SITUATION OF DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN POKHARA:
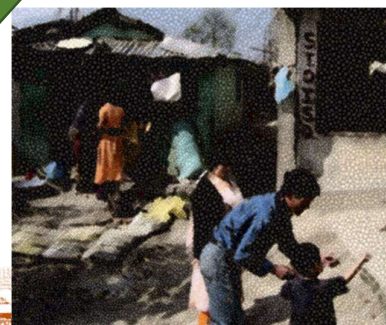
A STUDY OF SELECTED GROUPS

Right4Children

Pokhara, Kaski (Nepal)

2020

Situation of Disadvantaged Children and Young People in Pokhara: A Study of Selected Population Groups

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Children and young people (CYP) comprise a significant share of the population in Nepal. Of the total, 40% of the population is under the age of 18 years (UNICEF 2015). The latest constitution (2015) and laws have made ample progress towards addressing the rights of children in Nepal. However, the translation of these legal provisions and institutional structures into practical actions has remained a tall order. As socio-economic, political and governance structures have not transformed in accordance with the legal and institutional changes, the realisation of the mandates of UN CCR is still a far cry. On the other hand, the recent changes in governance structure in Nepal have interrupted the gradually developing institutional structure and mechanisms for the protection of the vulnerable sections of the CYP population in Nepal. Another important change in the context is the rapid influx of population toward urban hubs like Pokhara. Women and children, in particular, have become vulnerable in this movement away from known environmental circumstances and social networks. The number of vulnerable population has grown significantly over the period of time. On the other hand, there is a dearth of updated information on the situation of these groups of people hindering informed decisions with regard to appropriate interventions in this area.

Given the above contexts, this study is expected to furnish some important and qualitative information about the contexts and factors of the problems so as to enable correct measures to tackle issues like survival, protection, development, and participation of the marginalised CYPs in and around Pokhara. The study was carried out by Right4Children (R4C), a Pokhara-based Non-Government Organisation (NGO). This study analyses the current status of CYPs living in Pokhara. These CYPs are the street children, working children, CYPs from slum dwellings and vulnerable families, young girls in the entertainment sector and commercial sex works. In this connection, the research will explore the family situations for these CYPs along with factors pushing/pulling them into vulnerable situations, living/working conditions, protection

issues, available services, and corresponding gaps. The study has the following objectives:

- *collate and analyse empirical data and strategic information relating to:*
- *the push and pull factors – individual and contextual - of young people moving away from their families*
- *risk factors and environmental circumstances impacting the different groups of CYP*
- *existing protective factors and area for potential preventative measures*
- *assess the existing structure, actors and actions relating to disadvantaged CYPs to identify gaps in current interventions*
- *Provide strategic information for Right4Children and other relevant stakeholders so as to facilitate informed decisions with regard to their strategic plans and future actions.*

The study is largely based on the primary data and uses both qualitative and quantitative information as per the contexts of the population groups. A total of 251 people were included in the sample of the study. Interview, group discussions, informal consultations, and unobtrusive observations were used as the techniques of data collection.

Key Findings

Female Sex worker

- *The majority of the FSWs were at 13-14 years when they first started sexual work.*
- *Most of these women were from neighboring districts of Kaski.*
- *Women from all ethnic groups (including high caste groups) were found involved in this work (previously high caste women were rare).*
- *Most of the FSWs have completed lower secondary level.*
- *The reported reasons for entering CS: insufficient financial support from the family, Influence of peers or friends, need of paying household expenses and lack of skill to do other jobs.*
- *Stigma and police raids or lack of freedom were the main reported problems of the profession.*
- *Privacy issues and criminalisation have severely limited their access to health care services, particularly in the public service domain.*

- *All stressed the need for legalising the profession in order to ensure their rights and protection from the abuses.*
- *The main reported gaps were financial support, business packages, skill-based training with job opportunities, informal education or free education and health care services.*

Girls in Entertainment Sector

- *The estimated population is 1,000 to 1,500 in 2019.*
- *Most of these girls/women have completed the Primary level only.*
- *The most prominent reported factors for joining the works include insufficient financial support from the family, lack of alternative opportunities, and the influence of peers.*
- *Nighttime work, stigma, verbal abuse and inappropriate touching were the main reported problems related to work.*
- *They advised clear rules and regulations, guest entry recording system, CCTV camera, and security guide to increase their protection in the workplace.*
- *Risk behaviour: smoking, alcohol consumption and involvement in part-time sex work.*
- *Access to services and support were found very limited.*
- *They expected supports in vocational training courses such as beautician, cook, vocal, and music-related courses.*

Street Children

- *Estimated 50-70 street CYPs (underreporting possible because of invisibility).*
- *Access to basic services has been severely limited due to the government policy (street children free city forcing them to hide).*
- *Two in three street CYPs were between 12-18 years old.*
- *Around one fourth (23.9%) were from the Kaski district and most of them belong to Dalits group.*
- *Half of the CYPs left their school when they were in early grades (2-3 class).*
- *Because of the government policy, livelihood sources of the street CYPs have dried up.*
- *Most of them feel (71%) unsafe mainly because of the arrests by police.*
- *Virtually all (95.2%) reported that they experienced several forms of abuse.*
- *Significant hazards and issues: lack of basic services, general health hazards, sexual health/HIV and difficult psychological/emotional conditions.*
- *Most (81%) of the CYPs reported that they need support like food, education, training, job opportunity, and drug rehabilitation to move out of the street.*

Working Children

- *The majority of the working CYPs (59.0%) were between 15-16 years.*
- *Most of them are from the districts nearby Kaski (Pokhara).*
- *Many (47.5%) of the CYPs completed the primary level (1-5 grades) and over one third (39%) are currently studying.*
- *Most (82.9%) of these CYPs told that they would not join the school as they have to earn money to survive and also support families.*
- *In many cases (43.9%), lack of fulfilment of the basic needs was reported as the reason to leave the home.*
- *One in two (50.8%) of the CYPs reported that they have experienced some kind of abuse in their workplace.*
- *Two third (65.6%) of the CYPs reported that they wish to have the vocational training.*
- *But most the school going girls would like to continue their general education.*
- *Job facilitation support was also reported by a few of them who are willing to find new jobs.*

Slum CYP

- *Of the total 52 CYPs in the sample, the largest group, 16-21 age group accounts for 42%.*
- *Janjati accounts for almost half (44.2%) of the sample followed by Dalit groups (one third).*
- *One-fourth of them belong to the Kaski district and many are from different districts.*
- *Most of them have completed 6-8 grades, indicating dropouts at the age when they are able to work for money.*
- *Most (82.7%) of them reported that they have ever worked for money.*
- *Most (94%) of the CYPs reported that they have involved in some kind of risky or deviant activities at least once.*
- *Pornography/media abuse is a new and growing risk.*
- *Very few CYPs (11.5%) reported that they are receiving some kind of support.*
- *The available supports include educational support, health services and financial and training support.*
- *Most (59.6%) of the CYPs showed interest in vocational training but available options are not relevant for them.*

Organisations

- *Organisations (12 consulted) are mostly working in the delivery of basic services, emergency services, protection, advocacy, and reintegration.*
- *The main challenges related to target groups:*
- *Street CYPs -difficult to reach due to invisibility.*
- *Younger girls increasingly becoming victims of trafficking.*
- *Victims of sex trafficking- abuse, pregnancy, mental health and lack of legal support.*
- *Unsafe working conditions of the girls in the entertainment sector.*
- *Vulnerability to exploitation and a decrease in social connectedness due to digital technology.*

Governance issues after restructuring:

- *Discrepancies in policies, power conflict and lack of coordination among the government authorities at different levels.*
- *Misaligned priorities and resource allocation (low or no priority in the social sector).*

Gaps and recommended interventions:

- *Family strengthening; advocacy for rights of all groups mainly FSWs; improving working conditions for girls in the entertainment sector*
- *Need for increasing protection services, increasing rescue centers with the provision of education services.*
- *Increasing concentration on rural and source areas.*
- *Increasing demand for entrepreneurship rather than job opportunities.*
- *Interventions to address the issues related to the impacts of information technology.*

Recommendations

Cross-cutting actions

- *Broader social issues like urbanisation, pervasive socio-economic inequalities, and economic handicaps are crucial factors requiring some overarching multisector collaborations (both at local and province level).*
- *Cross-cutting actions across the target group tend to relate to family factors. Supporting alternative incomes and improving the family environment is crucial for the prevention of the issues related to all groups.*
- *Advocacy for the rights of the target groups in general and most importantly for groups like sex workers are the urgent areas of intervention.*

- *Conventional models of the training have largely failed. New and innovative training modalities are required to address the general issues of the reunification of the alienated groups (comprehensive, flexible and felt need-based).*
- *The reorienting focus of the NGOs on the source communities (particularly in the rural areas) is equally important.*
- *There is a need for novel initiatives to address the growing issues related to the impacts of media and technology on the target groups.*
- *Capacity building of the local government and strengthening government-NGO partnerships are very important to address the issues arising from the restructuring of governance. Once strengthened, this will enable stakeholders to address the issues at the local level without external support.*
- *Low cost and collaborative advocacy work from NGOs can be very effective in influencing the policy at local and province levels resulting in increased awareness about the problems among the stakeholders.*

Group-Specific Actions

- *FSW: Legal rights, increasing access to basic services and the opportunity to find alternative options are important.*
- *Girls in the entertainment sector: programme for improving the working condition of the girls in the entertainment sector is an urgent need. Comprehensive packages of vocational education and alternative livelihoods are also essential.*
- *Street CYP: outreach works to address invisible CYPs on the street (but need government approval), need for the more flexible and friendly approach of protection and care (rather than the custody model).*
- *Working CYP: there is a need for continuous work for protection from abuse, creation of a decent working environment and education support for domestic workers.*
- *Slum CYP: need for innovative and friendly initiatives to engage CYPs in constructive activities and preventing risk behaviours. Linking existing child-friendly school initiative of R4C to new initiatives are highly recommended.*

ABBREVIATIONS

CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CCWB	Central Child Welfare Board
CSW	Commercial Sex Work
CYP	Children and Young People
FGD	Focus group Discussion
FSW	Female Sex Worker
GIES	Girls in Entertainment Sector
GON	Government of Nepal
ILO	International Labour Organisation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NLFS	Nepal Labour Force Survey
NPC	National Planning Commission
R4C	Right for Children (organisation)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SW	Sex Work
UN	United Nations
UN CCR	United Nation Convention on Child Rights
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

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CHAPTER-I:
BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Context

This study is an investigation into the current situation of disadvantaged children and young people living in Pokhara. This chapter introduces the context of the research. It provides a background of the research along with its rationale and objectives. Similarly, it also presents the methods and materials involved in the research.

After the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989 in 1990, perceptible changes in policy, legal and institutional aspects have been observed. In this connection, the   Constitution of Nepal (2015) has addressed the fundamental rights of the children in Nepal. Besides, there are specific provisions for the rights of children to justice, education and health including rights of children in conflict with law and rights against exploitation. The right to survival, protection, development, and participation of children have been ensured in 10 different clauses under article 39 of the Constitution (CCWB, 2017).

The constitution of Nepal-2015 (GON, 2019) has laid a sound legal foundation for the protection of the rights of the children and tackling the child rights issues in Nepal. Subsequent laws and provisions are also moving toward addressing the thrust of the constitution. However, materialisation of the constitutional and legal provision has remained a big question mark. Violation of child rights in various forms are still pervasive phenomena in Nepal. Socio-economic, political and governance conditions have not transformed in accordance to the spirit of the constitution and relevant legal provisions. So, there are significant issues related with children and young people in Nepal.

About Right4Children

Established in 2013, Right4Children (R4C) is a Pokhara-based Non-Government Organisation (NGO) dedicated to improving the lives and living standards of disadvantaged children, youth and their families. As a child-centred NGO, its actions are oriented towards assisting children and young people, through the programs and services that they feel are RIGHT for them, in making their hopes and dreams come true. The following proposed research is a study into the situation for the children and adolescents (or young people) living in the rapidly growing urban slum areas of Pokhara Metropolitan City.

1.2. Rationale of the Study

Since the introduction of the Constitution in 2015 and move from unitary to a federal three-tier government system, there has been political instability and uncertainty of roles and responsibilities. With the decentralisation of the government has come the dissolution of previous networks and partnerships that had been built between government (such as the District Child Welfare Board and District Offices for Women, Health and Education) and non-government organisations. Furthermore, important information and data obtained are no longer available, rendering newly delegated municipal authorities ill-

Key Highlights of the Constitution (2015)

1) Every child shall have the right to name and birth registration along with his or her identity.

2) Every child shall have the right to education, health, maintenance, proper care, sports, entertainment and overall personality development from the families and the state.

3) Every child shall have the right to elementary child development and child participation.

4) No child shall be employed to work in any factory, mine or engaged in similar other hazardous work.

5) No child shall be subjected to child marriage, transported illegally, abducted/kidnapped or taken in hostage.

6) No child shall be recruited or used in army, police or any armed group, or be subjected, in the name of cultural or religious traditions, to abuse, exclusion or physical, mental, sexual or other form of exploitation or improper use by any means or in any manner.

7) No child shall be subjected to physical, mental or any other form of torture in home, school or other place and situation whatsoever.

8) Every child shall have the right to juvenile friendly justice.

9) The child who is helpless, orphan, with disabilities, conflict victim, displaced or vulnerable shall have the right to special protection and facilities from the State (Source: CCWB, 2017).

equipped to reconstruct and continue from those previous networks and partnerships. The focus from municipalities has instead been directed in other areas, such as infrastructure, and the wellbeing of young people has not been prioritised. The mechanisms to be implemented for their protection have been stalled.

With the distribution of decision-making from the government and lack of systems for implementing protective mechanisms or collaborating with NGOs, there is a lack of current data on the situation of young people in Nepal. The proposed research is thus necessary to assess this situation empirically concerning individual, contextual and family factors which are all instrumental in a child's wellbeing and future development.

Although Nepal is one of the ten least urbanised countries in the world it is also one of the top ten fastest urbanising countries with a projected annual urbanisation rate of 1.9 percent for the period 2014-2050 (Bakrania, 2015). Based on the census 2011, the total population of Pokhara Metropolitan City is 402,995. The projected urban population growth from 2011 to 2019 is 21.4% (CBS 2019). The largest contributor to urban growth in Pokhara is the flow of people from rural areas to cities, often in the pursuit of enhanced education and employment. Women and children in particular however become vulnerable in this movement away from known environmental circumstances and social networks such as extended family and into an environment that is not accommodating or resourced.

The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Target 7D, which outlines the need for significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, has been exceeded, in terms of land ownership and work opportunities (GON, 2016). Further, the more recent Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable is negated by the vast majority of urban residents breathing poor-quality air and having limited access to transport and public spaces (UNDP, 2019). Despite this significant difference, the irony is as urban populations grow, the numbers of slum dwellers rise as well. The population of the urban population living in slums worldwide grew to 23.5 per cent between 2014 and 2018. An estimated 3 billion people will require adequate and affordable housing by 2030. The growing number of slum dwellers is the result of

both urbanization and population growth that are outpacing the construction of new affordable homes. Adequate housing is a human right, and the absence of it negatively affects urban equity and inclusion, health and safety, and livelihood opportunities. Renewed policy attention and increased investments are needed to ensure affordable and adequate housing for all by 2030 (UN, 2019). An estimated 300 million of the global population of slum dwellers are children, who suffer from multiple deprivations, live without a voice and have no access to land, housing and services (Aerts, 2018). Further, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA Nepal, 2017) stated that the majority of Nepal's adolescent and youth population to be living in poor areas (either rural or urban).

From a social work and anthropological perspective, urban settings become the space for children to grow up and form their identity. According to UNICEF (2019), 40% of Nepal's population is under the age of 18 years. Therefore, the urban environment is increasingly becoming a determining factor in child development. As indicated already, the current individual, environmental and familial contexts of urban settings in Pokhara, Nepal can increase the likelihood of impeded child growth and learning outcomes.

1.3. Objectives of the study

The general objective of the study is to analyse the current situation of vulnerable children and young people in Pokhara. The specific objectives are as follow.

1. To collate and analyse empirical data and strategic information relating to:
   - the push and pull factors – individual and contextual - of young people moving away from their families
   - risk factors and environmental circumstances impacting the different population sample groups
   - existing protective factors and area for potential preventative measures
2. To assess the existing structure, actors and actions relating to street children to identify gaps in current interventions based on existing service provision by government and non-government organisations
3. To provide strategic information for Right4Children so as to facilitate informed decisions with regard to its strategic plan and future actions.

1.4. Population and Sample

Amongst the population of young people living in Pokhara, Street CYP, Working CYP, Slum living CYPs, Female Sex Worker, Girls in the entertainment sector are the most vulnerable sections. So, they are the main population of the study. Additionally, relevant families, as well as organisations who currently are engaged with the target groups have been included in the sample. This research tries to assess the situation for each of the sample groups within their unique contexts.

Given that the focus population to be involved in this research are significantly vulnerable, those involved in the research and the methodologies used must be considerate and sensitive to this. Safeguarding procedures such as sufficient education and training regarding the specific issues facing the populations and protection policies were undertaken. There are 8 population groups included in the study. Given the hard to reach nature of the population and the unspecified number of the population along with time and resource limitations, it is difficult to meet the requirements of the random sampling. Apart from this, the nature of research is exploratory. Nevertheless, the efforts have been made to select appropriate cases of children and young people from the different target populations living in Pokhara Metropolitan City area which can provide a broader picture of the whole population. The table below provides a summary of the sample size according to the group of the informants.

Table 1: Sample of the Study

S.N	Group	Sample Size
1	Female sex worker	15
2	Girls in entertainment sector	15
3	Street CYP	21
4	Working CYP	61
5	Slum/urban CYP	52
6	Slum/urban families	75
7	Non-governmental organisations	12
Total		**251**

1.5. Guiding Principles of the Research Process

An Exploratory Based Framework (Reiter, 2017) underpins this study (see figure 2). The main driver for the study is a lack of current and reliable information pertaining to those young people affected by urbanisation in Pokhara, Nepal. Exploratory research is used to identify more clearly a problem that has not already had sufficient assessment. It values objectivity, qualitative data, self-reflexivity, critical theory (anti-oppressive approach) and synthesis of information. Principles of the UNCRC (1989), Right4Children policies and UNICEF Ethical Research Involving Children (2013) guidelines were upheld throughout.
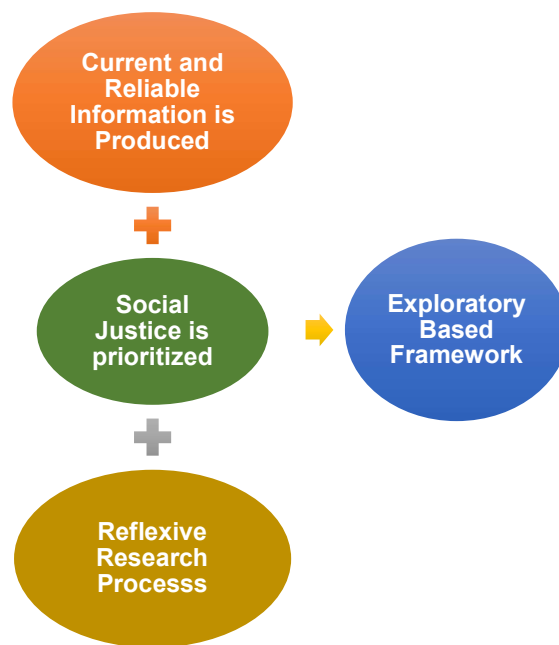
Figure 1: Framework of the study

1.6. Data Collection Techniques and Tools

From the perspective of human rights, children and young people are viewed as the main stakeholders and co-constructors of knowledge and meaning (Save the Children, 2004). They provided a critical voice to the research, and, therefore, their participation in research was prioritized. Given the known impact that family relationships can have on a child's development and wellbeing, a good understanding of these dynamics was attained also. While semi-structured interviews were used predominantly, sampling techniques and tools vary depending on the population sample group. Particular

contextual questions provided valuable insight into the circumstances pertaining to specific sample population groups while also illuminating possible similarities in root causes for movement away from family and into particular areas of work or living. Vigorous screening procedures, training and reflection for enumerators were undertaken to ensure utmost sensitivity throughout. Following is a brief outline of the research process.

