

Migration Of Child Labour In Nepal

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INTRODUCTION

Children start working when they reach 5 or 6 years, especially, by helping around the home, running errands or spending time helping their parents on the family farm (ILO 1994). Children doing work itself is not a big problem. But due to in search of work opportunities, children will be separated/migrated from their parents or families and they will be discarded with education which is essential for child development. Another thing is that it creates exploitation of the children in the name of employment in various sectors because children are not much aware of their rights and protection of their future lives due to immaturity which may be disastrous.

The trend of child migration from hill to tarai and from rural to urban areas has also been increasing day by day, as some preliminary studies have shown (CAR-NWG 1994; ILO 1995). But the migration of children to urban areas compared to tarai is much pronounced whether the place of origin is rural or urban places. It may be attributed that the life in rural areas is harder with poor roads and communications and development initiatives are concentrated only in the Kathmandu Valley (Sattaur 1993.)

CWIN (1998) noted that overwhelming majority of the migrant child labourers are found among children working in five major sectors, namely, carpet industry, domestic servants, shoe shining, porters, and tempo *khalasis*. Principal reasons for child migration are lack of love, care, and parental guidance and violence in the family. On the other hand, in search of work and insufficient food are also important reasons for leaving home though most of the children came to the Kathmandu due to parent's suggestion, advice of friends, and dislike of village life (INSEC 1996).

METHODOLOGY

This paper is focused on the overall magnitude and streams of the migration of working children within the country using Migration Survey 1995/96 data collected by Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS), Tribhuvan University. Information on period migration, defining those who were absent (out-migration) from household at the time of

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survey for at least six months and up to five years, is used for those who were aged 5-17 at the time of survey. The spatial dimension chosen was the Village Development Committee. Magnitude of the migration of working children is illustrated by estimation migrant children aged 5-17 representing the nation as a whole. Streams are illustrated by simple percentage distribution of the data covering only place residence, ecological zones and five development regions.

Migration survey collected information on both the internal and international migrants and their socio-economic and demographic characteristics covering a total of 600 wards with 450 from rural and 150 from urban stratum. Sample size was fixed at 33 households from each sampled ward unless there were less than 33 households in the selected wards. Wards were further segmented, if necessary, based on the equal size rule and one of the sub-divisions of ward was selected randomly. A specially designed sample frame was developed using probability proportionate to size (PPS) method covering 73 out of 75 districts. The urban areas were over-sampled to ensure the representation of the analysis of urban areas separately. However, in the case of aggregate analysis, data are weighted to adjust the over sample of urban areas to the census distribution.

Dolpa and Manang were missed in the process. Among the four sets of questionnaire developed and administered, out-migration schedule is used in this study. Other three sets are: household schedule including socio-economic status of the household, in-migration schedule, and individual questionnaire. The survey was conducted during the period from January to March 1996. A total of 57 supervisors and 146 enumerators were involved in the survey.

For estimating migrant child labour, child population at the survey date is projected based on the exponential growth function for child population during the 1981-1991 intercensal period. The growth rate for the child population aged 5-17 years is 2.8 percent per annum. Using this growth rate, total count of the child population of the respective age groups obtained from 1991 census was projected to the survey date. Using projected child population, the proportion of sample migrant children were decomposed into number for representation of the nation as a whole.

DEFINITION OF CHILD LABOUR

The main criteria for defining child labour limited to the information available are reasons for migration irrespective of the involvement in whether paid or unpaid work and irrespective of the school enrollment.

Reasons listed in the questionnaire were broadly classified covering several reasons into a few headings. Of the total absentees, 3,250, 1,123 were reported to be aged 5-17 years, that is, one-third of the total periodic migrants. Among them, 330, 29.4 percent, left home for economic reasons (Table 1). Economic reasons include service 10.6 percent, agriculture 3.2 percent and search of job 15.7 percent. The remaining were migrated for non-economic reasons which include marriage 56.2 percent, dependent 7.3 percent and education 7 percent.

