

Work condition, Exploitation, and Mistreatment of Study of Street Children of Kathmandu Valley

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Received: January 10, 2022; Revised & Accepted: February 25, 2022

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ABSTRACT

All vulnerable and homeless individuals congregate on the street. Many people, ranging in age from youngsters to the elderly, can be seen begging on the street. The purpose of this research was to learn more about the working conditions, exploitation, and mistreatment of street children in the Kathmandu valley. The study used a structured questionnaire survey to obtain data from 234 street children. According to the findings, 39.4 percent of street youngsters were begging rather than doing any type of laborious work. 51.3 percent of street children were subjected to misbehavior and harassment by passers-by. Physical, psychological, sexual, and other forms of abuse and mistreatment were perpetrated on street children. The concerned authority should ensure the safety and security of these street children because they have also right of life.

KEYWORDS: Exploitation, Mistreatment, Street-children, Work condition

1. INTRODUCTION

Because street children are rarely counted and are not included in any national census, their actual numbers are unclear. Street children can be found in Nepal's major cities, such as Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Biratnagar, which is a societal issue. In the Kathmandu valley, people travel from all over Nepal to seek for new jobs and possibilities in the New Road and Ratnapark areas. These places are not free from danger i.e., theft, robbery, stealing, burglary, shoplifting, larceny, pilfering, loot, plunder, ransack, insecurity, hustle and bustle life, accident, traffic jam etc. (Tuladhar P. , 2006, p. 17). There are various reasons to be a street child. The life of street children is seen very miserable because of the lack of proper food and shelter. Mostly they spend their time in begging for the survival in street. They involved in different

work to earn money. The street children have to face various types of problems in street. They have to face exploitation and have to involved in various risk behaviour to earn money. Physical, psychological, sexual, and social isolation are among the challenges that street children face. Children that spend time on the street are more likely to become aggressive, despairing, use drugs, and engage in informal sex work (Murray & Singh, 2010). Street children are one of the high-risk groups for sexually transmitted illnesses, including HIV/AIDS, according to studies conducted in various parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. Sexual abuse, rape, prostitution, sexual bartering and exchange, casual sex, and early exposure to both heterosexual and gay activities are all risks they face (Juma, LKB, Askew, & Van den, 2013).

A study was carried out to investigate and explain the lived experiences of youngsters living on the streets of Johannesburg, South Africa. The findings revealed that children on the streets are regularly intimidated, exploited, and subjected to physical, sexual, and emotional abuse by the community, authorities, and other street dwellers. Sadness, fear, worry, unhappiness, despair, hopelessness, helplessness, and suicidal ideation result, leading to drug misuse and criminal behavior (Myburgh, Moolla, & Poggenpoel, 2015). Similarly, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a phenomenology qualitative study was done among street children. The investigation looked into the lives of city street children. They were forced to live on the street due to the deaths of their parents and the unstable relationships of their extended families. As a result, the primary motivation for joining a street was to look for work. On a daily basis, street children were subjected to sexual and physical exploitation. For street children, the world was marked by misery, deprivation, physical, verbal, and sexual abuse, and they were victims of violence on a regular basis.

There was no secure haven for on-street youngsters. The majority of street youngsters engaged in heterosexual, bisexual, homosexual, and group sex. For the sake of survival, they were heavily involved in transactional sex. Drunkenness, anxiety, and depression were all common occurrences. As a result, they were socially isolated (Chimdessa & Cheire, 2018). A study of street children in Tehran discovered that they engaged in a variety of activities in order to earn money and feed themselves. While 42 percent said they sold minor items such handkerchiefs, socks, belts, nail cutters, shaving blades or razors, cookies, flowers, and fruits, as well as smokes (including hooker and shisha materials), 26 percent said they scavenged. Furthermore, 12% of respondents said they did errands for persons who gave them money, and 20% said they begged for money (Salihi, 2019). In Pakistan, the prevalence of sexual intercourse among street children has been estimated to be as high as 88 percent. Public locations such as bus terminals and parks have become hotspots for prostitution and sexual exploitation, with commercial sex being a frequent practice among street children. The spread of HIV/AIDS among afflicted children is becoming a significant worry, owing to a widespread lack of understanding about the disease and its prevention, as well as a high incidence of risky sexual behaviors (Sohail, Maan, & Sohail, 2021).

