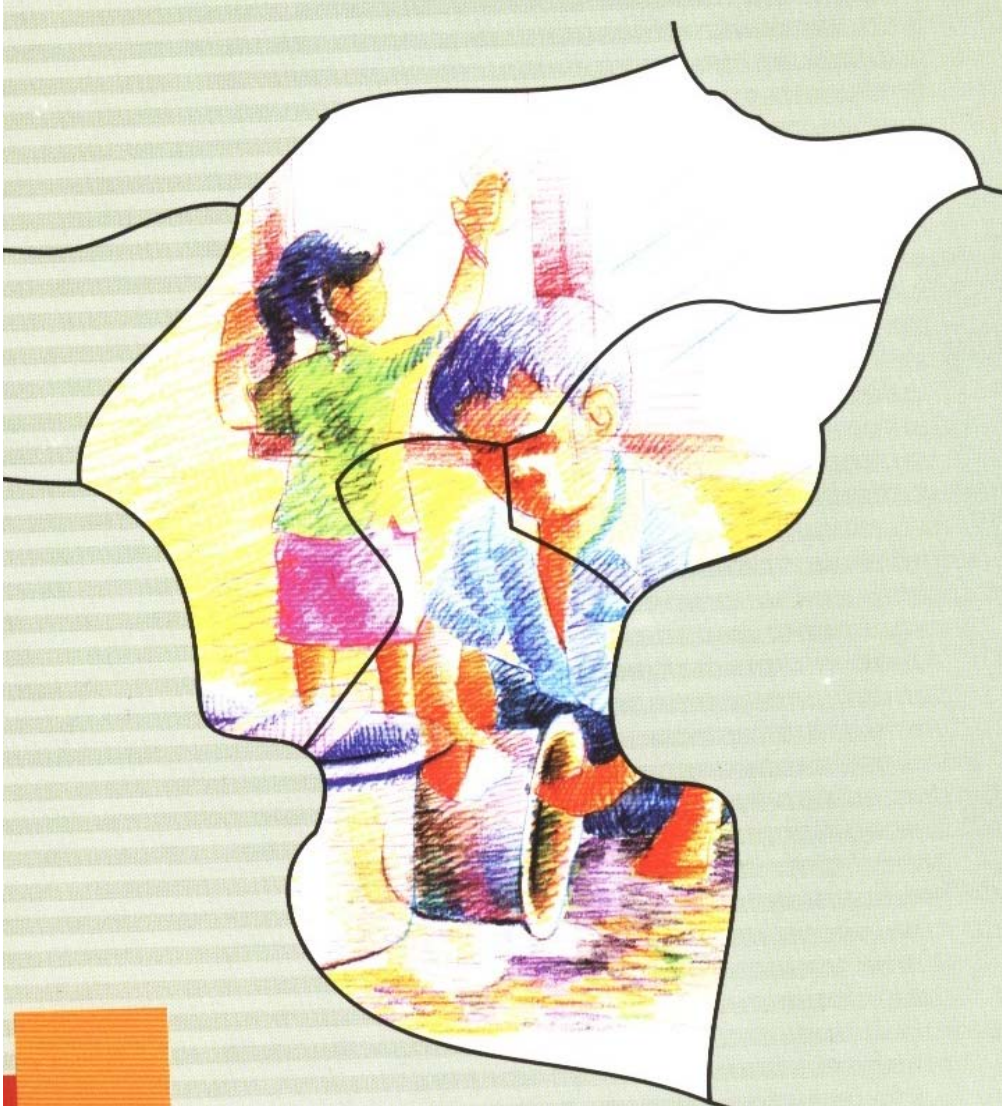


Children In Domestic Service in Kathmandu Valley

Annual Status Report 2005



Children- Women In Social Service and Human Rights

(CWISH)