Table 1
Reasons For Migration Children Aged 5-17 Years

Reasons for Migration	Number	Percent
Marriage	631	56.2
Dependent	82	7.3
Education	79	7.0
Service	119	10.6
Agriculture	35	3.2
Search of Job	176	15.7
Total	1,123	100.0

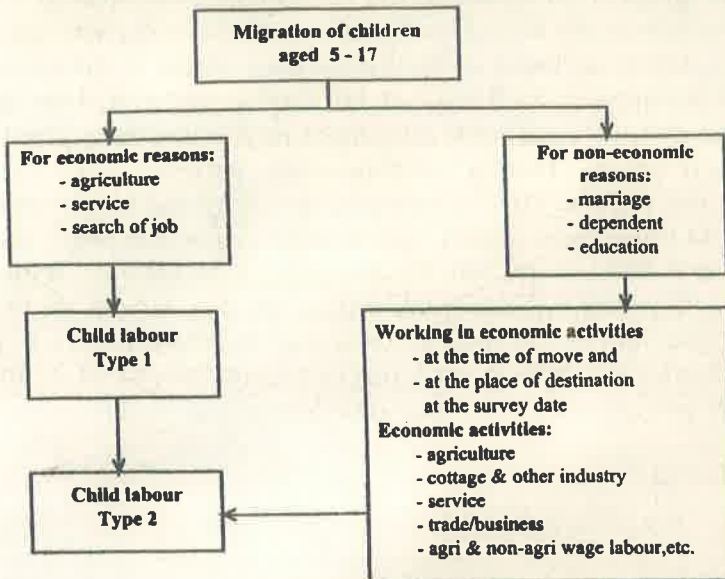
Source: K.C. et al. (1997) *Migration of Working Children in Nepal*, Draft Report ILO, Nepal.

Even though a number of migrants left their household due to non-economic reasons, they were working in economic activities immediate before and after move, that is, at the time while they moved and at the time of interview at the place of current residence. Information on economic activities is obtained from occupational status of the children by asking their descendants at the time while they moved and at survey date at the place of destination. Considering this context of migrant children involved in economic activities, analysis is carried out by defining migrant child labour in this study in two ways: those who migrated due to economic reasons are defined as child labour Type 1 and those who migrated due to non-economic reasons and those due to non-economic but were working in economic activities immediate before and after migration, at the time of survey, are defined as migrant child labour Type 2.

This definition is illustrated in Figure 1 which helps reader further to understand what types of child labour are used in this study.

Figure 1

Schematic Diagram Of The Definition Of Child Labour



Estimation Of Migrant Child Labour In Nepal

Migrant child labour is estimated to represent the national level as a whole for the survey date. For this purpose, proportion of migrant child-labour is obtained from the sample population of children aged 5-17 years. The child population in the same age range from 1991 census year to the survey date based on the exponential growth rate during 1981-1991 census year. Then, an estimate of the national level child labour is made as the product of sample proportion and the projected child population age 5-17 years (Table 2). The same procedure is used for both males and females and for various population subgroups being considered. Table 2 shows the estimation of child labour considering the first condition, Type 1 (Figure 1). Children aged 5-17 who moved out from their place of origin due to economic reasons are estimated to be about 80 thousands, that is, 1.06 percent of the total children aged 5-17 in the country, 7,563 thousands. Among them, 67 thousands are males with 1.7 percent of total male children, 3,865 thousands, and 13 thousands are females with 0.36 percent of the total females, 3,698, indicating male child labours are in overwhelming majority. According to their age at the time of move, though only three ages included, the highest number of child labour is estimated in this age group 15-17, 44 thousands, which is 3.4 per cent of total children

aged 15-17 in the country. The mobility of child labour in rural areas overwhelmingly dominates the urban areas. There is 76 out of 80 thousands migrant child labour in the rural areas compared to 3 out of 80 thousands in urban areas. in rural areas overwhelmingly dominates the urban areas. There is 76 out of 80 thousands migrant child labour in the rural areas compared to 3 out of 80 thousands in urban areas. By development regions, eastern development region has the highest share of migrant child labour, that is, 28 thousands with 1.5 per cent of total children in the region. This is followed by western, 14 thousands, and farwestern, 14 thousands, region. Midwestern region has the least migrant child labour, 9 thousands, but the percentage in total of region is not negligible, 0.95 percent. Among the ecological zones, hills, 40 thousands, alone holds one-half of the total child labour in Nepal with 1.15 per cent. Tarai comes after the hills having migrant child labour of 32 thousands which is 1.26 per cent of the total tarai children.