In the Nepalese study, it is reported that 60.7% street children of 11-15 years age group had more influence of leaving or escaping from home and enjoying street life (Kharel & Kattel, 2018). A more study conducted by Kharel & Kattel discovered that poverty was one of the leading causes, followed by running away from home to see the city, having no one to look after them when their parents died, being punished and abused by a stepfather or mother, and so on. The majority of children entered the street with their buddies without their parents' permission. Children reported poor family relations and frequent disagreement between their fathers and mothers (Kharel & Kattel, 2019). There is no latest study on the work condition and experience of exploitation among the street children of Nepal. So, this study will be helpful to provide the data on experience of street children about their exploitation when they are in the street.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THIS STUDY

Since 15 years, the researcher has worked in the subject of caring for and protecting street children. The Nepalese government has various legal regulations in place to ensure the safety and security of children, as well as offering a variety of services to them. Aside from that, there are other non-governmental groups that operate in the field of child advocacy and rights. However, the Kathmandu valley has an issue with street children. According to research, there are extremely few research-based reports and articles on the topic of street children. As a result, the researcher became interested in learning more about the working conditions and the exploitation of street children.

3. MATERIALS & METHOD

The study used a descriptive cross-sectional research design because the researcher only went to the field once for data collection and detailed the working conditions of street children as well as their experiences of mistreatment by others while on the street. A total of 234 street children were chosen at random from Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur districts. The data was collected using a standardized survey questionnaire by the researcher.

4. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

It is natural that everyone, not only the government but also human right activists, non-governmental organizations, pressure groups, users' groups and international organizations are focusing on the sensitive sector of child labour. Unlike in the past, the immediacy of productivity today is not limited to labour nor the entrepreneur, but the scope of productivity has become broader and more responsible. Its social aspect has also been increased. Trade union cannot remain untouched from this trend. Child labour deprives children of their fundamental rights such as rights to life, growth and development, right to protection and right to participation including rights to education and health. On the other hand, practice of child labour displaces adults from their right to employment. In Nepal, child labour is mostly used

in agriculture, industrial factories, transport, construction work and informal sectors in the urban area according to data on child labour use. The internal armed conflict that continued for eleven years in the country has further increased child labour. The use and nature of child labour has been changing and it has become more complicated. Studies show that the situation of street children has worsened in Nepal (Basnet, 2007). Working on the street means begging, picking plastic, collecting money in public transportations and washing plates in a restaurant. For a few rupees, without work regulations or rest, they are exploited. Similarly, children employed as workers in restaurants, factories, transportation services, housekeeping, carriers and rag pickers: they are all exposed to exploitation and abuse due to the long working hours, extra workloads, low wages and verbal, physical and mental harassment.

Against the child labor protection Nepal has to bring Child Labor Act, 2056. Child labor is a broad issue in Nepal. It is a crime prosecutable under national and international laws. According to the ILO, Nepal's law establishes a minimum age for employment of children at 14 years (Children Labour Act, 2056). Nepal has ratified the convention on the rights of the child and the ILO minimum age employment convention. Factory and Factory workers act, 2016 (1959) prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 in a factory and in night work Larsen (2003). The Constitution of Nepal stipulates that children shall not be employed in factories, mines, or similar dangerous work. However, huge number of children are working in Nepal as a labor worker (Ghimire, 2014)

4.1 Type of work mainly engaged to earn money

It is unfortunate that young children of schooling age in any country are deprived of their rights. Increased trends of child labour in developing countries have become a concern and worry for everyone. The given table has not given said that the streets children from various social demography have not specific work in street. However, from the given the majority along with 39.4% street children were engaged in begging rather than any kinds of laborious work.

