

**Status of
Child Domestic Workers in Kathmandu Valley
2010**

**Children-Women In Social Service and Human Rights
(CWISH)**

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Child Domestic Workers in Kathmandu: Status Report – 2010

1. Background

Child labor is bitter reality of Nepal. According to national labor force survey 2008, almost 34 percent children between the ages of 5-15 years are economically active contributing as workers. There is a drop on the child labor in comparison to 1998/99. In 1998/99 the proportion of children between the age of 5-15 years was almost 41 percent. Reduction of child labor was stronger in rural area than in urban area.

Among the various form of child labor, Child Domestic Labor is one of the major sector where almost 62 thousand children of under 14 years are employed (ILO 2004), and considered as worst form of child labor to be eliminated urgently. If we look with this status, it is estimated that more than 100 thousand children are involved in domestic work all over Nepal. According to National Labor Force survey 2008, 34 thousand populations above 15 years is involved in informal sector entitled domestic helpers and related. In addition to this there are 128 thousand populations involved in housekeeping and restaurant related informal sector.

There is no updated and consolidated data on children's involvement in domestic work, besides some area specific survey done by some NGOs. The current report could expose the current trend of employment of children in domestic work in Kathmandu valley. As usual, CWISH has released this report for general population and stakeholders to understand the changing context of child domestic labor in Kathmandu and plan intervention accordingly.

CWISH is grateful to all those children who have shared their information upto their knowledge to our enumerators and allowed us to use this information.

2. Scope and Limitation

The report have revealed information on the general profile of CDWs, their working conditions, salary and wages, leave facilities, occupational health and safety. CDWs future perspectives and their knowledge and understanding about child rights and child abuse related issues.

This report has not mentioned employers' characteristics. The information compiled here is from 220 CDWs who have attended CWISH run drop in center in five major location of Kathmandu (Gatthaghar, Tikhideval, Gyaneswor , Basundhara, Bagbazar).

3. Methodologies

The survey is done among the participants attended CWISH run Non formal education centers during the day time. They were interviewed in absence of their employer to skip the threat and influence from the employers. The survey has used structured questionnaire that has mainly objective questions and some open questions as well. The questionnaire was coded and analyzed with the use of SPSS.

Child Domestic Workers are those children working in other's (not of their parents and their own) households partially or full time, paid or unpaid mainly on households activities.

3. Status of Child Domestic Workers

3.1 General Profile of CDWs

Among the 220 child Domestic Workers respondent of this survey, 132 (60%) were girls and 88 (40%) were boys. 46 are less than 10 years of age and 95 are in the age of 10-14 years while 50 are of the age 15-18 years. Among the respondents, it is found that only 92 (41.8%) have birth registration and 128 have not any birth registration. The ethnic composition of the child domestic workers was as follows: Bramhin -14, Chhetris- 33, Janajati- 158, Dalit- 11.

Age/ Sex	<10 Years		11-14 Years		15-18 Years		Not Mentioned		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Girls	27	58.70	50	52.63	40	80.00	15	51.72	132	60.00
Boys	19	41.30	45	47.37	10	20.00	14	48.28	88	40.00
Total	46	100.00	95	100.00	50	100.00	29	100.00	220	100.00

Sex/ Ethnicity	Girls		Boys		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Bramhin	11	8.33	4	4.55	15	6.82
Chhetri	24	18.18	10	11.36	34	15.45
Janajati	89	67.42	71	80.68	160	72.73
Dalit	8	6.06	3	3.41	11	5.00
Total	132	100.00	88	100.00	220	100.00

In child domestic work number of 28 children, almost 10 percent, were found with different mode of disability such as 9 have hearing, 1 has visual, 4 have physical and 14 have other forms of disability.

Regarding the educational status of respondent children, it is found that out of 220 children 141 (64%) were literate and 79 (36%) were illiterate. The range of literacy among girl and boys is found not significantly different.

3.2 Child Migration and Involvement into Work

Children are found migrated from 43 different districts into Kathmandu. The top 5 districts sending child domestic workers into Kathmandu were: Kavre (9.55%), Lalitpur (8.18%), Makawanpur (6.82%), Ramechhap (6.36%) and Nuwakot (5.91%). Besides this, out of 220 CDWs, 6, almost 3 percent, mentioned that they were from India. Most of the children 160 (72.73 %) mentioned financial poverty

as a major cause pushing them into the child labor, while 15 (6.82%) mentioned it is urban attraction, 14 (6.36%) in lure of education, 7 (3.18%) domestic violence, one was due to the armed conflict and other various reasons have pushed 8 children into domestic work. Other 15 children did not mention the reasons for their migration into Kathmandu and involvement into work.