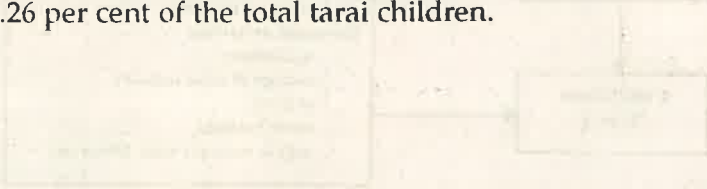


Table 2
Estimation Of Migrant Child Labour Type 1 Aged 5-17 Years

Background Variables	Projected Population (in '000) ¹			Estimated Migrant Child Labour (000) ²			Percentage in Total Child Population ³		
	Sex			Sex			Sex		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
Nepal	7,563	3,865	3,698	80	67	13	1.06	1.72	0.36
Age At Move									
5-9	3,414	1,740	1,674	5	2	3	0.16	0.14	0.18
10-14	2,832	1,447	1,360	22	19	3	0.78	1.30	0.22
15-17	1,318	653	664	44	37	6	3.37	5.63	0.98
Residence									
Urban	706	343	313	3	2	1	0.48	0.71	0.23
Rural	6,855	3,523	3,385	76	64	13	1.12	1.81	0.37
Development Region									
Farwestern	697	353	344	14	12	2	2.04	3.35	0.71
Midwestern	1,007	505	502	10	8	1	0.95	1.65	0.24
Western	1,568	791	778	17	15	2	1.09	1.86	0.24
Central	2,452	1,278	1,174	12	10	2	0.48	0.78	0.13
Eastern	1,839	938	900	28	22	6	1.50	2.30	0.66
Ecological Region									
Mountain	564	285	278	8	5	3	1.48	1.89	1.04
Hill	3,468	1,743	1,725	40	34	6	1.15	1.93	0.33
Tarail	3,532	1,837	1,695	32	27	5	0.91	1.50	0.27

1 Projected child population aged 5-17 as of survey date based on the exponential growth rate during 1981-1991 census.

2 Subtotal of some of the entries in table may not add to total due to difference in nonresponse in sample and rounding effect in decomposition process.

3 Proportion of the migrant child labour those who reported their reason for migration was economic which is used to estimate the national migrant child labour.

Source : As of the Table 1.

Table 3 presents the estimation of migrant child labour Type 2 (Figure 1). The estimation of this type includes migrants due to both economic and non-economic reasons. But, in the case of non-economic reasons, only migrants who were working in economic activities at the time of move and at the place of current residence are included. In this way, this type also includes the child labour Type 1 in an aggregate. It is done, because, it may

be a separate definition of the child labour in this context. Child labour Type 2 is estimated to be 120 thousands for the country which is 1.58 percent of the total children aged 5-17, 7,563 thousands, in Nepal. Of which 68 thousands are males with the percentage of 1.77 and 51 thousands are females with the percentage of 1.39 of the total male and female children respectively. The variation in males and females is much closer among Type 2 than among Type 1 migrant child labour.

Table 3

Estimation Of Migrant Child Labour Type 2 Aged 5-17 Years

Back ground Variables	Projected Population (in '000) ¹			Estimated Migrant Child Labour (000) ²			Percentage in Total Child Population ³		
	Sex			Sex			Sex		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
Nepal	7,563	3,865	3,698	120	68	51	1.58	1.77	1.39
Age At Move									
5-9	3,414	1,740	1,674	5	2	3	0.16	0.14	0.18
10-14	2,832	1,472	1,360	31	20	11	1.09	1.34	0.82
15-17	1,318	653	664	70	38	32	5.33	5.79	4.84
Residence									
Urban	708	343	313	5	2	2	0.72	0.71	0.73
Rural	6,855	3,523	3,385	114	66	49	1.66	1.87	1.44
Development Region									
Farwestern	697	353	344	18	12	6	2.57	3.35	1.78
Midwestern	1,007	505	502	14	9	5	1.41	1.70	1.06
Western	1,568	791	778	30	16	14	1.90	1.97	1.79
Central	2,452	1,278	1,174	25	10	15	1.01	0.80	1.25
Eastern	1,839	938	900	28	33	22	11	1.78	1.18
Ecological Region									
Mountain	564	285	278	16	5	10	2.79	1.89	3.77
Hill	3,468	1,743	1,725	60	35	24	1.72	2.01	1.41
Tarail	3,532	1,837	1,695	45	28	17	1.26	1.51	0.98

1 Projected child population aged 5-17 as of survey date based on the exponential growth rate during 1981-1991 census.

2 Subtotal of some of the entries in table may not add to total due to differences in nonresponse in sample and rounding effect in decomposition process.

3 Proportion of the migrant child labour those who reported their reason for migration was economic which is used to estimate the national migrant child labour.

Source : As of the Table 1.