Table 4. 1: Type of work mainly engaged to earn money

		Caste				Sex		Age				Total
		Brahmin/Chhetri	Janjati	Dalit	Others	Male	Female	5-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-20 Years	21-25 Years	
No Work	N	7	17	1	1	12	14	5	18	3	0	26
	%	11.30%	16.20%	3.40%	10.00%	7.20%	35.00%	18.50%	14.10%	6.20%	0.00%	11.11%
Begging	N	22	47	20	4	81	12	17	61	14	1	93
	%	35.50%	44.80%	69.00%	40.00%	48.80%	30.00%	63.00%	47.70%	29.20%	33.30%	39.74%
Sell flowers/newspapers/fruits on the road	N	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	2
	%	1.60%	0.00%	3.40%	0.00%	1.20%	0.00%	3.70%	0.80%	0.00%	0.00%	0.85%

Collect things from dustbin and sell	N	4	11	2	1	16	2	0	12	4	2	18
	%	6.50%	10.50%	6.90%	10.00%	9.60%	5.00%	0.00%	9.40%	8.30%	66.70%	7.69
Collect old papers and other things	N	3	10	2	2	14	3	0	11	3	3	17
	%	4.80%	9.50%	6.90%	20.00%	8.40%	7.50%	0.00%	8.60%	6.20%	100.00%	7.26
Sex worker	N	3	5	1	1	2	8	0	1	8	1	10
	%	4.80%	4.80%	3.40%	10.00%	1.20%	20.00%	0.00%	0.80%	16.70%	33.30%	4.27
Cooli (Porter)	N	19	21	8	2	48	2	4	30	16	0	50
	%	30.60%	20.00%	27.60%	20.00%	28.90%	5.00%	14.80%	23.40%	33.30%	0.00%	21.37
Other	N	23	27	5	2	49	8	4	37	15	1	57
	%	37.10%	25.70%	17.20%	20.00%	29.50%	20.00%	14.80%	28.90%	31.20%	33.30%	24.36

Similarly, the street children from Brahmin/Chhetri community group were engaged in begging and labor along with 35.50% and 30.60% respectively and remaining very were involved in shelling flower, collects things from dustbin and work as sex worker, however, 11.30% street children have not done any things. Similarly, the street children from Janjati caste group were also begging in the street rather than any kinds of work and remaining were involved in shelling flower and other lobar work, however, 16.20% street children from this group had not done any kinds of work for sustain. However, the majority of Dalit community street children were involved in begging in the street and that results indicated that these group street children were more actively engaged in begging working rather than any other work. In contrast to Dalit group street children, other caste group were also engaged in begging job rather than any other work, however, 10.0% street children had nothing to do they are spending their whole day without doing anything and remaining of them were involved in shelling the flowers, laboring and many other kinds of activities.

In regarding the Male and Female Street children, comparatively, male street children were engaged in begging job along with 48.80%, however, female along with 35.00% were not involved in any work and 30.0% were also engaged in begging and remaining of them were involved in other activities, however, 20.00% female street children were involved in sexual activities respectively.

In the case of age group reaction about their involvement in work, the majority of street children from 5 to 10 years were engaged in begging along with 63.00% and remaining of the number were involved in other kinds of activities. The age group from 11 to 15 years along with 47.70% were begging in the street and remaining number shown that the other was involved in other kinds of activities. However, the street children from 16 to 20 years along with 33.30% were sustain by laboring in the day, similarly, 29.20% street children were begging in the street and 16.70% street children were involved in sexual activities. In the same way, the street children

from 21 to 25 years were totally involved in Collecting old papers and other things along with 100.0% and 66.70% street children collecting things from dustbin and sell it and earn money. In the same way 33.00% street children were sustain their life in street by laboring and 30.30% street children were involved in sexual activities.

“I left my husband and my daughter and came back to street ...”

Street life become the source of freedom so street children did not want to stay in the home or shelter. The same story shared by the Ms. Sunita Lama (name changed). Sunita shared her family background first when she met the researcher in this study. She said, “In my family, we are five members- my father, mother my small brother and my sister. When I was small, my father did labor work and earned money. We were all depended on our father for living.”