Kathmandu Nepal

www.cwish.org.np

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A. Status of 2005

Socio-Economic Profiles of CDLs

- Out of total 415 Child Domestic Laborers (CDLs) 66.27 percent (275) were girl children and 33.73 percent (140) were boys.
- Most of the children were from age group of 11 to 15 years old (61.20 percent), however there were children of age group 15-18 years (22.41 percent) and of age group up to 10 years old were 16.39 percent.
- Large number of children were from indigenous cast group (76.39 percent) followed by Xetri (14.46 percent) and Bramhin (8.19 percent). There were few children from so called Dalit cast (0.96 percent).
- 50.60 percent mentioned ethnic language as their mother tongue, while only 46.51 percent mentioned Nepali as their mother tongue, however in another question 93.49 percent children mentioned they can speak and understand Nepali well.
- Family's first (22.89 percent), second (20 percent) and third (17.11 percent) children were found in domestic labor sector.
- There were children from altogether 49 districts, out of which only 5.78 percent were from Kathmandu Valley, 29.40 percent were from five neighbor district of valley and 57.35 percent were from rest 41 district. There were children from India and 6.51 percent children could not mention their home district.

Family Status of CDLs

- The Adult literacy is found determinant for the children's involvement into domestic labor. As the number of literate adult (esp. female Literacy) is higher the ratio of children in domestic labor is reduced and as the illiteracy increased the involvement also increased.
- Majority of the children (55.18 percent) are from family having 5 to 7 members, followed by 26.02 percent from 8-10 members' family and only 13.73 percent from family size of maximum four members.
- Out of total children 8.19 percent (34) were complete orphan and 10.27 percent (43) were semi orphan. Among semi orphan 29 (6.99 percent) mentioned father dead and 14 (3.37percent) mentioned mother dead. There were another 3.37 percent (14) children reporting their parents are separated.
- 28.43 percent children were from land less family.
- 53.25 percent children's families were dependent on agriculture and 13.49 percent were on domestic work.

Educational Status of CDLs

- Among the children involved in domestic service, 42.65 percent (177) children were already literate. Out of the literate children 85.88 percent were school dropped out.

- For 20.90 percent education dropped out child domestic labor, it was already more than 2 years that they were dropped out.
- 35.03 percent of dropped out children reported financial reason, 22.60 percent work load, 15.25 percent family pressure and another 10.17 percent sibling care as major reason to make them school dropped out.

Displacement and Migration Information of CDLs

- It has been almost 7 months to one year for 25.78 percent (107) children that they have left home, and for 26.50 percent (110) children it is up to 6 months. There were 16.14 percent children reporting it is already more than 3 years that they have left their home.
- 28.19 percent children were accompanied by their parents while leaving home and 29.45 percent children were accompanied by other persons along with 18.80 percent children by their own relatives.
- Many children (39.04 percent) reported it is domestic violence that caused them to leave home, while 29.64 percent children were because of financial poverty.

Working Condition of CDLs

- Almost 30 percent of children were already employed before this and almost all of them were in domestic work.
- 27.47 percent (114) of total children were found working since last 7 months to one year, while another 19.52 percent (81) were found working since last more than 2 years. Similarly 14.70 percent (61), 14.46 percent (60) children and 14.70 percent (61) were found working since last since last 3 months, 4 to 6 months and 13 to 24 months.
- 36.14 percent children were found working more than eight hours every day, 50.6 percent work up to eight hours everyday.
- Many children (28.92 percent) received 500 rupees or less than that as monthly salary, while 21.69 percent receives 501 to 700 rupees.
- 20.48 percent children do not get any kind of salary while another 20.72 percent don't know about their salary.
- Out of 330 children receiving salary, 42.42 receive it monthly and 34.24 percent receive annually.
- 28.79 percent of salary receiving children receive their salary themselves while for 57.58 percent parents receive their salary.
- 32.77 percent children have found somebody in employers' family to support them in hard time, while 21.45 have not found anybody to hear their grievances and support them.