Similar pattern of the estimation in various subgroups as males and females is found as in Type 1 child labour. Most of the child labour who were aged 15 and 17, 70 thousands with 5.3 percent of the total children aged 15-17, and who were residing in rural areas, 114 thousands with 1.66 percent of the total rural children, moved out from the origin. According to development regions, the first and second highest share of child labour belong to eastern, 33 thousands, and western, 30 thousands, regions respectively as found in Type 1 child labour. But the third position here goes to central region which has 25 thousands of migrant child labour. Though tarai also has a large number of migrant child labour, 44 thousands, hills is the most prominent among ecological zones for migrant child labour which has 60 thousands with 1.72 percent of the total hill children, 3, 468 thousands.

There are some striking results found for child labour Type 2 in some regions when looking it by sex. Among child labour Type 2 belonging with central region, females, 15 thousands, are one and half times higher than males, 10 thousands. In mountain, females, 10 thousands are estimated to be just double of males, 5 thousands.

Migration Stream

Rural/urban migration stream of child labours for both types is presented in Table 4. Percentage of migrant child labour Type 1 currently residing in urban areas, 54.1 percent, irrespective of the place of origin, is almost double of those who are residing in rural areas, 26.9 percent. However, this proportion is higher for rural, 46.6 percent than that for urban, 40 percent among child labour Type 2.

Proportions going to urban from both rural, 53.8 percent, and urban, 54.8 percent, areas are found to be higher than those going to rural areas among Type 1 child labour. However, among child labour Type 2, the proportions going from rural, 49.2 percent, and from urban to urban areas 54.3 percent, dominates the stream even though the stream from rural to urban, 38.2 percent, is also notable. Moreover, proportions migrant child labour whose place of destination was not stated are also significant.

Table 4
Rural-urban Stream Of Migrant Child Labour Aged 5-17 Year

Place of Origin	Place of Destination			Total	
	Rural	Urban	NS	Percent	Number
Child Labour: Type 1					
Rural	28.3	53.8	17.9	100	318
Urban	16.1	54.8	29.0	100	39
Total	96	193	68		357
percentage	26.9	54.1	19.0		100
Child Labour: Type 2					
Rural	49.2	38.2	12.6	100	474
Urban	26.1	54.3	19.6	100	58
Total	248	213	71		532
Percentage	46.6	40.0	13.3		100

Note : For rural and urban analysis, unweighted data are used.

Source: As of the Table 1.

Interregional migration stream of child labours is assessed in three ecological zones: mountain, hills, and tarai zones and five administrative regions: farwestern, midwestern, western, central, and eastern development regions. Table 5 presents the stream by ecological zones for both types of child labours. Among Type 1 child labours, stream clearly shows that the hill is the main child labour receiving zone which absorbed 35.3 percent of mountain, 68.9 percent of the same zone, and 30.8 percent of tarai origin, though the tarai has the highest proportion of child labour, 61.5 percent, moved within the same zone and equal proportion from mountain went to hill, 35.3 percent, and to tarai, 35.3 percent.

Among the child labours Type 2, though the mobility within the same zones is much common, 4.3 percent, of the mountain origin and 6.5 percent of the tarai origin child labour are currently residing in hill which is the next position to the mobility within the same zones. Among the hill origins, 5.2 percent of the child labour went to tarai which is also notable while no person from mountain went to tarai.

Table 5
Migration Of Child Labours By Ecological Zones

Place of Origin	Place of Destination				Total	
	Mountain	Hill	Tarai	NS	Percent	Number
Child Labour: Type 1						
Mountain	29.4	35.3	35.3	-	100	22
Hill	-	68.9	15.6	15.6	100	57
Tarai	3.8	30.8	61.5	3.8	100	33
Total	8	57	37	10	-	112
Child Labour: Type 2						
Mountain	95.7	4.3	-	-	100	51
Hill	3.4	87.9	5.2	3.4	100	131
Tarai	3.2	6.5	90.3	-	100	72
Total	39	125	76	13	-	253

Note: Weights used for ecological zones and development regions are different, so total may not be equal.

Source: As of the Table 1.

Table 6 deals with the migration stream of child labour in five development regions. For child labour Type 1, though the mobility within the same regions is much common in all regions, central region is the most child labour receiving compared to others. The percentages are 11.1 of farwestern, 35.7 of western, 85.7 of the same region, and 54.3 of eastern went to central development region. This is followed by western region that it received the migrant child labours in percentages are 25 of midwestern, 35.7 of the same region, 14.3 of central, and 2.2 of eastern development region. From this finding, two results are notable: one is that eastern region is the main origin of child labour which has the highest, 58, in number; another is that tarai and farwestern region received no person from any other regions.