Ms. Sunita was physically partially disable. Her one leg of not functioning properly and felt difficult to walk long distance. When she was 4 years old, her one leg got burned from fire. Due to her disability, she couldn't go to the school. Her little brother and sister were going to school. She sat and worked entire day in the house. After two years of her accident, she could able to go to outside of the house. She went to the street and around temples to play. She met some friends there. They were eating, playing, sleeping, and doing all their activities in the streets. They earned money by begging. These activities of street children attracted her to live in the street. She said her story, *“In my family, we couldn't eat properly as my father didn't earn much and we are many mouths to be fed from small income. My parents fought every day because of this. So, one day, I decided to leave home. I started living in the streets like my other friends. In the street, I started using cigarettes, Ganga, alcohol and many other drugs. They said I looked pretty, so, many boys wanted to have sex with me. I wanted to earn lot of money, so I got involved in sexual activities. In a day, I went with 6-7 people to earn money. I made it my everyday job. Many organizations came and arrested me. They put me in their welfare organizations. I lived there for some days and then ran away. I didn't like staying there in the shelter. So, again, I started to live in the streets.”*

After listening her story, the researcher came in interest to know about her motivation to live in the street. The study asked her about the beauty of street, then she said, *“I like freedom. Once, a social organization from Pokhara took me to Pokhara. They also admitted me to a school. But I didn't like to study. So, they got me married to a boy there. For some days, I enjoyed living in a small family with my husband and my mother-in-law. We had a small house. I became pregnant and gave birth to a daughter. Slowly, I started disliking the family and the lifestyle. One day, I left the house, my husband and my daughter and came back to street of Kathmandu. I started doing my old job. I liked freedom and involving in sex with lots of people and earning money. I didn't like a family life.”*

Ms. Sunita also shared about the problem to live in street. She said, *“There are many challenges in the streets, police arrest us, most people hate us and treat us badly, some use disgusting*

swearwords at us. But we don't care about it. We have our own good life. All friends are a family. We enjoy our life by doing what we want."

The story of Ms. Sunita indicates that children come to the street due to some family, social, environmental or friends causes but gradually they become the habitual to live in the street and love the street life. Most the street children felt that there is full of freedom in the street; no boundary, no rules and no objection from any person. They can do whatever they do. The enjoy of freedom become the main motivation to live in the street.

4.2 Difficulties faced in the street

Perhaps the greatest risk faced by children living on the street over which they have little or no control is their vulnerability to abuse – sexual abuse, physical abuse and moral and emotional abuse. Interventions to prevent abuse can address three areas: providing a safe environment which prevents abuse; providing accountability and increasing children's skills to protect themselves (Basnet, 2007). The following table justified that the majority of street children from various social demography were faced problem in street life along with 75.3%.

Table 4. 2: Difficulties faced during presence in the street

	Caste				Sex		Age				Total
	Brahamin/Chhetri	Janjati	Dalit	Others	Male	Female	5-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-20 Years	21-25 Years	
Yes	53.4%	60.0%	51.4%	72.7%	56.3%	61.4%	47.1%	54.9%	69.1%	66.7%	57.3%
No	46.6%	40.0%	48.6%	27.3%	43.7%	38.6%	52.9%	45.1%	30.9%	33.3%	42.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Therefore, Brahmin/Chhetri community group had faced so many problems in the street along with 53.4%. In the same way, the street children from Janajati community were even suffered from various kinds of problem along with 60.0%. However, Dalit Street children had not faced problem as much as other caste group were faced in the street life along with 51.4%. In contrary to Dalit community street children were suffered from the difficulties in the street life along with 72.7%. Thus, it has been proven that the other community street children were has got faced difficulties in the street in comparison to other caste group.

In between male and Female Street children both male and female were suffered from various kinds of difficulties in the street; however, females were suffered more along with 61.4% than male street children.

Likewise, on the basis of age group who faced difficulties in the street life, the majority of street children from 11 to 25 years were faced the difficulties in street life because these groups had above 60.0% of majority. However, 5 to 10 year's age group had faced fewer problems as other age group faced along with 52.9%.

4.3 Experience of Mistreatment in the street

The language used to describe street children by the general people in a single term is as "Khate" which means plastic pickers. The "Khate" identity hinges upon doing rag picking and spending all the earnings on food and fun (Onta-Bhatta L. , 1996). But this term "Khate" is nowadays generalized to all the children who work, live, sleep and spend their life on the street. Hence this word "Khate" is a derogatory term used to describe the low life of street by the general public which also indicates the negative opinion towards street children. Hence, the street children are very much inclined because of the daily treatment they have to face from the general public and the attitude and the policies the government formulates on them. It is visualized that children on the street situation often refuse to be called by this name as they take it to be very insulting (Ghimire, 2014).The given table said that the majority of street children from various social demography faced misbehave and mistreatment in street along with 51.3%.

