

Sociological Analysis of Children at Works: Household Child Labour in Kathmandu (A Case of Kuleshwor Residential Area, Kathmandu)

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Abstract

Children are the future citizens and pillar of society. All the manpower of tomorrow is the children of today. Therefore to make a good citizen, they should be provided with care, love, education, and proper food, clothes, which help them to achieve their physical, mental and social development. But all children are not treated accordingly. Many children are compelled to work in difficult conditions as wage labour to support their family and themselves also. Child labour often works in harmful and dangerous condition. Their mental, physical and social development is often threatened. Child labour is a result of poverty, ignorance of parent or guardians, family breakdown, social injustice, economic exploitation, etc. Now-a-days the migration of children to urban areas is increasing and this has led to the increase of children in city areas as a cheap source of labour. A major concern is that the work by children should not deprive them of their educational and other career opportunities. Unless we are able to consolidate the families by enabling them to escape from the deep-rooted unemployment, we would not be able to eliminate child labour as a problem in the society.

Introduction

Like children of other sectors, domestic child labourers are also suffering from many problems. such as mistreated by employers, over loaded work, no chance to study and recreation, etc. Poverty and deprivation are the key-factors, which have contributed to the growing number of children in the exploitative labour market. However, ignorance of parents and their guardians, family breakdowns and the trends of child exploitation have been increasing the incidence of child labour in Nepal (ILO 1995a: 41). Kamaiya (a system of bonded labour that exists mainly in western Nepal) families send their children in most of the urban centres to be a child labour is most common. This has further increased after the

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release of Kamaiyas through declaration of the government. The exploitation¹ of child labour has not changed and children are compelled to work in the different labour systems. The involvement in off-farm activities has however increased from 1.9 percent in 1981 to 10.7 percent in 1991² (Shrestha 1995:208). It is expected that those children who are between 6-15 years age group should all be enrolled in schools. Out of 4,898,000 of school age children, only 74.67 % were enrolled in the schools. It is supposed that a great number of children who were still not enrolled in the schools were working somewhere as child labours (ILO 1995b: 16). On the other the dropout rate of enrolled children is significant mainly in the rural areas. Among the various reasons responsible to dropout poverty comes at the top rank.

Extreme poverty and landlessness in the rural areas are leading to urban migration at uncontrolled rates. This has benefited an informal labour industry in which brokers supply urban businesses with a cheap work force. All too often the workers are children, sent in urban areas to pay off the interest on loans taken by themselves or by their ancestors (Sattaur 1993:9). Although there are several efforts to eliminate child labour from the side of HMG/Nepal and NGOs, child labour is still a problem and "...child labour is a socio-economic reality in every sector of the society" (CWIN 1993:3). Fifty two percent of the total population of Nepal comprises children below 18 years³. Since the problem of urban household working children is alarming in the cities, this study concentrates on its socio-economic situations, the nature of work, access to health and education of child labours in household sector.

Motivation for the Study

The problem of Nepalese children is seriously suffering from malnutrition, illiteracy, sex exploitation, child laboring, street children, etc. Child labours often work in harmful and hazardous conditions. As a result their mental, physical and social developments are often threatened. The overall population of child labours between the ages of 6-14 is 25.5 percent of which 21.4 percent are in the domestic sector. Thus, the schooling opportunities for domestic child workers are very depressed.

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1. Types of work that is inappropriate to the child's age and strength; hazardous and injurious to the child's physical, mental and social well beings; denies schooling; play; separates from family; employs/labours children rather than adults (UNICEF 1997:39)
 2. The decrease in the magnitude of child labour in the 1981 to the 1991 census is based on the determination of the overall economic activity rate in the census. According to the 1981 census "the economic activity of a person" refers to gainful activity during a minimum eight-month period of the year preceding the census. In the 1991 census, those who worked for at least three-months and those seeking employment were classified as economically active". Therefore, the economically active of the 1981 census is not comparable to the economically active of 1991 (ILO 1995b:6).
 3. The UNCRC (1989) defines the child as "all persons under 18, unless by law maturity is attained at an earlier age". According to the ILO proposed convention (1999) "no person under the age of 18 is to be in a worst form of child labour". Hidden in domestic service are most vulnerable and exploited. Children are largely "invisible" workers hidden and ignored (ILO 1999).