Health Status of CDLs

- Out of 285 children participated in another health survey, 42.81 percent (122) mentioned that they got health problems after the involvement into work.
- The children among caught by health problem, 26.23 percent have abdominal, 12.30 percent have skin disease, 12.30 percent have ENT problem and another 8.20 reported of having eye problem.

- 42.11 percent children reported that they were provided medicines from nearby chemist in case of any sickness and only 31.23 percent reported that they would be taken to doctors for check up.
- 69.47 percent children were provided health service by employers themselves, while 11.93 percent are from parents.
- 34.39 percent (98) children reported they had several injuries while working. 39.80 percent mentioned cuts and 16.33 percent mentioned burn injuries while working.
- 73.68 percent (210) children mentioned that they have received vaccines but out of them 59.05 percent could not mention the name of vaccine they received.
- Regarding the level of understanding on occupational health and safety, only 7.72 percent (22) children have perfectly understood about nutrition and 47.02 percent knew nothing. Similarly only 6.32 percent have understood about communicable disease and 39.65 percent knew nothing. And 35.09 percent children have no knowledge on preventive ways from communicable disease.
- 52.28 percent children are not aware of HIV and Aids, 36.49 percent are completely unaware of prevention from HIV and Aids, 32.28 percent mention they don't know how to deal with HIV infected person and 18.95 percent children have myth that HIV and Aids is curable.
- Only 8.07 percent children have high level understanding on risk situation of accident and 28.07 percent know nothing.
- Out of 285 children participated on health survey only 60.35 percent children reported used medicine if get injured and another 14.04 percent mentioned doctor consultation, while almost 26 percent children are having malpractices on first aid.
- 29.47 percent respondent mentioned that they have private health service center nearby their working place and another 20.70 percent reported of accessibility to government health service center. Rest almost 50 percent children have no idea of any health service center nearby their working place.
- 47.02 percent children demanded for free medicine, 34.74 percent for free check up and 14.04 percent for regular free check up in a question asking their demands of health services.

Future Perspectives of CDLs

- 67.47 percent children in domestic service has expressed their interest on formal school education while 28.19 percent were found interested on Non formal education and 16.87 were interested in vocational skill training.
- 58.42 percent children requested for Fee Support, 55.36 percent asked for school dress and 53.83 percent requested for stationeries. While 17.35 percent also asked for better toilet in school and 14.29 percent demanded female teachers in school.
- Though 76.63 percent (318) children were found interested on repatriation, 17.83 (74) percent children were found not interested on repatriation.

- Out of those children interested on repatriation, 51.26 percent requested for strengthening family economy, 24.53 percent asked to ensure educational opportunities and 11.01 percent requested for family counseling.
- Out of those who were not interested 27.03 percent it is armed conflict, 20.27 percent mentioned domestic violence and 9.46 percent mentioned used to of urban life as major reason that pulled back them into urban area.

B. Comparison with Status of 2004

- No. of girl children's involvement increased to 66 percent and boys decreased to 34 percent, which were 61 and 39 percent in 2004.
- Similarly children of 10 years or less than that has decreased to 16.39 percent from 20.17 percent while children of age group 11-14 years and 15-18 years are significantly increased.
- The relationship between female literacy and child labor phenomena is further proved this year as well.
- No. of children from ethnic communities remain almost same e.g 73 percent in comparison to 2004.
- Number of children reporting Nepali as Mother tongue is decreased to 46.51 percent from 2004 number 52.97 percent.
- In comparison to last year 57 districts, this year children from only 49 districts were reported. The missing districts from last year report were: Solukhumbu, Bhojpur, Rautahat, Kanchanpur, Dailekh, Dolpa, Ilam, Jajrkot, Jumla, Rolpa and Terhathum. Similarly the new districts found this year were: Dadeldhura, Mahottari, Parbat and Syangja.
- As previous year this year also children from 5 to 7 members' family were found in domestic work. However children from upto 4 members' family were found significantly reduced from 22.75 percent to 13.73 percent and children from 8 to 10 members' family have increased from 18.85 percent to 26.02 percent.
- In comparison to last year 34.66 percent children from land less family, this year this number is limited to 28.43 percent. And the children reporting Agriculture as family main income source has increased to 53.25 percent from 2004 42.79 percent. While reporting industrial labor as main income source is decreased from 12.67 percent to 6.27 percent only.
- The tragic is that children reporting orphan is increased significantly from 2.92 percent to 8.19 percent, while the number of semi orphan and separated family is decreased to almost 10 percent from 17 percent of 2004.
- The number of literate children is found decreased from almost 50 percent from 2004 to only 42.65 percent in 2005. However the number of children reporting school dropped out remains same in both years.