Table 4. 3: Ever been subjected to mistreatment in outside the house

	Caste				Sex		Age				Total
	Brahamin/Chhetri	Janjati	Dalit	Others	Male	Female	5-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-20 Years	21-25 Years	
Yes	47.9%	53.9%	48.6%	54.5%	53.2%	43.2%	44.1%	50.7%	58.2%	33.3%	51.3%
No	52.1%	46.1%	51.4%	45.5%	46.8%	56.8%	55.9%	49.3%	41.8%	66.7%	48.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

However, the street children from Brahamin/Chhetri community were had face less mistreatment and misbehave in the street along with 52.1%. In the same way the street children from Janajati community along with 53.9% were faced mistreatment by others in the street. In contrary to Brahmin/Chhetri and Janajati, Dalit Street children were even faced less mistreatment along with 51.4%.

In regarding the male and female street children, male Street children along with 52.2% were faced mistreatment, in contrary to male, female were faced less mistreatment along with 56.8% respectively.

In the context of age group division of mistreatment, the street children from 5 to 10 years were not faced misbehave by others in the street in contrary of it 11 to 20 years were faced the huge mistreatment by paddlers and others in the street along with 58.2% respectively. However, the street children from 21 to 25 years were faced less mistreatment along with 66.7%.

4.4 Types of mistreatments

Different national and international laws associate age factors for defining children. In Nepal, the Children Act, 2048 BS has defined “children” to include those persons who have not concluded their 16th year. This law aims at “protecting child rights and well-being, and make contextual provision for their physical, psychological and mental development”. This law has been ratified under the context where the state has signed the “UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989” and thereby committed at the international level to prohibit actions such as shaving the head (Mudhyaune), offering children to gods and goddesses at temples, harsh punishment to children, or involvement in immoral activities or begging (Kharel, 2007). Although it was clearly predicted from the table that the majority of street children became the victim of physical, psychological, sexual and other kinds of harassment and mistreatment, 39.32% street children became the victim of physical harassment and 28.63% became victim of psychic mistreatment.

Table 4. 4: Types of mistreatments

		Caste				Sex		Age				Total
		Brahmin/Chhetri	Janjati	Dalit	Others	Male	Female	5-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-20 Years	21-25 Years	
Physical	N	28	47	14	3	81	11	12	53	25	2	92
	%	75.70%	78.30%	93.30%	60.00%	83.50%	55.00%	66.70%	80.30%	80.60%	100.00%	39.32%
Psychological	N	22	32	8	5	53	14	8	40	18	1	67
	%	59.50%	53.30%	53.30%	100.00%	54.60%	70.00%	44.40%	60.60%	58.10%	50.00%	28.63%
Sexual	N	3	6	1	0	1	9	1	1	7	1	10
	%	8.10%	10.00%	6.70%	0.00%	1.00%	45.00%	5.60%	1.50%	22.60%	50.00%	4.27%
Other	N	3	2	0	0	5	0	0	4	1	0	5
	%	8.10%	3.30%	0.00%	0.00%	5.20%	0.00%	0.00%	6.10%	3.20%	0.00%	2.14%

On the basis of social demography of the street children, the majority of street children from Brahmin/Chhetri were faced physical and psychological harassment along with 75.70% and 59.50% respectively, though physical harassment by peddlers and others has higher than psychological in comparison between them. In the same way, the street children from Janajati community were even faced physical and psychological mistreatment by others in the street along with 78.30% and 53.30% respectively, though physical mistreatment have higher than

psychological mistreatment in Janajati street children. Likewise, Dalit Street children had faced higher number both physical and psychological mistreatment by their own circle or from other side in the street along with 93.30%. However, other community street children totally faced the psychological mistreatment in their circle as well as by others in the street along with 100.00%.

In regarding male and female street children facing physical, psychological and sexual harassment and other kinds of mistreatment, male street children along with 83.50% said they faced physical mistreatment and 54.6% said psychological misbehave, on the other hand, the female street children along with 55.00% were faced the physical mistreatment and 70.00% were faced psychological mistreatment respectively.

