cited in consortium for Street Children, n.d.)

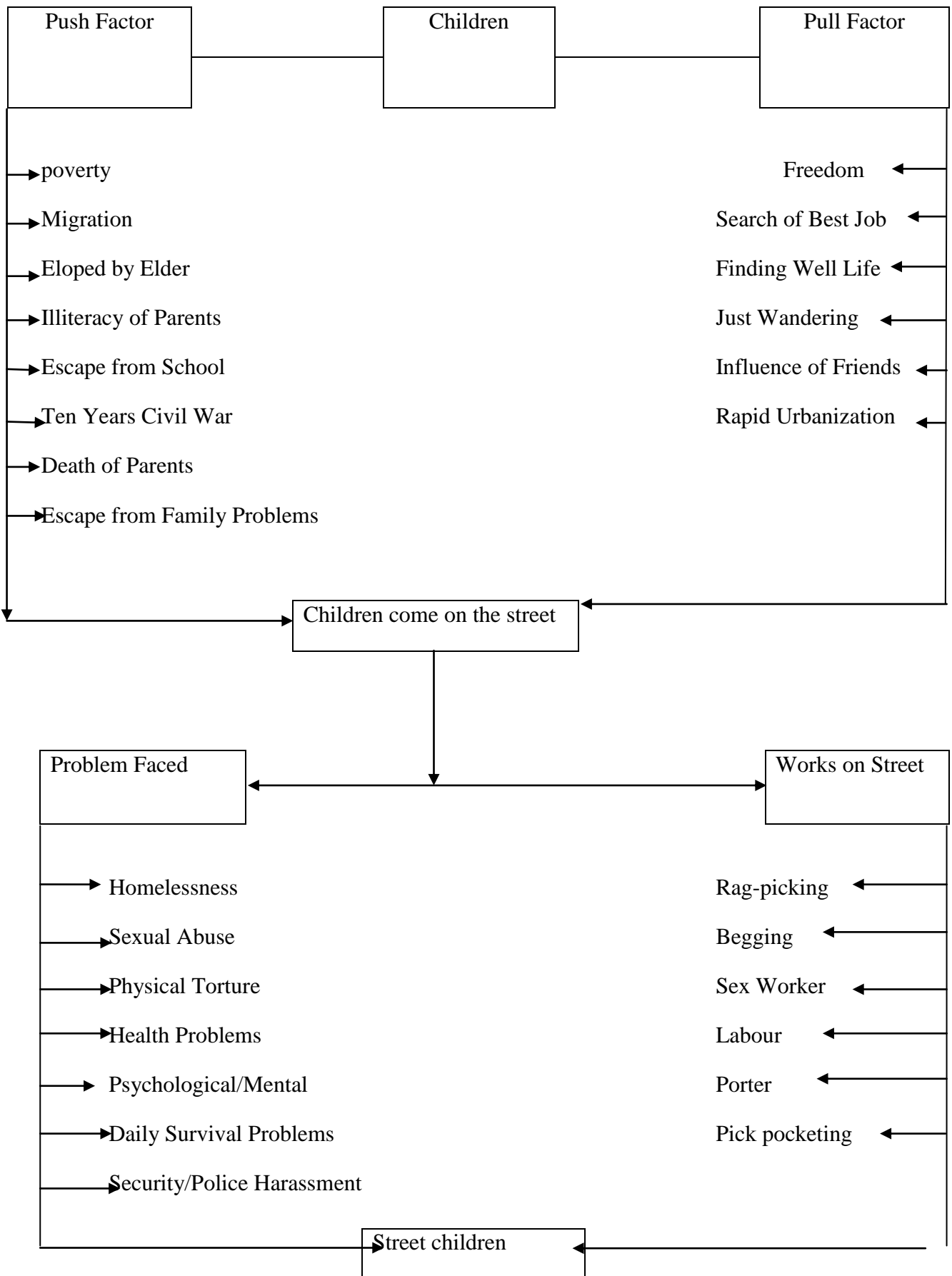
Based on the survey conducted by Child Welfare Society (CWS) for UNICEF IN 1996, Nepal had about 30000 street children; from which 26000 were identified as " children on the street" and 3700 as " children of the street" ( UNICEF and Child Welfare Society 1996, 2). According to CWIN report, Nepal had about 5000 street children where Kathmandu was accounted to occupy 500-600 of them ( Rai, Ghimire, Shrestha and Tuladhar 2002, 48). The present statistics of street children indicates the figures as high as 900-1200 in Kathmandu (CPCS and VOC Nepal 2008, 15).

The total population of Nepal according to CBS 2001 was 2,31,51,423 among which the total number of children below 14 years was 90,98,201 ( 39.30%). This included 46,38,000 ( 20.03%) boys and 44,60,201 ( 19.27%) girls. The difference between the population of boys and girls below 14 years is of 0.67%. ( CCWB,2008). The book entitled " The State of the Rights of the Child in Nepal, 2001" published by CIWIN showed 5000 children working and living on the streets. It is alarming to note that each year at least 500 children are found to appear on roads of Kathmandu valley from different districts of Nepal (CIWIN, 2006). CPCS an organization in Kathmandu working for the welfare of children carried out a survey with street children in 2007. The survey report shows that 65% children leave their houses in search of employment, 54% children come to Kathmandu with influence from others, 55% to visit Kathmandu, 51% come to street due to domestic violence, 27% due to lack of food and 12% come due to political reason. (<http://praveenkumaryadav.wordpress.com/2011/10/09/plight-of-street-children-in-nepal/>)

### **3.6 How one belongs to the street**

There are various reasons pushing, throwing or attracting children to the street. There are many push factors that make children call as street children. Based on the literature reviews it is well stated that poverty, migration, economic problems, unemployment of parents, low educational level of the parents, physical abuse, etc. are the major causes dragging children into street life. Similarly, the push factors like emotional deprivation, domestic violence, exploitation at work, deprivation of food at home, search for freedom etc. forces the children to becoming street children. The following chart illustrates the conceptual framework of street children:

**Figure: 2** Conceptual framework of street children





The various study on street children shows that the ratio of belonging to the street increased in Nepal during the decade long people's war between the government and the Maoist insurgents. Due to migration, families had to face adaptation problems, problems regarding children's schooling, search for new jobs leading to unemployment problem, etc. This made the situation worst as the families had to expect their children to look after their parents though by default. This led to vulnerable work start, the easy one being on the street begging or picking rags. Hence, the major pushing factor in Nepal was migration to flat lands from hilly areas due to terror of the Maoist insurgents and then followed by unemployment.

Poverty is one of the other reasons for children living on the streets. Because of the poverty parents are unable to provide with the very basic necessity of life that is food, shelter, and clothing. Hence, children are deprived of sufficient food, enough to wear and a proper place to sleep which forces the children to come on the street to earn money for themselves as well as to their family. Domestic violence is the major push factors bringing children on the street. Though domestic violence is a big crime as according to Children Act 2048, there are many cases of physical and mental abuse as well as the sexual abuses within the family members and or another family members. These tortures are never brought out into the society unless they cross the tolerance level and hence as an escape to such violence children escape from such families and finally land into the street life where they feel to be free. So lack of family protection, love and affection reasons out for children staying on the street.

Street children come from families who have less approach to education. Due to family members illiteracy, parents never focus on education children and its benefits. Children do not have the capacity to judge the right and wrong for them and hence end up in the street. So school abandonment is identified as one of the push factor causing children become a street children.

## **CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

There are mainly two types of methodological approaches while doing any social research. They are qualitative approach and quantitative approach. Generally, qualitative research method aims to gathering an in-depth understanding of consumers' attitude and behavior and the reasons that govern such behavior. The qualitative method investigates the why and how of decision making, not just what, where, when. Hence, smaller but focused samples are more often used than large samples. In this research, data can be in the form of words, images, feelings, emotions, sounds, transcripts, etc. It is highly descriptive and uses the tools like focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, etc. Contrary to this, quantitative research method helps to measure the degree and extent of the attitudes. Phenomena are described numerically and with specific measurements in the forms of tables, graphs and pie- charts etc. Though there is a huge distinction between the two research methods, this research work generally uses qualitative research method to describe the life of street children. However, it also applies the quantitative research method while dealing with the data presentation. Hence, this chapter thoroughly explains the detailed and systematic process of research for the understanding of the processes of research in the topics of selections of the study area, the sources of information, methods used for the data collection, etc.

### **4.2 Research Design**

Once a researcher is finalized with what he/she wants to study about, the next question arises about how to conduct the given research topic. Any research design should incorporate the procedures adopted to gather the answers to the research questions, the process involved, etc. Generally research design has two main functions i.e. identification and / or development of procedures to undertake a study and the second emphasizes the importance of quality to ensure the validity, objectivity and accuracy. Talking about this research on Street Children, it is based on field study because the daily activities of the street children can only be observed and analyzed by this method. Hence, the descriptive and analytical method of interpretation are highly used. Also, the high attempts of the use of sociological and anthropological methods during the data collection and the interpretation of the social problems helps to

forefront the socio-economic condition of the street children, their life style, daily activities and so on.

### **4.3 The Selection of the study area**

For any research work there should be some specific research area that is to be chosen. As this research work is about street children, the study area will be the places where the number of street children is huge because dealing with one or two street children may not draw accurate information. The methodological problem has been developing very rapidly as the street children have developed an extraordinary capacity to tell false stories. Lying about their ages, family background, the reasons for being on the streets, and their current circumstances is included in their well-rehearsed scripts ( Felsman, 1989; Leite and Esteves, 1991). Presenting information about themselves is part of their survival skills which, like those of other nomadic entertainers, rests on their ability to manipulate their audiences ( Aptekar, 1990a). Saying so, falsifying their story is not common with every child. There are several street children who have gone through the hardest time being on the street. So, to forefront those real causes by selecting certain area is the major task because a researcher is always limited to certain research area and the topics. Hence, in this research work, based on the pre-observation, different places of Kathmandu- the capital city i.e Jamal, Thamel, Putalisadak and Maitidevi are selected on the basis of purposive sampling method as the study area. The selected places are the major places at the heart of the capital city and are always crowded because they are commercial areas. The places are always occupied with the people from all around the country. Hence, they are also the attraction to the children as well. Further, the majority of the street children like being to these crowded areas because their way of living like begging, shoe polishing, picking rags, etc becomes easier as they get many costumers. Also, sometimes they get the food and the place to sleep from the NGO and INGO's which are present there.

### **4.4 Sources and nature of data**

This research study on street children is mainly conducted on the basis of primary and secondary sources of data collection. In general the primary sources of data collection are mainly done through the process like Observation, Interviewing, and Questionnaire. Observation method can be divided into participant and non-participant method. Likewise, interviewing are classified as structured and unstructured. Questionnaire method are mailed

questionnaire and collective questionnaire. Likewise, secondary sources are the documents like government publications, earlier research, census, personal records, client histories, service records, etc . Here in this research, primary data are collected by interview schedules based on pre-structured questionnaire and field observation. Secondary data are collected from the published papers, and various sources of information from the internet. Mostly, government publications, records and report are highly used in this research work.

#### **4.5 Universe and sample**

After the selection of the study area and the sources and nature of data collection, it is always necessary to allocate the universe and the sample size. For an academic research selection of a small universe and the sample size would be more fruitful. Hence, though this research is on the street children of Kathmandu valley, this universe of study can be minimized by selecting few major places within Kathmandu valley which is done on the section ' the study area'. This study area is chosen because the reports by CWS and UNESCO, 2001 shows that street children in Kathmandu valley are increasing annually by five hundreds and also the number of street children were witnessed throughout the day and their presence was viewed maximum in the selected study area. Hence, according to the data of CWIN 2012, among the 500 street children 3% i.e. 20 street children who are below the age of 16 are interviewed face-to-face applying the pre-structured questionnaire where the random sampling method is used. Also, for the equal representation of the number of boys and girls. a purposive judgmental sampling method will be applied.