Household service in general is considered a better form of labour but the reality is different. It becomes one of the most exploitative forms of child labour. The working children are deprived of the rights to development such as education, health, nutrition and that ultimately will create uncertainty in the future. It has hindered their physical growth. Children are not even provided with the opportunity to meet their parents. This has had an adverse impact in their mentality.

Children work from early morning to late night without sufficient food and little affection from their employers. But the wages that child labour receives is negligible (less than Rs.200) per month.

Another important reason for this study is the children of today are the nation builders of tomorrow. Development of a society and country depends on them. Therefore, children should be provided with proper food, affection, love, care and education, which help them in their physical, mental and social development. Childhood is a period to make children knowledgeable, capable, sensitive and good citizens. Therefore, we must regard the child as a member, citizen, actor and a co-builder of society. That is why; a child should be protected from the hazardous⁴ activities of the adult world.

Though it is declared illegal, it still exists as a form of exploitative socio-economic reality. We all desire our children to make good citizen but due to lack of proper opportunities it can't be fulfilled. Although studies on child labour have been carried out in other sectors but no in-depth study on child labours in domestic sectors in urban areas has been initiated. So this study will try to find out the prevailing socio-economic situation, nature of works, and access to health and education of the children at work in household sectors in city areas.

Case of Child Labour in Nepal

Existing feudal and semi-feudal social system, growing economic disparity, poverty, lack of employment opportunities for the parents, lack of political commitment, lack of implementation of laws, ignorance of parents/children, family disharmony, deception/victimization of children and so on are the reason of child labour (Lamsal 1998:3). Of the total labour force, 4.9 percent remained fully unemployed and 47 percent is underemployed (NPC 1998:211). In such a stage of economic transition, the marginalized families and their children are forced to search of work (Sharma 1998:9-10). As part of family survival strategy to cope with financial pressures, more and more children are being pushed into the labour market (Sainju 1997:1). The unequal power relationships between the traditional money lenders/ landholders and borrowers/ tenants cause many economic difficulties for households and forced children to labour (VOCW 1999:9). It has become a trend that even medium class families would like to keep servants (*kanchha/ kanchhi*) (Sattaur 1993:53). Some studies have pointed out that there is an interrelationship between child labour exploitation, unemployment and wage unfairness (ILO 1995b:47).

⁴. The determination of "hazardous forms of child labour" is "work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardize the safety, health or morals of children" (ILO 1999:14).

Many child laborers are engaged in domestic chores, very lonely, immobile and living in confinement, without seeing their family and friends for years or sometimes forever also (Sharma et. al. 2001:2). The children trapped in hazardous activities at a very early age. Sharma et. al. (1999) is estimated that an overwhelming number of domestic child labour are Tharu and migrants from rural of western Terai. According to the IPEC, children are used in the form of labour along with their parents, in brick kilns, in stone quarries, in carpet factories and in domestic service. Poverty and others associated manifestations like bondage are the main reasons behind the high child labour rate. Almost two-thirds of households supplying child labour are landless, and from almost half of these households, more than two children are reported working as *kamlahari* (girls working inside the household as domestic child labour), *ladkakhelauna* (looking after children or domestic chores) (IPEC 2001: 23-25).

This paper is the outcome of an empirical study conducted in 2001 based on primary information. Some secondary information was also collected to fill the data gap. Secondary information was collected mainly from the review of past studies. A total of 70 household child labours under the age of 18 from 216 households of 'B-Block' Kuleshwor, Kathmandu was covered to produce this paper.