In the issue of mistreatment among the different age of street children, the majority of street children from various age groups were faced physical and psychological mistreatment. The age group from 21 to 25 years said they have faced physical, psychological and sexual harassment along with 100/0%, 50.0% and 50.0% respectively. Therefore, it has been said that the street children from these group were suffered from these mistreatments in the street. In the same way 11 to 29 years were faced the physical and psychological torture along with 80.3% respectively. Likewise, the street children from 5 to 10 years said suffered from physical mistreatment in comparison to psychological torture because street children from these groups had a smaller number of agreements in psychological suffering and even torture given by others in the street along with 44.40%.

4.5 Ever been subjected to any form of exploitation

In regarding the street children facing difference kinds of exploitation, the majority were not faced any kinds of exploitation along with 47.0% and in the same way 13.6% street children said they faced economic exploitation in the street.

Table 4. 5: Ever been subjected to any form of exploitation

		Caste				Sex		Age				Total
		Brahamin/ Chhetri	Janj ati	Dali t	Oth ers	Mal e	Fem ale	5-10 Yea rs	11- 15 Yea rs	16- 20 Yea rs	21- 25 Yea rs	
I haven't faced any exploit ation	N	38	50	17	5	86	24	17	76	16	1	110
	%	70.40%	59.50%	63.00%	83.30%	63.70%	66.70%	70.80%	69.10%	45.70%	50.00%	47.00%
Econo mic (includi ng	N	10	15	6	1	31	1	3	20	9	0	32
	%	18.50%	17.90%	22.20%	16.70%	23.00%	2.80%	12.50%	18.20%	25.70%	0.00%	13.68%

being robbed)												
Traffic king drugs (smuggling)	N	5	9	3	0	13	4	1	8	8	0	17
	%	9.30%	10.70%	11.10%	0.00%	9.60%	11.10%	4.20%	7.30%	22.90%	0.00%	7.26
Prostitution	N	2	5	1	0	0	8	0	1	6	1	8
	%	3.70%	6.00%	3.70%	0.00%	0.00%	22.20%	0.00%	0.90%	17.10%	50.00%	3.42
Other	N	3	8	1	0	11	1	3	7	2	0	12
	%	5.60%	9.50%	3.70%	0.00%	8.10%	2.80%	12.50%	6.40%	5.70%	0.00%	5.13

On the basis of social demography, the majority of street children from Brahmin/Chhetri have not faced any kinds of exploitation from their own friends as well as by others in the street among 70.40% respectively, however, 18.50% street children from these groups were robbed or other kinds of economical exploitation by their own friends and others in the street. In the same way, the Janajati street children were even had similar answer that they were not also exploitation by their own friends and others in the street along with 59.50%, however, 17.90% street children faced economical exploitation. From the Dalit community, the majority of them were agreed in not exploited in their own circle and other friends along with 63.00%, however, 22.20% street children from these communities were even agreed in regarding the economical exploitation by their own friends as well as other. Similarly, the street children from other community along with 83.30% were not faced any kinds of exploitation.

In the context of male and female street children in regarding their exploitation by their friends and other in the street, the both street children were equally not faced any exploitation along with 66.70%. However, male street children said they have faced the robbed by others and other kinds of economical exploitation along with 23.00% respectively.

In the division of age group and their tolerance of torture by their friends and strangers, majority of street children from 5 to 15 years were not faced any kinds of exploitation along with 70.8% respectively. The street children from 16 to 20 years along with 45.70% were not faced any kinds of exploitation which shown the negative results because it has below 50.0% respectively, on the other hand, 25.70% street children suffered from economic exploitation like robbed by their senior friends and others as well, 22.90% were said they were force to smuggle the drug by their senior and 17.10% street children from these division were faced the prostitution exploitation by their friends as well other. Similarly, the street children from 21 to 25 years were not faced any kinds of exploitation in the street along with 50.0% and 50.00% street children compel to have the sexual exploitation by senior and strangers respectively.

4.6 Exploiter of street children

To be sexually exploited is a serious crime in Nepal. But street children are often the victims of such exploitation. Though the governing bodies and the concerned stakeholders are aware of the fact, the voice is unheard. In regarding the exploitation by the various groups or individuals, the majority of street children were exploited by road side shop, work colleague and a passerby along with 28.2%, 13.6% and 12.3% respectively.