#### **4.6 Data Collection Tools and Techniques**

This research work has utilized several methods to collect primary data on street children. The choice of the data collection tools and technique depends upon the purpose of the study, the resources available and the skills of the researcher because selecting a method of data collection also depends on the socioeconomic- demographic characteristics of the study population which play an important role. For example it is always important to know about the educational level, age structure, socio-economic status, ethnic background, study population's interest in and attitude towards, participation in the study. Hence, in this section, the relevant method of data collection is discussed according to its applicability and suitability to the present research topic of street children.

#### **4.6.1 Interview**

In general, when there is any person to person interaction between two or more individuals with a specific purpose in mind is called as an interview. Hence, this process accompanies in various walks of life to collect information though in different forms of interaction. So, interviewing is the most commonly used method of data collection.

There are various types of interview which are classified according to their flexibility. The major two are Unstructured interview which is very flexible i.e. the interviewer has the freedom to formulate questions as they come to the mind while in the process of being investigated and the other is the Structured interview which is very inflexible i.e the interviewer has to strictly follow with the questions that are set beforehand. Hence, in this research the interview can be called as the Unstructured interview which can also be further categorized as in- depth interviews, focus group interview, narrative and oral histories. To interview the respondents, around thirty questionnaires are developed intending to dig out the understanding of their family structure, education level, socio-economic level, social exposure, illegal activities, etc. which are collected from in-depth interviews. The questionnaire were developed on the basis of the knowledge gained from consultation, and the secondary data like various publications, records, literature reviews, etc. In-depth interviews are conducted because of its two essential characteristics- i.e. it involves face-to-face , repeated interaction between the interviewer and the interviewee and this method of interview helps to understand the respondent's perspective.

#### **4.6.2 Observation**

Observation as the way of collecting primary data can be defined as a purposeful, systematic and selective way of watching and listening to an interaction or phenomenon as it takes place. Here, in this research, the researcher has worked as a Non- participant observer where he is not involved in the activities but remain as a passive observer watching and listening to the activities from which he will be drawing the conclusion. So, in this research work the issue of health, hygiene, language, dietary, life style, etc. is observed through this method. During the time of interview, the researcher was in the street of the selected areas where he could observe the street children working to sort out the recyclable material from the garbage for sale. Some

were shouting as an advertisement to come and polish the shoes or wash their vehicle as their source of income. Some were begging, few waiting for the organizations to come and feed them. Some were even intoxicated and few fighting and speaking rubbish.

### **4.6.3 Case Study**

Case study is one of the major strategy to collect data and information for the study. Generally case study method is an approach to studying a social phenomenon through a thorough analysis of an individual case. Data that are relevant to the case are gathered and organized in terms of the case which aims at providing an opportunity for the intensive analysis of many specific details that are often overlooked by other methods. Here in this research work , three case study will be presented without any changes in the report. This case study on three different street children may help to portray the real life without any exaggeration.

## **4.7 Data analysis and interpretation**

The data that are collected from the study site are collected and analyzed accordingly. Different forms of tabulation like pie chart, bar diagram, line chart etc. are used for the clarification of the data collected. Likewise statistical tool percentage is used for the processing of qualitative data into tables and percentage so as to make the interpretation systematic. Also, to make the study more comprehensive, descriptive qualitative research design is often used.

## **4.8 Validity and Reliability of data**

As a researcher, it is important to make an attempt to establish the quality of any research result. For this, the validity of the procedures applied during the research like the validity of the study design, the sampling strategy, the conclusion drawn, the statistical procedures etc. matters a lot. Therefore, validity is the ability of an instrument to measure what is designed to measure. " Validity is defined as the degree to which the researcher has measured what he has set out to measure" (Smith 1991: 106). Hence, establishing validity applies two ways i.e. logic and statistical evidence. Establishing validity through logic implies justification of research questions on the basis of the objective of the study. Likewise, establishing validity through

statistics provides strong evidence by calculating the coefficient of correlations between the questions and the outcome variables.

Reliability of data is the degree of accuracy or precision in the measurements made by a research instrument. The lower the degree of 'error' in an instrument, the higher is the reliability. There are various factors that affect the reliability of any research. The factors can be the ambiguity in the wording of questions, changes in the physical setting for data collection, respondents mood during the interviews, nature of interaction between the interviewer and the interviewee, etc. Hence, the procedures like the external and the internal consistency are often used for determining the reliability of any research.

#### **4.9 Ethical Considerations**

Any researcher should be aware of the ethical issues that should be considered when conducting research. As a researcher being ethical means strongly following the code of conduct that has been there since years for an acceptable professional practice. Areas of ethics can be guided in regards to participants, researchers and sponsoring organizations. Participants ethical consideration can be based on collecting information, seeking consent, providing incentives, seeking sensitive information, maintaining confidentiality etc. Likewise, researchers ethical consideration may be guided by the issues of biasness, using unacceptable research methodology, inaccurate reporting and information, etc. Ethical consideration in relation to sponsoring organizations may include the restrictions imposed on research designs and the possible use of findings.

As ethical issues are moral principles or beliefs about what is wrong and what is right, this dissertation work is fully guided by the ethical values while dealing with the respondents as there is no pressure to any respondents to grant the information. Also, there is no violation to any individual's right to privacy.

## **CHAPTER 5: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter attempt to explain the theoretical framework of the thesis. Chapter one starts with definition of children, street children and reasons of being a street child. The chapter also outlines the main objective of the thesis 'what are the causes leading children on the street?' The thesis aims at investigating why the number of street children are increasing on the street beside the life on the street is terrible, painful and helpless. A theory in a research project is the framework for the project on the basis of which we describe or explain our phenomena (Silverman, 2005). Concepts are ideas deriving from models, which offer ways of looking at the world, which are essential in defining a research problems (ibid). Hence a theoretical framework which can be suitable in classifying the street children's causative factors and provide understanding for the underlying perspectives of the society to the street children and vice versa is needed. In order to answer these questions the theoretical framework is orientated towards understanding the human forms of practices. Therefore the thesis is carried out by the following theoretical frameworks i.e. structural analysis of the factors that 'push' and 'pull' the children to the street (Kaime-Atterbog, 1996); system theories and empowerment. Structural analysis and system theories focus on to identify causes, survival strategy, societal perspectives and the dimensions of the study. Apart from identifying the root causes of being street children, this study is also meant to address the empowerment approach applied by the intervening authorities i.e. government, nongovernmental and donor agencies to curb street children phenomenon and their re integration process in the family and society. This empowerment approach applied in this study is based on the ideas of Karen Healy (2005). Problem solving approach within the empowerment approach has been applied to show how the concerned stakeholders working on the street children to empower and re-unite with their family.

### **5.2 Structural analysis of 'Push' and 'Pull' factors**

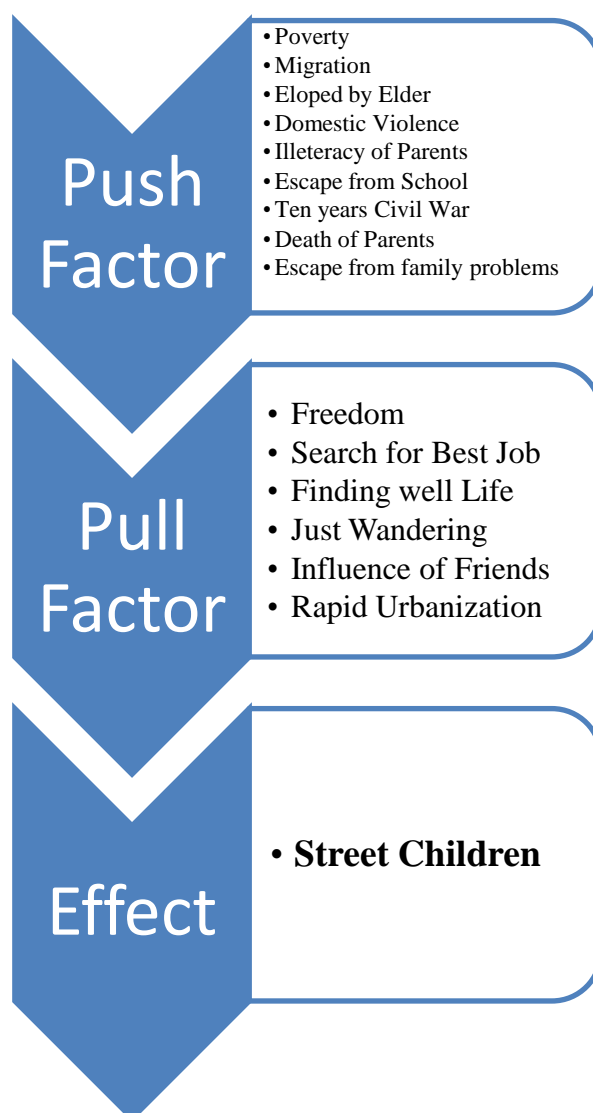
Kaime-Atterbog, 2012 states that in most research places urban poverty is a fundamental and structural factor pushing the children to the streets (Abdelgalil et al, 2004; Ali et al,2004; Ayuku, 2004; Birch, 2000; Suda, 1997). Kaim further states that within this context of urban



poverty, children are driven to the streets by a multitude of factors that come from all domains of influence in a child's social environment. These factors are overlapping and synergistic, but, operationally, can be classified into 'push' and 'pull' factors (Ali et al, 2004; Plummer et al, 2007; Mercer 2009). 'Push' factors include those directly related to poverty and economic necessity, as well as family-level factors, such as orphan hood, domestic violence, lack of parental guidance, large family size, and family disintegration. 'Pull' factors operate by attracting children to the streets who are 'pushed' out of their homes due to economic, family and other reasons. These include income from working on the streets, peer influence, substance abuse, and the hope of a better life on the streets. 'Push' factors are exactly what we would expect -- they are things that push a child away from home. They include not feeling accepted in the environment where children should be safe and happy. Family quarrel and division can generate 'pushing away' ; and others as abuse of drugs and alcohol misuse by family members, and bringing stepfamily members in etc. On the other the factors that 'pull' children from home can include being pulled into an activity outside of their home. It can be different from staying out with peer groups becoming involved in drugs and alcohol, being groomed and sexually exploited or for freedom and independence.

Karki, (2001) has developed a conceptual framework for understanding street children phenomenon in context of Nepal. It shows the complex and interlinked societal and structural factors that 'pushing' and 'pulling' children to the streets.

**Figure: 3** A Conceptual framework for understanding street children phenomenon



Prevailing social system of Nepal remains another component to increase children in the street. The interpersonal system of family and friendship ties and Nepali societal structure are keys among multiple 'social' systems. Patriarchal social system, higher and lower cast system, forced and arranged marriage, secret and hidden relationship within kinship or close friends and family are direct and indirect components producing the number of street children. Healy, 2005 writes system theories provide ways of understanding problems and issues; however, it is widely agreed that systems frameworks do not provide intervention methods. To understand more about the systems, the third wave of system theory 'Complex System Theories' will be appropriate in this research. This is simply because it is more easy to describe non-linearity and unpredictability of change process. Healy, 2005 further writes 'a

complex system is one in which the behavior of the whole system is greater than the sum of its parts'. Darley, (1994) states that 'The defining characteristics of a complex system is that some of its global behaviors which are the result of interactions between a large number of relatively simple parts, cannot be predicted simply from the rules of those underlying interactions.' Complex systems researchers use inductive approaches (bottom up) to consider how local phenomena including apparently simple interactions contribute to evolution to larger complex systems. The research itself follow inductive approach to understand the ground reality of the street children how and why they are in the street? following direct observation and interviewing themselves one by one.

In the 'Social System Theory' the functionalist perspective focuses on the system's stability. Nessmith, (1995) states that according to the functionalist perspective a society is seen as an organized network of cooperating groups operating in a fairly orderly manner on a set of rules and values shared by most members. The phenomenon of the street children has emerged due to instability of family system or in general by social system which is the product of failure of family institution. It is the result of failure of some part of social system. Babbie, (2004) states that ' in applying the functionalist paradigm to everyday life, people sometime make the mistake of thinking that 'functionality' , stability, and integration are necessarily good or that the functionalist paradigm makes that assumption, however, when social researchers look for the functions served by poverty, racial discrimination or the oppression of women, they are not justified by the understanding of above idea; this can be assumed that Functionalist Perspective can be discussed on proper functional parts of society as well as malfunctioning parts of social system.

