

**Status of  
Child Domestic Workers in Kathmandu Valley  
2007**



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

**Chabahil, Kathmandu**

**[www.cwish.org.np](http://www.cwish.org.np)**

**Surveyed Area:**

<b>Kathmandu Metropolis</b>	<b>Lalitpur Sub Metro</b>	<b>Madhyapur Municipal</b>
Ward No. 3- Basundhara	Ward No. 13 - Kusunti	Ward No. 15- Gatthaghar
Ward No. 6- Baudha	Ward No. 14 - Tikhideval	
Ward No. 7 – Chabahil	Ward No. 15 - Satdobato	
Ward No.32 – Anamnagar		
Ward No.31 - Bagbazar		
Ward No. 34 – Baneshwor		
Ward No. 35 – Koteshwor		
Ward No. 33 – Gyaneshwor		
Ward No. 15 – Soyambhu		
Ward No. 14 – Kuleshwor		

**A. Child Domestic Workers in Kathmandu - 2007****I. Personal Profile of CDWs**

- In total 694 Child Domestic Workers were surveyed, out of which 62.54 percent (434) are girls and 37.46 percent (260) are boys.
- According to the age group most of the children are of the age group 15-18 Years i.e. 47.98 percent (333) followed by 11-14 Years age group i.e. 38.33 percent (266), 18 years above 11.67 percent (88) and children less than 10 years is found very few i.e. 2.02 percent (14).
- Among Girls children of age group of 15-18 years are found higher (51.38 percent, 223/434), while among boys children of age group 11-14 years are found higher (48.46 percent, 126/260)
- Out of total 694 child workers, 48.27 percent (335) are found from hill ethnic community, followed by Terai Ethnic - 20.46 percent (142), Chhetri – 18.73 percent (130), Bramhin – 8.93 percent (62) and Dalit – 3.60 percent (25).
- However in all ethnic community children between the age group of 15-18 years are found high in number, among Dalit it was still 11- 14 years (60 percent, 15/25).
- Most of the children are found first child of the family with a figure of 21.61 percent (150) followed by second child – 20.03 percent (139) and third child -15.99 percent (111). The trend was quite similar among both sexes, all ethnicity and age group.
- Out of 694 children 78 are staying with parents and working as non residential domestic workers.

**II. Family Status of Child Domestic Workers**

- Almost all of the child domestic workers are out of Kathmandu following the similar trend as in past years. This year children from Terai Districts are found higher.
- Most of the children's family economy is based on Agriculture. 49.57 percent children mentioned that the main income source for their family is agriculture and another large number 7.06 percent mentioned it is Agro labor, followed by domestic work 6.77 percent, industrial labor 6.34 percent and small business 5.91 percent. It was almost same among boys and girls, however the number of children among girls mentioning Agriculture as main family income source is higher than among boys i.e. 51.61 percent among girls and 46.15 percent among boys.
- Among different ethnic groups, having agriculture as family main income source is significantly higher among hill ethnic (53.73 percent, 180/335) and Terai Ethnic (53.52 percent, 76/142) in comparison to Dalit (32 percent, 8/25), Chhetri (43.85 percent, 57/130) and Bramhin (38.71 percent, 24/62).
- The second major income source is also different according to the ethnic group. Among Bramhin it is Industrial Labor (12.90 percent), Among Chhetri it is Agro Labor (10.77 percent), among Hill Ethnic it is Agro Labor (5.67 percent), among Terai Ethnic it is Small Business (9.15 percent) and among dalit it is Domestic Work (20 percent).
- Out of 694 child domestic workers 100 are found orphan/ semi orphan children. 52 of them have lost their father, 40 have lost mother, 8 have both of them and another 50 children have separated parents and thus often abandoned.

### **III. Educational Status of Child Domestic Workers**

- Out of 694 children only 25.50 percent are found (177) school going, where as remaining 517 are out of school, among which 38.33 percent (266) are completely illiterate and never been to any educational programs and 35.01 percent (243) are literate and dropped out of educational programs. Though the numbers are almost equal among boys, among girls children never been to educational opportunities are higher (39.40 percent) than the literate one (34.33 percent)
- Among Bramhin, literate and dropped out children are higher (43.55 percent), while among Chhetri, Hill ethnic and Terai Ethnic children illiterate and never been to educational programs are higher. That is 38.46, 38.51 and 35.92 percent. Among Dalit the number of children illiterate and never been to school are quite high i.e. 72 percent.
- There are several reasons for children getting dropped out from the school. Most of the children 32.10 percent (78) has mentioned financial reason as major reason to

get dropped out, however other reasons mentioned are involvement into work - 20.16 percent (49), Far Distanced School – 10.29 percent (25), corporal punishment – 8.23 percent (20), Uninteresting Curriculum - 4.53 percent (11), Sibling Care – 3.70 percent (9), Discrimination – 3.70 percent (9), Over age – 0.41 percent (1).

- Among Girls it is far distanced school (8.72 percent) and Sibling Care (5.37 percent) as major reasons to get dropped out after financial poverty and involvement into work. While for boys it is corporal punishment (15.96 percent) and far distanced school (12.77 percent).