Interview with children and young people

A semi-structured interview schedule was developed and administered among the children and young people living and working in target areas of this study. The interview gathered the participants' background and demographic information and tried to gauge their overall condition, vulnerability and risk, as well as working and daily living conditions. Questions were tailored to the particular context of different population samples. Additionally, the participant's plans and expectations for their future were explored (including educational or vocational aspirations and desired support). This provided insight into existing structural inequalities.

Interview with parents or family members in a carer role

A semi-structured interview schedule was developed and administered to parents or family members who observe the role of child-carer. The interview explored challenges faced by the family, factors which may push children and young people to live independently or seek unconventional work, access to health and education services and general living conditions.

Consultation and/or Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

To supplement and enrich the survey data, consultation with relevant government and non-government organisations were conducted. Focus Group Discussions were conducted where possible with groups (for example FSWs). Separate guide questions were developed and used for the consultation and FGD.

Unobtrusive Observation

In the context of sensitive research projects like the current one, it is very important to triangulate the information from various sources. Unobtrusive observation provided an

opportunity to collect information without affecting the dignity and emotion of the informants. Therefore, the observation was used whenever possible.

1.7. Protection Policy

All enumerators were sufficiently screened and trained on child-friendly and sensitive practice, with particular consideration of the contexts within which the population samples are functioning and associated sensitivity required.

All enumerators were provided with information specific to Right4Children's child protection policies and required to sign these documents.

Informed consent: All participation in this research was completely voluntary and uphold the UNDHR/UNCRC. The purpose of the study was to make clear before commencing any interview, and participants were informed of their ability to cease the interaction at any point.

Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained at all times throughout the research process. This was made clear to participants, and upheld by enumerators through nondisclosure of any identifying details.

Any consultation with collaborating organisations was upheld the above protective precautions and not sought any confidential or identifying information.

1.8. Data Processing and Analysis

The collected pieces of information were both quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative information was managed and processed using computer application IBM SPSS 20. Specific fields were developed for each group of informants. After entering and cross-checking the entered data, several summarised tables were produced and processed further using Microsoft Excel and Office applications. Qualitative data were managed and analysed manually. The interview and FGD notes were jotted down and information was classified based on themes and patterns. To an extent, objectivity was maintained in the interpretation of the data. However, subjective evaluation and value judgments were not completely avoided while making the critique of structural inequalities and addressing social justice.

1.9. Limitations

This is largely an exploratory study based on non-probability sampling. Therefore, generalisation must be made cautiously considering the contexts of the place and population in other settings. However, it can work as a good reference concerning the pertinent issues of the disadvantaged CYPs in Pokhara and Nepal in general. In some cases, the sample size is quite small because of the difficult and hard to reach nature of the sample population. On the other hand, the inclusion of a diverse group of populations in a single study was a big challenge in terms of time, resources and methodological constraints. So, the study was affected by this factor too. Because of the multiplicity of the backgrounds and nature of the study groups, different enumerators were employed in the study. Finding experienced and qualified enumerators in the context of Pokhara was a big challenge for the study. In the case of contacting and interviewing FSWs, girls in the entertainment sector and street CYPs, access and spatial factor remained very challenging. Nevertheless, proper orientation, onsite coaching, and supervision were employed to mitigate the quality issue in the data collection.

1.10. Organisation of the Report

This report is divided into 8 chapters. The first chapter provides the background of the study introducing the problem of the research along with objectives and methods. The second chapter deals with the situation of the sex workers in Pokhara. In the third chapter, the situation of the girls in the entertainment sector has been analysed. Chapters four and five assess the situation of the street and working CYPs respectively. In the fifth chapter, the situation of CYPs and their families living in the selected slum dwellings of Pokhara have been presented. To enrich the understanding of the situation and assess the existing and lacking supports to the target groups, chapter six provides a description and analysis of the organisations working with the relevant groups. The seventh and final chapter renders the findings of the study and draws the conclusions. Most importantly, this chapter also provides crosscutting and specific recommendations based on the findings of the study.

1.11. Definition of Key Terms

- **Female Sex Workers:** women who have been professionally involved in sex for money or any gifts for their source of income.

- **Entertainment sector:** establishments like dance bars, *dohori* restaurants, cabin restaurants, massage parlors, spas, eateries and guest houses in which girls/women are recruited and work in the roles which are often sexually exploitative.

- **Working CYP:** CYPs who are working for money, survival and to support their education.

- **Street CYP:** CYPs who works and live in the street (some of them may go to sleep in the family).

- **Slum and impoverished families:** families who live in the residential area with substandard housing that is poorly serviced and/or overcrowded, and therefore unhealthy, unsafe, and socially undesirable.

- **Disadvantaged children and young people:** All those disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people living and working in Pokhara.

- **Organisation:** those organisations working with disadvantaged children/young people, women and relevant families.

CHAPTER-II
SITUATION OF FEMALE SEX WORKERS

2.1. The Context

Sex workers are generally defined as adults (men, women or others) who receive money or goods in exchange for consensual sexual services. In this study, however, the sex workers are those women who are involved in sex work for money or other goods which are generally consensual but can be coercive too. In Nepal, the estimated population of Female Sex Workers (FSW) is 54,197 (Poudel, 2019). In recent times, there is a high influx of population to urban areas from rural and impoverished areas in search of subsistence. So, the number of FSWs has likely to have grown much higher in recent times (not updated data available). After Kathmandu valley, Pokhara is emerging as the hub of the sex trade. An organisation working with FSWs in Pokhara estimated 1,163 FSWs in Pokhara in 2019 (based on consultation). However, it is important to note here that it is quite difficult to estimate the actual population due to the transient and hidden nature of this group. Due to stigmatisation of the sex work, many of them remain undercover workers and are often excluded in the enumeration. Also because of the definition problem, it is hard to recognise who is FSW and who is not. Many of the young girls have a sexual relationship with men for money but they don't recognize themselves as a sex workers.

2.2. Socio-Demographic Back ground of the Informants

The social and economic backgrounds of these women are characterised by poverty along with limited access to education and job opportunities. These factors place these girls in compromising situations. Often, they are forced to seek employment in exploitative environments, including the commercial sex market. In this context, the below table shows the basic socio-demographic backgrounds of the informants consulted in the study.

Table 2: Socio-Demographic backgrounds of the Informants

SN	Age	Caste/Ethnicity	Marital Status	Education
1.	17	Janjati	Unmarried	Completed grade-8
2.	18	Janjati	Unmarried	Completed grade-9
3.	19	Janjati	Unmarried	Completed grade-9
4.	19	Janjati	Separated	Completed grade-9
5.	22	Janjati	Unmarried	Completed +2
6.	26	Janjati	Married	Completed grade-9
7.	26	Janjati	Separated	Completed grade-9
8.	26	Janjati	Separated	Under Primary
9.	35	Brhamin	Separated	Literate only
10.	17	Brhamin	Unmarried	Completed grade-8
11.	17	Brhamin	Unmarried	Completed grade-9
12.	17	Dalit	Separated	Under Primary
13.	24	Dalit	Married	Under Primary
14.	29	Dalit	Widow	Under Primary
15.	38	Dalit	Widow	Literate only

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Age

Generally, most of the girls start work as a sex worker when they were between 13 to 14 years. The observation and consultations show that the majority of the girls in the sex market are below 25 years. However, few women over 30 years still work as a sex worker and mediator (pimp). In FGD, participants equivocally reported that most of the girls in the sex work are below 25 years.

Caste/Ethnicity and Origin

In terms of origin place, only a few women were originally from Kaski district and the rest of the others were from nearby districts like Parbat, Lamjung Rupandehi, Syangja, Bhaktapur, Chitwan, Manang, and Tanahu. A few others were from the district situation quite far from Pokhara such as Sindhupalchowk, Taplejung, and Kabhre. An FSW was from India too. A few FSWs said that they can't work in their place because they don't want to disclose their status with their family and friends. Hotel owners also said that guests prefer new faces whenever they come for the services. Therefore, they always try to find new girls. Previously, mainly Dalit and Janjati groups used to

involve in sex work which has changed now. Girls from the so-called high caste group are increasingly entering this profession which can be related to the increased financial pressure and gradually relaxing norms regarding the mobility of women.

2.3. Education

Most of the FSWs reported they have completed lower secondary level. This demonstrates that their education status is poor among the FSWs. Only one girl was studying at the time of fieldwork. It indicates that a lack of education can be a co-factor pushing young girls into the sex market. During the interview process, we met one girl who had completed higher secondary level education (+2) and pursuing a Bachelor's degree. We were surprised to meet her as she looked so confident and had no guilt (at least did not demonstrate) regarding the work. The statement below suggests that the perception towards sexual work (at least among the sex workers) has been gradually changing.

> *I'm not ashamed of what I do for a living. We are workers just like any other. Whenever I need more money, I involve in sex work.*

As far as dropout, there were several reasons reported such as poverty, lack of family support, early marriage/marriage, peer influences, no desire to study. However, the most common reasons for leaving school was poverty and lack of family support. Before entering this profession, the majority of them were studying and some of them were idle.

2.4. Marital and Family Life

The majority of the women were married but half of the married were already in separated status. Few reported that they entered the profession because of the situations resulting from separations whereas others have a problem in their married life due to their profession. Marriage at a tender age puts particularly young girls in vulnerable situations. In Nepal, one in each four (26.3%) are married among the CYPs aged 10 to 18 years (CBS, 2014). Divorce and separation often result in compromised situations for these women. The main cause of separation was reported as the

husband marrying or having affairs with other women, misunderstanding, and use of alcohol/drug by husband and domestic violence.

> *We both were just 15 years when we got married. My parents were not happy with my husband. So we decided to live far from family; we moved to Pokhara. When I was 6 months pregnant, my husband suddenly disappeared and left me alone in Pokhara. I used to work in the restaurant as a cleaner and couldn't make enough money for my livelihood. I had a very tough time. I gave birth to a baby girl and went to stay with my parents. But my parent and especially, brother and sister in law were not happy with me; they used to abuse me verbally. One of my friends who also works as a sex worker introduced me to this work. So I left home and came with my 21 months daughter to work in a hotel. Initially, I was happy that I was able to escape from my family and becoming independent. However, working with a young child became extremely challenging for me. Sometimes, the hotel owner (didi) used to look after my child while I remained busy with the client. But it wouldn't be possible all the time. Finally, I decided to leave my child with my parents. I am not sure whether she is being looked after properly or not. But I don't have any options. I feel very sad about my life as I miss my baby so badly. I am a lactating mother but I can't feed her anymore.*

All married women had children. Most of their children live with them at their workplace. In other cases, the children live with their grandparents. It is interesting that almost half of the women reported no problems in their family – indicating that family problems are not a prominent or contributing factor for leaving home and becoming involved in

sex work. However, it should be noted that most of the FSWs are more likely to report differently on such issues. One FSW reported that she did not have a problematic family and it is not the factor for her entry into the sex market. But when we cross-checked her opinion with a social worker, she provided a different story. Actually, her mother was also working as a sex worker and she brought her into this profession. Sometimes, it is hard to verify the statements in such a research context.

2.5. Reported Factors Pushing the Girls to Sex Work

Reported Reasons for Involving in Sex Work

The reported reasons or direct factors are as follow:

-Insufficient financial support from the family

-Influence of peer or friends

-The need for paying household expenses

-Lack of other skill to do another job

Most of the FSWs rated escape of abuse in the family as a less important factor in their involvement in the sex work. Generally, married women explained the need for supporting their family members as a very important factor. They use some of their money to support the family members as it makes them feel good. All women did stress that the profession providing a higher income than that of other professions is an important reason why they are involved and retained in the profession. During the FGD session also, some participants explained that factors like flexible working hours, easy and fun nature of the work were also reported as the important factors for them to involve and retain in the sex work. A young girl reported:

> *If I work as labour I can hardly earn NPR 8000 per month, which is not sufficient for me to run my family. In this profession, I can earn up to NPR from 4000 to 5000 per day. So it's an easy way of making money.*

Experience of Abuse in Family

The majority of the FSWs said that they had not experienced abuse at home. This implies that family abuse is not a contributing factor for leaving home and becoming

involved in sex work. Only a few women reported that they had experienced verbal abuse from family members such as mother, stepmother or parents in general. Only one girl reported that she experienced physical abuse from stepmother which was the reason she ran away from home. However, the findings of the study (stories narrated throughout this chapter) lead to different conclusion-abuse in the family is a significant factor. So, this finding must be interpreted cautiously.

Age at Involving in Sex Market

FSWs reported that they have been working as FSW for 1-9 years. There was a remarkable proportion of girls who had joined recently. It shows that girls are in sex work for a relatively longer period while new ones are also joining. The majority of the FSWs were between 13-14 years when they first started sexual work. Most of the FSWs shared that they were not married at the time that they started sexual work. Generally, it's very difficult to involve in sex work and maintain a healthy married life.

Person Bringing in to Profession

Most of the women were facilitated by their friends to enter sex work. Many reported that it is always easy to share everything with friends. However, a few girls were brought by their neighbours and relatives too. In most cases, they were not forced into this profession by a certain person though few of them said that they were coerced.

> *I got married when I was just 13 years old. I wanted to work and support my family. My aunt (Mum's sister) brought me to this profession. She told me that I will be working in a restaurant as a cleaner but she lied to me. I was too young to refuse. So, I am still here and it has been nine years in this profession.*

Income and Subsistence

All of the FSWs opined that their income is sufficient to full their need and it is the main reason they are continuing. Most FSWs use their money to pay bills, rent, and food. Others use of income include supporting family members, meeting children's basic needs, education, and health. It was observed that only married FSWs with children are saving for the future whereas unmarried ones were not found serious about the

saving. They have been using their money for luxurious goods and services (go out for shopping, movies and to buy the latest phone and enjoy with friends). During the interview process, we met one FSW having a quite different approach. She said that she only engages in sex when she needs money. Apart from the sex work, only a few girls have other sources of income (such as waiter, dishwasher, construction work, and small business).

Factors shaping entry into sex work

The following figure summarizes the main factors that lead women to engage and also retain in sex work. This figure has been constructed analysing the information obtained from one-to-one interviews, FGD, and consultations with organisations. It is, however, not an exhaustive list of the factors but only a simplified framework.
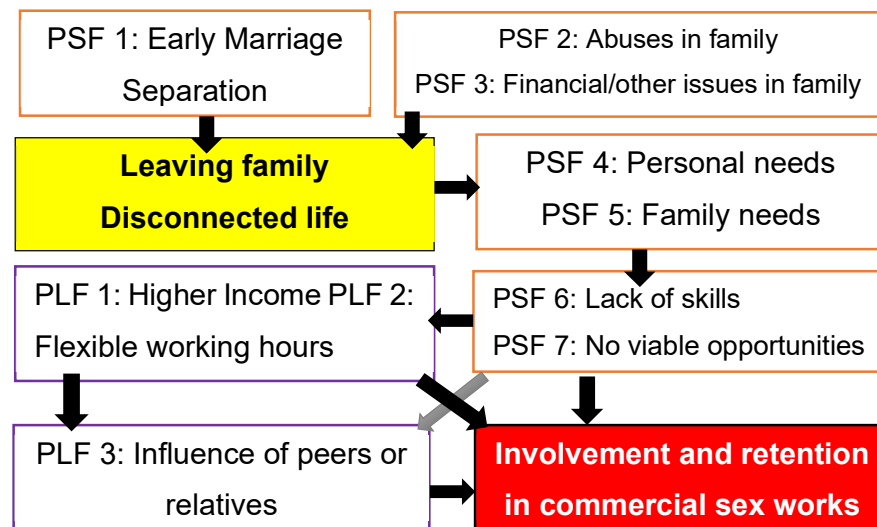
Figure 2: Factors shaping entry in to sex work

PSF=Pushing factor   PLF=Pulling factor

2 .6. Risk and Safety

Current living status

Most of the FSWs were found living in the hotel with the owner because they have to be 24x7 ready for the services. It is common because their income depends on the number of clients they serve in a day. Only a few FSWs reported that they live in the

rented room with their friends whereas none of them live with their family. The interviewer reported that she saw a minimum of 3 to 8 FSWs in each hotel.

Safety Feeling in Work Place

Most women stated that they do not feel safe at their workplace. But the majority of them don't know the reason for not feeling safe. During interviews, we repeated prompted them to get the answers. Only after prompted questions, they elaborated on the safety concerns. Due to a lack of legal rights, risk of violence from client, stigma, and discrimination, FSWs are not feeling safe at the workplace. Many of those who did not disclose in the interviews/discussions, they still feel unsafe due to the sheer risk of their workplace.

Many of the women mentioned the use of alcohol and drugs by the client as the factor inducing their fear or safety concern. There are strong correlations between alcohol, drug use, and violence. Over half of the FSWs desired their profession to be legalised. Having legal rights would make them feel safer because they would have the right to complain when necessary. In the same vein, there will be no pressure for hiding their occupational status and identity. One FSW said that if anything goes bad with an FSW at work, she is unable to share with her friends and family because of confidentiality and legality issues.

They opined that the stigma will decrease gradually if it is legalised. It is important to acknowledge that stigma in itself contributes to FSWs' feeling of insecurity at work. Actually, it is not confined to their workplace domain – it is an issue prominent in their community and society which needs actions at both of these domains.

> *If I was attacked I wouldn't go to the police because they would arrest me. Also, I couldn't take risk of my family finding out what I do.*

Another reason for feeling unsafe was the health risks. This includes physical, mental and sexual health risks. While sexual health risks may seem obvious, the consideration of physical and mental health risks t are ubiquitous to this profession.

While there are organisations that support FSWs, access is restricted by legal and social constraints. If the profession were legalised, and stigma reduced, these women would have far more increased access to health care services (both physical and mental ones).

Other elements for feeling unsafe to include frequent police raids and exploitation from their employer – including a lack of clear rules and regulations and freedom from their employer. Again these are also related to the legality of the profession. Many FSWs were found in constant fear of being disclosed. Most of them try hard to keep their job intact by maintaining a good relationship with the hotel owners. Even though they know that they are being exploited they rarely resist and raise the voice.

Types of abuse

Verbal abuse was the most common form of abuse experienced by most of the FSWs. However, many of them think that it is not the abuse because it is normal for those who work in this profession. So, they take it for granted. Physical and sexual abuse was experienced by many of them. Some girls reported that they feel a lack of freedom from the hotel owner. Following is the case of a 20 years girl.

> *I had a very tough childhood; my parents treated me so badly that I hate them. One day, I will have more money and assets than my parents currently have. Therefore, I have no complaints about doing this work though it is a very difficult job. Once I went with a client in a hotel in Pame and it was my first time in the sex work. The client was an Indian guy. He forced me to fulfill his unnecessary desires. When I refused, he threatened me saying if I refuse he will do whatever he wants to do. I was so scared that I had no choice. He had forceful anal sex with me. I was crying in the pain and begging but he didn't listen to me. I was bleeding so badly that I thought I was going to die that night. Actually, I had no idea about what abuse is as I was only 17 years old at that time*

Force as a destiny

As described in the previous case, force is the destiny of the FSWs. Few other FSWs stated that they are often asked to do things that they don't want to do. During the group discussion also, FSWs spoke about being forced to fulfill clients' desires and the inability to resist or complain. Many FSWs also mentioned that they are doing this job just for money and these challenges are not peculiar for them. In fact, they have to sell their pain with money; higher the level of pain higher the amount of money that they get. Oral sex, anal sex, or 'unnecessary desires of the clients' were described as the daily experience. Sometimes the client asked them to do extra work for extra money, but they won't pay them. In such a situation, they feel helpless and exploited.