General Background of the Child Labour and their Family

The majority (80%) of the child labours in the household level of Kuleshwor residential area were coming from hill, where as 17.14 percent from *Terai* and only 2.86 percent from India. Most of the employers (51.43%) settled in Kuleshwor residential area, which came from central hill. Similarly the majority (58.57%) of the children came mostly from the districts around Kathmandu. Relatives brought most of them. The unbalanced socio-economic development of the country in rural hills has pushed children to migrate to cities and *Terai* for jobs. The high percentage (25.71%) come from Brahmin and followed by Newar, Magar and Tharu. This indicates that untouchable castes are not accepted for household labour (IPEC 1995).

Most of the child labours (55.71%) were between the age of 10-14 years. This is the age of child workers most favored by employers. Of the 70 child labours, 41.42% were girls and 58.58% were boys. According to CWIN's (1993) estimate, in Kathmandu only, 60 percent domestic helpers are children and 10 percent household child labour are under 10 years of age and 70 percent are 11-14 years of age. They do not prefer very young or big age children. Therefore, the 10 - 14 years of age children were in large numbers than the others ages of children. This study shows low percentage as compared to CWIN survey for comparable categories. From the study, it is found that 70 percent of the child labours had both their father and mother alive while 15.71 percent had mother only and 8.57 percent had father only. Of the total sample, 2.86 percent had stepmothers and 2.86 percent had either elder sister or brother at home. From the study, children come in general from medium size families (5-7), which is exactly equal with the national average (CBS 1998:16). It shows that the family size of the employees may not be a problem.

MAIN OCCUPATION OF THE CHILD LABOUR'S FAMILY

Migration becomes a way of life for the rural underprivileged families and local money lenders tempt them into indebtedness by offering loans at high interest, pulling their innocent child into debt-bondage and bringing slavery to the modern market (Sattaur 1993:15-18). Most of the families work for low wages on landowners' fields or on their own tiny plots of land for their living. It is hard for them to collect food grains enough for the whole year (Subedi 1993:87). Most households produce food to last for only three to eight months of the year, they have compulsion to turn to others work, loans or migration to sustain themselves. That is why rural families' children are sent to the cities in search of livelihoods.

Table 1: Main Occupation of the Child Labour Family

Main Occupation	No.of Respondents	Percentage
Culture	34	48.57
Ploughman of merchant	19	27.14
Porter	4	5.72
Others	13	18.57
Total	70	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2001.

Table 1 shows that 48.57 percent child labour reported that the main occupation of their families is agriculture and followed by 27.14 percent working as agricultural labour for landlords or farmers, 5.72 percent as porters for village merchants and 18.59 percent engaged in other works such as guard, army, carpenter, firewood seller, waiter, bus helper and as *Nagleshop* owner. Although farming is the main occupation of majority of the families of child labours under this study, it alone cannot support their living. Therefore, they must look for alternative employment to supplement the family income necessary for their livelyhood.

Reasons Behind Leaving Home

The main reasons of the child movement as a child labour is lacking of food and clothes in their homes, which is followed by pay back of merchant loan, influence of friends, misbehavior of step mother. Other reasons for leaving home as reported by the children were their desire of study, mother married with another man, father being sick, or hopping to get a job and to stay in the city.

Table 2: Reasons Behind Children to Become Child Labour

Reasons	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Lack of food/clothes in house	42	60.00
Pay back of merchant Loan	11	15.71
Influence of friends	6	8.57
Misbehavior of step mother	1	1.43
Others	10	14.29
Total	70	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2001.

The in-depth case studies of some children revealed that children came to the city to become household labour because of misbehavior of stepmother. According to VOICE of child workers (1999) family and social disturbance are valuable factor responsible for early age children leaving home.