Abro, (2012) stated in his Ph.d. research that conflict theory argues that society is not about solidarity or social consensus but rather about competition. Society is made up of individuals competing for limited resources (e.g. money, leisure, sexual partner, etc.). Broader social structures and organizations (e.g. religions, governments etc.) reflect the competition for resources in their inherent inequalities; some people and organizations have more resources (i.e. power and influence) and use those resources to maintain their positions of power in society. Conflict theory was developed in part to illustrate the limitations of structural-functionalism. The structural-functional approach argued that society tends toward equilibrium.

He further writes that the structural-functional approach focuses on stability at the expense of social change. This is contrasted with the conflict approach, which argues that society is constantly in conflict over resources. One of the primary contributions conflict theory presents over the structural functional approach is that it is ideally suited for explaining social change, a significant problem in the structural-functional approach.

The following are three primary assumptions of modern conflict theory:

- I. Competition over scarce resources is at the heart of all social relationships. Competition rather than consensus is characteristic of human relationships.
- II. Inequalities in power and reward are built into all social structures. Individuals and groups that benefit from any particular structure strive to see it maintained.
- III. Change occurs as a result of conflict between competing interests rather than through adaption. Change is often abrupt and revolutionary rather than evolutionary.

According to Child Rights International Network (CRIN) ten years conflict made hundreds of schools have closed down in the villages and thousands of children have been deprived of their right to education. The children have also been deprived of health facilities, a balanced diet and nutrition and the care of their parents/relatives. Similarly child labor has increased and the conflicting parties have been using children as messengers. The Maoists have been using child soldiers. Thousands of orphans (victims from both sides- government and maoist) have seen their parents, siblings, or friends being beaten up or tortured or killed. According to CIWIN report over 4000 children have been internally displaced. Some of them even live on the street, exposed to various types of danger. Many displaced children have witnessed violence and destruction and thousands have been traumatized. Children who have been directly affected or who have witnessed atrocities from either side are deeply traumatized or have developed a sense of revenge.

## 5.3 Case Study

### 5.3.1 Case One

#### **"Freedom as an attraction towards street life"**

I am Madan. I am 13 years old. Originally I am from Kavrepalanchowk. My family had four members i.e my father, mother, one younger sister and myself . My mother used to work as a stone breaker (*Gitti Kuttne* in Nepali) in the riverside and me and my sister spent our whole day with our mother. My father used to work as a labor in construction. The whole day he worked very hard but in the evening he used to come home heavily drunk and this was his everyday routine. When he come home he battered my mother and myself without any reason. That time I was 10 years old and my sister was seven. Sometimes he battered all of us including my sister. I did not get any love from my father's side. When this kind of physical violence was increasing, I thought of leaving the house and staying independently. So I ran from home because of exceed physical torture from my father. I went to live in the capital city 'Kathmandu'. I spent one year as a servant with one family in Anamnagar. But those family were also not good. They abused me a lot. I would be so tired working from 5 in the morning till eleven in the evening. So whenever i tried to rest for few minutes i used to be bitten, scolded and often kicked off. But by the time I had earned some money. So I decided to leave that house too and make my own living. I want to be self dependent and do whatever I like to do with my own money. Since last two years I am living on the streets. Now in the street, there is nobody as a boss telling me what to do and what not to do.

When I left the home and started to live on the street, I found it difficult to fit in with other street boys and street surroundings. But slowly and gradually I got adjusted to street life. It is very difficult to survive in the street. But I like its freedom. Now nobody beats me and order me to do the different work.

After arriving on the street and being adjusted, I soon found out that alcohol and glue sniffing became major part of my life. Beside this, I have tried everything that is available on the streets i.e. rasing from cigarettes, and tobacco to alcohol and marijuana (ganja).

It has been one year since I started sniffing dendrite. I learned to sniff this through a street friend. One trip is enough for me to last for a whole day but if the trip comes down, I take it again. I know this kind of my habit is not good for my health and sometimes I am experiencing my chest pains but again I cannot get rid of from it. I work as a Tempo conductor sometimes and earn some money but this job is really hard. I have to shout a lot to make alert the passengers.

### **5.3.2 Case Two**

#### **"Street friend allure me to come to street life "**

I was nine years old when my mother got married with other man and left the house. My father and my two sisters were living in Koteshwor area. My father was laboring there. I went to school until grade two. Then my father could not continue my study and sent me to his (father) sister's home to look after her baby in Chabahil. She had a young neighbor who was the same age as me and we became friends. Sometimes, we went to visit Thamel, Jamal, and Putalisadak. Sometimes we went to see movies. When we went to see movies, sometimes we stayed in there the whole night. I started to smoke cigarette with him. I feel faint when I smoke too fast, but that was fun too. Slowly and gradually, I made some friends on the street and attracted me to the street to live freely. I did not want to go back to my father and sisters, so I left the home and started to live with other street friends all the time. When I completely arrived on the street, I started my life as a beggar to survive. In one day I collect 200 to 250 rupees by begging. Being on the street and coming to meet other friends from the streets, take dendrite and smoke cigarettes, marijuana became common habits. It became very fun and enjoying life living on the street. Then slowly I am habituated into other drugs. I came to know about 'glue sniffing' from a friend. I used to see them sniffing from plastic bag. I also started sniffing glue after seeing other friend do so.

I am sniffing glue since one year. I used my begging money to buy glue. I need one hundred to one hundred fifty to buy glue for one week. I sniff the glue three to six times in a week. When I sniff, it gives me a good trip for an hour. I feel happy and pleasant and gives me pleasure from it. I cannot explain the pleasing moment of the trip from the glue sniffing that I enjoyed myself. Sometimes I feel sick, have stomach pain, and others. But the disease gets cured by itself. I know that these kind of substance using is harmful for health. One of my

friend is suffering from side effect of the sniffing. Seeing the effect to my friend, I want to give up this habit but I do not get any good alternative to get rid of it. The problems that I have faced in my life always haunt me. To avoid such problems of my life I must sniff. Sniffing is the only alternative for me on the street life.

Early in the morning to late night we roam on the street of Putalisadak, Bagbazar, Dillibazar but nobody care us and address our problems. I am still living on the street but now I feel unhappy because some street youth always rub my collected money, pick pocket and even rub my clothes. Very often there is fight among street boys and batter the small and weak. Nobody look after us. I want to leave this street life and want to study to become a good man. But I cannot leave the street because where do I go? who will look after me?

### **5.3.3 Case Three**

#### **"Conflict made me street child"**

I am Nitesh. Now I am 15 years old. I am from Dhading. we were three people in our family. We were poor and living in one small cottage of Noubise. My mother used to work as a dish washer in one hotel of the highway. Father worked as a labor worker. I was studying in the local school in class three.

Nine years before, one day Police made a big search operation in our village looking for maoist. It was mid night and we were sleeping. Police took my father with them without any reason. Me and my mother cried a lot but they did not leave my father. We were waiting my father to come back but he did not. After two years my mother died by Jandish. Then after I became alone in this world. I did not know anybody and nobody give me work also. In the village everybody blamed me as son of maoist. When my mother died, I lived several days and nights without food.

One day I climbed on one tripper and came to Kathmandu kalanki. This city was very new to me. The whole day I sat on footpath, did not eat. I was very hungry and sleepy also. It was getting darker and darker in the evening. Around 11 o'clock night, two children of my age were coming towards me. They sat nearby me and open one plastic bag. There was some food. They started to eat. I was looking continuously to them because I was very much

hungry. One of them asked me that ' YOU WANT', immediately I said 'YES'. I sat with them and we three ate together. They asked about me. I told my story to them and the first day of Kathmandu. They said that they were also in same condition but now habitual and adjusted on the street life. From that day I started my life living on the street.

Now I am in the Thamel area. This is very busy place. Many people come and go in this area. And foreigners (Gore people) often come to this place. Begging is my main strategy of survival. Sometimes I help the foreigners to carry goods from one place to other and they give some money. We are 8-10 people living together in one group.

Life is very difficult in winter season. We do not have enough clothes, food, good health. I am habitual of substance user. I started to smoke cigarettes, tobacco, and alcohol. From the foreigner, I learned to smoke marijuana, and other drugs also. Glue sniffing is other way of survival on the street. If we do not have anything to eat and do, we buy some glue from the local shop and take it as a means of intoxication. Glue sniffing gives extreme pleasure for one to two hours. We forget all kinds of difficulties, anxieties and pain during the time of glue sniffing. So most the street children use this substance.

I do not know the way out of our life. I do not know how do I live the rest of my life. Sometimes I miss my school days and my friends. If I get the chance I do want to go to school.

#### **5.4 Empowerment Approach**

Empowerment is a means of enhancing capacities of the people to overcome their problems. Healy (2005) stated five key social work theories frequently applicable in social work practice. They are problem solving, system theories, the strengths perspectives, anti-oppressive practice and post modern, post structural and post colonial approaches. More or less, all these theories are linked with empowerment strategies. But the problem solving is relevant in this study because it is valuable in exploring the effectiveness of intervene and rehabilitation/reintegration program aimed at empowering the victims (street children).

Healy (2005) writes that problem solving approaches are characterized by collaborative, highly structured, time-limited and problem-focused approaches to practice. The relevancy of



this approach in this study is to design a long term action plan to intervene and reintegrate the street children phenomenon of Nepal.

Healy further mentioned that problem solving is the concept of task-centered approach. The approach assists practitioners in their attempt to maximize clarity about the purpose and the process of intervention between social workers and service users. Moreover, the task-centered practices is focused on enabling clients to make small and meaningful changes in their lives by minimizing the number of problems. This task-centered approach can be helpful to limit the early age substance abuse habit of the street children.

So the use of these approaches may contribute to addressing the factors leading to the success of the reintegration and rehabilitation programs related to street children in Nepal.

## CHAPTER 6: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

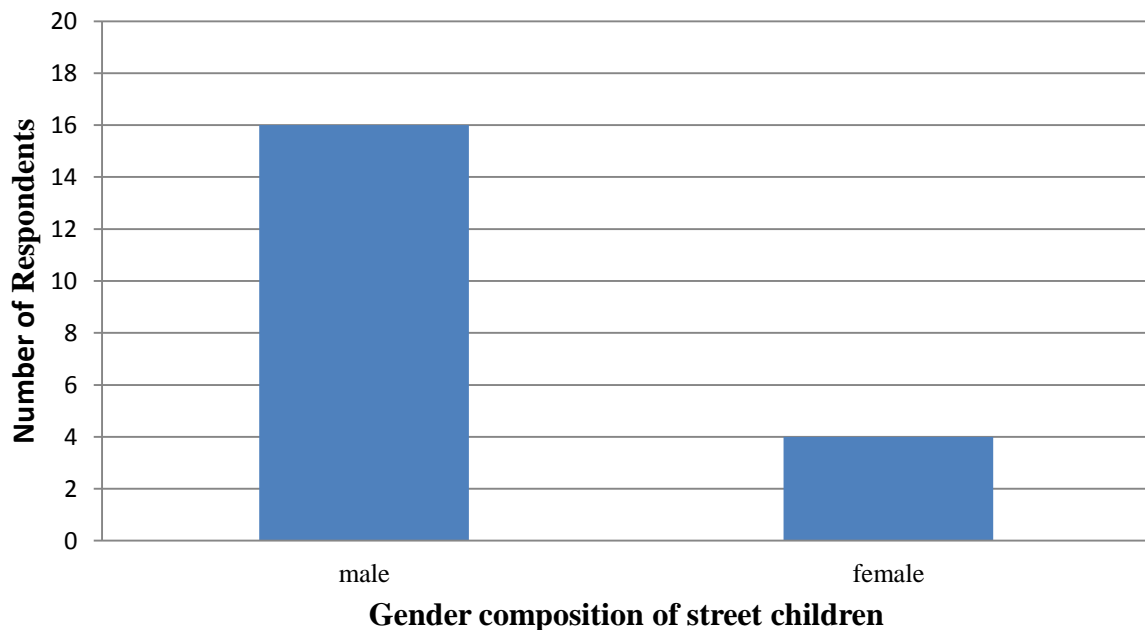
### 6.1 Introduction

This part of the research work encompasses the data that are collected by the researcher during the field visit through the various data collection techniques like observation, interviewing questionnaires, etc. which are the primary sources of data collection. Here, in this research work the study area is taken to be the busiest areas of the capital city Kathmandu i.e. Jamal, Thamel, Putalisadak and Maitidevi. Five samples are taken from each study area. Therefore, the number of respondents for this research work is twenty which assumes that the random selection of these respondents represents the overall status of the street children in the capital Kathmandu.