#### **IV. Working Condition and Problems**

- Most of the children are brought to work by their parents (42.65 percent, 296/694), followed by their family members (18.73 percent, 130/694), Relatives (18.59 percent, 129/694) and Friends (2.31 percent, 16/694). The trend is almost same among both sexes and all ethnic groups. Only among children less than 10 years age, mainly 78.57 percent (11/14) are brought to work by their family members than any other groups.
- However most of the child workers mentioned it is financial poverty, 53.57 percent (330/616), there are other reasons as well mentioned by children. They have mentioned Lure of Education -19.48 percent (120), Urban Attraction – 12.50 percent (77), Domestic Violence – 8.28 percent (51), Social/Armed Conflict – 4.87 percent (30) and Natural Calamities – 0.97 percent (6).
- According to age group, for children less than 10 years old, It is lure of education (46.15 percent), financial poverty (30.77 percent), Urban attraction and Social/Armed Conflict has 15.38 percent by each with domestic violence (7.69 percent). For children of age group 11-14 years after financial poverty, Lure of Education (21.67 percent), Urban Attraction (12.92 percent), Domestic Violence (9.58 percent), Social/Armed Conflict (3.75 percent) and Natural Calamities (1.67 percent). Among Children 15-18 years, after financial poverty, Lure of Education (17.99 percent), Urban Attraction (11.07 percent), Domestic Violence (8.65 percent), social/armed conflict (5.54 percent) and Natural Calamities (0.35 percent).
- According to Ethnicity, Among Bramhins other major reasons that made children to leave home are: Lure of Education (18.18 percent), Domestic Violence (10.91 Percent), Urban Attraction (9.09 percent), Social/Armed Conflict (5.45 percent). Among Chhetri: Urban Attraction (13.04 percent), Domestic Violence (12.17 percent), Lure of Education (8.70 percent), Social/Armed Conflict (5.22 percent),

Natural calamities (2.61 percent). Among Hill Ethnic: Lure of Education (22.64 percent), Urban Attraction (12.16 percent), Domestic Violence (7.77 percent), Social/Armed conflict (5.74 percent). Among Terai Ethnic: Lure of Education (24.22 percent), Urban Attraction (12.50 percent), Domestic Violence (4.69 percent), Social/Armed conflict (3.13 percent), Natural Calamities (1.56 percent). Among Dalit: Urban Attraction (22.73 percent), Lure of Education (9.09 percent), Domestic Violence (9.09 percent).

- Regarding the working hours of child domestic workers, 41.93 percent children are still working more than 8 hours a day. Among remaining, 5.48 percent (38) are found working 1-2 hours/day, 11.24 percent (78) are working 3-4 hours/day, 17 percent (118) are working 4-6 hours/day, 17.44 percent (121) are working 6-8 hours/day. The trend is almost same among both sexes, age groups and ethnicities.
- Concerning the Salary, 49.14 percent (341) children mentioned that they have received no salary. 29.68 percent (206) received a monthly salary of 500 rupees or less than, 9.37 percent (65) are receiving 501 to 700 rupees monthly salary, 5.19 percent (36) are receiving salary of 701-1000 rupees/month and only 6.63 percent (46) are receiving salary of more than 1000/month.
- Among children less than 10 years have majority than other age groups i.e. 57.14 percent receiving monthly salary less than 500, while it is people above than 18 years have the majority receiving salary between 501-700 (12.35 percent), 701-1000 (8.64 percent), more than 1000 (17.28 percent).
- Similarly regarding the recipients of salary among children receiving salary (353), 42.49 percent (150) received it by themselves, while for 40.23 percent (142) it is parents, for 13.31 percent (47) it is family members, for 1.98 percent (7) it is relatives. For girls it is mainly parents (43.95 percent) than themselves (39.46 percent), while for boys it is mainly themselves (47.69 percent) than parents (33.85 percent) who received salary.
- Among children less than 10 years it is mainly family members (55.56 percent), for 11-14 years it is mainly parents (50.41 percent), for 15-18 years it is themselves (45.56 percent) and for people above than 18 years it is themselves (62.96 percent) who received their salary.

## **V. Occupational Health and Safety**

- Out of 694 child domestic workers, 22.77 percent (158) mentioned have received vaccine of BCG, 21.04 percent (146) had DPT, 49.14 percent (314) have had Polio, 16.57 percent (115) have had Measles, and 38.47 percent (267) have had Vitamin A.