Under the study 64.29 percent child labours have been away from their parents and community for 1 year, 30 percent for 5 years. While each 5.72 percent spent away from their home even for 10 years or more. For instance, a girl who left her home more than 10 years ago confided with the researcher that she had a desire to visit her family at home but her employer would not grant her a leave. Children need to socialize with friends of the same age and demand love and care. As we discussed above, many children are not even provided with the opportunity to meet their friends. This has had a negative impact on their mentality of the growing children. They want to visit their friends but their employers do not permit them to do so. Most of the children are kept inside the employers' houses and nobody knows what happens to them. Sports needs to building healthy and active children (NPC 1998:731). But it is limited only to the children of privileged families. There was never given holiday for majority of children. An act mentioned that "a holiday of one day for each week shall be given to the child engaged in the work" (HMG/N 1992:16). But in practical life, things are found to be different. Work burden, no leave to go home, abusing, beating, bad food, lack of recreation are the reason for their unhappiness.

Nature of Work of Child Labours

Leisure time is considered necessary for child development. There is never a leave or leisure for the children working as household labours. Majority of the children in this study reported that they worked for 15 hours a day under difficult circumstances. Such children do all the household chores, including taking care of elderly people, babies, cooking, etc jobs as assigned by the employers.

Table 3: Nature of Work Performed by Child Labours

Natures of Work	No. of Respondents	Percentage
All work including food preparation	43	61.43
All work excluding food preparation	24	34.29
Care to members of the family	2	2.86
Baby sitting	1	1.43
Total	70	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2001.

Table 3 shows that 61.4 percent of the child labours did all types of work within the domestic chores including food preparation, while 34.29 percent did everything except food preparation, 2.86 percent did massaging and take care of the old/sick members of the employer's house and 1.43 percent did baby sitting only. In general employers think that, the child labours must do all the work that they ask for. The working hours for child labours are not fixed, commonly they do not sleep unless their employers go to bed. Only when the employer goes away from home child labour may take some rest. The children under this study felt hardship work for cleaning dishes in late night, toilet cleaning, washing clothes, cleaning floor, caring old/sick members of the family, washing children stool, assisting old family member to go to the toilet, fetching water from well, marketing and baby sitting. Whereas, CWIN (1998) stated that a child who may be employed in work as a labour shall not be made to engage in work against his will. But from the observation it was found that children were engaged in various types of hard work whether they liked it or not.

Working Conditions of Child Labours

Household servants are forced to do all chores and their difficulties are confined within the four walls of a house (Urbashi 1997) and not allowed to meet and mix up with neighbors. Most children (84.26%) reported that they felt their present jobs were difficult while 15.74 percent did not feel that way.

Table 4: Problems Encountered by Child Labours

Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Not chance to home visit	27	45.76
Mistreated by of employer	14	23.73
Over loaded work	11	18.64
Sick frequently	3	5.08
Low wages	2	3.29
No chance to study	2	3.29
Total	59	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2001.

Of the 59 child labours, who mentioned that they had encountered problems, 45.76 percent reported that they did not get a chance to visit home, followed by misbehavior of employer (23.73%), overloaded of work (18.64%), sick frequently (5.08%), low wages (3.39%), no chance to study (3.39%) (see Table 4). The reports of sexual harassment of girl in our society have been on the rise for the last few years. In a study by CWIN (1993), 13.7 percent of girl children admitted of having experienced sexual harassment from the employers. In the period of field observation, 87.14 percent reported that they were not sexually harassed while only 12.86 percent mentioned that their employers teased them.

Under the study, 45.71 percent child labours worked from 6 am to 9 pm. This is a remarkable physiological trouble for a child within the age of 18 years, which could affect their mental as well as physical growth. There were others (44.29%), who worked from 5 am to 10 pm (that is about 17 hours). In any way, it was compulsion for a child labour to serve the large family for extended hour. Two of the children whose day-to-day life was studied in detail reported that they woke up at 5 am and went to bed at 10 pm. They performed household chores until late night.