### 6.2 Gender Composition of street children

Talking about the gender composition of the total population of Nepal, it is the female population that is greater than the male. But this research shows that the majority of the street children are boys.

**Figure 4** Distribution of respondents on the basis of sex structure



The above bar diagram clearly shows that from the total number of respondents i.e 20, 16 of the respondents were male that are boys below the age of 16 which forms 80% of the total respondents. Likewise, 4 of the total respondents were female which forms 20% of the total respondents. Hence, we can draw the conclusion that the gender component on the street life is vastly different.

### 6.3 Age Composition of street children

**Table 2** Distribution of Respondents according to age group

Age group	Frequency	Percent
<8	2	10
8-12	4	20
12-14	7	35
14-16	7	35
Total	20	100

Street children at the chosen research area were occupied with different age group. Here, in this research children below the age group 16 are considered as children. Among this age group 16, the researcher has sub-categorized the age group into 4 different groups. Street children of the age below 8 were found to be 2 which represented 10% of the total respondents. Similarly, children between 8-12 were found to be 4 which is 20% of the total respondents, street children of the age between 12-14 were found to be 7 which is 35% and age between 14-16 were found to be 7 again which is 35% of the total respondents. Hence the data illustrates that the majority of the street children were from the age 12 to 16 which means the teen agers who should be busy involved in school life.

## 6.4 Parental tie with street children

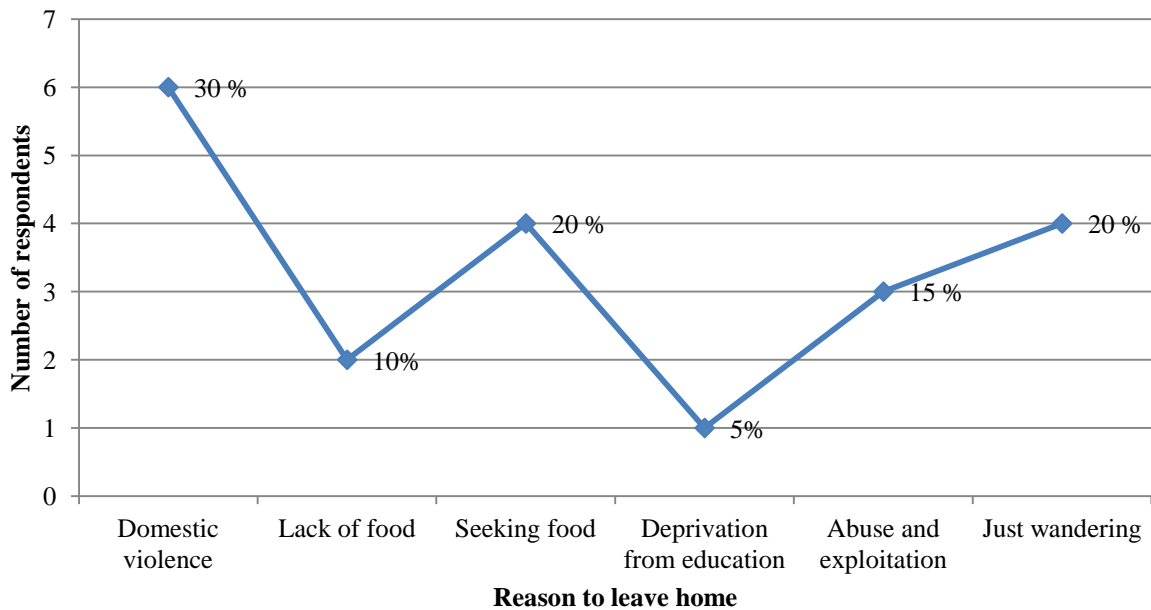
**Table 3** Distribution of respondents view on the basis of their parental tie

Response	Frequency	percentage
Yes	12	60
No	6	30
No response	2	10
Total	20	100

Life of any children is completely dependent on the environment and the nourishment of their parents. The new born child is like a raw mud in a potters hand. When baked can take any form as desired by the potter. Hence, parents nourishment is the most important factor in shaping any child's future. Though the role of parents is very high, here in this research the respondents when asked about their family tie majority of them responded that they have their family . Respondents saying so were 12 out of 20 which is 60%. Likewise, Respondents stating that they do not have their family were 6 in number which is 30% of the total population. There were 2 respondents without any response which means they do not know if they have their family or not which occupies 10 % of the total population.

## 6.5 Reasons for children to leave home

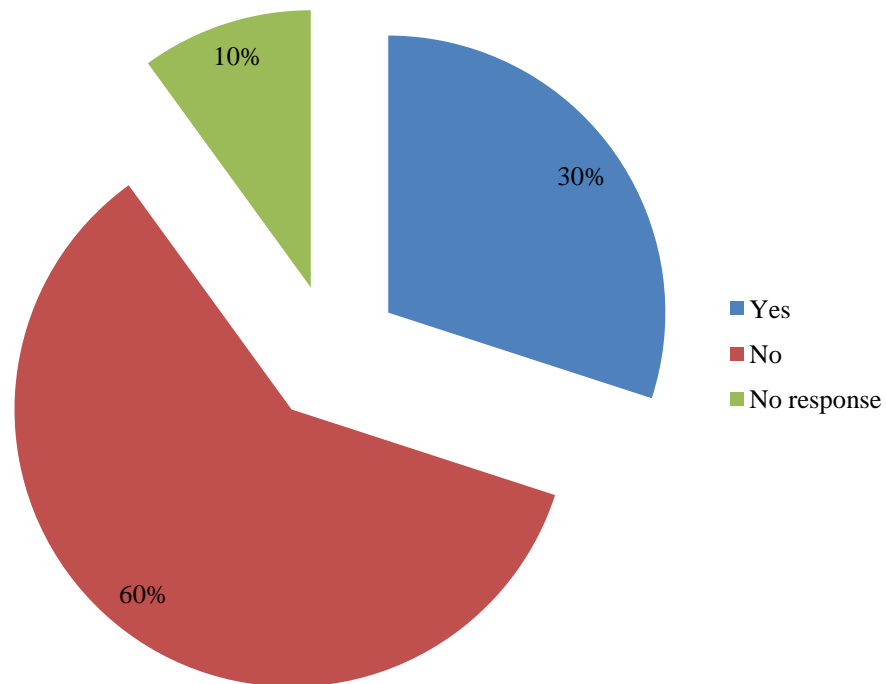
**Figure 5** Distribution of respondents on the basis of reasons to leave home



The data analysis of street children on the basis of reasons to leave home shows that the majority of children leave home due to domestic violence like beatings from their step-mother/father, alcoholic father, work stress, harassments ,etc. This reason hold 30% of the total population i.e. 6 respondents out of 20 stated this reason. Reasons like seeking employment and just wandering occupies 20% each which is 4 respondents from each reason. 15% ie. 3 of the respondents said abuse and exploitation, 10% ie.2 of the respondent state that lack of food was their reason and the remaining 5% i.e. 1 respondent's reason was the deprivation from education as the reason behind leaving home and coming to the street life.

## 6.6 Contacts of street children with their family members

**Figure 6** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of their contact with family members



This pie chart clearly illustrates the frequency of the street children's contact with their family members. In Nepalese context, it is seen that parents even use their children as their source of income by pushing them into the street life. The number of street children who are in contact with their family members is illustrated to be 6 out of 20 where they are in contacts as it is their way of generating income. 60% i.e. 12 respondents said that they are not in contact with their family where 10% i.e. 2 of them did not respond.

### 6.7 Frequency of street children's contact with their family

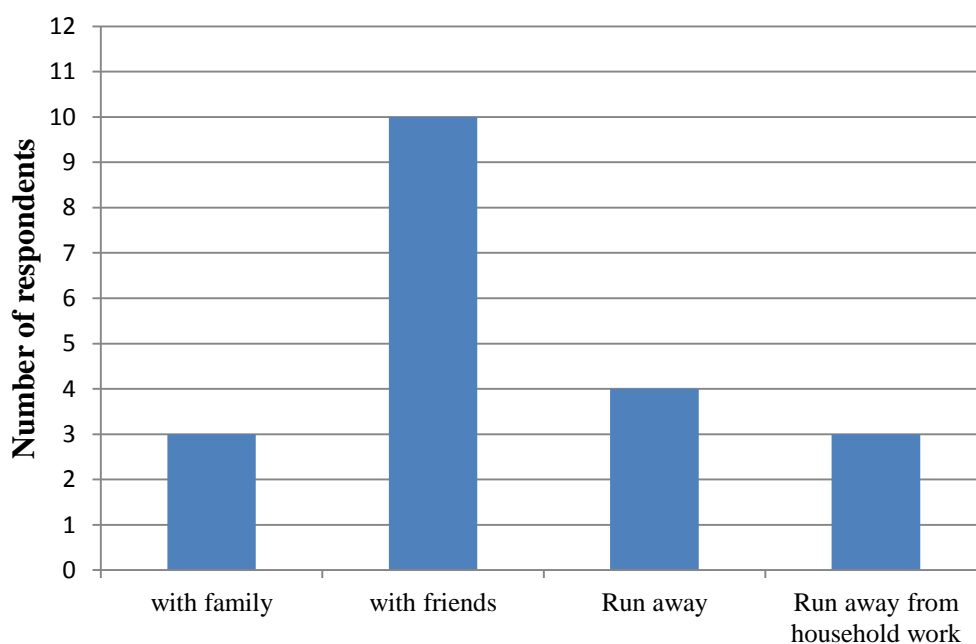
**Table 4** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of the frequency of contact with family members

Period of time	Frequency	percentage
1-3 years	2	16.66
At festivals	2	33.34
Living with family	3	50
Total	6	100

In the above data presentation of figure no. 5 it is well illustrated that the number of respondents who are in contact with their family is 6 out of 20. So, if they are in contact with the family members Figure no.6 tries to find out the frequency of their contact with the family. Among the 6 members who are in contact with their family, 3 of them said that they live with their family members, 2 of them meet only at festivals and the remaining 1 meet the family between 1-3 years time.

### 6.8 How Children end up on the street as street children

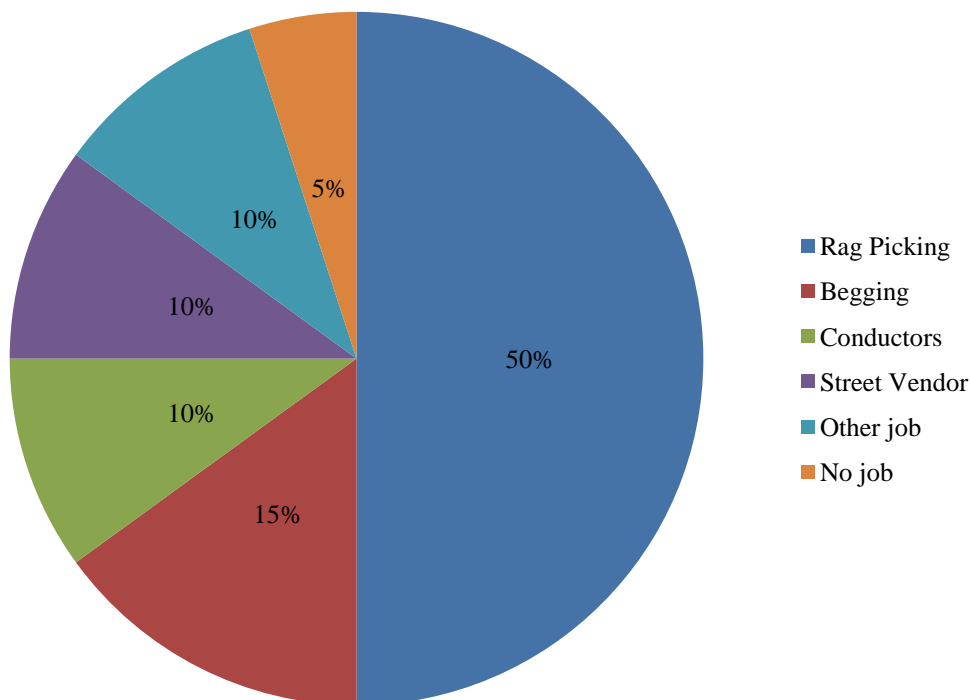
**Figure 7** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of how they end up on the street



The figure above illustrates that half the children i.e 50% of the total respondent state that they end up on the street with friends. It was their friends circle that pushed them on the streets. The freedom and the glamour of the city life that their friends shared with them lured the fresh mind getting into the street life. Similarly, to escape the family torture and violence around 20% of the children escape from the house and end up in street life. 15% of the children answered that they had to perform every household work like cooking, farm works, looking after siblings, ect. So, tired of those household work, they escaped from the house dreaming that they could do anything according to their will. The remaining 15% answered that they came into the street life along with their family. This was due to poverty and the dragging children into street life was a source of generating income.