- Out of 694 child domestic workers, 39.77 percent (276) children reported that they have health problem during the working time. Among girls it is reported higher with 42.63 percent than among Boys (35 percent).
- Most of the child workers reported abdominal health problems (16.67 percent, 46/276), followed by Neuro Problem (13.41 percent, 37/276), Eye problems (11.59 percent, 32/276), Skin problems (11.23 percent, 31/276) and ENT problem (7.97 percent, 22/276).
- Most of the children (59.80 percent, 415/694) are not given proper treatment and cure during the health problems. Among the health service received child domestic workers, 20.17 percent (140) are given general medicine from clinic and only 11.24 percent (78) children are given opportunity to visit doctor during their sickness.
- Children who could not received any health service during sickness is found higher among dalit – 72 percent (18/25), followed by terai ethnic – 61.97 percent (88/142), hill ethnic – 60.30 percent (202/335), chhetri- 60 percent (78/130), Bramhin – 46.77 percent (39/62).
- 24.35 percent (169) of surveyed child workers mentioned that they had accident during their work. Number of accident victim working children was found higher among boys (27.69 percent, 72/260) than among girls (22.35 percent, 97/434).
- Most of the children reported cuts (39.64 percent, 67), followed by electric shock (21.89 percent, 37), Dog Bites (17.75 percent, 30), Fire Burns (17.16 percent, 29), Hot Water Burn (15.98 percent, 27), Road Accident (14.79 percent, 25) and Fractures (5.33 percent, 9).

## **VI. Hard Times, Needs and Repatriation Issues**

- Among the children surveyed, they have mentioned it is mainly parents (29.25 percent, 203) with whom they can share their sufferings, followed by Friends (22.91 percent, 159), Sisters (9.08 percent, 63), Other Family Members (5.62 percent, 39) and Employers (4.03 percent, 28).
- Among Girls majority is sister (14.06 percent) and among Boys it is brothers (6.92 percent) to share sufferings after parents and friends.
- Only 54.61 percent (379) children mentioned that they want to get back home leaving current work, while 35.88 percent (249) mentioned they are not interested to get back home. Relatively girls are found more interested than boys to have repatriation.
- Among those children (379) mentioned interested to be repatriated, mentioned Educational Support at back in their home as a pre condition to leave work and get

back to home. 61.48 percent children mentioned so. While 46.17 percent children asked for economic strengthening of their family and 9.50 percent asked for family counseling. This is almost same among both sexes, all ethnicities and age groups.

- Similarly among children (249) saying not interested to be repatriated, 54.22 percent mentioned they are used to urban life, 11.24 percent mentioned domestic violence, 5.22 percent mentioned social/armed conflict and 2.81 percent mentioned discrimination as major reason behind not being interested.
- According to the survey 56.05 percent children have asked to support them formal school scholarship, 48.99 percent have asked for books and stationeries, 42.94 percent have requested school dress and 26.66 percent asked for counseling service, followed by other various options.

## **B. Comparison with the Status of 2005 and Major Findings**

- Number of girls in domestic work is decreased from 2005 (66.27 percent) to 62.54 percent and increased among boys from 2005 (33.73 percent) to 37.46 percent.
- Number of children less than 14 years is decreased from 2005 (77.59 percent) to 40.35 percent. Children less than 10 years is significantly decreased from 2005 (16.39 percent) to only 2.02 percent. While children above 15 years has significantly increased than in 2005 (16.39 percent) to 47.98 percent.
- Children from ethnic communities also decreased than in 2005 (76.39 percent) to 68.73 percent, while children from Dalit Communities has increased than in 2005 (0.96 percent) to 3.60 percent.
- Numbers of semi-orphan children have increased in domestic in comparison to 2005. In 2005 children reported father dead was found 6.99 percent, which is 7.49 now and mother was 3.37 percent, which was (5.76 percent). Similarly number of children reported parents' separation also increased from 2005 (3.37 percent) to 7.20 percent.
- Number of literate and school dropped out children are found less than in 2005 (42.65 percent) versus to 2007 (38.33 percent).
- Similarly children reporting school dropped out due to the financial reason, involvement into work and sibling care is also reduced. The figure in 2005 was 35.03 percent financial reason, 22.60 percent work load and 10.17 percent sibling care, which is now found 32.10 percent, 20.16 percent and 3.70 percent respectively. New causes are found emerging.
- Number of children brought by parents and relatives has increased and brought by mediator is decreased than in 2005. In 2005 children brought to work by parents,

relatives and mediator was 28.19 percent, 18.80 percent and 29.45 percent, which is now 42.65 percent, 37.32 percent and 6.48 percent respectively.

- Children reported left home to work as domestic worker because of financial poverty is increased to 53.57 percent in comparison to 2005 (29.64 percent).
- Children working more than 8 hours a day has increased than in 2005. It was just 36.14 percent in 2005 and now it is 41.93 percent.
- Number of children not receiving any kind of salary is increased than in 2005 from 20.48 percent to 49.14 percent. While children receiving salary upto 500 rupees per month is slightly increased from 28.92 percent to 29.68 percent.
- Number of children receiving their salary by themselves have increased from 28.79 percent to 42.49 percent and by their parents has decreased from 57.58 percent to 40.23 percent.
- Children mentioning no one is there to share their suffering are decreased to 18.30 percent than in 2005 (21.45 percent). While children found someone in employers home to share their sufferings have also decreased to 4.03 percent than in 2005 (32.77 percent).
- Number of children reporting health problem due to the work is decreased to 39.77 percent than in 2005 (42.81 percent). Similarly children victim of accident during work is also found decreased to 24.35 percent than in 2005 (34.39 percent).

#### **For More Information**

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