- Children mentioning work load as reason for drop out is decreased from 39.26 percent to 22.60 percent while reporting financial reason has increased from 27.54 percent to 35.03 percent and sibling care causes has also found slightly increased.
- In comparison to 2004, parents accompanied children for migration has increased from 25.13 percent to 28.19 percent. But children accompanied by other people have remained almost same in percentage.
- Children claiming poverty as major factor pushing them to migrate has significantly decreased from 42.90 percent to 29.64 percent and the reason of domestic violence has increased terribly from 9.85 percent to 39.04 percent.
- Children complaining of work load more than eight hours a day has increased to 36.14 percent from 17.87 percent of 2004.
- Number of children complaining not receiving any kind of wages or salary is limited to 20.48 percent from 31.74 percent of 2004. Similarly children receiving salary less than 7 US\$ per month is decreased to 28.92 percent from 56.19 percent, while monthly salary 7-10 US\$ per month is increased from 18.09 percent to 21.69 percent. And children receiving their salary themselves have increased from 26.98 percent to 28.79 percent.
- The number of children complaining has none to share their grievances and support them in hard time remains almost same. However number of children found someone to support them in hard time from employer family is increased to 32.77 percent.
- A child reporting of health problem after involvement into work is limited to 42.81 percent from 46.79 percent. But children reporting accidental injuries at work such as cuts are limited to 39.80 percent from 55.89 percent and burn from 23.90 percent to 16.33 percent.
- Number of children received health service from employers' support is increased from 62.67 percent of 2004 to 69.47 percent in 2005.
- Children in 2005 interested to go back home leaving their job if supports available is increased from 72.48 percent of 2004 to 76.63 percent and Children requesting family economy strengthening support increased to 51.26 percent from 46.93 percent and number of children demanding family counseling is also increased to 11.01 percent from 8.66 of 2004.

C. Recommendations

- Holistic program that would provide a complete package of services including education, health, legal aid, family reunion, psychosocial care and support, social advocacy and awareness and empowerment of CDLs, and family support.
- Programs should be Right Based and advocacy integrated programs
- Address the origin area and child migration issues while working on child labor
- Focus on all forms of child labor not only on few specific sectors

- Municipalities and VDCs should be strengthened and mobilized to document and provide social protection for child laborers.
- The educational programs for child laborers should be designed with flexibility, addressing the issues of Child Laborers and educating them about their rights, negotiation skill.
- It is found the business skill education and apprenticeship is better than just center based vocational skill training, thus should promote such interventions.
- Massive media campaign on issues of child labor is still need to promote awareness and strengthen social advocacy
- Adult involvement into domestic work should be legally recognized and adult domestic workers need to be unionized.
- A strong and functioning network among NGOs working on the field of child labor should be developed to track and benefit child laborers at all spheres.
- Adult literacy campaign, land right movement, Gender equity movement and movement of ethnic peoples should incorporate the issues of child labor.
- The program on child labor should mainstream the cross cutting issues such as Gender Discrimination, HIV and Aids, Ethnic Rights and Human Trafficking.
- Regular update database on child labor should be maintained to provide information on current trends on specific sector of child labor.

For Further Information

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