### 6.9 Types of work that street children get involved into

**Figure 8** Distribution of respondents according to the work they are involved into





The data collected shows that half of the total respondents reported their main work as rag pickers. 50% i.e. 10 out of 20 respondent said their main work as rag pickers. Begging was the other job that they were largely involved. The research showed that 15% of the street children were involved in begging while 10% i.e. 2 of the total respondents were working as conductors in local transport vehicles. Other 10% of the respondents were street vendors while 10% of the respondents said that they were involved in other job where other job indicated pick pocketing, stealing things that they did not wanted to tell . The remaining 5% stated that they did not had any job.

### 6.10 Daily income of street children

**Table 5** Distribution of respondents on the basis of their income

Daily income (NRs)	Frequency	Percentage
10-50	2	10
50-100	5	25
100-150	5	25
>150	8	40
<b>Total</b>	20	100

The data survey on the income of street children showed that their income was never the same. It was because of the irregular kind of job they were involved in. The report showed that the street children earning more than Rs. 150 were 8 out of 20 respondents which occupies 40% of the total respondents. 25% of the respondents earned between Rs. 100-150 and Rs. 50-100 respectively. Respondents earning between Rs. 10- 50 were 2 in number which is 10% of the total respondents.

### 6.11 Where do you spend the money you have earned

**Table 6** Distribution of the money earned

Daily Expense	Frequency	Percent
Food and clothing	8	40
Drugs and alcohol	6	30
Helping family	4	20
All	2	10
Total	20	100

The tabulated data clearly shows that most of the money earned is spent on their basic necessities like food, clothing, etc. Secondly, drugs and alcohol and other entertainment occupies 30% of the income. Likewise, 20% of the total respondent use their income to help their family and 10% of the respondent use their earning in all aspects.

### 6.12 Types of drugs used

**Table 7** Distribution of different types of drugs used by the respondents

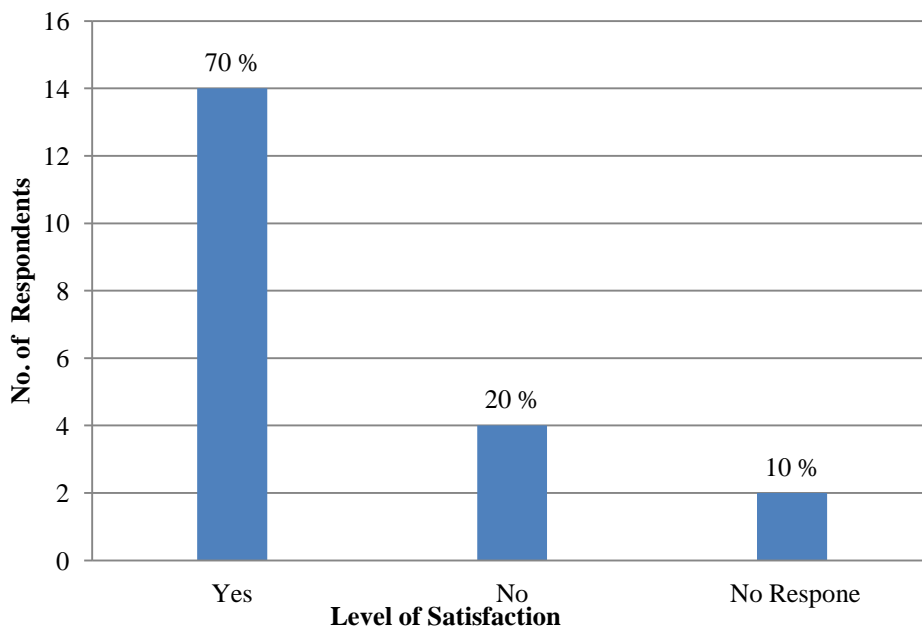
Drugs/alcohol	Frequency	Percent
Glue sniffing	-	-
Smoking	-	-
Alcohol	-	-
All	16	80
No Drug	4	20
Total	20	100

Almost all the street children are involved in the harmful use of drugs of which the effects can appear immediately or in the long run. It is said that they take drugs to make up for an emptiness, a lacking which rose in the form of suffering. Hence, to replace the things that are missing in their life, children in the street take drugs to make themselves feel better and make

relief from their everyday sufferings. In the data presented above it is vivid that 80% of the total respondents use drugs/ alcohol like glue sniffing, smoking, dendrite, marijuana, etc. It's only 20% of the street children that do not use any of the drugs or other intoxicating items.

### 6.13 Level of satisfaction with the income

**Figure 9** Distribution of respondent's level of satisfaction with their income



At the time of data collection, the respondents were asked if they were satisfied fulfilling their necessities with their income or not. 70% of the respondents said that they were satisfied while 20% said that they were not satisfied. The remaining 10% did not said anything about the issue.

### 6.14 Alternatives for insufficient income

**Table 8** Distribution of respondents to know what they do as an alternative for insufficient income

Options	Frequency	Percent
Begging	2	50
Getting in street bins	1	25
Stay hungry	1	25
Total	4	100

Figure 12 illustrates that 20% of the respondents were not satisfied with their income as it was insufficient for their one day expenses. Hence, when asked the question what they do as an alternative for insufficient income the respondents answer was to beg on the street . This was answered by 50% of the respondents who were no satisfied with their income. Other 25% stated that they fulfilled the need by getting on the bins which was the worst solution and the other 25% stated that they stayed hungry.

### 6.15 Problems faced by Street Children

**Table 9** Distribution of Respondents according to the problem faced by them

Problems	Frequency	Percent
Legal	2	10
Health	4	20
Monetary	2	10
Social	4	20
Security	4	20
No problem	4	20
Total	20	100

It is for the better life that children are attracted towards city life. But children who leave their home and spending their life on the street as their home face numerous problems like lack of

adequate nutrition, homelessness, health problem, social security, psychological problems, stigmatization, exploitation, etc. Likewise, social hypocrisy, police harassment, influence of crime, accidents, emotional insecurity, urban pollution are further problems that street children encounters. The table below describes the respondents views on what kind of problems they undergo:

The figure shows that the children have to face multiple problems. Respondents stating health, social, and security as their problem were 20% each of the total respondents numbering 20. Other 20% of the respondent stated that they do not have any problem. Respondents facing the legal and economic problems were 10% each. Hence, the respondents had great division with the problems since they were numerous.

### 6.16 Literary Status of Street children

**Table 10** Distribution of Respondents on the basis of their literary status

Literary status	Frequency	Percent
Yes	12	60
No	8	40
Total	20	100

It is a bitter fact that the children of the school age live on the street and learn to survive instead of learning to read and write. In Nepal, the agreement on millennium development goal to alleviate illiteracy has been enforced but still the problem on illiteracy has not been eradicated. Talking about the street children, the research on their literacy status shows that 60% i.e. 12 out of 20 respondents are literate while 40 of the street children are illiterate. Here, educating street children is necessary because it is taken to be an essential means of reintegrating street children within society as education gives them socialization perspective.

### 6.17 Education level of Street children

**Table 11** Distribution of respondents on the basis of their educational level

Grade	Frequency	Percent
<2	2	25
2-5	6	50
5-10	3	25
Total	12	100

Throughout the world there are millions of children who are deprived of education. In this research work 60% of the total interviewed street children had attended school. But due to various reasons majority of them left the school without completing primary education. Among the 60% of the respondents i.e. 12 respondents who attended school, the level of their education was that the children attending grade between 2-5 were 6 in number Children attending grade less than 2 were 3 and between grade 5-10 were 3.

### 6.18 Reasons behind leaving school

**Table 12** Distribution of respondents on the basis of leaving school

Response	Frequency	Percent
No interest	2	16.66
Economic Problem	6	50
Not allowed	3	25
No Response	1	8.33
Total	12,	100

This research work illustrates that there is not only a single reason to leave school. Among the many reasons, economic reason occupies half of the total reasons. Among the 12 street children who were literate, 6 of them had left the school because of the economic reason, 3 of them were not allowed by their parents, 2 of them were not interested and 1 did not response.

### 6.19 Street children Participation on support program

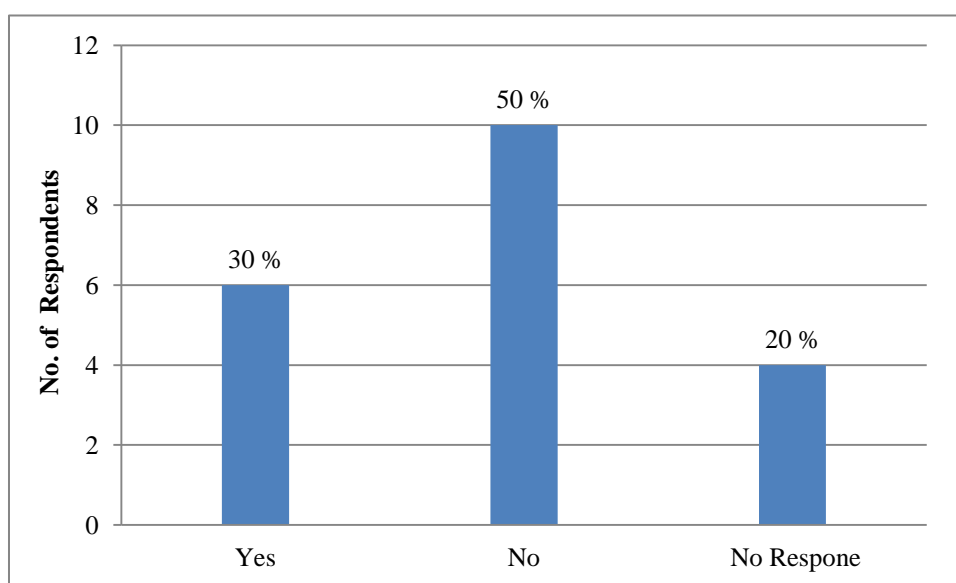
**Table 13** Distribution of respondents on the basis of their participation on support program

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	12	60
No	8	40
Total	20	100

To reduce the burning issue of street children there are many ongoing support programs run by various national and international organizations. So during the research period when asked to street children about their participation on those support programs 60% of the total respondent stated that they are familiar to such programs. They even described what those organizations did for them. But 40% of the total respondent were unaware of those organizations and did not even show their interest towards them.

### 6.20 Willingness to re-unite with family

**Figure 10** Distribution of respondents according to their willingness to re-unite with their family



Reintegration of street children back into their own family is a fundamental issue and is also a challenge. The major objective of any organization that are working for street children aims at rehabilitating and reintegrating them into social life.

Among the interviewed street children, 50% of the street children do not want to be back home. The reason behind this can be of their step parents. 30% of the respondents want to be back home while 20% did not respond.