Main Problems Faced in Profession

The reported problems of the professions were extensive and diverse. Most women reported that they have a big mental burden of being unable to disclose their work to family, relatives, friends, and community. Some of them even dared to keep their work secret from the husband and children which is constant mental torture for them. Many said that stigma and police raids or lack of freedom are the main problems of the profession. During the interactions, they repeated that all of these problems would likely be addressed through legal recognition of the profession. Harassment and haphazard arrest from police were also considered a significant problem of the profession.

> As a Nepali citizen, we are entitled to get protection and security from the police officer. Unfortunately, they treat us so badly. Sometimes they arrest us without shreds of evidence. If we pay money they can leave us anytime. I think that it can be the money-making business for the police. Several times, I have been abused by clients and I know it's wrong. But I can't do anything because I am always worried about my profession being disclosed with my family, relatives, and friends

Problems directly related to the nature of work were less frequently reported. However, health risks, unwanted pregnancy, risk of HIV or STI's and being exhausted were some of the problem recognised by a few of them. The risk of physical violence or abuse by intoxicated clients were also considered as a big challenge in the profession.

"Having sex with random persons and living with my grown-up children in the same place is very awkward and upsetting. I feel so disheartened to find myself in such a situation".

Health Issues

Most of them reported they rarely fell sick. It may be because they are mostly young girls. Common health issues reported were viral fever, limb, and joint pain, menstruation-related issues and mental issues. Other sicknesses were individual-specific such as brain tumour, uterus problem, uric acid and high blood pressure induced headaches. Based on these responses, it does not appear that there are common sicknesses experienced by female sex workers as a group except the mental health issues. However, it is important to note there that they are often not willing to share their sexual health problems with outsiders. When we tried to verify with the social workers, they also confirmed that sexual health problems are not uncommon among them. It is interesting to know that few participants in FGD explained that they often feel depressed but they never heard that it is an ailment and also curable one.

Most FSWs appeared healthy and strong, while only a few of them looked skinny and pale. Even those FSWs who looked frail and weak reported that they feel healthy and strong. Perception of health and illness is a subjective evaluation. On the other hand, it cannot be ignored that these FSWs generally can fulfilling their basic needs with their income.

Access to Health Care Services

When the women are sick, they either take themselves to the doctor or by a neighbour or friend. If they are living with the hotel owner, they are taken to the doctor by the owner. Few women shared that hotel owner takes full responsibility because they are worried about police raid if it is disclosed that the patient is a sex worker. Unfortunately,

it also indicates that the privacy issue can severely limit their access to health care services, particularly in the public service domain.

Safety in Sexual Contact

Most women reported that they often use condoms when involved in sex work. While few others said that they skip it "most of the time" as many clients refuse to use it. A more dangerous situation is that virtually all of them reported that they don't use a condom while having sex with their boyfriends or husbands because they often refuse to use the condom. One woman reported that she did not ask her husband to use condoms as she is afraid about husband knowing that she involves in sex work. In the case of unmarried FSWs, they seem to change their boyfriend quite often. All this information indicates that the FSWs took the protection casually though they know about the risks.

Addictions and Substance Use

All FSWs were found using alcohol, cigarette, and other substance. During the interview, it became very difficult to stay in their room due to the smell of alcohol and smoke. Some women were even smoking during the interview process. Most of them use alcohol and cigarettes while few others disclosed that they use marijuana too. Most of the FSWs smoke every day and it seems to be quite common. Alcohol is also used by the majority of them. Reasons for having such addictions were related to stress and psychological condition. The main explained reasons include release stress, peer influence, giving company to the clients, and enjoyment. Few FSWs stated that they are completely addicted to these substances and cannot give up. The findings indicate that dependency on alcohol and substances is making them more vulnerable to health risks and abuses.

2.7. Psychological/Emotional State

Situations Making FSWs Worried

The majority of them worried about their future as they realised that they can't continue working as a sex worker when they get older. Basically, they seem to be aware of all the risks, challenges related to the profession. Due to high pay and flexible working nature, they still prefer to work as a sex worker. But they are quite

clear that this will not sustain them for a long time. Many of them were seriously anxious about their situation in the old age.

Hurting Self

All FSWs said that they have tried to physically harm themselves at some point. It shows their state of mind. Few also reported that they sometimes have thought of committing suicide. In hard times, most of them don't talk with anyone, they just stay quiet, drinking alcohol or sleeping. Some of them talk with a friend when they feel down. However, no one can speak to the family and relatives because they are worried about disclosing their status. In most cases, FSWs deal with their emotions on their own though some level of counselling and other supports are available and accessible to them. However, the legal and social issue plays a big role in limiting access to counselling and other therapies for their problems.

Happy Moments in Profession

Most of the FSWs stated that they never had the happiest moment since they started working in this profession. Their dismal statements indicate that they not particularly happy or excited about anything in their lives. However, FSWs did share that they feel happy when they earn good money, support family, meet good clients and get more money from the client.

Worst Moments in Profession

The worst moments were mostly related to client behaviour and finance. FSWs frequently reported that the client abuse or rudeness is their usual worst moments. They also confessed that not only clients but also the police officers treat them badly with no respects which makes them really sad and upset. A few of them said that suffering from financial problems and being unable to support their family or children have been their worst moments.

> *I got married when I was just 16; after one year I had a baby boy.*
> *I was happy with my married life. However, it did not last for long.*
> *After spending a few good moments in married life, my hard time*
> *started. My husband had an affair with other girls and my in-laws*

> *started to treat me with extreme disrespect. So, I didn't have any*
> *option except to leave home. I came to Pokhara with my son and*
> *started to live with one of my friends. I didn't have money to feed*
> *myself and my son. Finally, my friend advised me to work in a*
> *restaurant. This is the point that I started to work as a sex worker*
> *to fulfill my basic needs. I am not happy with my work as most of*
> *the time I go through hell. Once I went out with the client for night*
> *services, he took me to the hotel near Begnas Lake. When I*
> *entered the room, I saw three men already in the room. They*
> *forced me to have group sex and when I refused they kicked me*
> *outside in the middle of the night. That night, I cried a lot. I felt that*
> *my life has no value. That's why I really wish to change my job and*
> *start a new life.*

Feel positive about life

Many FSWs do not feel positive about their life. While asked the question about life, their facial expressions were changed and they seem to be very upset and sad. They said that they don't have many options apart from choosing this profession to live and feed their children. They added that they don't have any explicit excitement about their life. They are just living and carrying on with the things that they think are predestined.

> *I always feel upset when I think about my profession; I have to*
> *deal with all types of clients just for money. I am worried about*
> *disclosing my identity. When I get upset I can't share with anyone*
> *which is very painful.*

However, other few told that they are trying to be happy, not thinking too much about it. They said that at least they have a job and are able to earn a good amount of money to fulfill their children's needs. They stressed that they are the workers just like others.

> *One day, my husband suddenly disappeared and left me with two*
> *children in my shoulders. I always wanted to give a good*
> *education and a better life for my children. But I had no option for*

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> *this. So I started to work as a sex worker where I can get higher*
> *pay compared to other works. At least I am able to send my*
> *children to a good boarding school which would not be possible*
> *without earning a good amount. Therefore, I am quite okay with*
> *this profession.*

2.8. Needs and Aspirations

Moving out of Profession

Most of the FSWs said that they would like to leave this profession and start a new life if there are any viable options. A few of them had a chance to attend vocational training, they did not complete the course. During the focus group discussion, we tried to explore the reasons. FSWs are willing to complete the course but once they join the course they were not able to work and earn money which is very essential for sustaining the lives of not only their own but also their dependents. They argued if there was a system that provided financial support to women experiencing financial hardship, there might be opportunities for them to engage in education or vocational training and finally find a decent job. It was also observed that the younger girls are less likely to leave this profession as they think that it is still an easier way to make money.

Most of the FSWs expressed the need for financial support to leave the current profession. Few women emphasized the need for guidance and monitoring from government and non-government organisations who work with women and children. More specifically, this can be linked to the support regarding education and skill-based training courses or financial support. Interestingly, a few of them reported that they don't need any support and intervention. One FSW said that she doesn't believe that there are people or organisation who are really willing to help them. In the same vein, another FSW reported that she is fine with the current situation.

In both interviews and FGDs, FSWs equivocally stressed the need of legalising the profession in order to ensure their rights and be able to speak out against abuses or safety concerns as well as potentially receive better treatment and respect from local police. Another major area of support indicated by women was rules and regulations

from their employer with regard to clients. For example, a client entry recording system can help to restrict those who have been abusive to the FSWs previously. This is unlikely to happen while the profession is unrecognised and employers hold control over the workplace.

> *I have completed +2 and left the university when I was studying at the bachelor level. I have been working as a sex work since 2017. I am educated and have the skills to work and earn good money. I run my own business. But human needs are unlimited. To fulfill my unlimited needs, I work as a sex worker intermittently. This is an easy way of making money. I hate Nepal's government policy; they should legalize this work. They are not able to catch and punish the rapist. There are many innocent girls who are being raped every day. Why they are running behind those people who are doing their business with both parties' (Client and FSW) agreement inside the closed doors.*

Support needed for moving out

Many of the women opined that vocational training is an essential condition to leave the sex work profession. Most of them preferred skill-based training like beautician training. Culturally speaking, a beautician is often taken as ideal training for women like FSWs as it is considered a more feminine occupation not having a competition with the men. Another most common needs reported were the financial support along with job facilitations. Some women also expressed that they would need confidence and educational support to acquire a new skill as many of them don't have a good education or even basic literacy skills in some cases. Therefore they think that it might be difficult for them to learn a new skill and switch the occupation. They wanted to join informal education (including English language courses) which they think can help them to join a job or run a business on their own. The same level of interest was shown in the entrepreneurship. Many of them reported that they wish to set up and run businesses such as a hotel, a family business in their home village, a cosmetic shop, and a fruit cum vegetable shop in the city. For this, they realised the need for subsidized and special loan schemes and other technical supports.

Existing Support and Gaps

Most of the FSWs were found currently accessing services from local non-government organisations. Services being provided by these organisations include rescue, shelter, HIV and STI testing, counselling about safe sex and gender-based violence and general sexual health check-up clinics, mobile services. Women who have entered the profession recently were not aware of and did not use the services. The main reported gaps in the support were financial support, business packages, skill-based training with job opportunities, informal education or free education and health services. A few of them also noted that they need special health support like 'rapid plasma regain testing' (a test for Syphilis) which used to be available but discontinued now. Even after several probing, a few women were not able to explain what type of supports they exactly need. It is also related to their low level of education and lack of awareness.

In FGD, one FSW suggested that a red light zone must be declared as in India with a province-level license. But other women disagreed with her. They argued that the red light zone means anyone can walk into the services and their privacy will be compromised. We are working as a sex worker because we don't have any options for income generation. They expect that the police should stop harassing them. We don't want to be treated as a criminal. They insisted on the legalisation the profession here too. In this regard, they also had expectations from the non-governmental organisations (advocacy) and society at large (changing attitude towards sex work).

"If the government is not willing to legalise this profession they must be able to stop it completely. It seems that the government is worried about us involving in such work to feed our children but they are not worried about the kids who will go hungry if we don't do such work."

> *If the government is not willing to legalise this profession they must be able to stop it completely. It seems that the government is worried about us involving in such work to feed our children but they are not worried about the kids who will go hungry if we don't do such work.*

CHAPTER-III
SITUATION OF GIRLS IN ENTERTAINMENT SECTOR

3.1. The Context

The entertainment sector comprises establishments such as restaurants, dance bars, Dohori Sajh (a night restaurant that offers Nepali duet folk songs along with food and drink). There is no systematic study and estimation of this group. An organisation working with this group in Pokhara has estimated the population ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 in 2019 (based on consultation). However, the number can be high because there are many small scale businesses which are run informally. The study of girls in the entertainment sector is important to understand the mechanism of young girls entering the sex market. In most cases, it is a transitional state in the making of sex workers. The night entertainment sector is one of the important routes to commercial sex work. Initially, they work as cleaner, waiter, cook, and dancer and finally end up in sex work in most cases. Girls working in restaurants and bars, also have a connection with hotels and lodges. Restaurant and dance bars are also the preferred place of entertainment in cities like Pokhara. It is common for the girls working in the restaurants and dance bars to gradually switch to various forms of commercial sex works.

This chapter provides a qualitative description and analysis of the girls working in entertainment sectors particularly focusing on the factors affecting the entry to this sector, working situation, vulnerability and abuse, perceived challenges, access to supports and required supports.

3.2. Socio-demographic Backgrounds

The age of the women in the sample ranged from 18 to 29. Generally, younger girls are preferred in this sector as the glamour is considered an important variable in the success of the business. Geographically, only a few women were originally from Kaski district whereas most of them were from nearby districts like Parbat, Baglung,

Kathmandu, Sindhupalchowk, Lamjung, and Gorkha. In terms of caste/ethnic background, there is no significant variation. However, there were fewer women who belonged to the Dalit group. It may be due to their lower caste status (not all employers find them appropriate for restaurant works as some degree of untouchability is still in practice)..

Table 3: Socio-demographic backgrounds of the Informants

SN	Age	Caste/Ethnicity	Marital Status	Education
1.	18	Brhamin/Chhetri	Unmarried	SLC Completed
2.	19	Brhamin/Chhetri	Unmarried	Completed grade-10
3.	20	Brhamin/Chhetri	Unmarried	Completed grade-11
4.	23	Brhamin/Chhetri	Separated	Completed grade-9
5.	24	Brhamin/Chhetri	Married	Completed grade-8
6.	29	Brhamin/Chhetri	Married	Completed grade-10
7.	27	Janjati	Married	Illiterate
8.	21	Janjati	Separated	Completed grade-10
9.	22	Janjati	Unmarried	Completed grade-10
10.	22	Janjati	Separated	Completed grade-9
11.	22	Janjati	Unmarried	Completed grade-9
12.	23	Janjati	Married	Completed grade-9
13.	20	Dalit	Married	Completed grade-10
14.	25	Dalit	Married	Literate
15.	27	Dalit	Separated	Illiterate

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Education

The highest level of education completed was Grade 11 whereas most of them have completed up to the primary level only. Few were illiterates too. Except for one girl, none of the women are currently studying. Before entering this profession, the majority of them were studying. There were several reported reasons for dropout from school such as poverty, lack of family support, early marriage/marriage, peer influences, no

desire to study. It is worth note here that most of the girls have no desire to resume their studies. A few girls said that they were interested in dancing and singing and that was the main reason they left school. They were attracted by the job opportunities in the entertainment sector that could provide income as well as fulfill their desire.

> *I love dancing and I am a good dancer. But my parents never allow me to involve in the entertainment sector. Currently, I am doing +2 in management. I don't want to depend on my parents all the time. There are no other job opportunities in Nepal. That's why I decided to work here without disclosing this with my family.*

3.3. Family Factors

Family Situation

Around half of them were married and living with their husband. A few reported that they were separated because of the husband's behaviour such as abusive treatment, irresponsible nature, use of alcohol and drug and have affair with other girls. It is obvious that working in the entertainment sector and maintaining family life is not easy for them. There are more chances to have a misunderstanding between husband and wife. Married women were not happy with their married life because of difficulties in balancing work and family life. They have to bear the verbal abuse of the husband on a daily basis. All married women had children. These women reported difficulties in parenting their children because of the work demands.

Parental Family Background

Occupations of the family include mostly agriculture, small business, local job and job abroad. The family size varies from 3 to 11 members. With regard to the family situation, the majority of the women reported no problems in their family. It indicates that family problems are not a prominent factor for leaving home and becoming involved in the entertainment sector. However, like the FWS, there were few women who reported no problem with her family but later confessed that they experienced abuse at home. It seems they define family problems differently or some of them don't want to put the blame on their family.

> *I am Brahmin by caste; I loved singing since I was a child. But my father has a good reputation in the society, He never wants me to choose singing field. I used to hide from him and took part in musical programmes. Several times he abused me verbally and physically, One day I decided to run away from home and got married. After marriage, we both moved to Pokhara and I started to work in the Dohori Sajh (duet folk song performed usually in night restaurants).*

Income

Some of the women said that they are happy with their income and flexible working hours. In most cases, their work starts in the evening from around 6.30 pm to 11 pm. So, they can do other works in their day time and earn sufficient income to full their need. Some of them reported that their money is not sufficient to fulfil their need and they have to find other sources. In many cases, they are underpaid or economically exploited. Most women use their money for livelihood expenses. Other uses of income include spending on luxury (going out for shopping, movies, buying the latest gadgets, enjoy with friends), meeting children's basic needs, education, and health.

> *I work 7 days a week and my monthly salary is only NPR 4000. If I am not able to get tips to form guest, I can't afford to live*

3.4. Reported Reasons to Join Entertainment Sector

In most cases, the factor pushing and pulling the girls and women into the entertainment sector is similar to the case of FSWs. Here also, the most predominant factors include:

- Insufficient financial support from the family
- Lack of alternative opportunities
- The work is easy and fun
- Influence of peers or relatives

As explained earlier, most of the women did not report the abuse in their family as a reason to join this profession. But there were few cases which indicate that they left home or started to work because of the family situation. The economic factor is very

important. Many of them migrated to the city for a job and continue their education. Only a few reported they entered the sector because of their choice or interest. In most cases, a lack of financial support from family pushed them to find a job with or without continuing their education. In some cases, they have to work to support their family members back home. Lack of other viable alternatives and peer influence often lead them to join the entertainment sector.

Generally, women reported that they spend their money to pay for social life, going out and luxuries whereas only a few women are saving money. It is also difficult to save for the future unless they have someone to support financially or if they have other sources of income. All women did, however, add that the profession still provides higher income in fewer hours than the others do. It also allows them to do part-time work. These are the main reason they are continuing this work.

> *I am 19 years old and I completed SLC a few years back. My father is a very selfish person; he lives with the stepmother. He never supports us. After I completed the SLC, I came to Pokhara with my mother and sister. I tried my best to find an appropriate job to support my families and continue education. In most places, at least +2 (higher secondary) level academic qualification and citizenship card were required. I didn't have both. Finally, one of my friends suggested me to work in a dances bar. So I have been working here since 2015. My mum and sister don't know about my work. I have told them that I am working in a different job.*

As noted earlier, the entertainment sector (particularly the night entertainment sectors) is a transitional state to CSW. If the income is still inadequate and financial pressure builds up, they may enter the sex market as a part-time sex worker or finally transform them into full-time FSWs. In other cases, guests or employees persuade them to involve in CSW. This works as an indirect coercion for these girls to enter CSW. And they often end up as a full-time FSW. The figure below summarizes the factors shaping the entry of girls and women into the entertainment sector and finally into commercial sex work.
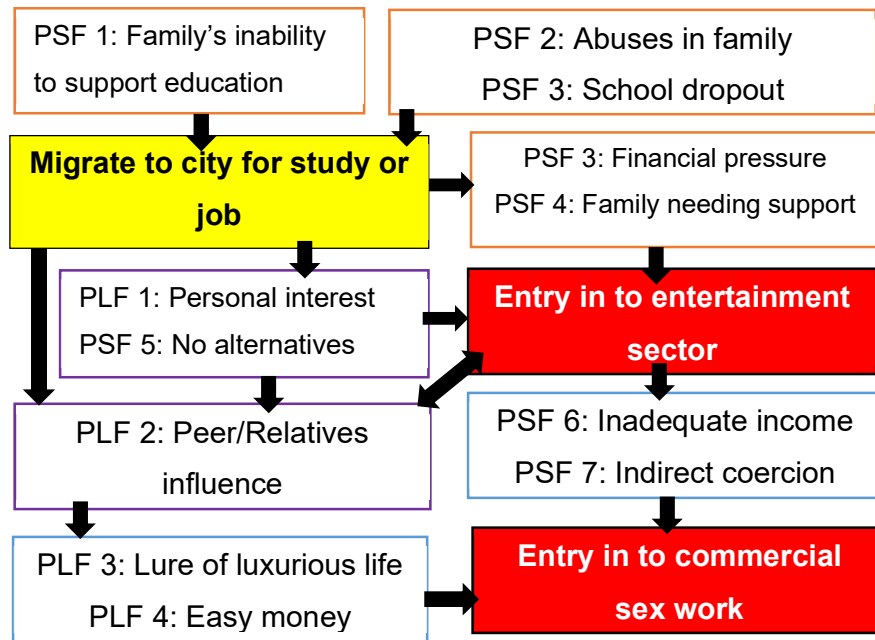
Figure 3: Factors shaping entry in to CSW vis a vis entertainment sector

The majority of the women said that they never experienced abuse at home. Only a few of them reported that they had experienced verbal and physical abuse by their parent. Most of the women were involved in this profession through a friend whereas few women were brought by their neighbours. None of them reported that they were forced by someone to work in the entertainment sector.