Among the child labour Type 2, the mobility within the same regions is overwhelming. However, eastern region has only 52.5 percent of the child labour from the same origin, which is much fewer than that for others. The remaining large chunk of eastern development region, 1.7 percent. Central and western were the main child labour receiving regions from almost all regions. For instance, 4.8 percent of farwestern, 14.8 percent of midwestern, and 42.4 percent of eastern origin child labour are currently residing in central development region. Central region has 91.7 percent of child labour moved within the same region and western region has 72.2

percent of the child labour moved within the same region. Similarly, 6.3 percent of midwestern, 4.2 percent of the central, and 1.7 percent of the eastern origin child labours are currently residing in western development region.

Table 6
Migration Of Child Labours By Development Regions

Place of Origin	Place of Destination						Total	
	Far western	Mid western	Western	Central	Eastern	NS	Per cent	Number
Child Labour: Type 1								
Farwestern	55.6	-	-	11.1	-	33.3	100	11
Midwestern	-	75.0	25.0	-	-	-	100	5
Western	-	7.1	35.7	35.7	-	21.4	100	18
Central	-	-	14.3	85.7	-	-	100	18
Eastern	-	-	2.2	54.3	39.1	4.3	100	58
Total	6	5	11	55	23	10	-	110
Child Labour: Type 2								
Farwestern	81.0	-	-	4.8	-	14.3	100	27
Midwestern	-	93.8	6.3	-	-	-	100	20
Western	-	3.7	72.2	14.8	1.9	7.4	100	68
Central	-	-	4.2	91.7	2.1	2.1	100	61
Eastern	-	-	1.7	42.4	52.5	3.4	100	75
Total	22	22	55	99	42	13	-	251

Note : Weights used for ecological zones and development regions are different, so total may not be equal.

Source: As of the Table 1.

CONCLUSION

Migrant child labour Type 1 is estimated to be about 80 thousands with 67 thousands of males and 13 thousands of females. Most of them belong to age group 15-17, 44 thousands. While the migrant child labour Type 2 is 120 thousands of which 68 thousands are males and 51 thousands are females mostly belonging with the same age group. The variation in sex distribution is much closer among Type 2 than among Type 1 which is because child labour Type 1 does not include those moved for non-economic reasons. For economic reasons, more males moved out from home than females.

The migrant child labour enumerated in rural areas overwhelmingly dominates the urban areas. Migrant child labour in rural areas is 76 against 3 thousands in urban areas out of 80 thousands among Type 1. Similarly, overwhelming majority of Type 2 are from rural areas, 114 thousands.

Eastern development region has the highest share of migrant child labour Type 1, 28 thousands. Then western, 14 thousands, and farwestern 14 thousands, regions come at second position with just half of the eastern region. Similar pattern is observed in Type 2. The majority of the child labour belong to eastern, 33 thousands, and then to western, 30 thousands, regions.

Among the ecological zones, hills 40 thousands, alone holds half of the migrant child labours Type 1 in Nepal, then tarai comes at next position, 32 thousands. Hills is the most prominent zone for migrant child labour Type 2 also which has 60 thousands. However, tarai also has a large number of migrant child labour, 44 thousands. This indicates majority of the migrant child labours were enumerated in hills.

There are some striking results to be found among child labour type 2 when looking it by sex. Among child labour Type 2, females, 15 thousands, are 1.5 times higher than males, 10 thousands in central region and females, 10 thousands, are just double of males, 5 thousands, in mountain. This result may be due to that among child labours who migrated for non-economic reasons but were working in economic activities are mostly females.

Proportion of migrant child labour Type 1 currently residing in urban areas, 54.1 percent, is almost double of those residing in rural areas, 26.9 percent. However, this proportion is higher for rural, 46.6 percent than that for urban, 40 percent, among child labour Type 2.

Proportions going to urban from both rural, 53.8 percent, and urban, 54.8 percent, areas are higher than those going to rural areas among child labour Type 1. However, among child labour Type 2, the proportions going from rural to rural, 49.2 percent, and from urban to urban areas, 54.3 percent, dominates the stream even though the stream from rural to urban, 38.2 percent, is also significant.

Mobility of child labourers within both development regions and ecological zones is much common. This may be due that the spatial dimension of migration is Village Development Committee (VDC) and persistent short distance migration in Nepal.

Among Type 1, hills is the main child labour receiving zone absorbing 35.3 percent of mountain and 30.8 percent of tarai origin. Among type 2 also, hills received 4.3 percent of the mountain and 6.5 percent of the tarai origin. According to development regions, central region is the most child labour receiving region compared to others and who were mostly from the eastern and western regions for both types.

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