Districts	N	%
Kavre	21	9.55
Lalitpur	18	8.18
Makawanpur	15	6.82
Ramechhap	14	6.36
Nuwakot	13	5.91
Kathmandu	10	4.55
Others	114	51.82
Don't Know	15	6.82
Total	220	100.00

Reasons	N	%
Financial Poverty	160	72.73
Education	14	6.36
Domestic Violence	7	3.18
Urban Attraction	15	6.82
Social/Armed Conflict	1	0.45
Others	8	3.64
Not Mentioned	15	6.82
Total	220	100.00

75 children were brought into child labor by their parents which implies 34 percent, 51 (23.18%) were by their family members and 34 (15.45%) were by their so called relatives. While 21 (9.55%) were by villagers, 7 (3.18%) were by some unknown mediators and 16 mentioned other different persons such as friends, self etc.

Only 86 children have contract while they are employed remaining 134 children have no contract. Among children who have contract while employed, only 2 children mentioned that they have written contract and additional 84 children have verbal contract.

3.3 Working Condition and Facilities

More than half of the respondents mentioned that they start work before 6 a.m. in the morning. 112 children (51%) were in that position. Among remained 80 (36.36%) mentioned they start between 6 to

8 a.m. and only 3 mentioned they start after 8 a.m. Making children to work before 6 a.m. is a crime according to child labor prohibition and regulation act 2056.

Similarly 24.55 percent (54) children mentioned that they finish their work after 10 p.m. only. A majority 120 (54.55%) mentioned that they have to work till 8-10 P.M. in the evening and only 19 children finish their work by 6-8 P.M. in the evening.

About their **major works at homes** of the people, 56 children (25.45%) mentioned that they are doing all kinds of works available at home including kitchen, sanitary, care giving, assisting employers in their business and shopping as well. 38.64 % CDWs mentioned that they are working on sanitary works, 14.55 % works in kitchen and 7.27% works in care giving work. Though there is no significant different among girls and boys regarding their works in households, on the basis of cast it is significantly exposed. Among Bramhin CDWs highest number 26.67% works in kitchen, while among Chhetris, Janajati and Dalit it is mainly sanitary works. Among Dalit CDWs lowest numbers of CDWs 9.09% only were found working in kitchen.

Ethnicity/ Works	Bramhin		Chhetri		Janajati		Dalit		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Kitchen works	4	26.67	3	8.82	24	15.00	1	9.09	32	14.55
Sanitary works	3	20.00	13	38.24	64	40.00	5	45.45	85	38.64
Care Giving	1	6.67	3	8.82	4	2.50	2	18.18	10	4.55
Assisting in Business	3	20.00	2	5.88	10	6.25	0	0.00	15	6.82
Shopping	0	0.00	1	2.94	3	1.88	0	0.00	4	1.82
All of Above	2	13.33	10	29.41	25	15.63	1	9.09	38	17.27
Others	0	0.00	1	2.94	6	3.75	0	0.00	7	3.18
Not Mentioned	2	13.33	1	2.94	24	15.00	2	18.18	29	13.18
Total	15	100.00	34	100.00	160	100.00	11	100.00	220	100.00

Regarding the **working hours of CDWs**, only 44% were found working less than 6 hours a day. 30 children (13.64%) works less than 4 hours a day and 67 (30.45%) work around 4 to 6 hours a day. Around 43 % CDWs works more than 6 hours a day. 36 CDWs were found working 6-8 hours a day, 13 children were found working 8-10 hours a day and 37 children work more than 10 hours a day. With the growing age working hours is also found increased significantly among children working more than 6 hours a day. There was not significant different among girls and boys CDWs on daily working hours.