> *Money plays vital roles in our day to day life. I saw some of our friends who work in the entertainment sector, earning good money and enjoying their life. That's why I wanted to work in this job.*

3.5. Risk and Safety

Current Living Status

All women were migrants except one girl and none of them currently live in their parental home/community. Most of the girls are living in the rented room with their friends. Only few girls are living with their parents and husband. All women frequently visit their places and also support their family economically. However, none of them have disclosed their working status with their family. It indicates that they also think that it is not a decent profession in relation to cultural value.

Safety and Abuse in Work Place

In most cases, they started to work in this profession when they were below 20 years whereas few other started late between 22 to 27 years. Most women stated that they do not feel safe at their work place because there are not any clear rules and regulation. Anyone can walk into the restaurant and bar and most of the guests are alcoholic and rude. Moreover, some guests and owner also persuade them to involve in the sex work. If they refuse, they are often misbehaved. It also shows that they are more likely to involve in sex work.

Virtually all reported some kind of abuse. Verbal abuse and inappropriate touch from guest are the most common abuses experienced by this group. Only few women have experienced physical abuse at their workplace. It is interesting to know that most of the women don't feel bad when someone verbally abuse them. They take it for granted as one restaurant worker explained below.

> *I don't think scolding is an abuse and it is not even an issue. It is quite normal and very common in our profession. We are accustomed to these things.*

It show that these women don't know about their right and outside world. Additionally, stigma related to this profession and privacy issue also put them in more vulnerable to abuse. All women work 7days (35 to 42 hours) in a week. They don't have any day off unless they are sick. Some of them said that working 7 days a week is too much for those who have children and family. But they don't have any option. It indicates that they don't have leisure to entertain themselves.

Forced to do any thing

All women interviewed stated that they don't have to do any extra works. Some women reported that sometime they don't know how much they will get paid at the end of the month. During field visit, it was observed that some girls are not confident to complain and raise their voice against the hotel owner. They confessed that they are afraid of losing their job.

> *"It has been couple of years that I have been working in this sector. Last week, I moved to this new dance bar. I don't know how much they are going to pay me. They haven't said anything."*

Involvement in Sex Work

Most of them said that they often get offer from the guests to have sexual relationship. Few of them reported that when they refuse their request, they are sometimes abused verbally and physically. However, it must be noted here that not all of these girls are telling truth because they don't want to disclose about this with an outsider. We triangulated this information with other sources. We consulted with social workers of an organisation, they told a different story. One of the social worker stated:

> *"Many of them lied with you. Actually, many of them are working as a sex worker in home based setting during day time. They do arrange themselves over the phone and either go out with the clients or invite them in their room".*

We also observed that some of the girls whom we saw in the restaurants and bars were found arranging date for HIV/ STI tests in the organisation. Therefore, it is not difficult to assume that entertainment sector is one of the main routes to the commercial sex market.

Main Problems Faced

The most commonly reported problem was the inability to disclose their work to family, relatives, friends and community. It puts a lot of pressure on them and they are in a state of constant fear. Other common issues were working in the night time, stigma and discrimination, verbal abuse and inappropriate touch from guest. Other work related problems include dealing with alcoholic and druggist guests, low income, busy work schedule and lack of job security. In some cases, guests persuading for the sex work was also reported as the problem. Lack of job security was also one of the reported issues.

> *"If the hotel owner is not happy with us, anytime they can kick us out from the job. This is a big problem in the profession".*

> *"Unfortunately, most of the people don't respect our work. I am always worried about what happens when my family knows about my profession. I know that we are also doing our job and not begging and stealing money from anyone. But no parents want to see their daughter in this profession".*

Health Issues

Similar to FSWs, most of these women reported that they rarely feel sick. However, there were a few they fall sick quite often. Sickness like seasonal fever, white discharge, heavy bleeding during mensuration and abdominal cramps were reported. However they did not report any specific sicknesses common for all who work in the entertainment sector. In the case of sickness, they either take themselves to the doctor or taken by family or friend. In few case, their employer also takes them to the hospital.

Addiction and Substance Use

Most of these women use some kind of intoxicating products. Most of them said that they drink and smoke just for business purpose. Unfortunately it often developed into addiction. Few girls shared that they are responsible to encourage the guest to spend more money while they are in the hotel. It is somehow mandatory to smoke and drink if you are working in this field. In most cases, they use alcohol and cigarettes while few women reported that they use marijuana too. In most cases, they smoke cigarettes regularly and alcohol is taken occasionally. Reasons for using alcohol and cigarette were similar to the reasons given by FSWs. It includes managing stress, peer influence, giving clients company, and for fun and enjoyment. Few women stated that they are completely addicted to these substances.

3.6. Psychological and Emotional State

Compared to FSWs, many of the girls working in the entertainment sector were found positive about their profession, appeared happier and reported they are enjoying the work. However, in most cases, their gestures (look upset) were changed while responding to this question. Some of them got emotional too. They said that they don't have many options apart from continuing this work to feed themselves and children (if married). A girl spoke about her dislike:

> *I never got support from my husband. I wished to be a good wife and mother and stay at home looking after children. But I can't afford to do that because I have to work hard to earn money to support my family. I have to do the work that I don't like. I am very upset about my life.*

However, few women did say that they feel positive about their life because they have freedom. Some women said that stigma related to our profession is the only reason they are worried about it. Other than that they don't have any problem.

> *I am really happy with my life. I am studying and working as well. I love dancing. Our profession is not taken positively in society. My parents and relatives don't know about my work. Sometimes, I get worried about this.*

Situations making Them Worried

The majority of them worried about their future because they can't continue working in the entertainment sector when they get older. Other worries expressed include health concerns, loneliness, disclosure of profession, the behaviour of husband and inappropriate touch from the guest. Husbands' bad behaviour (abuse, affair with other girls) and children's future were also reported as the matters making them worried.

> *I don't feel good about my life. I have to find a decent job as I can't work in this field forever. I also get worried when I think about my future*

Attempt to hurt self

Most of the women said that they never tried to hurt themselves whereas some women did try to physically harm themselves at some point. Many of them confessed that they don't share their problems rather prefer to keep quiet or try to forget indulging in alcohol. But few of them said that they often talk with friends in the hard

times. But they can't share with their family and relatives which makes them often feel helpless.

Worst and Best Moments in Profession

Some women explained that they feel very happy whenever they get reward and appreciation form their employer and tips from the customers. One girl shared that last month she got an invitation from her hometown for a musical programme where she received awards and appreciation. It made her happy. Unlike FSWs, these groups are in a better psychological and emotional state. Sometimes they have opportunities to feel valued and get respect from others.

The worst moments were mostly client and finance related. There are situations when their clients scolded and touched inappropriately or showed rudeness to them. In these situations, they feel very bad. A few women said that financial problems and being unable to support their family or children were their worst moments.

> Last month, my manager shouted at me without any reason. That made me upset. I wanted to leave the job immediately but I could not quit for financial reasons.

3.7. Needs and Aspirations

Moving out

All of them said that they would like to leave this profession and start a new life if there are better options. Most women said that they need support in skill-based training such as beautician, cook, and music. Another common need reported was financial support.

> *I would like to work in the five-star hotels as a waiter,*
> *I would be grateful if I get a chance to enroll in waiter*
> *and hotel management related course.*

Support for Safety in Work

As noted earlier, most of them are concerned about safety issues related to this profession. Few of them advised that they will feel safe if the hotels have clear rules and regulations, guest entry recording systems, CCTV cameras, and security guides.

Existing Support and Gaps

Interestingly, except for one woman, none of them reported they receive help or support from any organisation and group. There are a few organisations in Pokhara working particularly for those women who work in the entertainment sector. But the findings show that reach is still very low. Only one woman received free sexual health check-up, counselling, and awareness programme related to HIV/STI and gender-based violence. Few hotel owners explained that women who work in the entertainment sector have high mobility and that could be the one reason for not receiving help and support form organisation or groups. Many women wished to receive vocational training and some of them would like to join advanced levels vocational training such as beautician courses, cook training, vocal, and music-related course. A few also wished support in informal education. Many recommended that it would be more effective if there is a mechanism/system to provide financial support for those needy women during their course so that they can pay their living expenses and feed their children.

Expectations from the government

Many women stated that the government should provide equal job opportunities for everyone based on their needs and capacity. Similarly, some women said that they should provide skill-based vocational training with job placement. One girl satirically commented

> *We are not working here for fun. We don't have any skills and qualifications to work in the other sector. So the government should try to identify the problem and challenges related to this filed. They should find out why the girls are choosing this type of work. The government should protect and support them by doing need analysis and provide training based on need and capacity.*

CHAPTER-IV
SITUATION ANALYSIS OF STREET CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

4.1. The Context

For the purpose of this research, street CYPs are those children and young people who live on the streets of urban areas. The 'street children free city' policy of the government has made it difficult to estimate the size of the population. They have become more invisible due to fear of arrest from police and being picked up by organisations. Based on the observation and reporting of the CYPs, it is estimated that there are around 50-60 CYPs on the street of Pokhara at a point in time. The problem of street CYPs is a ubiquitous issue of all growing cities across the globe. However, the preventive measures and protection and reintegration interventions are crucial to its management. The current policy of the government lacks the understanding of the contexts of the problem and the appropriate methodology of intervention. In this connection, this study tries to explore the current situation of the street CYPs in Pokhara particularly focusing on their living and working conditions, risks and hazards and needs and gaps in the support.

4.2. Socio-demographic Background

Age Groups of Informants

OF the total, 21 CYPs in the sample, the largest group age group is 12-13 years. This indicates that despite the government's 'street children free' policy, children are still pushed out of their family to the street life. Another notable finding is that there are older street CYPs. Addressing their issue is also important because they drive the younger ones. Of the total, one-third of them were aged 19-20 years. Both younger children and older youths were found living together. Behind this, there is a kind of reciprocity. The senior protects from other gangs to the younger ones while the younger children earn money by begging and stealing things. They are also used as a carrier of illegal substances.

Origin District

The source district of the CYPs was found diverse. Only a few (23.9%) were from the Kaski district. Few of them were from far east Jhapa to far west Surkhet. The rest of the other was mainly from Baglung Kapilbastu, Gorkha, Lamjung, Makwanpur, Nawalparasi. It also suggests that the migration of marginalized families is contributing to the issue of street CYPs. In some cases, CYPs migrated alone from their home district and in other cases, they were accompanied by their parents.

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Table 4: Origin District

District	Number	Percentage
Kaski	5	23.8
Myagdi	4	19.0
Syangja	2	9.5
Tanahun	2	9.5
Others	8	38.1
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Caste Background

As presumed, two-third of the CYPs belong to the Dalits group. Dalits are the highly marginalized groups of the population concerning socio-economic status, privilege, and political power. Poverty, discrimination, alcoholism, powerlessness and social discrimination are important factors that result in poor living conditions, illiteracy, neglect of CYPs, domestic violence and dysfunctional families among the Dalits. Generally, these factors push CYPs out of their families.

Table 5: Caste/Ethnic Backgrounds

Caste Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
Brahmin	2	9.5
Chhetri	3	14.3
Dalit	14	66.7
Not known	2	9.5
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Education Status

Except few (14.3%), all of them had gone to school in the past. Around half of them left their school when they were in grade 2-3. None of them are currently going to school. In most cases, family related issues such as poverty and domestic violence were reported as the reasons for leaving the schools. Peer pressure was also referred by many of them. In some cases, school-related problems such as corporal punishment were also reported. By and large, all these factors are rooted in the inability of the families to provide a conducive environment for the CYPs. It will be elaborated further in the family section.

Table 6 : Education Status

Grade completed	Number	Percentage
Never gone to school	3	14.3
1	1	4.8
2	6	28.6
3	4	19.0
4	1	4.8
5	3	14.3
6	3	14.3
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

4.3. Family Factors

Almost half of the CYPs recognized their family as dysfunctional having some sort of problems. The common problems reported were alcoholism, indebtedness, domestic violence along with unfriendly step-parents.

Table 7: Functional Status of Family

Response	Number	Percentage
Both parents (without problem)	1	4.8
both parents (with problem)	7	33.3
Family with mother only (with problem)	1	4.8
Family with father only (without problem)	3	14.3
Family with father only (with problem)	1	4.8
Children home	5	23.8
Other	3	14.3
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Living Place

In most cases (52%), the parents are living in and around Pokhara. But there are other CYPs whose parents live far from Pokhara (e.g. Jhapa, Surkhet). However, CYPs are not living in their home even if their parents are living in and around Pokhara. Only a few (20%) CYPs are currently living with family (occasionally sleep with family). Most of them live and sleep on the street. There are few locations in which CYPs carefully chooses to sleep avoiding police arrest. They also frequently change their location to avoid being caught by the police and the organisations.

Family size and type

Unlike in the past, the size of the family was found relatively small. Most have a nuclear family having members size ranging from 4-8. This also indicates a state of demographic transition in the Nepali population. Nuclearisation of the family can also be associated with the issue of the child leaving the family. As parents are out of home for work, there is no adult to care and protect the CYPs. Most families have 1-3 children. Interestingly mothers were the breadwinner for over one-third of the families. Only one-third of the families were relying on fathers as the breadwinner. It shows a different picture and also the lack of care for children as mothers have less time to care for their children.

Reported Causes of Leaving Family

CYPs are living there for a long time. Some of them have been living there for a long time and were already taken to rehabilitation shelters but fled from there. The most frequently reported reasons for leaving family were family-related issues such as misbehave and neglect by the parents and lack of fulfilment of basic needs. Few others reported peer influence and lack of interest in education as the reasons for leaving the home.

> *"A young boy explained, whenever my parents 'give me tension,' I come here on the street. I feel bad when beaten and scolded in the family".*

Most (two-thirds) of the CYPs reported that they wish to go back to their home. Only a few reported that they are not interested. It shows that they are lured by the freedom of the street though it is a tough place to live. Those who reported a lack of interest to go back to home explained that they will be bullied by members and neighbours calling *khate* (rag picker). Glue sniffing and independent life were also the major reasons for their unwillingness to go back to home.

The person bringing CYP on the street

The peer influence factor is further substantiated by the table below. Most of the CYPs reported that they were introduced to the street life by their friends. They came to the street accompanying their friends. Siblings were also reported as the person bringing the CYPs on the street.

Table 8: Person bringing CYP on the street

Response	Number	Percentage
Self	3	14.3
Friends	13	61.9
Sibling	2	9.5
Others	3	14.3
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

4.4. Current Living Situation

Sleeping Place

Most of the CYPs is sleeping on the street despite several challenges like police arrest, bullying by seniors and weather-related issues. After the government's 'street children free' policy, it has become very difficult for these CYPs to find a safe place for sleeping and roaming. They are choosing risker places like bridges where other people generally don't go. Consequently, they are becoming harder to reach these days and it has further limited their access to the basic services, protection, and care.

Table 9: Sleeping Place

Response	Number	Percentage
On the street	18	85.7
Others/organisation	3	14.3
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Source of Livelihood

In most cases, they used to live by collecting and selling scraps. Unlike in the past, these days it is not easy for them to engage in such works because of government policy. Local government is restricting scrap yard owners not to by scraps from them. So, the older CYPs has started to work in the construction area. Small children often involve in begging and sometimes theft. They are also forced by their seniors to do these things.

Table 10: Source of Livelihood

Response	Number	Percentage
Working	16	76.2
Begging	4	19.0
Others	1	4.8
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Feel Safe at Work and on the Street

Most of the CYPs reported that they don't feel safe at work and living places. The major reason for insecurity is policy arrest. Similarly, attacks by other gangs and bullying by youth were reported as the reasons for insecurity. The street is always a dangerous place for these CYPs.

Table 11: Feel Safe at Work and on the Street

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	5	23.8
Not	15	71.4
Don't know	1	4.8
Total	1	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Experience of Abuse

Virtually all of them have experienced abuse (95.2%) in day to day basis. The most common forms of abuse reported were bullying by older CYPs and police, snatching of money, physical abuses and denial of food. Most CYPs reported that they are forced to do the things that they did not like. In most cases (71.4), older ones force younger ones to involve in theft and trafficking drugs. As reported earlier street youth has significant effects on the younger children.

Table 12: Ever experienced abuse

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	20	95.2
Don't know	1	4.8
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Main Issues

The main issues identified were guarantee of food, addiction of glue, fear of police and bullying by older street youths. Only a few (14.3%) reported that they regularly take the complete meal. With their earned money, they often buy readymade foods. But earning is not guaranteed and they have to rely on begging. They also reported that some organisations are providing them food. It is worth mentioning that the CYPs hesitate to go to the organisations as they are afraid of being kept in the organisation. Only a few (13.4%) reported that they are taken by someone else in the case of ill health or injury. They are the CYPs who have their families in Pokhara. In many cases, they don't consult health workers or health facilities which is a great matter of concern. As noted earlier, the restrictive policy of the government has negatively affected their access to basic services including health care.

4.5. Risk Behaviours

Sexual Behaviour

The most commonly reported issues in their street life were lack of Not surprisingly, virtually all older CYPs reported that they have had a sexual relationship at least once. Of the total, almost one third reported they have had sex. In most cases, they have

contact with sex workers and these sexual contacts were unsafe. Half of the CYPs reported they have never used condoms as protection while having sex. Even if they have some ideas about unsafe sex, they don't care about using this. They are not using simply because they 'don't like' to use. In other cases, availability was also reported as the factor for the disuse of the condom. One-third of the CYPs don't have any idea about sexually transmittable disease.

Table 13: Ever had sex

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	13	61.9
No	7	33.3
Not applicable	1	4.8
Total	21	100.00

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Substance Use

Substance use is one of the key issues of street CYPs. It not only affects their health and wellbeing but also hinders their reintegration. Not surprisingly, all (100%) reported they use at least one intoxicating substance. Alcohol (mostly household distilled whiskey known as raksi), glue and Cigarette are the most commonly used materials. All younger children use glue as it costs less. Marijuana is also used when available.

Table 14: Substance use

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	21	100.0
No	0	0.0
Total	21	100.00

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

4.6. Psychological/Emotional State

Street CYPs are generally considered tough and resilient as they have to face several challenges in day to day life. But the study found that many of them in a dismal psychological situation. Around two-thirds of them confessed that they have tried to hurt themselves at least once. Almost half of them also reported that they think about

hurting others. CYPs had sour experiences and narrated their psychological conditions in various terms. One of the young boys stated

> *I am fed up with street life. But I cannot leave the street because I cannot give up glue sniffing and I don't like to go back home.*

A young boy explained:

> *I often have bad dreams. I am scared of many things and sometimes cry alone. Big boys often hit me and I am also scared of the police. Since I am an orphan, nobody cares about me.*

A younger boy showed his concern:

> *I am always worrying about how to get a meal and find a proper sleeping place at night. I don't like the current place but I have no option.*

An older youth narrated:

> *I have committed several crimes and was also jailed in a murder case. I think I am not a good person. I feel bad about myself. I want to change my life and do some good work.*

4.7. Needs and Aspirations

Future Plan

Most of the CYPs had no ideas about their plan. Only a few of them showed interest in study and work. Most (2 in 3) of the CYPs reported that they don't like living on the street. The day to day challenges and fears were the reasons for their dislike. Most of these CYPs were concerned about insecurity and uncertainty on the street. The rest of others reported they like this life even if it is hard to live on the street. They cited freedom and availability of substances like glue, no burden of work or easy earning (begging) as the reason behind their liking of the street life. In most cases, the freedom to use substances was referred to as the explanation for their liking.