Wages Received By Child Labours

Most of the children either did not receive any wages or received very low wages. Practice of cash payment on monthly basis is very limited. According to CWIN (1993) study, on an average, at least 41 percent are not paid anything while the rest are paid very nominal salary. Of the 70 children, 54.28 percent were neither paid nor had knowledge about their wages. They only got simple food, clothes, shelter, schooling and in some cases, up down transportation expenses in the time of home visits. The compensation to the children was found to differ from unpaid (only study) to Rs.800 per month. Only 45.71 percent children reported that they received wages for their work. Among the children who get compensation in cash, the salary ranges from Rs.201 to Rs.800 per month. It was found that 90.63 percent children received Rs.301 to Rs.800 per month, while 9.38 percent received Rs.201-300 per month (see Table 5).

Table 5: Monthly Remuneration Received by Children Under Study

Amount	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Rs.201 to Rs.300	3	9.38
Rs.301 to Rs.800	29	90.63
Total	32	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2001.

The household child labours were provided relatively more cash remuneration from business (Marbadi) families but they did not enroll child labour into the schools. On the contrary, in the family of service holders, the child labours, either got low cash compensation

or was provided other provision such as education, clothes, food, shelters, etc. From the survey, it was revealed that small families treated the child labours as one of their family members by providing schooling support and in many ways. Such children tend to stay longer in the same house as child labour. Majority (53.85%) of the child labours in the survey reported that it was not fixed, while 23.08 percent reported that they obtain remuneration monthly, 20.51 percent reported that it was paid in the time of home visit for their up and down transportation and 1.43 percent reported that it was yearly. Of the total children in the survey, 68.75 percent reported that their parents collected their remuneration from their employers and 31.25 percent revealed that they had kept it with their employers. Children who were either allowed to go to school or were promised to be sent to school later were not paid.

Access to Health

Due to the lack of wealth and other social reasons, children are suffering from malnutrition diseases, illiteracy, economic and social exploitation (NPC 1998:678). Children normally face certain sickness in growing up stage. In addition, child labours may suffer from various types of work they do. Almost all of the child labours were bare footed and they often suffered from cold. It was found that out of the 70 children interviewed, 50 percent had been sick. Almost all children looked drogue. Some of the children looked stunted and malnourished.

Table 6: Treatment of Child Labours

Treatment	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Check up with doctor	18	51.43
Medicine used in home	12	34.29
Not treated/self-recovery	5	14.29
Total	35	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2001.

Table 6 shows that out of the 35 children who had fallen sick, 51.43 percent got improvement in their health by check up with doctor and 34.29 percent from medicine used in home and 14.29 percent self recovered. Under the study, most of the children (71.43%) were supported by their employer and 22.86% nobody supported (self recovery), 5.72 percent by their relatives. It was found that the employers were not taking the child labours to the physician until the problem was serious. During the field study it was observed that a boy who had fever, headaches and diarrhea was given medicine by the employer himself without proper check-up. Other studies have mentioned that employers did not care regarding the child labour treatment (VOCW 1999). But the reality was found to be different. In this study it was found that employers supported for the child labours' treatment by giving due importance to their health.

Access to Education

Sadly, however, in poor countries such as Nepal the young children are exploited both in the home and in the wider labour market and they are denied the chances for schooling which inhibits their all round development (Grover 1993:38-39). Opportunity of education and child labours has a direct correlation. Policy makers have realized that in order to end the problem of child labours, a mandatory primary level schooling policy can be the effective measure. However, in the case of Nepal, even though primary education has been made free children in remote areas of the country do not still have access to basic education.

Table 7: Literacy Status of Child Labours by Sex

Status	Girl	Percentage	Boy	Percentage
Literate	15	51.72	29	70.73
Illiterate	14	48.27	12	29.26
Total	29	100.00	41	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2001.

Table 7 shows that almost half of the girls child labours were illiterate while the proportion of boys was below 30 percent. This shows the child labourers are not much worse off from the point of view of literacy though the educational attainment of them was very low.

Table 8: Child Labours who have been to School by Sex

Situation	Girl	Boy	Total (%)
School dropped out	11	14	25 (35.71)
Never been to school	13	11	24 (34.29)
Currently schooling	5	16	21 (30.00)
Total	29	41	70 (100.00)

Source: Field Survey, 2001.