Table 4. 6: If yes, then who exploited

		Caste				Sex		Age			Total
		Brahmin/Chhetri	Janjati	Dalit	Others	Male	Female	5-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-20 Years	
Road side occupation forces	N	22	30	12	2	56	10	7	37	22	66
	%	75.90%	63.80%	75.00%	50.00%	72.70%	52.60%	53.80%	71.20%	71.00%	28.21
Family member	N	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2
	%	6.90%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.60%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.50%	0.85
A relative	N	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	2
	%	3.40%	2.10%	0.00%	0.00%	1.30%	5.30%	0.00%	3.80%	0.00%	0.85
Work colleagues	N	9	18	3	2	22	10	6	16	10	32
	%	31.00%	38.30%	18.80%	50.00%	28.60%	52.60%	46.20%	30.80%	32.30%	13.68
A passerby	N	8	14	3	4	22	7	6	9	14	29
	%	27.60%	29.80%	18.80%	100.00%	28.60%	36.80%	46.20%	17.30%	45.20%	12.39
Others	N	2	6	1	0	6	3	1	5	3	9
	%	6.90%	12.80%	6.20%	0.00%	7.80%	15.80%	7.70%	9.60%	9.70%	3.85

Therefore, on the basis of social demographical dimension, the majority of Brahmin/Chhetri community had the opinion about the exploitation by the road side shop highly in comparison to other along with 75.90%, in the same way 31.00% street children even exploited by their work colleagues in the street as well as in working and 27.60% street children said they were exploited by passerby. Likewise, the street children from Janjati community group, majority of them were exploited by road side shop along with 63.80%, in the same way, 38.30% street children from these communities were exploited by their work colleagues and 18.80% street children from the given community said they were exploited by passerby in the street through various methods. Similarly, Dalit community street children had the opinion on exploitation by the road side occupation in the street along with 75.0%, in the same way 18.80% street children were exploited by their working colleagues and 18.80% street children from the same community were exploited by passerby respectively in the street. In the same manner, the

majority of street children from other community had maximum response on exploitation by the road side shop and by working colleagues in the street along with 50.0% equally. However, 100.0% street children from the other community group were exploited by passerby along with 100.00% respectively.

In the context of male and female street children number of exploitation by working colleagues, road side shop, passerby and many others, the maximum numbers of male street children were exploited by road side along with 72.70% in comparison to female where 53.50% of them were exploited by road side shop and working colleagues in the street respectively. In the same way 28.60% Male Street children were faced the exploitation from working colleagues and passerby respectively. On the other hands, the female street children were along with 36.80% was exploited by working colleague.

On the basis of age division, the majority of 5 to 20 years were suffered from the exploitation by road side shop, working colleagues and passerby. In between 5 to 10 years street children 52.60% were exploited by road side shop, 52.60% exploited by working colleagues and 36.80% were exploited by passerby respectively. In the same way, the majority of street children from 11 to 15 years were exploited from the road side shop, 30.80% were exploited by work colleagues and 17.30% were exploited by a passerby respectively. Likewise, the street children from 16 to 20 years were exploited by road side shop along with 71.00% and working colleague by 32.30% and a passerby along with 45.20% respectively.

5. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

It is found from the study that comparatively higher number (39.4%) of street children were engaged in begging rather than any kinds of laborious work. 51.3% street children faced misbehave and mistreatment in street from roadside people. Street children became the victim of physical, psychological, sexual and other kinds of harassment and mistreatment. 39.32% street children became the victim of physical harassment and 28.63% became victim of psychologic mistreatment. In regarding the exploitation by the various groups or individuals, the majority of street children were exploited by road side shop, work colleague and a passerby along with 28.2%, 13.6% and 12.3% respectively. In general, the street children have to beg or have to involve in risk work to earn money. On the other hand, they have been discriminated and mistreated by the road side people because of their helpless condition so concerned authority should be responsible for the safety and security of street children.

Financial support and sponsorship: None

Conflicts of interest: None

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Nepal Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (NJMR)

Vol. 5, No. 1, March 2022. Pages:38-52

ISSN: 2645-8470 (Print), ISSN: 2705-4691 (Online)

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