Moving out from street life

Only a few (9.5%) that reported they don't want to move out of the street life as they don't want to go back home and miss the freedom of the street life. Of those who wish to move out (81%), reported the need for support like education, training, job opportunity, and drug rehabilitation.

Table 15: Wish to move out from street life

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	17	81.0
No	2	9.5
Don't know	2	9.5
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

A 20 years old street youth explained:

I am happy working in dhalan (RCC slab working). I earn money and can live freely on the street. So I don't care about moving from here.

Support Needed

In most cases (42.9%), vocational education and general education (23%) were their wishes for the future. Only a few (19%) wished to continue their current work (construction work) and the rest of others were not sure about their wishes for the future. The data indicates that most CYPs has some level of aspirations to change their lives as a more productive member of society.

Table 16: Support Needed for Moving out of Street Life

Response	Number	Percentage
Education	5	23.8
Vocational training	9	42.9
Continue working	4	19.0
None	3	14.3
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Existing Support for CYPs

CYPs do know that there are organisations that can provide support to them. Over two-thirds of them were familiar with the organisations which can provide them with services in need.

Table 17: Know organisation that provide services in need

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	15	71.4
No	5	23.8
No response	1	4.8
Total	21	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

The type of services provided by most organisations is basic services. On few of them are also providing counselling and reintegration support. CYPs, however, was concerned about the decreased access to service delivery by the organisations which is mainly due to the government policy. One of the CYPs showed his concern:

> *These days nobody supports us. I don't know why they are not supporting us.*

CHAPTER-V
SITUATION OF WORKING CHILDREN AND YONG PEOPLE

5.1. The Context

This chapter provides an overview of the situation of child labour in Pokhara. The established notion of child labour is that it can be regarded as child labour if it does not affect CYPs' health and personal development or interfere with their schooling. If the works deprive CYPs of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development, it should be taken as seriously. Works that are mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to CYPs; and interferes with their educational attainment are considered the child labour to be eliminated (ILO, 2004).

Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals calls for immediate and effective measures to eradicate end child labour in all its forms by 2025 (UN, 2015). Nepal Labour Force Survey 2017/18 shows that of the seven million children aged between 5 to 17 years, around 2.86 million are involved in work for payment (CBS, 2019). In recent years, the situation of the working children has significantly improved in relation to public awareness, awareness of CYPs about their rights and attention from the government on child labour issues. Observation shows that the worst form of child labour has decreased and the working situation has become more decent across the sectors in Pokhara. Credits go to the efforts made by governmental and non-governmental organisations during the last decade. However, this study demonstrates that child labour is still a prominent issue of human rights and child protection in Pokhara.

> **NLFS 2017-18 Child Labour Key Data**
>
> - 286 thousand were involved in work for pay.
> - 2.1 million (29.6 percent) were involved in at least one activity related to producing goods for own final use.
> - 36.3 percent of children were involved in at least one activity related to providing a service for own final use
> - Involvement in these activities was more prevalent among girls (51 percent) than among boys (22.4 percent).
> - 47.5 percent of girls were involved in housework compared to only 19.2 percent of boys.
>
> *Source: CBS, 2019*

5.2. Socio-demographic Backgrounds

Age and Gender

Of the total 61 CYPs, the majority (59.0%) of them were between 15-16 years. Almost one-fourth of them were below 15 years who were mainly domestic workers. There are almost equal percentages of boys (52.5%) and girls (47.5) in the sample. Girls are mostly working in the domestic sphere while most of the boys work in informal and formal business sectors.

Table 18: Age and gender background

Response	Number	Percentage
Age		
10-14	15	24.6
15-16	36	59.0
17-18	10	16.4
Gender		
Male	32	52.5
Female	29	47.5
Total	**61**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Caste/Ethnicity

In terms of caste/ethnicity, CYPs from the Janjati group accounts for 41% followed by 16% Dalits. There were CYPs from Madheshi (plain origin) group, mostly working in automobile servicing (motorbike workshop).

Table 19: Caste/ethnic backgrounds

Caste/Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
Brahmin/Chhetri	5	8.2
Janjati	25	41.0
Dalit	10	16.4
Madhesi	9	14.8
Others	10	16.4
Not known	2	3.3
Total	**61**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Origin District

Interestingly, there were very few from Kaski district and many of these were coming from different places all over the country. There were significant portions of CYPs from Chitwan and Dhading districts. Both of these districts are situated nearby Kaski. CYPs from India were also found working especially in motorbike workshops. In recent times, the workshop is becoming a new area of work for the CYPs. Since some of the workshops are run by Indian origin people, they bring CYPs from their native place to work with them in the workshops.

5.3. Education

Grades Completed

Many (47.5%) of the CYPs completed the primary level (1-5 grades). The other one third have completed lower secondary level (6-8 grades). Of these, many have already left the schools as depicted in the following table.

Table 20: Grades Completed

Response	Number	Percentage
1 to 5 grade	29	47.5
6 to 8	21	34.4
9 to 11	5	8.2
Illiterate	3	4.9
Others	2	3.2
No response	1	1.6
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Currently Studying

Slightly more than one third (39%) reported that they are currently going to school. In most cases, they are the girls (58.6%) who work as a domestic workers. In other work sectors, the employer rarely provides the opportunity to study. So, the percentage of boys going to school is very low (20%). In the domestic sphere, CYPs are allowed to go to school after completing their household chores. In many cases, parents send their children to the city because the employers offer them education of children.

Table 21: Currently Studying

Gender	Yes	No	Total
Boys	6	24	30
	20.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Girls	17	12	29
	58.6%	41.4%	100.0%
Total	23	36	59
	39.0%	61.0%	100.0%

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Reasons for Discontinuing Education

Of those who are not currently studying, most (68.6%) of them reported that it was due to financial reasons. A lack of interest was also reported by a few of them (20%). It can be said that the inability of the family to provide basic services along with the economic value of children push these CYPs out of schools. These CYPs are no longer interested to re-join the school. Most (82.9%) of these CYPs told that they would

not join school even if they are provided with the support. They need to earn for themselves and family and, therefore, it is often not practical for them to resume the school.

Table 22: Reasons for Discontinuing Education

Response	Number	Percentage
Weak financial condition	24	68.6
Failed in exam	1	2.9
Not interested in further study	7	20.0
Others	3	8.6
Total	35	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

5.4. Family Situation

Occupation of Family

The majority (52.5%) of the CYPs come from agricultural backgrounds families. As their family relies on subsistence farming and wage labour, they cannot afford education and other basic services for their CYPs and compelled to send their CYPs to urban areas like Pokhara. Obviously, there are only a few from backgrounds like business and services. In some cases, these CYPs also support families back home from their income (see annex).

Table 23: Occupation of family

Response	Number	Percentage
Farming	32	52.5
Wage labouring	23	37.7
Business	1	1.6
Others	5	8.2
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Family situation

Dysfunctional families are considered one of the main factors pushing children to work untimely. In this study, around one-third of the CYPs reported that they have problematic or dysfunctional families having problems like alcoholism and domestic violence. However, CYPs cannot label their families problematic as they often take it

granted. So, the reported percentage cannot be taken as the exact reflection of the family factors in pushing CYPs out of their families.

Table 24: Family situation

Response	Number	Percentage
Family with both parents (without problem)	24	40.0
Family with both parents (with problem- alcoholism, violence)	15	25.0
Family with mother only (without problem)	3	5.0
Family with mother only (with problem)	5	8.3
Family with father only (without problem)	4	6.7
Family with father only (with problem)	3	5.0
Others	6	10.0
No response	1	1.6
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Currently living with family

Virtually all (93.4%) are living out of family care. Only a few (6.6%) reported that they live with their families. Since most of the CYPs come from other places without their families; they have to live without their own families. They often live with the employer or live independently in the rented rooms.

Table 25: Currently living with family

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	4	6.6
No	57	93.4
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Legal Identity

Around one-fourth of the CYPs did not have any identify certificates which is essential for accessing many public facilities in Nepal. Lack of legal identity is one of the key issues of child rights in Nepal. Nepal's Constitution (2015), Article 11(4) has stated that "Every minor who is found within Nepal and the whereabouts of whose father and mother are not known shall, until the father or the mother of the child is traced, be a citizen of Nepal by descent". However, in practice, it is often difficult for organisations

working with the CYPs to ensure the legal identity of the CYPs because of the bureaucratic rituals and hurdles.

Table 26: Have any Kind of Legal Identity

Response	Number	Percentage
Birth Certificate	43	70.5
Citizenship	1	1.6
None	15	24.6
Don't know	2	3.3
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

5.5. Factors pushing to work

Year leaving home

Around one-third of the CYPs reported they left their home 3-5 years ago. Similarly, there is a significant percentage of newcomers (27.9%) who left their home 1-2 years ago. The data indicates that new CYPs are continuously leaving their home for work in the city.

Table 27: Year leaving home

Response	Number	Percentage
Not known	4	6.6
Less than 1 year	8	13.1
1-2 years	17	27.9
3 to 5	19	31.1
6 and above	13	21.3
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Reported Cause of Leaving Family

In many cases (43.9%), lack of fulfilments of basic needs was reported as the reason to leave their home. This indicates families' inability to provide basic services to their CYPs due to economic reasons. Lack of interest in the study and desire to live in the city are also important factors accounting for 14% and 17.5% respectively. In a nutshell, it can be said that financial constraints in the families are the key factors compelling children to leave their families and join work for survival.

Table 28: Reported cause of leaving family

Response	Number	Percentage
Not fulfilled the needs	25	43.9
Misbehave of step parent	1	1.8
Too much work at home	1	1.8
Desire to live in city	10	17.5
Not interested to study	8	14.0
Other	12	21.1
Total	57	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Person Bringing to Work

In majority cases (50.9%), relatives of the CYPs brought them to City for the work. Others came to the city accompanied by friends (18.9%) and parents (13%). Only a few left home independently. It also indicates that CYPs are often sent to the city area because of the financial constraints in the family where they cannot continue education or need to earn for their families.

Table 29: Person bringing to work

Response	Number	Percentage
Alone	3	5.7
With friends	10	18.9
With parents	7	13.2
With relatives	27	50.9
Others	6	11.3
Total	53	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Willing to go back to family

Interestingly the large majority of the CYPs (83.6%) reported that they don't want to go back to the family. It doesn't mean they dislike going back to the family. They left families for the socio-economic problems which won't be different when they get back home. So, they are reluctant to leave the city. For some CYPs, their employers are providing the opportunity to study in the schools which are not guaranteed if they return home. So, this is not the reintegration issue; it is rather related to the family condition.

Table 30: Willing to go back to family

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	5	8.2
No	51	83.6
No response	5	8.2
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

5.6. Working Situation

Sector of Working

Around one-third of the CYPs are the domestic worker and most (62.1%) they are the girls. Other remarkable numbers (29.5%) of CYPs work in hotel-restaurant, mostly as dishwasher and cleaner. Both girls and boys are in similar percentages in this working domain. The percentage of CYPs working in the workshops is also remarkable (19.7%). All of them are the boys and few of them are from India. Most of the domestic workers are girls (62.1%). In Nepal, girls are considered suitable for domestic chores including child caring. Few well-off families recruit these young girls for these works. If these girls are lucky enough, they also receive good treatment and educational supports. If they are not, they have to bear a heavy workload and sometimes abuse and exploitations. The condition of CYPs working in a restaurant and workshop is not good either. The work burden and difficulties level of the work is high in these work spheres.

Table 31: Sector of Working

Work Type	Boys	Girls	Total
Domestic work	2	18	20
	6.3%	62.1%	32.8%
Workshop	12	0	12
	37.5%	0.0%	19.7%
Hotel-Restaurant	9	9	18
	28.1%	31.0%	29.5%
Industry	4	0	4
	12.5%	0.0%	6.6%
Shop	1	0	1
	3.1%	0.0%	1.6%
Others	4	2	6
	12.5%	6.9%	9.8%
Total	32	29	61
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Living With

Most (77%) of the CYPs are living with their employers. Obviously, only a few (6.5%) have the opportunity to live with their parents. In most cases, their parents are in their villages. Virtually all (90.2%), live in the accommodation provided by the employer in their business place or home (see annex). In some cases, they are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse. In the past and in recent times, cases of abuse of working CYPs were reported in the media.

Table 32: Living Place

Response	Number	Percentage
Parents	4	6.5
Employer	47	77.0
Siblings	1	1.6
Alone	3	4.9
Others	6	9.8
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Age at starting work

CYPs started to work as early as 7-10 years. Of the total, more than one third reported that they started work that early. Almost two-thirds reported that they started between 11-15 years. The data indicate that these CYPs start to work at a very early age. This is a very disheartening situation that these CYPs have to work at their tender age. Actually, their childhoods have been robbed by the socio-economic situation of their families and indifference of the state.

Table 33: Age at starting work

Response	Number	Percentage
7 to 10 years	23	37.7
11 to 15	36	59.0
16 and above	2	3.3

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

5.7. Risk and Safety

Feeling Safe at Work

Around one fourth reported the safety concerns in their work. Interestingly, the percentage of boys is higher than the percentages of the girls. Most of the boys working in the workshop and hotel-restaurant showed their concern regarding injury, accident and bullying. Therefore, the percentage is high among them. A boy in restaurant told that he was seriously injured by hot cooking oil while working in the restaurant. The percentage of girls is low also because they work in relatively safer area, domestic sphere. However, it doesn't coincide with the experience of abuses among the girls.

Table 34: Feel unsafe at your work place

Category	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Yes	10	4	14
	31.3%	13.8%	23.0%
Not	21	21	42
	65.6%	72.4%	68.9%
Don't Know	1	4	5
	3.1%	13.8%	8.2%
Total	32	29	61
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

A young domestic worker girl aged 14 stated her concern:

> *I am always afraid of my employer's son. I think he is not a*
> *good person. I am very worried when I am alone in the home.*

Abuse at work

Half of the CYPs reported that they have experienced abuse in their workplace. The percentage is slightly high among girls. In the case of boys, the abuse is mostly related to economic exploitation by the employer. Employers often deny paying the salary in time. Similarly long working hour, terrorizing and insulting by the employer were also reported by the CYPs.

Table 35: Experienced any abuse at work

Category	Gender		Total
	Boys	Girls	
Yes	15	16	31
	46.9%	55.2%	50.8%
Not	16	12	28
	50.0%	41.4%	45.9%
Don't Know	1	1	2
	3.1%	3.4%	3.3%
Total	32	29	61
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

A boy expressed his concern:

> *I am very afraid of my employer because he drinks raksi (alcohol) and treat me badly at that time.*

A domestic worker girl reported:

> *My employer often scolds me even for minor mistakes. I feel very bad and insecure in these situations.*

Person to share concerns

Most (82%) of them told that they share their concerns and problem with others. Generally, they do with family members (36%), relatives (14%) and friends (16%). These days, the cell phone has become quite affordable and accessible. So, these CYPs can share their concerns or communicate frequently with their parents. Apart from this, few of them reported that they share with the organisations or social workers. However, there were a few (18%) who told that they have none to share their concerns.

Table 36: Have anyone to share concerns

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	50	82.0
No	11	18.0
Total	61	100.0
Share with		
Family member	18	36.0
Relatives	7	14.0
Friends	8	16.0
Organisations	5	10.0
Social worker	4	8.0
Others	8	16.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Health Care Access

Most (83.6%) of the CYPs reported that their employer takes them to the doctor when they fall sick or get injured. It indicates that employers have taken responsibility for providing health care services for these CYPs. This is quite different to the situation of the street CYPs.

Table 37: Person taking to health facility in Sickness/injury

Response	Number	Percentage
Family members	6	9.8
Employer	51	83.6
Self	3	4.9
Others	1	1.6
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Substance Use

Unlike street and slum CYPs, the prevalence of substance use or addiction is very low among the working children. Of the total, only a few (14.8%) reported that they use the substance. They are mostly boys (21.9%). Only a few girls (6.9%) reported the use of such substances. The most common addictions are smoking and drinking alcohol. None of them reported other types of illegal substances which was prevalent among other CYPs.

Table 38: Ever used any substance

Category	Gender		Total
	Boys	Girls	
Yes	7	2	9
	21.9%	6.9%	14.8%
Not	25	27	52
	78.1%	93.1%	85.2%
Total	32	29	61
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

5.8. Psychological/Emotional State

Perceived Issues and Concerns

Similar to other CYPs, financial issues are the main concerns of these group of CYPs too. But work load was also frequently reported issue. Those who are going to school complained that they have very little time to manage time for the study. They have a big challenge of balancing work and study. Employers generally are reluctant to provide adequate time for their homework and study in home.

A 14 years old girl domestic worker narrated:

> *I can't have enough sleep. I have to work for long time and sleep very late. My employer gets angry if I don't get up early in the morning. Especially in the cold days, I feel very bad about working late night and getting up early.*

A domestic worker explained:

> *I want to join non formal education but I don't have free time to do so. If I can read books and write letter, it would make my life better".*

A girl working in a restaurant narrated:

> *I am frustrated with the work load and I feel sad about not having the love and care of the parents. This life is not good.*

A boy working in a workshop expressed his concerns:

> *My employee frequently abuses me verbally even for small mistakes. I feel sad at that time. But I cannot leave this work as I have to support my family and myself.*

Positive about life and future

Despite several difficulties, most of the CYPs reported that they are positive and optimistic about their lives. This is a bit ideal reporting by the CYPs. Surprisingly most

of the CYPs reported that they don't want to leave their work. Of the total, 78% reported that they don't want to leave their work. Actually, they were quite practical to think like that. They explained that current works may allow them to achieve their wishes in the future. If they leave the job, their situation may become worse. So, they are positive in this sense too.

Table 39: Positive about life and future

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	49	80.3
No	3	4.9
Don't know	9	14.8
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

A boy working in a workshop explained:

If I continue to learn the skills of fixing the motorbikes, I will be able to run my workshop one day. So I don't want to leave this work though it is a very difficult job.

A domestic worker girl narrated:

I want to be a nurse in the future. If I leave this job, I will not be able to continue my education. So I will continue to work and study. At least I don't have to worry about fulfilling basic needs like food, clothing and education materials.

5.9. Needs and Aspirations

Want to come out from labour life

Only a few (19.7%) reported that they want to get out of the working life. It cannot be interpreted as their love or willingness to work. It is more about being pragmatic. In other terms, this is not their choice it is rather a compulsion. At least they can generate some earning for their survival, and for a few of the others, it also provides support in their education.

Table 40: Want to come out from labour life

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	12	19.7
No	48	78.7
Don't know	1	1.6
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Almost two-thirds of the CYPs reported that they would like to receive vocational training. But the rest of the others were not interested in this. Most of these are school going girls who would like to continue their general education. They rather expected support in education rather than vocational training. The other few boys who were working in the workshop reported that they would like to continue to learn the skill in the workshop and run their own business in the future.

Table 41: Willing to attend vocational training

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	40	65.6
No	22	34.4
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Support from organisation

The majority (57.4%) of the working CYPs reported that they have been receiving some kind of support from organisations. However, the rest of the others have not received any support yet. The most commonly reported supports were Informal education, follow-up support, and study material support.

Table 42: Support from organisation

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	35	57.4
No	26	42.6
Total	61	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Existing Supports and Gaps

Of those who are currently studying, only a few (17.1%) reported that they have ever received support for their education from social organisations or individuals. In most cases, CYPs uses its income from work to cover the costs of their education. In some cases, the employer (domestic worker) may cover the costs of education and also provide a salary for their work separately.

Table 43: Socio-demographic Background of CYP

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	6	17.1
No	29	82.9
Total	35	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Obviously, financial support was the most sought support by the CYPs. Similarly, support in vocational training was also reported by many. Auto engineering/mechanical skill training was reported by many of the boys working in the workshops. Support in extra tuition and education material was also felt by the CYPs who mostly were the girls working in the domestic work sector. Support for getting a birth certificate/citizenship was also felt by many. Finally, the job facilitation support was also reported by a few of them who are willing to find new jobs.