Of the 70 children, 35.71 percent had been school dropout, 34.29 percent had never been to school, while 30 percent were currently schooling. According to CWCD (1999b) the deprived child workers of schooling of boys is 15.7 percent and 37.3 percent of girls under the age of 14. Nearly half girls had never been to school where boys in this group is slightly more than one fourth and nearly 40 percent are currently enrolled at school.

Due to the strong son preference (which prevails throughout the mid-hills and Terai), effectively denies girl an equal chance of education. Uneducated parents do not know the long-term advantages of educating their children and might face economic problems to

schooling their children. In a survey done by CWIN (1993) it was found that 49 percent had never been to school and 40 percent had dropped-out. The CWIN's findings are higher than this study findings. In this connection NPC (1998) stated that "thirty one percent children are deprived of the opportunity for primary education". Of the wards, 35 percent throughout the kingdom still have no schools (Paudel 1996:4). Thus many parents are unable to send their children to schools. Almost half of the literate children have dropped school class due to either sibling caring, unable to pay fees as well as minimum stationeries, books or day-to-day work and income support to their family. Most of the children reported that they wanted to join school again and continue their studies. Some of the children are found waiting for employers' supports to join schools. On the one hand children have no time at all to go school because of heavy work burden, on the other many employers feel they cannot afford to lose labour by sending their child labour to school.

Table 9: Reasons for Never Going/ Dropping out from School

Reasons	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Negligence of employer	21	42.86
Ignorance of parents	12	24.49
Poverty	11	22.45
Others	5	10.20
Total	49	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2001.

Although, the government has offered free textbooks and the tuition is free, parents still have to provide stationary. In addition to this, widespread poverty in the hills makes every helping hand, even those of children, an essential part of the household work force. The employers are the major decision maker for the child labours schooling or not.

When asked what child labours wanted to be or to do in future after leaving present work place, they expressed their different views which were: not sure about their future, to be a peon in any office, go to back home for farming, to continue their study and later to become government servant, go to work in another house, to join in sewing training, to become a day labour and start a *Naglepasal*.

From the key informant interviews with eight organizations that work on children issues, suggested that effective policies should be developed in order to deal with the problems of child labours and underprivileged groups.

Conclusion

Children, both girls and boys from different caste/ethnicity and various districts of Nepal have come to work as household child labours in Kathmandu. Most children come

from poor families who depended on subsistence farming, farm labour, pottering, etc. Their vulnerable socio-economic condition, i.e. poverty and illiteracy compelled them to send their children as child labour. Although most of the children in the present study were between 10-14 years of age, there were some children as young as 8 years old that had also come to work as labour. At such an early age children are normally not given major responsibilities of any work in many societies. Generally, childhood is considered to be a time period for children's socialization and self-identity formation. Given this, it is argued that steps should be taken to protect working children and enable them to improve their lives through access to educational opportunities in particular. Child labours in the present study performed all types of household chores including cooking, cleaning, washing and shopping. They did most of the work without any hesitation. They worked an average of 15 hours a day. It would be very difficult to reduce the incidence of child labours in Nepal without improving the economic situation of their poverty stricken families. It would be better to fully utilize under employed and unemployed adults instead of putting children to work. One alternative measure that could reduce the work burden on children might be an effective compulsory education for children.

The remuneration of child labours under study was not satisfactory in comparison of their workload. They were still compelled to work in order to survive and support their poor families. The overall condition for the sample child labours in terms of food, shelter, health, etc was found to be not satisfactory. They were often served with stale and left over food and many reported that they were sleeping in the floors, corridor and stairs. Sick child labours were treated either with their own money (earned as wages) or sometimes employers bought medicines for the sick children without consulting a physician. View of those who worked on issues related to child labour and child rights was that the household child labours were in worst condition. It would be very difficult to reduce the problems associated with child labours without rational and practical policies focusing on various aspects of the problems of marginalized and poor families in the rural areas of Nepal (i.e. the communities which are forced to send their young children to work in the cities as child labour instead of sending them to schools).