### 6.21 Occupational preferences of street children

**Table 14** Distribution of respondents on the basis of their occupational preferences

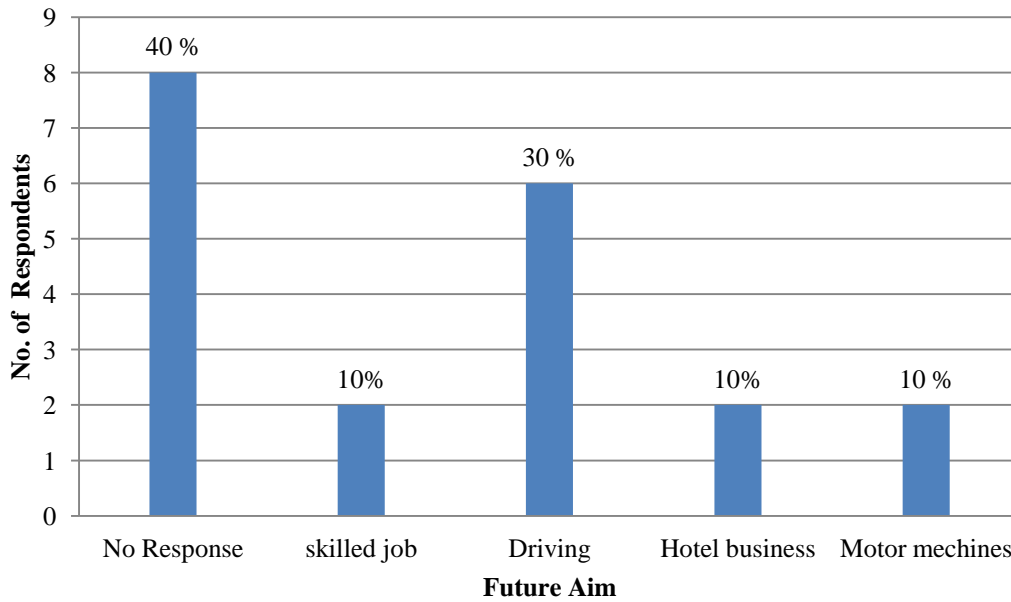
<b>Fields</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Mechanic	3	15
Driving	4	20
Sewing and cutting	3	15
No response	10	50
Total	20	100

The hardship that street children has undergone has created the longing of getting into some sort of training that may help them to prepare for new work and perform better. Though training is important for street children as it helps to develop and enhance the confidence and effectiveness, 50% of the total respondent did not give any response when asked about the occupational preference. 20% said that they would prefer driving while 15% preferred mechanics and sewing and cutting respectively.



## 6.22 Future aim of street children

**Figure 11** Distribution of respondents on the basis of their future plans



As a human nature every person have their own dream. But their dream is shattered because of various factors that are beyond their reach. Similarly, street children also dream of good food, good place to sleep, warm clothes, good perception towards them and a good name to be called with and so on. Hence, during the interview they were asked about their future aims. Surprisingly, 40% of the total respondents did not answer which shows that they are aimless. 30% showed their interest in driving public vehicles, and the other 10% showed their interest in skilled jobs, hotel business and motor mechanics respectively.

## CHAPTER 7: DIMENSIONS OF STREET CHILDREN IN NEPAL

**Figure 12** Dimensions of Street Children



Presented cycle is a conceptual dimension of street children phenomenon in Nepal. There might be more or different dimensions but as a researcher, I have made and presented the five basic dimensions which will be analyzed below:

### 7.1 Who are on the street?

#### 7.1.1 Age, sex, family background

CPCS international (2012) stated in the book Street children in Nepal that 'in Nepal, as everywhere else, the reasons which lead the child to get to the street are numerous and complex. Poverty, family conflicts and the pursuit of freedom appear to be the most frequently encountered causes'. CPCS further states that in Nepal, a child is not born in a street situation, hence the importance to look into his past, to wonder about the 'road' on which the circumstances of life pushed him down.

The street children phenomenon escalated by numbers of our cultural, political, societal, economical and psychological pressure, norms, values and traditions. The mentioned components are responsible partially or completely pulling and pushing the children on the street. Among them, the context and situation of the particular family plays crucial role in this phenomenon.

The various circumstances pull and push the boys and girls (both sex) on the street. They are from the age of six to sixteen (based on researcher interview sample observation). Some of them are orphan. Some of them have one parent alive and one dead. Some of them do not know whether they had family or non. They are completely unknown about their parents. But most of the street children's both parents are alive. They (street child) either ran away or left the house with permission.

Children who are on the street belongs very few with upper class; some of them are from middle class but most of them are from the poor family group. Some of the numbers are from very poor family and some of them do not know about their family situation.

Laborer, farmer, housewife, shopkeeper, Driver, painter, Manson, rag picker, servant, street vender etc. are some occupational background of the parents of street children. Beside these family occupation or situations, children are on the street and this problem are existing as a continual process of the society. This is because poverty brings conflict. Conflict leads violence at home and the continuous violence at home push the children on the street which is vicious cycle of Nepalese society. On the other hand, 'to earn money' and 'convinced by a friend', children are living on the street and it is as a continuous process. The other reasons are dream to live in city, to look for food, political situation, effect of conflict, attracted by NGO's facilities etc. are other aspects of the street children phenomenon.

## **7.2 How they are on the street?**

Factors contributing street children phenomenon

### **7.2.1 Economic Factors**

Nepal lies in South Asia and it is one of the developing country. According to World Bank BTI Report 2014, 57.3% of the population live below the poverty line with less than US\$ 2 per day income. Nepal's total population is 27.5 million where population growth is by 1.2%

annually. Urban population is 17.3% and per capita income is 19.3\$. 36% of the country's total population is under the age of 14 years (<http://wdi.worldbank.org/table/2.1>). Various research studies shows that poverty is the root cause of street children phenomena. That is why the negative consequences of the social and economic development push social system to inequality. Economic crisis make the failure to the social institutions.

On the one hand, economy plays vital role in human progress and social development. But on the other poverty is a factor which will push then human on the street. For example, every individual to family member needs enough economic resources to survive or to make their lives comfortable, i. e. food, clothes, shelter, healthcare, education, child care and child welfare.

Kathmandu is the capital city of Nepal where we can find poorest to the richest people and family. Those family who are living under the poverty line, cannot give proper care to their children. Children will become subject of negligence. Carelessness of their parents lead children to move out from home and start to make their own group on the street. Sometimes the street environment might become a pull factor to the children from their homes.

A huge number of street children of kathmandu valley belongs to poor families. This is because economic vulnerability push the children towards the streets. Abro, A. A. (2012) writes in his PhD thesis that when the children feel that their parents are unable to provide them required livelihood through their income they leave their homes and families to earn a livelihood themselves and end up adopting streets as their work place and living. However, in limited cases children choose to work on streets in order to supplement income of their families.

### **7.2.2 Social Factors**

Street children phenomenon in Kathmandu valley has been increasing by the various obligatory social and structural system. Not only Kathmandu valley but the whole country fall under patriarchal system. In other word, Nepali society is patriarchal society. Male member has unlimited power and hegemonic role in the family. To set out the family structure to vital decision making depends upon them. Gender discrimination, infanticide (girl child after identification of sex in the womb) are some common negative effect in the society. Most of

the households live in joint family. In this kind of family structure, gender discrimination leads to break the families and lack of healthy interaction between parents and children and this leads for children to move towards urban areas or start life as street children.

Other deep rooted social structure is cast system. There are various higher and lower cast in Nepali society. In other word it is labeled as touchable and untouchable cast. So called higher cast and touchable groups are economically strong and the lower cast and untouchable are economically weak. To overcome their poverty and maintain the survival strategy, they send their children to work on higher class people or economically strong family. The children who will start their life as a child labor to assist economically to their parents, will start to think to live independently. Some of them will flee from their home and working place to the street where he/she can live on their own way.

### **7.3 Perceptions**

#### **7.3.1 Social perception towards street children and vice versa**

In the context of Nepal the situation of street children is alarming as well as embarrassing. It is alarming as the number of street children is in the increasing ratio despite so many efforts. It is embarrassing because the perception the society has towards them is very wretched. As to the simplest, the use of language can be taken as the root cause of all the perceptions and also the basis for constructing the attitudes and values thereafter. The language used to describe street children by the general people in a single term is as "Khate" which means plastic pickers. The "Khate" identity hinges upon doing rag picking and spending all the earnings on food and fun ( Onta-Bhatta 1996). But this term "Khate" is nowadays generalized to all the children who work, live, sleep and spend their life on the street. Hence this word "Khate" is a derogatory term used to describe the low life of street by the general public which also indicates the negative opinion towards street children. Hence, the street children are very much inclined because of the daily treatment they have to face from the general public and the attitude and the policies the government formulates on them. It is visualized that children on the street situation often refuse to be called by this name as they take it to be very insulting. As rag picking is a job that involves dirt, the Khate identity makes them feel socially degraded.

How did the word "khate" become so well known? Onta-Bhatta writes that in August 1992 in Kathmandu, a play was staged about the lives of the Khate children, played by the Khate children themselves. This play was watched by a small number of people, but it was covered in both Nepalese and English local papers. The media has since, together with the NGOs played a significant role in shaping the public identity of the street children in Kathmandu. The generic use of the category khate has made it easier for the NGO's, the police and the media to justify their programs as the population of the children can be significantly increased under the broad and fluid category of Khate (ibid). Quoting this Heidi Bjønnes Larsen (2003) in her master thesis also concludes that khate was the term originated by street children themselves from the play performed which came to be widely used and shaped the identity of street children.

### **7.3.2 Why do society dislike street children?**

Most of the time it is vivid that the general public's attitude towards street children is hostile. It is because the language street children use is taken to be a taboo. Because of the use of the socially forbidden language general public dislike them and prefer to isolate them from their social circle. Parents are afraid that their children may learn the street language and become a social shame. So, to be social, they create a huge gap between the street children and the general public. The other reason to dislike street children is that they are considered to be the social parasite. We can see the street children begging on the streets troubling the pedestrians, and sometimes even the forceful begging. For example, during my observation I had seen the street child throwing the garbage and shouting the rubbish towards a passerby when he did not show any interest giving him money. So, street children are taken to be unsocial and a complete parasite depended on the people around. Likewise, their daily life style like the use of smoke, hashish, alcohol, glue and drug also creates negative impression among the public (CPCS:2007). Their dirty language, shabby clothes and refusal to follow any social constraint make the general public think that street children are basically and internally unsociable (CPCS: 2012).

On the other hand street children being excluded from the society do have their own attitude towards society. Feeling socially unaccepted, they decide in turn not to accept society and its rules. They develop the feeling like " Why should we respect a society which rejects us? The paradox is indeed terrible: society rejects street children because they are unsociable, and the

children are unsociable because society rejects them. Feeling unaccepted by society, they form a parallel society with its own codes, its language features and its own rituals, which includes sniffing glue and taking drugs" (CPCS:2012, P:28).

From the observation and during the interview session, I came across a street child who revealed the bitter truth of how he started stealing fruits from the fruit store. He said that it was his first week as a street child. The beginning life was very difficult as he could not afford food for himself. Most of the time he was hungry and used to stand in front of local restaurants and fruit shops on the street expecting someone would give something to eat. This was his daily schedule but when the fruit keeper started seeing him in front of his store started shouting at him calling "thief" and to go away immediately. This frequent shouting and being called "thief" without stealing anything made him embarrassed. Slowly when his hunger crossed the boundary this embarrassment ultimately reinforced him to steal. Hence, according to street children the negative reaction of the public models them becoming unsocial as the public is unsocial to them. On the one hand they are stigmatized in the public's eyes and on the other hand they are the hero with the role to play on their own formed street world. Moreover they protest against the social norms and disrespect the rules the normal people has constructed as they suffer from their bad reputation hence being arrested, feeling of their rights being violated, and mistreated (CPCS:2012,P.153).

