

Children and Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH) Status of Domestic Child Labor (DCL) in Kathmandu - 2016

Background

Not all the work performed by children is child labor. International Labor Organization (ILO) defines **Child Labor** as work by children (under 18) which is exploitative, hazardous or otherwise inappropriate for their age, detrimental to their schooling, or their social, physical, mental, spiritual or moral development. Child labor is determined by the age of child, nature and duration of work, working conditions, provisions in national legislation and international standard.

CWISH from its establishment is involved in ending Domestic Child labor in Nepal. **Domestic labor** entails work performed in or for a household or households and a domestic worker refers to any person engaged in domestic work within an employment relationship. **Domestic Child labor** is a general reference to children working in the domestic work sector in the home of a third party employer, under the age of 18.

Child labor is a **violation of the child's rights** and internationally established standards. Nepal has ratified the UN's *Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC)*, *ILO convention 138 on the minimum age of employment*, and the *ILO convention 182 on the worst form of child labor*. In Nepal child labor is a punishable crime guided by the *Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Act of 2000*, together with the *Labor Act 1992* and the *Children's act 1992*.

The practice of Domestic Child labor is a widespread, **growing global phenomenon**, trapping over 10 million children in hidden forms of exploitation, often involving abuse, health risks and violence.

A Rapid Assessment done by ILO (2001) on Situation of Domestic Child Laborers in Kathmandu reports Domestic Child labor (DCL) incidence as **one in five households** of Kathmandu. Likewise, action research conducted by CWISH in 2001 also identified **one in five households**.

This report points the trend in the situation of the DCL in 2016 and highlights the status of DCL in Kathmandu to raise awareness amongst the public and planners.

Objectives

- Characterize the DCL- Personal and Demographic information of Domestic Child labor
- Document the reason for migration and involvement into domestic work
- Characterize the general working condition and work facilities for DCL- time, workload, health status, educational status, employment contract and behavioral treatment of employers.
- Document perspectives and/or way forward about the child labor elimination in Nepal

Study methodology

The Rapid Assessment methodology developed by ILO and UNICEF in 2000 and applied by ILO Rapid Assessment in 2001 was adopted for this survey that involves both quantitative and qualitative techniques to get a complete picture of the situation of Domestic Child laborers in Kathmandu.

A cluster sampling techniques was employed to classify the study area into different categories; Core Urban, Urban and Semi-urban based on factors such as Commercial centers, Population density and degree of urbanization (ILO, 2001) in consultation with Kathmandu Metropolitan City office. Same three wards; ward number 25, 32 and 34 were selected as core urban, urban and semi urban areas respectively referring to the areas where ILO Rapid Assessment was conducted in 2001. Further, the selected wards were divided into sub-areas for sample households with consultation among Child Protection Committee (CPC) and Ward Citizen Forum (WCF). Sub-areas from each sampled ward were selected purposively based on the preliminary information on the incidence and location of child labor within the ward drawn from the consultation with CPC and WCF.

Data Collection, Processing and Analysis

Data Collection and Processing was done on mobile based application called 'Kobo Collect'. The study is descriptive. Datasheet was imported into Excel sheet for descriptive analysis.

Limitation of the Study

- It does not discuss the matters outside the objectives of the survey.
- It does not incorporate information that could be drawn from follow up interaction with DCL.
- The information from parents of DCL is not incorporated.
- It doesn't cover those potential respondents, who deny to disclose their identity.
- It doesn't cover those households who were not accessible by any means during data collection process.
- The survey only documents the findings drawn from the data collected during May 1, 2016 to May 30, 2016.
- The findings of the survey can only be generalized in Kathmandu Metropolitan city.

MAJOR FINDINGS

1. Characteristics of DCL - Personal and Demographic information of Domestic Child laborer (DCL)

Prevalence among Domestic Workers (Adult and Children)

- In 2016, Out of 520 domestic workers (surveyed in 4086 HHs), 34% are below 18 years (DCL).
- In 2009, among 2324 domestic workers, 61% were below 18 years (DCL).
- In 2001, among 820 domestic workers, 74% were below 18 years (DCL).

Ward	Ward wise Total HHs	Total HHs surveyed	DCL surveyed HHs	Proportion of DCL	Estimated DCL in Ward
25	788	127	3	0.023622047	19
32	9298	1893	38	0.020073957	187
34	17772	2066	136	0.065827686	1170
Total	27858	4086	177		1375

Total Household in Kathmandu Metropolitan city = 245292 (CBS, 2011)

It can be estimated that 1365 DCL are employed in selected 3 wards. So, there's chances of 1 DCL in every 20 household. So, while projecting on overall household of Kathmandu metropolitan city, we can estimate there are **12,265 DCL** in Kathmandu ($=1/20*245292$). *ILO Rapid Assessment in 2001 estimated 21,191 DCL in Kathmandu.*

- **In 2016, Prevalence can be drawn as 1 DCL in every 20 households. In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), prevalence was 1 DCL in every 5 households.**

Gender ratio

- In 2016, Girls: 62%, Boys: 38%
- In 2009, Girls: 65%, Boys: 35%
- **In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), Girls: 45%, Boys; 55%**

Age

- In 2016, Out of 520 Domestic Workers, 13% are below 14 years, 21% are 14 to 18 years and 66% are of above 18 years.
- In 2009, out of 2324 domestic workers, 30% were below 14 years, 31% were 14 to 18 years and 39% were above 18 years.

- In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), out of 420 DCL, 70% were below 14 years, 30% were 14 to 18 years.