CHAPTER –VI
SITUATION OF CYP IN SLUMS DWELLINGS

6.1 The Context

Generally, a slum household is defined as a group of individuals living under the same roof lacking one or more of the following conditions: access to improved water, access to improved sanitation, sufficient living area, and durability of housing. The families living in such conditions are called slum dwellers. In developing countries, at least one urban resident in every five lives below the poverty line and 30 percent of poor people live in urban areas worldwide. In Nepal, about 15 percent of urban people live under the poverty line. Urban poverty is a substantial problem due to the high urbanisation rate of poor (MoPE, 2017). The situation of poor inhabitants of slums is often worse than in rural areas. Economic consequences leading to income inequality and poverty, gender inequality and isolation from opportunities are associated with poverty in urban slums.

Population living in slum and squatters increased from 11,850 in the year 2000 to 500,000 in the year 2015 (NPC, 2016). It is easy to presume that the number has grown geometrically in recent years due to the overwhelming speed of migration and urban growth during the last few years. A study conducted in 2013 recorded 52,998 slum dwellers when the total population of Pokhara was 2, 64, and 991 (Sharma D, 2016). As the population growth in Pokhara is accelerating, the number of population living in the slum has

> **SLUM HOUSEHOLD LACKS:**
>
> • **Durable housing** of a permanent nature that protects against extreme climate conditions.
> 2. **Sufficient living space** which means not more than three people sharing the same room.
> 3. **Easy access to safe water** in sufficient amounts at an affordable price.
> 4. **Access to adequate sanitation** in the form of a private or public toilet shared by a reasonable number of people.
> 5. **Security of tenure** that prevents forced evictions (UN-Habitat, 2019)

proportionately grown (difficult to compare data because Pokhara as an administrative unit now includes many other villages after restructuration).

The social characteristics of the slum are very important in the context of this research. Slums are the result of structural inequalities and the changing demography of a society. Poverty, lack of employment opportunities, low level of literacy and educational status, gender-based violence, low access to basic services and high-risk behaviours are the common characteristics of the slum and other marginalised population in the growing urban areas like Pokhara. Combined these characteristics make the slum a precarious place to live and grow particularly for the children and young people. In this connection, this study includes samples of CYPs and families living in a few slum dwellings in Pokhara to explore their situations. Total 52 CYPs and 75 families were interviewed to collect some pertinent information with regard to the objectives of the study.

6.2. Socio-demographic Background of CYP

The age range of CYPs in the study sample was 11 to 21 years. The 16-21 age group comprises 42% of the total sample. Gender wise, 3 in every 4 respondents were boys. It is also because fewer girls were available for the interview. Of the total, a few but remarkable percentage (19.2%) were found married. It was found that marriage is taking place at the age of as low as 14 years. Obviously, this is a matter of concern. In terms of ethnicity, Janjati accounts for 44.2% whereas the high caste Brahmin/Chhetri accounts for only 9.6% of the total sample. This is quite consistent with the general slum and working families in and around Pokhara. Over one-third of the CYPs belongs to Dalit group, the most marginalized caste group.

Table 44: Socio-demographic backgrounds of CYP

Age	Number	Percentage
11 t 15	10	19.2
115	20	38.5
16 to 21	22	42.3
Gender		
Boys	39	75.0
Girls	13	25.0
Marital Status		
Married	10	19.2
Unmarried	42	80.8

Caste/Ethnicity		
Brhamin/Chhetri	5	9.6
Janjati	23	44.2
Dalit	20	38.5
Madhesi	1	1.9
Others	3	5.8
Total	52	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

The origin district of the CYPs in this group is similar to street CYPs. One-fourth of them belong to Kaski. Similarly, districts like Baglung, Sindhuli, and Tanahu are also in notable percentage (7.7% each). It was found that families from districts like Rolpa, which is quite a far away from the remote area of Nepal have settled in Pokhara. Altogether 21 districts were covered in the sample which indicates that Pokhara is increasingly becoming a migration destination for many impoverished families around Nepal.

Currently Living with

One-third of the CYPs reported that they live with their own parents. The percentage of CYPs living with a single parent, husband/wife, and siblings were also remarkable. Only a few reported that they live with step-parents. The data indicates that there are a few CYPs who are out of parental care. Compared to the street CYPs, this group has families with a relatively larger number of children. Two third of the families have 3 and more CYPs (see annex)

Table 45: Currently living with

Response	Number	Percentage
With both parents	18	34.6
Single parent	8	15.4
With Husband/wife	7	13.5
With siblings	6	11.5
Other Relatives	6	11.5
Others	4	7.7
Step father/mother	2	3.8
Alone	1	1.9
Total	52	100.0
With both parents	18	34.6

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

6.3. Educational Status

Virtually all went to school (except for a few 3.8%). Of those who have ever been to school, only a few (13%) are currently going to school. A majority (54.5%) of them reported the economic situation as the reason for discontinuing the school. Lack of interest, failing in exam and unfriendly school environment were other reasons for discontinuing the school. Most of the CYPs reported that they have completed the lower secondary level (6-8 grade) while a few (15.4%) have completed the secondary level. Compared to other groups of CYPs, their education attainment is good but the main problem is drop out. Most of them have already left the school immaturely. So, their existing academic qualification is not helpful for them to find a decent job.

Table 46: Educational status

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	7	14.0
No	43	86.0
Total	50	100.0
Grade/Level		
Up to Primary	7	13.5
Lower secondary	25	48.1
9	4	7.7
10	8	15.4
Higher secondary	5	9.6
Never been to school	2	3.8
Early education only	1	1.9
Total	52	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Getting back to school

Over two-third, (70.7%) of the CYPs opined that they are not interested to go back to school. Family reasons and interest in work were the most frequently reported causes for not willing to re-join the school. But the other one-fourth were found interested in school if they get support. It shows that lack of adequate support and motivation can also be the cause of leaving and not re-joining the school.

Table 47: Interested to go to school or college

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	11	26.8
No	29	70.7
Don't know	1	2.4
Total	41	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

6.4. Working Situation

Worked for money

Only a few (17.3%) reported that they have not worked for money yet. The rest of the others have worked for regularly or intermittently. A majority (55.8%) of them are regularly working for their subsistence. This also substantiates that need of earning money for survival is a factor responsible for the school dropout.

Table 48: Ever worked for money

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes working	29	55.8
Sometimes	5	9.6
Worked before	9	17.3
Never done	9	17.3
Total	52	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Types of work

In most cases, they have worked as a wage labourer. Interestingly, domestic workers are almost non-existent (only 2.3%). It is also because the employers don't consider them suitable for domestic work because of their living backgrounds. They often involve in the construction area and sand mines.

Table 49: Types of work

Response	Number	Percentage
Domestic work	1	2.3
Conductor	1	2.3
Workshop	3	7.0
Hotel-Restaurant	4	9.3
Industry	2	4.7
Shop	1	2.3
Wage labouring	21	48.8
Others	10	23.3
Total	43	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

Age at starting work

Almost one third (29.3%) reported that they started to work for money as early as 10 years. The most common age for starting work was found 15-16 years. Like domestic worker CYPs, this group also starts working in their tender age.

Table 50: Age at starting work

Response	Number	Percentage
10-14	12	29.3
15-16	18	43.9
17	5	12.2
18	4	9.8
20	2	4.9
Total	41	100.0

Source: Fieldwork 2019-20

6.5. Risk and Safety

Risk behaviour of CYP in neighbourhood

Many CYPs reported the risky and deviant behaviours of CYPs in their neighbourhood. Alcoholism and fighting were the most frequently reported risk behaviours among the CYPs in the neighbourhood. Of the total, 95 percent reported alcoholism and 80% reported fighting. Drug abuse, drug trafficking, 'wild behaviour' were also reported as risky behaviour found among the CYPs in their communities. Similarly, the use of

internet-based media is also becoming common. When prompted, few of them reported that it is becoming common especially among the teenage CYPs. In our informal discussions, few CYPs opened up on this issue and confirmed that it is becoming rampant as cell phones and the internet are becoming more accessible to young people. This can further lead to increased sexual abuse and deviant behaviours among the CYPs.

Table 51: Risk behaviour of CYP in neighbourhood

Response	Number	Percentage
Fight	36	80.0
Robbery	9	20.0
Alcoholism	43	95.%
Drugs abuse	22	48.9
Drug abuse (selling)	11	24.4
Don & bullying	7	15.6
Sexual abuse	1	2.2
Pornography	2	4.4
Wild behaviours	20	44.4
Haphazard sex	1	2.2

n=45. Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

A young girl emphatically stated:

> *There is alcoholism in our community. Unless it is*
> *controlled, nothing is going to change.*

A younger boy showed his concern about the quarrel and fighting among the CYPs:

> *I am always scared of the boys fighting with each*
> *other. They sometimes drag me in the fight. They*
> *also drink alcohol and substances.*

Ever Engaged in Risk Behaviours

Most of the CYPs reported that they have involved in some kind of risky or deviant activities at least once. The most common action was fighting with others. Similarly, the consumption of alcohol was also reported by one-third of them. The most commonly reported act was 'wild behaviour'. Virtually all reported their involvement in

such an act. It is about the activities like not caring about anything and roaming, shouting, etc. only a few (8%) reported the drug abuse. But it can be an underreporting because of the legal issue.

Table 52: Ever engaged in risk behaviours

Response	Number	Percentage
Fight	34	94.4
Robbery	2	5.6
Alcoholism	12	33.3
Drugs abuse	3	8.3
Drug abuse (selling)	1	2.8
Don & bullying	2	5.6
Sexual abuse	1	2.8
Wild behaviours	1	94.4

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Experience of Abuse

Compared to other groups of CYPs, only a few (17%) reported that they have ever had experienced harassment or abuse. Though the percentage is small it is still remarkable. The verbal abuse is generally taken for granted and they did not recognize it as abuse. It is also one of the factors for underreporting. A few CYPs especially girls reported that they have experienced sexual abuse in the past. Increased influx of impoverished populations in the urban area is escalating the population of vulnerable CYPs in the slum dwellings. Abuses at the family level are also remarkable. Abuse based on cultural biases were also reported by a few of them.

Table 53: Ever experienced abuse

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	9	17.3
No	41	78.8
Don't know	2	3.8
Total	52	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

A girl showed her concerns:

> *I am tired of the bad treatment of my stepmother at home. She often gives me physical and mental torture. So, I want to leave my home.*

A boy complained:

> *I feel very bad when people Insult me calling dhoti (It is a pejorative term used for people from plain origin who are called Madhesi).*

6.6. Needs and Aspirations

Person to share concerns or problems

Unlike other groups of CYPs, most (71.2%) of these CYPs reported that they have someone to share their concerns and problems. In most cases, they share their concerns with their family members. All types of concern for CYPs are not suitable for sharing with family members. The interview with parents also confirmed this. They reported that their children discuss mostly money and other needs.

In such a case, they need a person or platform who can understand and provide appropriate counselling and support. Only a few reported peers and organisations or social workers.

Table 54: Person to share concerns or problems

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	37	71.2
No	12	23.1
Don't know	1	1.9
System	2	3.8
Total	52	100.0
Person to share		
Family member	32	86.5
Relatives	1	2.7
Friends	3	8.1
Organisations	1	2.7
Total	37	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Engaged in club, group or organisations

Though many organisations are working in these dwellings, very few (15.4%) reported that they are associated with any club or organisations. Such clubs and organisations can be vehicles of change by engaging them in constructive things, socializing in good

values and also increasing their resilience. This can be instrumental also in preventing school dropout, use of the substance, involvement in abusive behaviour and many other negative behaviours.

Table 55: Engaged in any club, group or organisations

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	8	15.4
No	44	84.6
Total	52	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Currently facing problems

Obviously, the most common problems reported across all groups of CYPs is the financial difficulties. Being in a low-income family and lack of access to income induce such concerns. Other few also reported workload as their main problem. Similarly, older CYPs reported unemployment as their key problem.

Existing Support

Only a few (11.5%) reported that they are receiving some kind of support from organisations. It does show that all CYPs don't have easy access to supports from NGOs. Obviously, the population of such CYP is very large and resources are limited for the organisations. These organisations are providing educational support, health services and financial and training support.

Table 56: Any person or organisation helping you currently

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	6	11.5
No	46	88.5
Total	52	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Financial supporter for education

Several organisations are working in the slum areas of Pokhara, especially in the education theme. But only one-third of the CYPs reported that they have received

some kind of support for their education. Most of the others (77.6%) have not received any support yet.

Table 57: Financial supporter for education

Response	Number	Percentage
School	1	2.0
Organisations	9	18.4
Others	1	2.0
No support	38	77.6
Total	49	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Required Supports

Only a few (13.5%) reported support in education as their need. Most of them were interested in the job along with vocational training. The most common support asked was facilitation in finding jobs. In the case of boys, many of them wished to have driving training. Since they are in and around the transport business area, they were found quite interested in driving training. Few of them have already engaged in the transport sector. Other few reported that they wish to go abroad for a job and need support for this.

Table 58: Required Supports

Response	Number	Percentage
Education	7	13.5
Vocational training	6	11.5
Job	21	40.4
Other	9	17.3
Don't know	9	17.3
Total	52	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

> *People ask me to take electrical and plumbing training but nobody supports me in driving training. I want to be a good driver. I have a dream that I will earn a good sum of money from driving and one day I will have my own bus.*

Interested in vocational training

While prompted for vocational education questions, most of the CYPs showed interest in vocational training. A few were not interested in the training for some reasons such as planning for foreign employment. Few others reported that they are currently working and cannot leave their work for training. Since these CYPs work for subsistence, it is not easy for them to start training without having an alternative source of income.

Table 59: Interested in vocational training

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	31	59.6
No	9	17.3
Don't know	12	23.1
Total	52	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Parents' Perspectives

To enrich the understanding of the situation and issues of the CYPs in the slums, parents were interviewed. There were 4 clusters included in the study. Two of these slum dwellings were located far from the main city whereas the two others were located in the heart of the city. This section deals with the information provided by 75 parents living in these 4 slum dwellings.

6.7. Socio-demographic Background of Parents

Of the total of 75 parents interviewed, most of them were women. In most cases, mothers were found at home and available for the interviews. Men generally leave early for work and return late. Apart from this mothers are more suitable informants for the study which deals with children. Fathers are often less responsible for the caretaking of their children in patriarchal and low literacy communities.

Table 60: Socio-demographic background of parents

Response	Number	Percentage
Male	11	14.7
Female	64	85.3
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Origin districts

There were families belonging to 27 districts. One-third of the families belonged to Kaski district (where Pokhara is situated). They were migrated from different villages of Kaski district. Other main districts include the nearby areas like Syangja and Gorkha. The data shows that Pokhara is becoming a destination for many migrant families who are in search of livelihood.

Table 61: Place family migrated from

Response	Number	Percentage
Kaski	24	32.0
Syangja	8	10.7
Gorkha	5	6.7
Sindhuli	4	5.3
Lamjung	4	5.3
Baglung	3	4.0
Kathmandu	3	4.0
Nuwakot	3	4.0
Others (19 districts)	21	28.0
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Age Background

The sample includes all age categories of the parents. The largest percentage (38.7%) were from 41+ age group. Similarly, the 36-40 age group comprise 28% of the sample. A younger population group (22-30) accounts for 14.7%.

Table 62: Age group

Response	Number	Percentage
22 to 30	11	14.7
31 to 35	14	18.7
36 to 40	21	28.0
41+	29	38.7
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Caste/Ethnic Background

In terms of caste/ethnic background, the sample includes three main categories namely Janjati, Dalit and Brahmin/Chhetri. Of the total, around half (46.7%) of them

belong to the Janjati group. This group includes many hill origin cultural sub-groups. They were followed by Dalits. High caste groups like Brhamin/Chhetri had a relatively smaller size. This ethnic composition is consistent with the composition of the CYPs population included in this study.

Table 63: Caste/Ethnic background

Response	Number	Percentage
Janjati	35	46.7
Dalit	29	38.7
Brahmin/Chhetri	11	14.7
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Main Income Source of Family

Two-third of the families depend on wage labour for their livelihood. Only a few have other sources like job and business. The slum population predominantly depends on non-skilled labour for their subsistence which restricts their economic or class mobility.

Table 64: Main income source of family

Response	Number	Percentage
Wage laboring	47	62.7
Job	4	5.3
Business	8	10.7
Others	16	21.3
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

6.8. Education and Work of the Children

All children going to school

Of the total, 13.3% of parents reported that their school-going age children are no longer going to the schools. Though the percentage is small, it should be taken as remarkable. In most cases, financial reasons were cited for not going to the school. Other important reasons reported were failing in the exams. In some cases, behaviours like alcoholism and carelessness were reported as the cause of not going to school.

Table 65: All eligible children currently going to schools

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	65	86.7
No	10	13.3
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

School dropout

One fourth of the parents reported that their children left school without completing their school level education. In most cases, financial factors such as poor economic conditions and the need for earning were reported as the reason for dropout. Similarly, failing in the exam was also an important cause. A few also reported factors like marriage and the bad company of the children as the reasons for the dropout.

Table 66: Any children left school without completing

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	19	25.3
No	56	74.7
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Children currently working

Of the total, 44 families had children who can work for some earning. Of them, around one-third of the parents told that their children are currently working. Most of them were boys.

Table 67: Children currently working

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	14	31.8
No	29	65.9
Don't know	1	2.3
Total	44	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Age at starting work

In most cases, they are working in wage labour and transport sectors. None of them reported their children to work in formal and organised sectors. Most of them reported that their children started working at 16 years or below.

Table 68: Age starting work

Age	Number	Percentage
Below 16 years	5	35.7
16 years	5	35.7
17 years	3	21.4
23 years	1	7.1
Total	14	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

6.9. Child Safety and Concerns of Parents

Care taker of your children in your absence

It is important to note that most of the parents (including mothers) leave home for work. The lack of caretakers in the family is a big issue in urban settings like the slums. Almost one-fourth parents reported that there will be none to care for their children when they have to leave home for work or other reasons. Only half of them reported the presence of the family members.

Table 69: Care taker of your children in your absence

Response	Number	Percentage
Family member	35	46.7
Nobody	18	24.0
Others	21	28.0
No response	1	1.3
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Playing space for children

Since slum has a scarcity of space, children are often deprived of playing and other and fun activities. In this study, only one-third of the parents reported that there is space for children to play. Lack of such public spaces and venues often hinder the physical and personal growth of the children and sometimes push them towards risk

behaviours. Observations and informal interactions also indicated that children are increasingly attracted to the risk behaviours such as viewing pornographic materials, using substances and deviant activities.

Table 70: Playing space for children

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	25	33.3
No	48	64.0
Don't know	2	2.7
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Feel safe about children at home

Virtually all parents perceived that their children are safe at home. Only a few showed concerns such as bad company and lack of adult care when they leave home for work. However, this reporting must be interpreted cautiously. It depends largely on how parents perceive the concept of safety. It doesn't necessarily mean that the children are safe at home which is indicated by the opinions of the CYPs where they showed several concerns. While prompted, these parents, however, emphasized that it is necessary to keep the CYPs busy in good works like study, training, jobs and other constructive activities along with providing awareness for their safety.

Table 71: Feel safe about children at home in your absence

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	68	90.7
No	3	4.0
Don't know	4	5.3
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Children discuss about their issues

Two third of the parents reported that their children talk with them about the problems. However, their children are talking mostly about their basic and financial needs. Surprisingly none of the parents have discussions on age-specific issues of their children. Their children are not talking about the issue like health concerns, psychological problems, abuses, harassments and other risks.

Table 72: Children discuss about their issues

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	48	64.0
No	18	24.0
Don't know	9	12.0
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Worried about children

Two third of the parents reported that they are worried about their children for some reason. Most of the parents were worried about the education of the children. Similarly, the future of the children and employments opportunities were other major concerns that make them worried about their children. In the same vein, involvement in 'bad activities' like alcohol consumption and fighting were also matters of their concerns regarding the children.