#### **7.4 Intervention to curb the problem**

Street Children has become a burning issue in today's Nepalese context. There are various NGO's , INGO's and the GO's itself with the intervention strategies which indeed have resulted positively. Several NGO's in coordination with the government bodies have promising programs and activities working to protect and promote awareness and the vulnerability of street children. However the magnitude of the problem can only be measured when there is the change in the attitude of the general people to place themselves in the situation of street children and look behind the factors that leads them to be as street life. Also, the access of the effective presence of the intervention program in every part of the country is a must because it is the rural part that children move from in search of the better life. Accordingly, as a researcher considering the various factors like social, cultural, economical situation of the research area etc., there are four levels of interventions that should be made which are as follows:

1. Structural
2. Community
- 3.Center
4. Street

#### **7.4.1 Structural-based intervention**

Structural intervention should basically deal with the Government level plans and policies on children. The formulation of new plans and programs for the welfare of the children should be done from the main structure i.e the main body of the government. For example the interventions on the issues like Child rights, advocacy and awareness programs, fund raisings, development and implementation of long, medium and short term policies and programs, vocational trainings and campaigning etc. should be made more effective.

#### **7.4.2 Community -based intervention**

Community occupies a large number of people with multiple attitude and reasoning. The existing issue on street children is strongly affected by this large number of multiple perception. Despite the various reasons behind street children, it is the same community that sees street children with hatred thinking them to be the social scoundrel. So, to change such mentality various strategies and projects should be implemented in the community level. For example, the very necessary and effective programs that the Nepalese community need is the pilot project to reduce the poverty of the rural areas. Though there are various projects on going, more projects specially focusing on strengthening families at risk should be outlined. Similarly, the trainings on the issues of local resource mobilization, generating local funds, trainings on health issues, awareness programs, child rights issues and more importantly the causes and factors of street children should be clarified and necessary steps to control such problem should be planted in the community mind.

#### **7.4.3 Center -based intervention**

Center- based intervention has its own importance for it is the place where the shelter is provided to the street children after the community identified the problem facing children. Here, the issue of capacity building plays an important role because the NGO's and GO's



working to provide residential care for the street children need to work with the street children. Hence, supporting the capacity building activities of the running NGO's and GO's, establishing the bridge between the street children and the governing body by the dissemination of information, conducting family reconciliation programs so as to reunite the families, monitoring and evaluation of the implemented programs on street children etc. can be few of the center-based interventions.

#### **7.4.4 Street-based intervention**

Street based intervention is highly recommended because it is based on the street activities that the actual plans and policies to be formulated by the implementing bodies. The grass root realities are the basis for the formulation of any plans and policies. Hence, street based intervention is effective while working with street children for it fills the gap between the center based activities, community based activities and the structure based activities. As street based interventions are the firsthand accounts the ground reality should be internalized by the NGO's and GO's working for the street children's welfare. Here, as an intervention, the focus can be on the street education, substance abuse, community mobilization, etc.

#### **7.5 What are the risk faced by street children?**

Street life is not an easy life. The vulnerability to abuses is out of one's control. The daily violence the street children undergo becomes their habit and they are subjected to it. The street environment develops the endurance power to tolerate various abuses which can be physical, psycho-social or sexual. Their vulnerable life filled with violence and abuse overcomes the various risks which are discussed below:

##### **7.5.1 Health risk**

Various secondary data reveals that the health of street children is inherently liable to following health risks:

### **7.5.1.1 Disease**

Sexual and reproductive health problems are the major health problems faced by street children. It is reported that the sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS is very common in street children. It is so because of the unsafe sexual habits with the multiple partners with same or opposite sex. Also the use of the same syringe for drugs is the other reason for transmitting this disease. Other commonly seen health problems is the use of drugs. From the field visit of the research area it can be concluded that the majority of street children are addicted to one or the other drugs like glue sniffing, use of dendrite, marijuana, smoking etc. The street children are addicted to such narcotics to reduce their pain, hunger, cold, etc. Apart from these chronic health problems, street children also face other common health problems like skin disease, tuberculosis, psychological imbalances, etc.

### **7.5.1.2 Inadequate nutrition**

It is a common fact that hunger strives street children. Far behind the nutritious food, anything that satisfies their hunger is their priority. Hence, it is evident that street children are away from nutritious diet. In case they get enough to eat, the food do not carry nutritious diet hence leading to malnutrition, various deficiencies, anemia, etc.

### **7.5.1.3 Injuries**

Injury is very common among street children. The level of difficulty they face everyday invites the injuries. Almost every street children are seen with cuts and wounds. The common injury occurs as they get hit by the local vehicles, fall from the pits, gang fights, injuries at their working places, beating and chasing by the local people , cuts by sharp things etc. This injuries also indicates the how risky the street life is.

### **7.5.1.4 Poor sanitation**

It is obvious that a person without a proper place to stay also have a poor sanitation. And it is this poor sanitation leading to various health problems. As street children do not have a proper place to maintain their hygiene such as safe drinking water, clean clothes, toilets and place to bath, etc. they are the easy victims due to poor sanitation.

### **7.5.2 Physical and psychological abuse**

Street children undergo high level of physical and psychological risk causing lots of damage. This physical and psychological risk is prevalent among themselves, general public and the administrative bodies. Not obeying own gangs codes of conduct may cause physical damage among the street children whereas being violent and not obeying the social rules and regulations may lead to judicial punishment. The insults, verbal aggressions, contemptuous and debasing looks are invincible on the street which ultimately have the psychological impact on the raw minds. More paradoxically, the crimes and abuses go unnoticed on the street because of the prejudices that one carries on their mind set encourages to ignore the brutality. Hence, to survive, street children ultimately have to become violent.

### **7.5.7 Sexual exploitation**

To be sexually exploited is a serious crime in Nepal. But street children are often the victims of such exploitation. Though the governing bodies and the concerned stakeholders are aware of the fact, the voice are unheard. Several secondary data exposes the bitter reality that the street children are frequently used willingly or forcefully by the foreigners, local predators, and even the public where the common sexual abuse included masturbation, anal sex and oral sex. The number of intercourse is reported to be less as these groups are aware of the sexually transmitted disease. The number of intercourse was high between the street children and their group leaders. Also exposure to pornography is increasing in the Nepalese Street children as it is easy to earn their living than by working.

## **7.6 Street Life: Choice or Destiny**

Why the number of children are living on the street? why do they chose street as their destination? Madhav Pradhan states in the CPCS report 2012 that, 'Lack of awareness among parents; family disintegration; domestic violence; poor economic conditions; lack of proper child-centered interventions in rural areas; a weak education system; insensitive traditions that discourage children; existing exploitative social relations; unsafe migration; growing attraction towards urban cities; and peer influence are main reasons for children to come to the streets for their survival.' This issue was discussed with the NGO members who are

working, taking care of street children. Main theme of their views was: 'Those children who are living and struggling on the streets are not born on the street. Rather they are brought on the street either by social circumstances or by family circumstances. Some of those children who are on the street through pulling factors, they are also 'pushed to pull' by these social and family circumstances. So being street children is neither the choice of these innocent children nor their destiny but it is the manmade circumstances which is responsible to make them street children in continuous way.'

In Nepal, most of the people live in joint family. It is Nepali culture and tradition on the one hand and the other economic factors are associated with this. It is true that children are the crucial component of each family. But when the family disintegrate, fall under problems or faces difficult situations, all kind of direct or indirect affect should be tolerated by those innocent children. Small kind of fragmentation into the family, domestic violence or other reason lead to collapse some families and children will be victimized either as child worker (labor) or street children.

## CHAPTER 8: FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### 8.1 Findings

Out of 20 respondents, 80% male and 20% female are taken in this research. The number of street girls are fewer in comparison to the street boys because of the social and cultural impact of Nepali society. Among the total respondents it is found that 10% are below 8 years and 35% each between 12-14 and 14-16 years old.

Sixty percent of the children have their parents, 30% children does not have and 10% of them do not know about their parents. Although they have parents, 60% of those children are not in contact with their family. 30% are in contact with family but they rarely visit their family. They live in groups on the streets and that kind of living provide them with a sense of security, protection and solidarity. Although they feel rejected by the society, they create a shadow society, system with their own power, relations and values. So the group itself is their family.

Thirty percent children mentioned that they are on the street because of domestic violence, 20% each for seeking food and just wandering. Fifteen percent stated that they are on the street because of abuse and exploitation, 10% lack of food and minimal number i.e 5% deprived from education. Most of the respondents expressed that the family was one of the key reasons for coming to the street and violence is also major reason for them to be on the street.

Fifty percent of the respondent stated that they end up on the street with friends. The friend circle influence them to come on the street for freedom of life and glamour of the city. But to escape from family torture and violence, 20% run away and end up in the street life. Fifteen percent of them run away from unburdenable household work and 15 % ending up their life on the street with their family because of poverty.

Fifty percent children are involved in rag picking because rag picking is easy, flexible, profitable and are not accountable to anyone for them. Rest of the others are involved in different kind of works i.e. begging, conductors (money collector in public vehicle), street

vendor, labor etc. In doing so, 40% of them earn more than 150 Nepalese rupees. 40% children stated that they spend their earning on food and clothing but 30% mentioned that they spend their money only on drugs and alcohol. Sixteen respondents out of twenty replied that they use all kind (glue sniffing, smoking, alcohol, marijuana) of drugs.

Twenty percent children stated that they do not face any kind of problems living on the street but 20% mentioned they do facing social, security and health problem. 10 % of children said that they face legal problem and other 10% said they are facing monetary problem. Whatever problems are being faced by whatever number of street children, it is visible that they do not only fight with a single problem but they must encounter more than one problem at the same time. It can be said that every single street children are facing either one or other problem but again hiding the entire problems these children are surviving their daily life.

Among the respondents, 60 % children are found to be literate, those who went to school before coming on the street. Among them 25% children have studied below class two, 50% of them studied two to class five and rest 25% studied class 5 to 10. Main reason behind leaving school or discontinuation of education is economic problem. 40% children found illiterate. They never went to school because of various reasons.

60% of them clearly expressed that they have known about organizations working for street children. They even said that such organizations working and helping in various aspects of street children. But 40% of respondents are completely unknown about that type of organizations. They did not even show their interest towards such organizations.

The research shows that 50% of the street children do not want to go back home to re-unite with their family but 30% of them still want to go back to their home.

## **8.2 Discussion**

Based on data analysis, case studies and perspectives of different stakeholders, the researcher found that there are two types of street children in Kathmandu Valley. Children *on* the street and children *of* the street. Children *on* the street who spend their whole day on the street on different activities i.e. begging, wondering, working etc. and come with family. It means this

kind of children are not totally detached from their family. They are just spending their significant amount of time on the street.

On the other hand children *of* the street are those children who are totally detached with their family. Streets are the only place where they are living, working, sleeping and eating permanently. These children are *garib* (poor), *anath* (orphan), *asahaya* (guardianless and helpless), *magante/magne* (beggars), *bewarise* (abandoned or neglected), *vagauda* (runaway), *harayeka* (lost) etc. These children *of* the street surviving themselves by begging, stealing, pick pocketing, rag picking, glue sniffing (use of drugs) etc.

Both (*on* and *of*) kind of street children are the consequences of the Pull and Push factors of the society. Push factors in the Nepalese society to make street children are poverty, domestic violence, illiteracy of parents, civil war (conflict), death of parents and escape from family problems. On the other side the pull factors to be street children are freedom, influence of friends, rapid urbanization and just wandering. Yes it is fact that the both factors played significant role to make street children. Most of the children living on the streets do not want to get out of the streets because they do not want to lose their freedom. Some of them want to rehabilitate and very few want to live or return to their home town/village.

Those factors are components of prevailing Nepalese social system. The deep rooted patriarchal society follow the male hegemony or male hood in the family. Cast system, class hierarchy, touchable and untouchable taboo, marriage system, kinship, widow, polygamy are some key terminologies associate with structural functionalism of Nepalese society. Male are in super power and female are their subordinate. Most of the society believe that female are only for household activities, means of recreation and machine of reproduction. So, it is said that Nepalese society is male dominated society. Female have limited power, authority and freedom. For example, male can marry many wives, he can marry other wife if his first wife dies. But female have no option or authority to keep many husband, get married when her first husband dies etc. It means that Nepalese female have no option to select their future oneself. Their future is determined by the family, social tradition and culture. This kind of social tradition and culture bring negative connotations. For example, if a widow get married, if a girl fall in love with lower cast boy and get married, if a female get poly husband; she might be neglected or boycott from the society. If she gives birth to children in the above mention conditions, there is no way to live prestigious life in her society. Therefore she must

migrate to the place where nobody know her and her past history. When she will be replaced herself in new location, questions come of economic support and matter of livelihood. Then after her children either go *on* the street to support his/her mother or become *of* the street child. So the deeply structured social system can push a child on the street either way.