Policy Recommendations

- It is seen that there is not in-depth study about the household child labours in shanty-town and rural areas. So, there should be in-depth study on household child labours in shanty-town and rural areas of Nepal.
- There should be developed the system of the periodically health check up and access to education, recreation, leave, etc to the child labours.
- Because of the different socio-economic condition, further study of other parts of Nepal will be beneficial to overcome the present scattered child labours' problems.
- Due to the deep-rooted poverty of the family, children are compelled to go as labour for their survival. So, program should be implemented to all poverty stricken or

underprivileged families who were living in too subsistence level.

- Study need to conduct about what measures should be effective to bring the positive change in the life of household child labours.
- Programs should launch to discourage the practice of keeping children as labour.
- Poor parents should give opportunity to participate in productive activities with resources for production or wages should increase, so, there will not compels family to send their children into the work force.
- There should be required about national policies have been able to attain children problems is an issue for further researcher, as to date; there is not studies in this regard.

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Book Review

T.C Majupuria, 2005, **Wildlife and Protected Areas of Nepal (Resource and Management)**, S.Devi, Bajoria Road, U.P., India, PP 549. Price Rs 800.

A recent book on Wildlife and Protected Areas of Nepal has been published. The book deals with wildlife in Nepal and other countries of the world. It gives full details, especially of mammals.

According to a recent report there are about 186 mammals in Nepal which is a very significant number. The book deals with the salient characters of the mammals together with their distributions. The book also deals in the protected areas of Nepal including National Parks, Wildlife Reserves, Hunting reserve and Buffer zones. The total number of National Parks at present is 9 while the wildlife reserves are 3 and Hunting Reserve is only 1 and Buffer Zones are 8. The book mentioned the percentage of wildlife protected areas of Nepal as 19.21.

The book also deals with the ecological distribution of wildlife and major problems in protected areas. The new concepts of trans-boundary bio-diversity conservation and corridor have been assimilated. List of threatened vertebrates together with extinct and vanishing mammals of Nepal are also included.

The book is copiously illustrated with the drawings, maps, photographs and color pictures. The author has tried to present an update of account of the subject to cater the professionals in this field and also to the tourists alike.

However, the book lacks indetail description of ecotourism which is included in the curriculam of various levels, especially in rural tourism, environment science and for tourism promotion. Similarly the contribution of various INGO's and NGO's viz KMTNC, IUCN, ICIMOD, UNDP and WWF should also have been reflected. In the information regarding inside the National Park should also be mentioned of other outstanding jungle resorts like Island Jungle Resort, Temple Tiger, Hotel Gainda, Chitwan Jungle Lodge. At the same time description of nearly 48 jungle resorts in Sauraha willage should also have been mentioned. It would have been more inspiring if the description of sacred places for example Balmiki Ashram, Devghat, Pandav Nagar, Bikram Baba etc would have been included. There is a need of description of Bagmara Community forest which is adjoining to the Royal Chitwan National Park.

For the promotion of wildlife tourism color photographs of attractive accommodation should be incorporated in the next edition of the book. However, the book is very informative. It will be certainly useful for the student of natural sciences and rural development and tourism studies

The book is authored by Prof. T.C, Majupuria who has got about 52 years of research experience in this field. There are quite few publication to his credit with particular efforts to augment tourism in Nepal. Since the author is learned and renoued scholar, need no

further introduction.

Undoubtedly, the author has taken lot of pains for making the book very attractive and informative. For this we congratulate him. We expect such type of other publication on this subject from the author as they will promote nature-based tourism in Nepal. Anyway the present book is a valuable one.

The book is very comprehensive and research based, and includes the several years assiduous study and research as evident from the select references. References of notable Nepalese scholars in the same discipline are very eloquent.

I hope that this contribution will meet the necessities of the people at large and naturalists in particular.

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