Table 73: Worried about children

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	49	65.3
No	26	34.7
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

6.10. Existing Supports and Gaps

External support for children

Of the total, 22% reported that they have received some kind of support for their children. In most cases, it was the support for the education of the children. A few organisations are working among the slum population which provides basic supports like health and education.

Table 74: Received any support for children

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	17	22.7
No	55	73.3
Don't know	3	4.0
Total	72	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Vocational Education

Of the total 74 parents, one fourth (27%) reported that at least one of their children have received vocational education training. However, this doesn't coincide with the nature of work the CYPs has been doing. It indicates that either they have not completed the training or the training did not help to find the jobs in the local market.

Table 75: Children ever attended vocation training

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	20	27.0
No	54	73.0
Don't know	1	1.4
Total	74	100.0
Need VT for Children		
Yes	55	73.3
No	8	10.7
Don't know	12	16.0
Total	75	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019-20

Other supports required

Most of the parents reported that they wish to have financial support mainly for the education, vocational skills training and business setup for their children. Job facilitation support was also sought by many of the parents who have older children without employment and work opportunities. A few also emphasized the need for creating an appropriate environment for the children in the slum. Other few had complaints about the support policy of the government and NGOs. They criticised discrimination in support according to caste background.

A young mother noted:

Many children of our communities are falling in the trap of drug addiction. This must be controlled to make our child safe in society.

A male parent from Chhetri caste background complained:

Only Dalits are getting financial and other supports. Why do they don't support people like us? We are also poor and needy.

UNIT-VII: ORGANISATIONAL SITUATION AND EXISTING SUPPORTS

7.1. The Context

There is a large number of NGOs working in Pokhara and many of them work in the area of children and young people. However, only a few are active and have a major reach to the target groups. In this chapter, the situation of existing interventions in the area of protection of vulnerable CYPs has been analysed from the perspective of the organisations working in this field. A total of 12 organisations were consulted and discussions were made around the background, target groups, services provided, relationship with government, challenges, and plan of the organisations. This has provided important information about the status of the existing interventions along with gaps in the services and protection works related to the disadvantaged and vulnerable populations of CYPs in Pokhara.

7.2. General Background

The organisations consulted were established from 1997 to 2009. Few of them have long experience in this field while the other few are relatively new in the field. Half of these organisations work in Kaski including surrounding districts (Syangia, Tanahu, Parbat, Gorkha, and Lamjung). A few organisations are based in Kaski but their focus is on other districts.

7.3. Current programs/services

Currently, organisations are providing services in the areas like educational sponsorship and support, early childhood development, vocational and apprenticeship training, child participation, women empowerment; protection, awareness, the inclusion of people with disabilities and mental illness, skill development, entrepreneurship, psychosocial counseling, rehabilitation, reintegration, safe housing/community, etc.

Outreach services are also being offered by the organisation working in the field of HIV/AIDS and related rehabilitation programs. Organisations are also working with families as a strategy to prevent issues.

7.4. Target Groups and Needs

The main target groups of the organisations are children and women. This includes children at risk, street CYPs, child labourers, trafficked CYPs, children in conflict with the law, victims of child marriage, single or needy women, women who are working in the entertainment and involved in sex work. Other target groups include underprivileged families, people with a disability or mental illness, people living with HIV or AIDS, drug users and victims of torture.

The most frequently recognized needs of the target groups include education, health, basic needs and shelter, and skill-based training. Besides, legal provision, financial/livelihood support, psychosocial counselling, rights awareness, adolescent/reproductive health awareness, nutrition, job opportunities, and identity were also recognised as the needs of the target groups.

Changes in the nature of the target group

Changes observed in the nature of the target groups are as follow:

- Greater equality in access to services such as education, which is slowly resulting in greater education of girls.
- Similarly, younger children coming to live on the street are facing more difficulties and becoming more difficult to reach because of the 'street children free city' policy of the government. Increased internet use has resulted in greater vulnerability to abuse and a decrease in social connectedness.
- Independent solicitation of clients by sex workers resulting in less control by pimps or hotel owners but greater vulnerability.
- Use of social media to engage prospective clients and increasing vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.
- Younger girls becoming victims of trafficking and increasing the number of cases.
- Increase in the number of women reporting domestic violence and seeking assistance.
- Increase in awareness resulting in higher and demand for services or programs leading to increased pressure on organisations.

> *I personally believe that only providing basic level training (as provided by many) is not helping the beneficiaries; advanced level training with job placement is required to make them capable enough either to run their own business or work*

Organisations are responding to these changes and needs through a various mechanism such as increasing referral where possible, increasing human resources, initiating plans for future programs (e.g. advanced skill-based vocational training and door-to-door outreach), adjusting teaching strategies, reaching out to online hotspots to engage in the technological sphere and become more social media-friendly. Additionally, one organisation identified the assessment of need and interest in vocational programs as a necessary adaptation to the changing needs of the target groups. Another one identified parental awareness programs as a way to respond to the changes such as increased cases of vulnerable CYPs.

> *Unfortunately, some women are leaving the training session in the middle of the course. Therefore, It's always crucial to conduct need and interest assessment for effective implementation of the vocational training.*

Key challenges with regards to the target group/s

Organisations identified several challenges or problems in relation to their target groups. Some general challenges included lack of services/facilities in remote areas, family factors, lack of government responsibility and support, and lack of awareness among the target groups. In remote areas, reaching out to target populations is a key challenge. In terms of family factors, organisations indicated a lack of responsibility taken by parents for their children and lack of participation by parents, particularly in reintegration processes. These factors increase the susceptibility of children and young people to risks like early marriage, joining the street, dropping out of the school, engaging in labour activity, being trafficked and using the substance. The identity card

issue is still significant. Without participative parents and cooperative officials, CYPs cannot obtain citizenship easily.

Organisations working with the street and working CYPs have further identified the public attitudes and behaviour towards the street as a problem in empowering CYPs to move away from the street. In addition to the element of freedom, easy access to substances is also the main challenge in addressing the issue of street CYPs. Often CYPs run away after being rescued. Similarly, working CYPs' lack of awareness about their rights was also a reported challenge.

In the case of victims of human/sex trafficking, abuse, pregnancy, and mental issues were identified as the key challenges. As girls may express the desire to terminate their pregnancy, they often harm their health and also resort to suicide. Additionally, technological development was identified as a problem in increasing vulnerability to exploitation via online platforms and social media particularly in the case of young girls. Similarly, it has also affected the social connectedness and life-skills among the CYPs. Finally, organisations running vocational training programs identified the lack of a job market as a key challenge.

7.5. Relationship between NGOs and Government

Government policies

All organisations evaluated the government policies in relation to CYPs as a paper tiger; good on paper but not implemented properly. In the case of CYPs, they are often rescued from the street without identity, but the policy stipulates the citizenship card or identity of the child. In reality, there are multiple barriers to achieving the identity card for these types of CYPs. Similarly, free education for all CYPs is clearly instructed by policy, yet some villages do not have a secondary or high secondary. In some cases, government schools are charging up to NPR 17000 annually as fees in order to compete with the private schools which is a kind of privatisation of fundamental services like education. Additionally, one organisation indicated that there are discrepancies between central level policies and local-level policies. Central level policies are comprehensive, but those at lower levels are in draft, resulting in the delays in approval of the plans and lack of clarity about the roles of the NGOs.

Gaps in government Strategy and Services

Most of the organisations noted the lack of coordination between the different levels of authorities. Some stated that there is a lack of qualified and experienced staff at local levels, resulting in a lack of understanding of the issues. Misaligned priorities and discriminatory resource allocation on physical infrastructure, rather than social development is a big strategic challenge. This is mainly due to the lack of clarity of the roles and responsibilities and lack of knowledge about mobilising the resources for social development. Further, some organisations noted that there are no clear mechanisms particularly at the local level governments and they have been operating on ad-hoc basis.

> *. At the local level, government units are simply imitating the processes adopted by developed countries without analysing the needs of its own country. They are equating physical infrastructure as the solution to all problems.*

A staff member of an organisation working with the vulnerable girls noted

> *After the changes in governance structure, we are facing lots of problems. For example, if we are dealing with any recuse case, we have to inform the local government and coordinate with them. First of all, they seem to be busy most of the time. In a rescue case, when we sought coordination, they said that we had to inform them before 72 hours. It clearly shows the lack of understanding and sensitivity towards the issues.*

To address these gaps, organisations have realised the need of increasing accountability and responsibility of government at all levels, with a focus on increasing capabilities of local authorities. They have suggested better monitoring and evaluation, proactivity, ending impunity, clarity on policy and prioritisation of the issues. They should take NGOs as partners but not as competitors or rivals. Analysis of the needs

of communities and target groups before planning and participation of the beneficiaries in the implementations is seriously lacking. There is a need of increased transparency within the government agencies. Another notable suggestion was that the government should initiate need based vocational education programme for the disadvantaged group of people.

Implications of structural changes

As noted earlier, the impact of the changing government has several implications, both challenges and opportunities. Most frequently noted challenges were the power conflicts between and among the different levels of authorities and lack of working mechanisms. While it should have been much easier working with a local point of contact, it is actually taking longer in some cases, particularly when government agencies are not familiar about the NGOs. Few are concerned because they foresee that the structural changes to remain unsettled, providing a conducive environment for corruption and bad governance. Other issues includes programmes being expensive, possibly due to a greater number of offices to contact and greater number of documents to submit along with the requirement of new infrastructure. Many laws and legislations require amendments in accordance with the federalisation of the country. But these have not been completed yet which is creating problems.

Few organisations were found less prepared to adapt the changing political contexts. This is mainly due to earlier commitment to donor or lack of resources to respond to the governance change. Those organisations which are responding to the changes are doing so by changing organisational plans and policies based on the current government policies and adjusting their working area to match the new administrative units (district as a unit became obsolete). In some cases, the needs for such responses have put strain on scare human and financial resources of these organisations. Some organisations showed concern that international donors may reduce or remove support due to confusion about the government policies and practices.

Organisations, however, acknowledged that greater communication and awareness among the stakeholders and having the local points of contact are the major opportunities for the NGOs in near future. In future, it can lead to ease of

coordination, timely approval of the projects and mobilisation of local resources. They also noted that there is a potential for wider public participation. However, the current challenges are overshadowing these opportunities.

> *We can't always rely on donor to run our services.*
> *We strongly believe that government have to provide*
> *financial or technical support to those NGOs who*
> *have been working for the communities.*

7.6. Service Gaps and Future Plans

Interventions that are essential but currently not available

Organisations identified several programs and services which ae essential for the different target groups. These services tend to relate to the family factors. Other gaps include awareness raising and the emergency services. With regards to family intervention, parent training and awareness, family strengthening and income generation were recognized as highly needed services. These were the most commonly suggested cross-cutting actions across the target groups. It was frequently stressed if children have a secure and safe home, they would not be pushed or drawn to the street, or as easily targeted for child labour or trafficking. Closely related to the family intervention, the need for awareness raising of children and women's rights and legal provisions were also highly valued but lacking interventions. When children and women are empowered, they will be able to challenge injustices on their own. There is a need of immediate interventions in the entertainment and sex work sectors, particularly focusing on their rights, reproductive health services, safe and healthy working environments. Other needs include increasing safe home services, schooling for people staying at rescue centres, increasing the number of rescue centres, and increasing unpaid and comprehensive vocational training packages. Need of comprehensive vocational training packages and job placements for those CYPs with physical or intellectual disabilities were also noted as the new initiative required.

A project manager explained:

> *Once we went to recuse the girl who was just 10 years old with physical disability. Her family was in extreme poverty. We tried to coordinate with all organisations. Unfortunately, we couldn't find any services for the disable children. So we had to send her in the mentally disordered children home which was completely wrong. We know it was not fair decision. Therefore, we strongly fell the services for the disabled children.*

Plans for future

All organisations are planning to continue working in their respective areas. But few of them have a plan to scale up their working areas in terms of geography and scope whereas others also have plans to initiate new programs such as advanced skill-based training, rescue centres, better school environment and alternative means of survival particularly for vulnerable families.

One of the key suggestions was to avoid duplication in the programs and services across the organisations. After the administrative and governance change, there are some lapses in coordination and collaborative works. Consortiums and collaborative avenues have been passive in the recent time. Few stressed the shift of focus increasingly towards child-friendly environments along with increased concentration on remote areas from where CYPs migrate to cities like Pokhara.

CHAPTER-VIII
SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the major findings of the study and draws conclusions based on those findings. Besides, it proposes recommendations specific to each group along with the cross-cutting ones too. For convenience, summary, conclusions, and recommendations have been split and presented respectively to the groups.

7.1. Female Sex worker

Summary of Key Findings

General Background

- The estimated population of FSWs was 1,163 FSWs in Pokhara in 2019 (however likelihood of underestimate is high because of the nature of the group).
- Majority of the FSWs at 13-14 years when they first started sexual work.
- Most of the women are from neighboring districts of Kaski viz. Parbat, Lamjung Rupandehi, Syangja, Bhaktapur, Chitwan, Manang, and Tanahu. But others are from distant areas like Taplejung and Kabhre.
- Women from all ethnic groups (including high caste groups) were found involved in this work (previously high caste women were rare).
- Most of the FSWs have completed lower secondary level. Poverty and lack of family support were the main reported causes of the dropout.
- The majority of the women were married but half of the married were already in separated status.
- Reported reasons to join CS
- The reported reasons for entering CS: insufficient financial support from the family, Influence of peers or friends, need of paying household expenses and lack of skill to do other jobs.
- Most of the FSWs were facilitated by their friends to enter the CSW.
- Most of them were found living in hotels with the owner.

- Most of them stated that they do not feel safe at their workplace mainly because of abusive and alcoholic clients.

- Stigma and police raids or lack of freedom were the main reported problems of the profession.

- Privacy issues and criminalisation have severely limited their access to health care services, particularly in the public service domain.

- Unprotected sexual contacts were found significant and risk behaviors like smoking and alcohol consumption were rampant.

- All FSWs said that they have tried to physically harm themselves at some point.

Needs and Aspirations

- Most of them reported they don't feel positive about their life. Therefore, they would like to escape from the current work and start a new life (but younger girls were reluctant to move out).

- All stressed the need for legalising the profession in order to ensure their rights and be able to speak out against the abuses and safety concerns in their work.

- Most of them preferred skill-based training like beauticians but only with a comprehensive package that supports their livelihood.

- Existing services include rescue, shelter, HIV and STI testing, counseling about safe sex, gender-based violence, general sexual health check-up, and mobile services.

- The main reported gaps were financial support, business packages, skill-based training with job opportunities, informal education or free education and health services.

Conclusion

Every year, a large number of people enter cities like Pokhara to live their dreams. Many of the young girls do not have basic education and skills to help them earn a living. They, therefore, get into unfavourable working conditions and many of them are coerced into the commercial sex market without their choice or knowledge. In most cases, girls are entering the sex market at an early and tender age (mostly 13-14

years) which indicates they are highly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Family issues, migration, finical pressure, peer influence, early marriage are the main pushing and pulling factors.

The case of abuse and exploitation was found significantly high in this group. Criminalisation and stigma are the main barriers to protecting the rights of these girls who are forced to live a pathetic life without a safety net. Psychologically, they were found in a desperate situation without having any remarkable support. Risk behaviours like alcoholism, smoking, and unprotected sex are quite common making them more exposed to many physical and psychological problems.

Like many other societies, the most common assumptions about the FSWs is that they enter sex work by free choice. This leads to biased attitudes towards the FSWs which are manifested in stigmatisation and criminalisation of the sex work. On the other hand, men are not held responsible for the uncontrolled growth of the so-called prostitution. The findings of the study suggest that such ambivalence and biases have exposed these girls/women to violence and exploitation (both sexual and labour), as well as health risks such as STIs and HIV/AIDS. It has also severely limited their access to public services and other basic rights as a human being. The psychological trauma and burden of privacy have made their lives more miserable.

Existing interventions are confined mostly around counselling and health issues. Efforts should be concentrated on the crux of the issue. The sex workers are the by-product of the socio-economic phenomenon of the country. This requires significant advocacy works along with the provision of viable opportunities for alternative livelihoods. The availability of the training is not a problem but they don't address the contexts of the problem. As a matter of fact, the factors which pushed them to sex work also prevent them from escaping the quicksand. Therefore, there is an urgent need for comprehensive training packages, entrepreneurship-focused options, and personal empowerment to enable them to live a decent life.

Recommendations

- Broader social issues like urbanisation, pervasive socioeconomic inequalities, and economic handicap are crucial factors. But addressing them requires a much larger scale and long-term actions with multisector collaboration.

- The interventions are needed both at the grassroots level too, at least, province level.

- Nevertheless low cost and collaborative advocacy work from NGOs can be very effective in influencing the policy at the province and local levels and increasing awareness about the problems among the stakeholders.

- Advocacy efforts are essential also to ensure the sex workers' rights as the criminalisation of the sex work has made them highly vulnerable to abuse, exploitations and inhuman treatment.

- Some sort of safety net creation is very urgent as they are not getting and able to seek legal supports and protection against widespread abuses.

- Changing the perception of laypeople (focusing on messages such as CS is not the voluntary choice of these women and they are not the criminals) can be an important aspect of this intervention.

- Current interventions concerning rehabilitation and reintegration seem flawed. Mere training support is not enough and is not helping them to get out of the trap. It was observed that many of the FSWs were forced to return because of the financial constraints during and after the training.

- They need integrated services (including assurance of food, shelter, social support and job support). Such intervention is resource-intensive but can be very effective to bring the desired changes.

7.2. Girls in Entertainment Sector

Summary

General Background

- An organisation working with this group in Pokhara has estimated the population ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 in 2019.

- The age of the women ranged from 18 to 29 years. In most cases, they start to work at the age below 20 years.

- All women were migrants except one girl and none of them currently live in their parental home/community.
- Most of them were from nearby districts like Parbat, Baglung, Kathmandu, Sindhupalchowk, Lamjung, and Gorkha.
- Unlike, FSW, there were relatively fewer women who belonged to the Dalit group.
- Half of them were married and living with their husband.
- Education-wise, most of them have completed the Primary level only.
- Reported reasons for dropout from the school were poverty, lack of family support, early marriage/marriage, peer influences and lack of desire to study.
- Reported reasons to work
- The most prominent reported factors for joining the works include: Insufficient financial support from the family, lack of alternative opportunities, Influence of peers or relatives and the 'work is easy and fun'.
- Many of them migrated to Pokhara in search of a job and to continue their education. Only a few of them reported they entered the sector because of their choice or interest.

Working Conditions and Risks
- All women work for 7 days (35 to 42 hours) in a week and don't have time for leisure activities.
- In many cases, they were found ill-paid and often not in a situation to complain and raise their voice against the employer.
- Involvement in part-time sex work was found significant though they were reluctant to disclose this.
- The most commonly reported problem was the inability to disclose their work to family and community which induces a big psychological burden among them.
- Profession related challenges include a compulsion to work in the night time, stigma and discrimination against the profession, pervasive verbal abuse and inappropriate touching from the guests.
- They advised clear rules and regulations, guest entry recording system, CCTV camera, and security guide to increase their protection in the workplace.

- Most of them said, they drink and smoke as a requirement of the work (often forming habits which put them at greater risks of abuse).
- The most common worries include health concerns, loneliness, fear of disclosure of the profession, behaviours of husband and abuse in the workplace.
- Unlike FSWs, most of the women said that they never tried to hurt themselves which indicates a comparatively better psychological condition.

Needs and Aspirations

- All of them said that they would like to leave this profession and start a new life.
- Except for one, none of them reported that they have ever received help or support from any organisation and group (shows reach is still limited).
- To leave the current work, they wished to have advanced levels of vocational training courses such as beautician, cook, vocal, and music-related courses.

Conclusion

Increasing urbanisation and expanding the tourism sector will be attracting many girls in this sector. Most of the girls are coming from neighbouring districts. The pushing and pulling factors are similar to those of the FSWs. Family situation, migration, finical pressure, the lure of luxurious life, peer influence early marriage are the main factors pushing and pulling these young girls into the entertainment sector. The study found that there is a lack of protective environment and regulation in the entertainment sector which predisposes these girls to abuse and exploitations. The prevalence of financial and sexual exploitation was found high in this sector too. Additionally, shame and lack of respect towards the works make the situation worse for them. So, the main challenge is to make this sector a decent work option for those currently working and entering very soon.