In Nepalese society we often find family disharmony, family violence (domestic violence), abuse of power (male hood) which also lead the children on the street. Sometimes children will remain alone when their parents die, imprisoned or physical disabled. If the children live on such disharmonious family circumstances, he/she may not get proper guidance and care of the parents. In this situation these children leave the home to take care of themselves because there is nobody to take care of them and their remaining relatives do not want to take burden of rearing them. Street will be the best and ultimate options to select.

The same condition is found with the children who are growing within the circumstances of family violence. In the violated situation, parents involves in conflict i.e. male member (husband) might be alcoholic and he often beat his wife. Unlike that, sometimes parents abuse their children physically, mentally and sexually. Children who are growing up in such situation, slowly and gradually follow anger, aggression and violent behavior. It is because he will learn and is habituated with such behavior from their parents. To escape from such brutal family situation, children runaway to the street.

Freedom of life is other pulling factor to the children at streets. In their early age, children do not know what is right and what is wrong. But in some family, children are kept under higher restrictions of dos and don'ts. Pressurized discipline sometimes gives negative results. Children want to live, think, play, or work independently and freely. To look for freedom, some of the children leave home and start their own life out of the family. After some time, he/she finds nowhere to live and do not want to go home again so street will be the ultimate option to live independently. Such street children influence their peer group or siblings to come on the streets. This kind of influence is also being crucial factors to pull the children at the streets.

Other aspects is the internal conflict (political conflict) of the Maoist. The mentioned case study of Nitesh who became a street child due to Maoist conflict is just an identified example. There are number of such children who had lost their parents, house, relatives and spending



rest of their life on the street. According to Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) Nepal, over 260 children under the age of 18 were killed in the conflict between 1996 till 2004. Many others were wounded and many had lost either both or one of their parents. At least 2000 children have lost one parent and more than 4000 had been displaced. According to CWIN report over 4000 children have been internally displaced. Some of them even live on the street, exposed to various types of danger. Maoist conflict has affected children both ways directly and indirectly. Directly children were victimized by physical torture, sexual abuse, child soldier, messenger, courier, and so on during the conflict and indirectly they became the ultimate sufferer when their parents, relatives were victimized or killed. Conflict made children homeless, parentless, helpless and displaced. Literally speaking, this ten years long Maoist conflict pushed some professional groups i.e. security force, teachers, bureaucrats on the street compelling them to leave their running service. Among them, the researcher himself is an example of such victim.

Whatever factors, reasons, social norms and values pull or push children on the street, those children who are living on the street, how are they surviving is another aspect of my research. During the course of research, it is found that rag picking and begging are the main means of their survival strategy because of flexibility and easy way of to conduct.

Most of them use their earning for food and clothing, drugs and alcohol. Almost all are habitual of alcohol, smoking cigarettes, marijuana (ganja) and sniffing glue. It is found that they use such substances to hide and solve their problems, to forget some inerasable memories and incidents of their life.

Although the street children are living their life independently, freely and doing whatever they want to do, they cannot escape fearless living. They are living under continuous fear of emotional abuse (threats and humiliation). They are bearing threats like severe beatings and physical abuse. They have to tolerate such threats from police, security guards, street youth and other fellow street children.

Based on the research, the researcher claims that push factors played dominant role to make street children in Nepal. When various social factors become active to push the children on the street, it can be said that being street children is more or less their destiny. Although every children born with good fortune and hope to have prosperous growth; the so called social

circumstances, traditional customs, cultural rituals and family conditions made change his/her all hope and expectation unexpectedly.

Those street children who are living on the street have their own pain. But the society views such children negatively. Generally the society perceives street children as burden or cause of trouble. Society may not think them as normal human being. According to the society, the street children are dirty, unsocial, thieves, robbers, drug addicts etc. That is why, common public tries to avoid or escape from the street children. Street children do not have emotion, moral or humanity. They behave violently, aggressively and uncontrollable. In one word, general public hate street children because of their outlook and behavior.

But the version of street children is different. They say that they were not street child by birth. This particular society and political condition pushed them on the street. They could not get love and affection from their family and instead more hatred from the society on the street too. So, every people became inhuman for them. Societal people are all selfish and opportunists.

## **CHAPTER 9: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **9.1 Conclusion**

Street children issue is not limited on single specific location. It is an issue of every community, nation, region as well as global. This phenomenon is well known around the world. Nepal is not exception in this respect. But the number of street children are not so high in Nepal though they are taken as the most vulnerable group. They are living at high risk of physical exploitation, drug abuse, sexual exploitation and being forced into criminal activities. They are miserable and need support. Working for street children is very challenging. There is no hard and fast rules that would apply to all situations. It would be context specific. Until and unless the crystal understanding of the push and pull factors for children to move from their locality to the street, it is impossible to provide positive and constructive impact to their lives.

Street children are inherent part of the society. Unfortunately they could not get proper care, good guidance and eternal love and affection from their parents, elders, relatives and the society. This pushed them to live vulnerable life on the street. We should not forget that these street children are very young and immature. It is our responsibility and accountability to give them the right to childhood. It is not only one individuals responsibility, but it is the responsibility of all stakeholders such as government, civil society, nongovernmental organizations, donor community to intervene together recognizing the overt and covert problem of street children. They need to be steered back to mainstream of social life through proper education opportunities, reformation, care and rehabilitation. Such integration process is a vital issue and a challenge for most of the organizations working for street children in Nepal. So this problem needs to be addressed by all stakeholders with much seriousness and with full commitment to empower them for their self reliance to give them respect and dignity for their potentials.

## **9.2 Recommendations**

Children are the backbone of the nation; foundation of development and creativity, either they are at home or on the street. Considering this fact, to protect and provide childhood rights of those children who are pushed or pulled on the street, the governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders have to intervene proactive as well as curative pathways. The following are some key areas where immediate and long run interventions identified:

### **9.2.1 Preventive intervention**

The identified most common factors which is pushing or pulling the children to end up the street should be mapped out differently. For example, from which place such children are coming on the street more? from which community, ethnic group? what kind of family circumstances? and what age group? etc. Preventive intervention can launch awareness program, counseling program, empowerment program to the parents and the children themselves. But doing such proactive action, all the concerned stakeholders have to come on the ground jointly and coordinated way on the particular target group, locations and time.

### **9.2.2 Protection**

Those children who are living on the streets are highly vulnerable to physical torture, sexual harassment, emotional exploitation, psychological effects, etc. They are equally at risk of drug abuse, criminal activities and violent (aggressive) temperament. The more worsen part are survival aspects i.e. rag picking, begging, sleeping under the open sky. Protection is needed to the children from all these vulnerability to themselves and from their abusers. In doing so, a high level of coordination among stakeholders including security agencies is recommended.

### **9.2.3 Hit on early age abuse**

Most of the street children are below 12 years old. In their early age, they are habitual on drug abuse, sexual behavior, criminal act etc. So the concerned stakeholders has to develop certain and effective strategies which can control, harass to conduct such activities in their early age. It can be done providing appropriate knowledge, skills, attitudes or other kind of recreational activities so that the children can deviate themselves from adopting high-risk behaviors.

#### **9.2.4 Proactive social service**

General services provided by those organizations who are directly working for the street children are not enough. That is why some innovative, special and effective kind of social services should be introduced and implement directly to the street children and indirectly through their parents. Such kind of innovation should be planned and bring in use by the government to intervene street children phenomenon timely. Such intervention should focus on the basic needs of those children i.e. food, shelter, health services, trauma healing, counseling etc. This kind of proactive service should focus on constructive aspects of rehabilitation and reintegration. Those children who want to reintegrate or reunite with their family, they should be done accordingly. But those children who do not want to reintegrate with their family, proactive social service can try to provide an alternative living arrangement.

#### **9.2.5 Use of qualified human resource**

Working on the feelings of human sentiment, emotions, perceptions is very sensitive and challenging job. Street children and their connected family have associated with such feelings. And these feelings are also associated with deep rooted social system, cultural values, traditions, rituals, religions and so on. So to work up on such areas the assigned social workers should be very qualified, subject related, tactful, neutral, or an outstanding knowledge in the field. He should be a good counselor, motivator, social worker etc.

#### **9.2.6 History analysis and plan for future**

Street children is not a single day problem. Since decades this problem is existing in Nepalese society. So it is very important that how the generations are spending their life on the street. How long they live on the street and ultimately how they move out from the street, where they go and how they are existing? This kind of research, study and analysis is very important to cure the street children phenomenon in long run process. That is why history (past, present and future) analysis and curative planning for future can be intervening way to control, minimize and resolve the problem of street children in Nepal.

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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/street\\_child](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/street_child)

<http://praveenkumaryadav.wordpress.com/2011/10/09/plight-of-street-children-in-nepal>

## ANNEX 1

### Questionnaire for street children

Date:		
City:		
1	Name (optional)	
2	Sex	
3	Age	
4	Previous (home)address	
5	Current address (if any)	
6	Do you have family ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7	Do you live with your family now?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8	Why did you leave the home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of food <input type="checkbox"/> Seeking employment <input type="checkbox"/> Deprivation from education <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse and exploitation <input type="checkbox"/> Just wandering
9	Are you in touch with your family?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No response
10	If yes, how frequently do you go to see family in a years?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 years <input type="checkbox"/> Festivals <input type="checkbox"/> Living with family
11	How did you come to the streets	<input type="checkbox"/> With family <input type="checkbox"/> Ran away from home <input type="checkbox"/> With friends

		<input type="checkbox"/> Ran away from housework
12	What kind of work do you do?	<input type="checkbox"/> Conductor <input type="checkbox"/> Begging <input type="checkbox"/> Street vendor <input type="checkbox"/> Rag picking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No job</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> Labour
13	For how long are you doing these jobs?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years
14	How much do you earn in a day? (average in a day)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rs. 10-50 <input type="checkbox"/> Rs.50-100 <input type="checkbox"/> Rs. 100-150 <input type="checkbox"/> Rs. More than Rs.150
15	How do you spend your earning?	<input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing <input type="checkbox"/> Medical <input type="checkbox"/> Helping Family <input type="checkbox"/> Buying drugs/alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Others
16	If you are spending your earning for drug/alcohol, which drugs you normally use?	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Glue sniffing <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Marijuana <input type="checkbox"/> Syringe <input type="checkbox"/> Other
17	Is your earning enough for you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No response
18	If not, what are your other options to sustain yourself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Begging <input type="checkbox"/> Stay hungry <input type="checkbox"/> Getting on street bins
19	where do you sleep at night?	<input type="checkbox"/> House (with family) <input type="checkbox"/> Street

		<input type="checkbox"/> Park
20	From where do you get your clothes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Supported by people <input type="checkbox"/> Buying <input type="checkbox"/> Getting in waste bins
21	What are the problems do you usually face on the street?	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal <input type="checkbox"/> Monetary <input type="checkbox"/> Security <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> No problem
22	Did you go to school before?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No response
23	If yes, in which grade you were studing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 2 class <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 class <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 class
24	Why did you leave the school?	<input type="checkbox"/> No interest <input type="checkbox"/> Not allowed <input type="checkbox"/> Economic problem <input type="checkbox"/> Not response
25	Do you know the organizations that support the children like you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No response
26	Do you want to join or re-join those organizations?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No response
27	Do you want to go back home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No response
28	If you get opportunities, do you want to go under job apprentice training?	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanic <input type="checkbox"/> Electircals <input type="checkbox"/> Automobile <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing and cutting

		<input type="checkbox"/> Metal work <input type="checkbox"/> Driving <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry <input type="checkbox"/> Other
29	What do you want to join school?	Yes No No response
30	How do society perceive you?	<input type="checkbox"/> With sympathy <input type="checkbox"/> With hatred <input type="checkbox"/> As problem of the society