Ethnicity

- In 2016, 50% of the DCL are Janajati whereas 35% are Brahmin/Chhetri and 3% dalits.
- In 2009, 55% were Janajati, 39% were Brahmin/Chhetri and 2% were Dalits
- In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), 50% were Janajati, 39% were Brahmin/Chhetri

Parental Status and parental profession

- 78% have both parents, 18% have single parent (either mother or father) and 4% are orphans
- 69% responded parental profession in agriculture, 13% in daily wage labor
- In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), 72% had both parents, 22% have single parent (either mother or father) and 6% are orphans.

Place of origin (Source District)

- In 2016, 47% of the DCL (below 18 years) come from Province 3; Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Sindhuli, Ramechhap and Makawanpur are the top 5 source districts. Precisely, 23% of the DCLs below 14 years come solely from Sindhupalchowk.
- In 2009, Kavre, Dolakha, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Ramechhap were the top 5 source districts
- In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), 31% were from neighboring districts of Kathmandu including Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Nuwakot, Dhading

2. Reasons for migration and involvement into domestic labor

Reasons for leaving home

- 64% for better education, 34% to earn for family, 30% responded for better living facilities, 5% due to domestic violence, 4% due to urban dreams and, only 2% reported due to the mega earthquake on April 2015. (*Multiple response*)
- In 2009, 96% said due to family poverty, 33% looking for educational opportunities, 12% due to urban attraction, 5% due to family violence, (*Multiple response*)
- In 2001, 69% said due to family poverty, 19% for educational opportunities, 4% due to urban attraction, 5% due to family violence

Mediation

- In 2016, 32% by relatives, 28% by own parents, 17% by family members and 15% by villagers
- In 2009, 19% by relatives, 53% by own parents, 21% by family members and 5% by villagers
- In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), 45% by relatives, 16% by own parents, 23% by employers and 8% by villagers

Employer's profession

- 29% of employer are businesspersons, 21% of employer are in reputed professional service background like; Doctor, Engineer, Banker, Teacher and Development workers.
- Whereas, 49% responded "Others"
- In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), 25% were businesspersons, 47% were employees

Parental awareness on whereabouts of their children

- In 2016, 93% parents know about their children's working place, 7% do not know
- In 2009, 96% parents knew about their children's working place

Agreement with Employer

- 87% do not have any agreement, 13% have contract (but verbal),

3. Characteristics of the general working condition and work facilities of DCL

Wake up time for work

- In 2016, 67% wake up before 6AM to work, 33% wake up in between 6AM to 8AM.
- In 2009, 43% started before 6AM, 46% started 6AM to 8AM

Bed time

- In 2016, 55% sleep before 10PM, 46% sleep after 10PM
- In 2009, 64% worked till 10PM, 18% worked even after 10PM

Types of work

- 89% kitchen work, 82% cleaning, 50% washing, 20% looking after child and elderly, 6% assisting employers business (*Multiple response*)

Working hours

- In 2016, 37% less than 4 hours, 28% 4 to 6 hours, 21% 6 to 8 hours, 13% 8 to 10 hours, 2% above 10 hours
- In 2009, 14% worked less than 4 hours, 29% worked between 4 to 6 hours, 33% worked 6 to 8 hours, 10% worked 8 to 10 hours
- In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), only 1 percent worked less than 12 hours, 30% worked 12-14 hours, 64% worked 14-16 hours and 5% worked more than 16 hours.

Leisure time

- 67% get leisure time and 33% don't get any

Remuneration

- 51% don't get remuneration, 49% get remuneration
- Below 14 years, girls get more remuneration than boys (boy= Rs.2333 and girl= Rs.3917). Likewise, girl of age 14 to 18 years also gets remuneration greater than boy (boy = Rs.2000 and girl = Rs.3643).
- In 2009, 39% withdraw Rs.1000 or more, 34% do not receive any remuneration (21% said they don't know about salary)
- In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), 38% received remuneration, 52% didn't receive salary (Most of them do not receive remuneration which is in lieu of salary), 8% didn't know about it. Among those who receive salary, 39% received upto Rs.4000 per annum, 41% receive Rs. 4000 to Rs. 6000 per annum and 20% receive above Rs. 6000. Among those receiving salary, 59% parents collected and 35% was received by the DCL themselves.

Satisfaction with the remuneration

- 89% are satisfied, 11% unsatisfied

Educational Status

- In 2016, 96% are attending school, 4% are not attending school
- In 2009, 60% were attending school, 40% didn't attend school
- In Rapid Assessment of ILO (2001), 33% were attending school. (Among them, only 23% girls attended schools)

Disability and Health Problems

- 98% do not have any disability, 2% complained disability

Behavior by Employer

- 38% DCL said employer (Husband) takes care of them, 29% said employer (Wife)
- 58% said its someone 'Other' who does ill treatment, 14% said employer (Wife)

Employers take care by supporting in work and by using soft words. They also show care by taking care when DCL get sick and, by giving delicious foods.

Desire to go back home

- In 2016, 47% have desire to go back home while 53% said No
- In 2009, 74% were no more interested to be DCL, 26% wanted to continue working

Reasons for not going back home

- In 2016, 44% to complete education, 24% due to not having better education back home, 18% said better living facility in city, 6% said to earn for family, 4% said domestic violence in family,
- In 2009, 36% due to weak financial condition, 17% due to family violence, 47% due to urban attraction

Support to go back home

- In 2016, 45% said educational support, 30% said livelihood support for families, 9% said family counseling, 6% asked for vocational training
- In 2009, 27% asked educational support, 45% asked for income generating support, 5% for family counseling, 10% demanded vocational skills training

Knowledge of Child Rights

- 59% have general knowledge on child rights, 41% said No

Opinion on Child labor

- 5% said it should be practiced, 95% said it should be eliminated

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