The most important observation is that this sector has become a transitional phase of sex work. Many of these entertainment workers end up as sex workers. There is indirect coercion in the sense that the customers and employer persuade and influence girls to indulge in sex works. Peer influence and financial pressure also encourage them to enter into the sex market. Therefore, intervention in this area can,

actually, work as a preventive measure for checking sex trafficking and coercive entry into the sex market.

Recommendations

- Some overarching multisector collaborations (mentioned earlier) can help both groups, sex workers and girls in entertainment sectors as many of the factors and issues are common among them.

- Interventions targeted at empowering girls can be instrumental to prevent girls from entering the ever-growing sex market in Pokhara.

- Programme for improving the working condition of the girls in this sector is an urgent need. Influencing local government policy along with training for employers and employees is very necessary to create a better working condition for the vulnerable girls.

- Currently available supports and services are not accessible to many. So, the basic supports like health, counselling, career planning, etc. must be scaled up and made more accessible to the larger population.

- A peer-based approach can be more effective in increasing access as the privacy barrier was found significant.

- Similar to the FSWs, more comprehensive packages of vocational education are also necessary for those who wish to move out. Current options are largely impractical for them.

- Since this is a micro-level exploratory study and the population is suggestively large, there is a need for more extensive research on finding effective interventions to protect women and girls in the sector and help them to escape the traps of sex trafficking and other forms of exploitations.

7.3. Street CYP

Summary of Key findings

General Background

- At the point of fieldwork, there were an estimated 50-70 street CYPs. However, the estimation is very difficult given the transient nature of the group and invisibility due to the current government policy.

- Their access to basic services has been highly affected by the new policy and action of the government which forces them to hide and become more invisible.
- Two in three street CYPs were between 12-18 years old. Both younger children and older youths were found living together.
- The source district of the CYPs was found diverse (from east to west). Around one fourth (23.9%) were from the Kaski district.
- Two third of them belongs to the Dalits group (the most marginalized caste group in Nepal)
- Half of the CYPs left their school when they were in early grades (2-3 class). None of them are currently going to school.
- In most cases (52%), the parents are living in and around Pokhara. But most of these CYPs were out of family care.
- Begging and occasional scrap collection is the main source of income (because of the policy, they no longer can roam freely on the street and, therefore, their livelihood sources have dried up).

Current Situation and Needs

- Most of the CYPs reported family issues such as misbehave and neglect by the parents, and lack of fulfilment of needs responsible for leaving the family and staying on the street.
- Most of them feel (71%) unsafe mainly because of the arrests by police.
- Virtually all (95.2%) reported that they experienced several forms of abuse.
- The main recognised issues were: lack of guarantee of food, addiction of glue, fear of police and bullying from older boys and others (in the case of young boys).
- Not surprisingly, risk behaviours related to general health hazards, sexual health/HIV and psychological-emotional conditions were found significant.
- Most (81%) of the CYPs reported that they need support like food, education, training, job opportunity, and drug rehabilitation to move out of the street.
- However, few of them (older ones) don't find themselves in the position to move out of the street as they have made several unsuccessful attempts in the past.

Conclusion

The number of street CYPs has reduced in recent times also because of the changed policy of the government (street children free city). However, it was difficult to ascertain whether the number has gone down or they have become invisible due to the policy. For those CYPs who are currently on the street, their access to basic needs and services like food, shelter, cloth, emergency medicines, informal education, etc. have been severely affected. As they are trying to hide from police and public, they have become more invisible and inaccessible for those who want to help them. The study shows that prevalence and chances of abuse are high now than in the past. They are no longer in a position to complain and seek supports. Particularly for younger children, the condition has become more dangerous. The younger children are now more tied to the older street youth and the later ones have a great influence on them. So, their protection needs have also changed because they are increasingly being moulded by the stubborn group. The outreach works capable enough to build the trusts among these younger children seem urgent. But it must be noted that the current government policy hinders such efforts from the nongovernmental actors.

The issue of the street CYPs is a multi-faceted problem. The current strategy of the government is one-sided and doesn't address the root cause of the problem. Only keeping CYPs in custody (rehabilitation centres) or focusing on the curative part is not going to help. Without working with the families/source communities (particularly in the slum and impoverished dwellings), addressing the push and pull factors and developing capacity in the complex process of protection, the current modality is less likely to address the problem to the solution. It is highly likely that the issues are being suppressed rather than being addressed.

Province government has a plan to set up a rehabilitation place for street CYPs in Annapurna Rural Municipality, adjacent to Pokhara Metropolitan City. However, there are some issues in their plans. The organisation, which has been assigned the responsibilities to carry out the project, has very limited experience in the field of protection and reintegration of the street CYPs (politics played a big role in the government decisions). Protection and reunion of the street CYPs present a variety of challenges for the families and other actors working on the issue. This necessitates

the careful assessment and plans to ensure the safety and well-being of the CYPs both outside and inside the families. Given the ad hoc approach combined with the highly complex nature of the problem, the prospects of the government intervention don't look that promising.

Recommendations

- The focus of the government and other stakeholders should be on collaborative actions that address the root cause of the problem along with the immediate protection needs of those invisible CYPs who are currently on the street.

- Pervasive poverty, caste discrimination, alcoholism, dysfunctional families are mainly responsible for pushing the CYPs out of the family in this group. So, the family works in the source communities are very important.

- Enhancing a conducive and protective environment in the family, schools, and communities are key to preventive interventions.

- There is a need for targeted intervention such as focusing on the Dalit group as many of these CYPs are coming from the families belonging to this caste group.

- Rather than promoting the custody model, there is a need for a more intensive and friendly approach to building trust among the CYPs who are becoming invisible in the city.

- CYPs is fleeing from the rehabilitation shelter. So, a more flexible and friendly approach is needed to protect and ultimately reintegrate them back to their family or kinship network.

- So, there is a need for advocacy and collective lobbying from non-state actors to make the interventions more relevant and friendly to the needs and aspirations of the highly marginalized street CYPs.

- It is equally important to work with the street youth (though it is thought to change them) also because the younger children are forced to live with them (mainly for physical protection) and are being highly shaped by them.

7.4. Working CYP

Summary of key findings

General Background

- The majority of the working CYPs (59.0%) were in between 15-16 years. However, there was a remarkable number of underage domestic workers (10-14 years).

- Virtually all (96.7%) started working in between 11-15 years of age. One-fourth of them started as early as 7-10 years.

- These CYPs were mostly coming from the districts like Chitwan and Dhading situated nearby Kaski district.

- Many (47.5%) of the CYPs completed the primary level (1-5 grades). Over one third (39%) reported that they are currently studying.

- Most (82.9%) of these CYPs told that they would not join the school as they have to earn money to survive and also support families.

Working Condition and Risk

- In many cases (43.9%), lack of fulfilment of the basic needs was reported as the reason to leave the home.

- In majority cases (50.9%), relatives of the CYPs brought them to the city or the current working places.

- Around one third (32.8%) of the CYPs were domestic workers other 29.5% and 19.7% hotel-restaurant workers and automobile workshop workers respectively.

- One in two (50.8%) of the CYPs reported that they have experienced some kind of abuse in their workplace. These include denial of timely payment, long working hours, terrorizing and insulting.

- Unlike street and slum CYPs, the prevalence of substance use or addiction was found very low (14.8%) among this group.

- Similar to other CYPs, financial issues are the main concerns of this group of CYPs. Another specific issue is a huge workload.

- Only a few (19.7%) reported that they want to get out of the working life because their survival and education (in some cases) will be compromised without the jobs.

- However, two-third (65.6%) of the CYPs reported that they wish to have vocational training.

- But most the school going girls would like to continue their general education and, therefore, need support in further education.

- Boys working in the workshops would like to continue as they wanted to develop skills further and finally set up their own workshops.

- The need for job facilitation support was also reported by a few of them who are willing to find new jobs.

- A majority (57%) of the working CYPs reported that they have been receiving some kind of support like informal education, follow-up support and educational material support from the organisations.

Conclusion

One of the positive observations is that there is now increased awareness among the public and employers about child labour and abuses. The government's efforts in enforcing the legal provisions are also commendable. For this, credit also goes to those non-state actors who have been working relentlessly to bring the changes in the situation of child labour in Pokhara. However, children are still working at a tender age mainly because of the inability of their families to provide education and other essential supports. The economic value of the children is still high for the many poor families in rural areas. Parents and relatives themselves sending and bringing the children to the city. This indicates that the factor is related to the broader socio-economic issues and the required interventions are long term and macro in nature. However, the micro-level and grassroots works with the family are still relevant for the prevention of child labour. Many of the domestic workers were able to continue their education along with the work. However, there are many in others who have already left their schools and are less likely to resume school life.

The situation of abuse is not as high as found in other groups of CYPs. However, some levels of abuse are still prevalent. CYPs are bearing heavy and difficult workload particularly in the workplaces like workshops and hotel/restaurants. Payment issues are also important in these settings. In the workshops, many boys are from India and they are more disconnected groups than the rest of the others. However, the probability of abuse of girls in the domestic work sector cannot be ruled out. So, the protection works are still essentials to minimize the chances of the abuses among the working CYPs.

Unlike other groups, many of the CYPs were reluctant to leave their work as it is not practical for them for one or other reasons. For many of them, it can deprive them of educational opportunities that they are currently getting. In other cases, like the workshop sector, boys want to brush up their skills and hope to set up their own business in the future. Others simply don't want to leave their job because they think they can't go back home as they need to support themselves and their families. The existing supports were also found satisfactory as many of the CYPs reported that they are receiving supports like informal education, follow-up and educational material from the organisations.

Recommendations
- The need for advocacy for a decent working condition is still relevant as the new children are continuously being taken or migrating to Pokhara for work.
- Since the chances of abuse are still high, empowerment activities covering safety risks, employees' rights, awareness about the abuses are important in developing awareness and resilience among the working CYPs.
- Family actions in the source communities particularly focusing on income generation, child-friendly environment, and poverty alleviation are crucial for preventing child labour.
- Working with employers and schools for facilitating the education of the working CYPs is another important area of intervention.
- There is a need for special attention to the workshop sector because of the high injury risks and workload. These CYPs are from India and, therefore, more disconnected from the families and less familiar with the local contexts.

- Programmes with the essential components of vocational skills, employability, and entrepreneurship for those interested are equally important.

7.5. Slum CYP and Families

Summary of Key Findings

General Background of CYP

- Of the total 52 CYPs in the sample, the 16-21 age group accounts for 42%.
- Janjati accounts for almost half (44.2%) of the sample followed by Dalit groups (one third)
- One-fourth of them belong to the Kaski district. Altogether, there were CYPs from   21 districts.
- Most of them have completed 6-8 grades, indicating dropouts at the age when they can work for money.
- Most (70.7%) of the CYPs are not interested to go back to school for financial and family reasons.

Work and Risks

- Most (82.7%) of them reported that they have ever worked for money and a majority of them (58%) were working at the time of fieldwork.
- Around half of them worked as wage-labourer often in the construction area and sand mines.
- As domestic workers, most (3 in 4) of these CYPs started working in their tender age- below 16 years.
- Most (94%) of the CYPs reported that they have involved in some kind of risky or deviant activities at least once. Fighting, alcohol abuse and substance use are prevalent.
- Pornography/media abuse is new and alarmingly increasing risk.
- Existing support and needs
- Only a few (15.4%) reported they are associated with any club or organisations.
- Most of the older CYPs reported unemployment as their key problem.
- Very few CYPs (11.5%) reported that they are receiving some kind of support. The available supports include educational support, health services and financial and training support.

- Many (40.5%) of them wish to have support in job facilitations along with vocational training.
- Most (59.6%) of the CYPs showed interest in vocational training. But the existing free training courses are not compatible with their wishes and needs.

Parents' perspective

- Of the 75 families consulted in the study, one-third of them belonged to the Kaski district (where Pokhara is situated). A total of 27 districts were covered in the study sample.
- Around half (46.7%) of the families belong to the Janjati group followed by the Dalits.
- One-fourth of the parents reported that their children left school without completing their school level education mostly for financial factors.
- Around one-third of the parents told that their children are currently working.
- Almost one in four parents reported that there will no one to care for their children when they have to leave home for work or other reasons.
- Two third of the parents reported that they are worried about the future of their children concerning education and employment.
- Of the total, 22% reported that they have received some kind of support for their children-mostly in education
- Most of the parents reported that they wish to have support in areas like education, vocational skills training and business setup for their children.
- The other few also emphasized the support in creating an appropriate environment for the children in the slum.

Conclusion

Early school dropout was found a significant problem leading to several issues among the CYPs. Working with the families and community structures in the slums can work as the preventive actions for street CYPs and working CYPs issues. Family environment, CYPs group mobilisation, behaviour cultivation, and school environment improvements are the crucial areas for those actions. These interventions will have overarching impacts in the sense it can also work as a preventive measure to address the issue of the street and working CYPs.

The risk behaviour of the CYPs is different from other groups but it is still significant. Alcohol use, substance use, gang fights, early and unsafe sexual activities and other deviant behaviours are significant among the CYPs in the slums. Apart from these, a new challenge of internet and media abuse has emerged mainly due to the increased access to the internet and cell phone. Consumptions of pornographic content and subsequent abuses have become a significant challenge. Therefore, more innovative and nonconventional interventions are urgently required. It can be done through the participation and empowerment of the CYPs in the slum communities. Child and youth clubs can be a useful vehicle for such actions. It can help to cultivate positive attitudes and behaviour along with increasing the resilience of the CYPs. Besides, cultivation of the democratic values and leadership qualities will have far-reaching consequences in the lives of the CYPs, ultimately making the slums a better and safe place for children and young people.

Unemployment is a key issue among the CYPs at working age. There are mushrooming training institutes in Pokhara during the last few years (a large international grant-funded private institutes). Many private institutes offer short-term training for free. But their training packages don't address the socio-economic contexts and felt-needs of the many marginalized CYPs in the urban area. They only emphasizes on quantity over the quality. In a sense, it is the waste of scarce resources for nothing. For example, many of the CYPs reported that they wish to have training on driving but most of the institutes are offering conventional training packages and courses like electricity, plumbing, steel fabrications, etc. So, there is still a dearth of vocational education projects which are flexible and based on the needs of the disadvantaged youth population in Pokhara.

Recommendations
- Initiatives that can engage CYPs in more constructive works (sports, few useful skills-like computer literacies, sports, community works, protection from cyber abuse, etc.) can be done at the micro-level which won't cost much. It can be an innovative way of preventing risk behaviours among the CYPs in the slums.

- Formation and mobilisation of clubs and other organisational activities can be an area of intervention. It can work as a vehicle for change among the CYPs in the slum and other impoverished dwellings.

- Interventions related to the child-friendly environment in families, communities, and schools can be very helpful and it can be linked to the existing child-friendly initiative of R4C.

- The Programme must take into account that improving the situation in the slum will work as the preventive measures concerning the issues of working and street CYPs. So, these must be multifaceted and comprehensive actions.

- Training and entrepreneurship related interventions must consider the actual needs of the CYPs. Inappropriate courses and modality are causing a lack of demand and utilisation. Need-based and flexible training packages are still in high demand.

- There is an ample opportunity to develop a collaborative project engaging government and other like-minded organisations. So, collaboration must be sought in such initiatives.

7.6. Organisation

Summary

General Background

- A total of 12 organisations working with the relevant target groups were consulted.

- The main target groups of the organisations include: includes CYPs at risk, street CYPs, child labours, trafficked CYPs, children in conflict with the law, victims of child marriage, single or needy women, women who are working in the entertainment and involved in sex work.

- The recent interventions of the organisations also include underprivileged families, people with a disability or mental illness, people living with HIV or AIDS, drug users and victims of torture.

- They are mostly working in the delivery of basic services, emergency services, protection, advocacy, and reintegration.

The main challenges related to target groups

- Street CYPs is becoming more difficult to reach and there is easy access to substances like glue.

- Working CYPs' lack of awareness about their rights is another challenge.

- Increased internet use is resulting in greater vulnerability to exploitation and a decrease in social connectedness among all groups.

- Younger girls are becoming victims of trafficking and there is increasing the number of cases.

- Increase in the number of women reporting domestic violence and seeking assistance.

- In the case of victims of human/sex trafficking, issues like abuse, pregnancy, mental health are the key challenges.

- Unsafe working conditions of the girls in the entertainment sector is another big challenge to address.

- Lack of a job market for those who want to take training and start a new life is also a significant challenge.

Governance issues after restructuring

- Discrepancies in policies of the governments at the central level, province level, and local level.

- Lack of coordination between the different levels of authorities.

- Power conflicts between and among the different levels of authorities and lack of clear working mechanisms.

- Misaligned priorities and resource allocation (mostly focused on physical infrastructure and low or no priority in the social sector).

- Programmes being expensive due to a greater number of offices to contact and seek approvals.

- However, the possibility of greater communication and awareness of the issues among the stakeholders, availability of local contact points are the positive aspect of changes in governance in Nepal.

Gaps and recommended interventions

- Family strengthening and income generation including parent training and awareness.

- Awareness-raising of CYPs and women's rights and arrangement of legal provisions.

- Immediate interventions needed-entertainment and sex work sectors, safe and healthy working environments for those working in the entertainment sector.

- Enhancing safe home services, schooling for people staying at rescue centers, increasing the number of rescue centers.

- Comprehensive vocational training packages and job placements.

- Increasing concentration on remote areas from where vulnerable CYPs are migrating to the cities like Pokhara.

- Increasing demand for entrepreneurship rather than job opportunities.

- The urgent need for addressing the issues arose from the penetration of social media and information technologies.

Conclusion

Findings from the consultations with organisation are consistent with the opinions and facts obtained from the interviews of the target groups. This has helped the triangulation of the data and made the findings more reliable. The study found that the organisations have been working with a wide range of target groups and the issues are therefore extensive. Though modalities of interventions are predominantly conventional, there are few changes while responding to the needs of the target groups and government structures. As far as the changes in the situations and needs of the target groups, the findings are similar to those discussed in the sections of the target groups. This consultation highlights that the rapid urbanisation and penetration of the internet and social media have exposed the target groups to greater risks.

After the restructuring, organisations were forced to adapt to a new situation which has put lots of strain on their system and resources. Unsettled structures, misaligned priorities and lack of clarities in authority were the major challenges observed by the organisation concerning coordination and collaboration with the government. However, there are sliver lines in the back clouds. Soon, there are possibilities that non-state actors like NGOs will have closer relationships and greater collaboration with the government as many authorities are now delegated to the local level governments. Easy access and reduced bureaucracy can contribute to quicker

decisions and implementations of the projects. However, this largely depends on how the current chaos and instability unfolds.

Recommendations: Cross-cutting areas

- Cross-cutting actions across the target group tend to relate to family factors. Supporting alternative incomes and improving the family environment is crucial for prevention.

- Consolidation of the actions in education and gender equality can help to address the factors that push the CYPs out of families and communities.

- Advocacy for the rights of the target groups in general and most importantly for groups like sex workers are an important and urgent area of intervention.

- Conventional models of the training have not worked well. New and innovative training modalities are required to address the general issues of the reunification of the alienated groups.

- The reorienting focus of the NGOs on the source communities (particularly in the rural areas) is equally important.

- It is also urgent and important to develop separate or integrated interventions to address the growing impacts of media and technology on the target groups.

- Another crucial and emerging area of intervention is the capacity building of the local government. They now have more authority and resources but are not able to understand the issues and deliver appropriately.

- Enabling them to understand the issues and equipping them with essential managerial and leadership skills can pave the way towards developing high impact collaborative actions capable enough to address the issues locally.

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SITUATION OF DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN POKHARA:

A STUDY OF SELECTED GROUPS

Right 4 Children

WHERE HOPES & OPPORTUNITIES MEET