Age/ Working Hours	<10 Years		11-14 Years		15-18 Years		Not Mentioned		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<4 Hours	8	17.39	15	15.79	5	10.00	2	6.90	30	13.64
4-6 Hours	11	23.91	31	32.63	10	20.00	15	51.72	67	30.45
6-8 Hours	6	13.04	15	15.79	11	22.00	4	13.79	36	16.36
8-10 Hours	0	0.00	4	4.21	4	8.00	5	17.24	13	5.91
More Than 10 Hours	6	13.04	16	16.84	13	26.00	2	6.90	37	16.82
Not Mentioned	15	32.61	14	14.74	7	14.00	1	3.45	37	16.82
Total	46	100.00	95	100.00	50	100.00	29	100.00	220	100.00

44.55 percent children did not mention **about their salary**. However among the 122 CDWs mentioning about their salary, 20 CDWs (9.09%) mentioned that they do not receive any kind of salary, 50 (22.73%) receive 200 to 500 Rupees a month and 46 (20.91%) children receive 500 to 1000 Rupees a month. As the age become higher the monthly salary range is also found increasing, still there is no significant difference among girls and boys regarding wages in Domestic Work. Almost all salaries were found paid in cash. 81 CDWs (66.39%) receive salary on monthly basis and 29 (23.77%) receive salary on annual basis. Among the salary recipients CDWs, only 45 CDWs (36.29%) of them receive it by themselves, often salaried are taken by their parents (43.55%) higher among girls, by family members (19.35%) higher among boys.

Age/ Salaries	<10 Years		11-14 Years		15-18 Years		Not Mentioned		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<200 Rs.	2	4.35	4	4.21	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	2.73
2-500 Rs.	10	21.74	26	27.37	6	12.00	8	27.59	50	22.73
5-1000 Rs.	1	2.17	20	21.05	19	38.00	6	20.69	46	20.91
No Salary	1	2.17	6	6.32	10	20.00	3	10.34	20	9.09
Don't Know	32	69.57	39	41.05	15	30.00	12	41.38	98	44.55
Total	46	100.00	95	100.00	50	100.00	29	100.00	220	100.00

Considering the availability of leave facilities for CDWs, 114 (51.8%) CDWs mentioned that they are denied of leave facilities at their work place. Similarly only 183 CDWs (83%) mentioned they are satisfied with the food facilities; however 17% mentioned their dissatisfaction with the food facilities.

Regarding the accommodation facilities, 137 CDWs (62.30%) were provided with bed facilities, and 39 (17.70%) were found provided floor for sleeping purpose. Though 52 percent (115) were provided blanket and mattress, 7 percent provided only straw mat and 18 percent only mattress and bed sheet.

Only 69 percent of CDWs were ensured health expenses by employers, for remaining it should be parents, family or self salaries to cover the cost of health facilities.

3.4 Knowledge of CDWs

About the knowledge on basic issues such as child rights, child labor, sexual abuse, protection and reporting skill, it is found that only 34 percent were aware on child rights, only 30 percent area aware that employing children less than 14 years is illegal, only 21 percent knew that CDW is a worst form of child labor, only 14% are aware on sexual abuse and 25 percent knew where to complain in case of sexual abuse and violence happens to them.

3.5 Future Perspective of CDWs

In the final questions about what they want regarding the emancipation from child labor, only 38.64 percent mentioned that they want to be withdrawn. The range of withdrawn interested CDWs is higher among boys, and among CDWs less than 14 years. Those who have showed their interest for withdrawn from the child labor have requested Income generation program support (35.29%), Educational Support (33 %), Family Counseling (17.65%) and Vocational Training (8.24%).

Table 8: Interest of Repatriation among CDWs by Sex

Sex/Interested	Girls		Boys		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	47	35.61	38	43.18	85	38.64
No	62	46.97	36	40.91	98	44.55
Not Mentioned	23	17.42	14	15.91	37	16.82
Total	132	100.00	88	100.00	220	100.00

Table 9: Support Requested for Repatriation

Supports	N	%
Financial	30	35.29
Family Counseling	15	17.65
Vocational Training	7	8.24
Education Supports	28	32.94
Others	5	5.88
Total	85	100.00

Among the children who are not interested for withdrawn, Extreme Financial Poverty has remained the major cause e.g. 56.12 Percent, with Domestic Violence and Urban attraction 12.24 percent each.

Table 10: Reasons for not interested on Repatriation		
Reasons	N	%
Extreme Poverty	55	56.12
Domestic Violence	12	12.24
Urban Attraction	12	12.24
Others	19	19.39
Total	98	100.00

The End

For Further Information

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