

## Child Labour in Thamel's Hospitality Industry: A Study on Causes and Effects

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<p><i>Article Info:</i> Received: August 13, 2023 Revised: September 18, 2023 Accepted: September 30, 2023</p>	<p><b>ABSTRACT:</b> The main objective of the study was to draw out the economic condition of the family along with the causes of child labour and its impact on health education. The purposive sampling method was taken to select the respondent. 135 respondents were selected by convenient sampling methods. The low educational status of child labour was the major problem. The health condition of the labour was weak due to unhealthy working environment. Out of 135 respondents, 40 (29.62%) respondents were suffering from different kinds of disease. The respondents were found to be lacking of proper educational status. All of them were found to have studied below SEE level. Children's work is very harmful, hazardous, or is in other ways exploitative can create, exacerbate, or perpetuate an intergenerational cycle of poverty, malnutrition and social disadvantage.</p>
<p><i>Keywords:</i> Labour, child health, employment, poverty</p>	

### Introduction

The term 'labourer' is defined as a person who does a job involving a lot of hard physical work. Children are an initial part of society and precious of the world. We cannot even imagine the existence of the society unless children live around us. They are our source of hope, joy and inspiration. Hence, children are regarded as the future of world, leader of nation development and future star of nation. But no child can grow sufficiently without proper love, care and understanding (Pradhan, 1998).

Most children (60.5%) worked up to 19 hours in 2008, while 32.2% worked 20 to 40 hours a week and 7.3% worked for more than 40 hours in a week. This trend is consistent in both rural and urban areas. In the 2003/2004, Nepal Living Standards Survey Statistical Report Volume II, it was found that the poorest consumption quintile has the highest percentage (18.7%) of child labourers who for more than 40 hours a week as compared with the rest of the consumption quintile. Also, according to Edmonds (2006) female children work more hours than their male siblings. In the same study, Edmonds states that the majority of child labourers work in the agricultural sector and in domestic labour.

According to Ray (2004), child schooling and child labour force participation rates are negatively correlated, as there is a trade-off between the two variables. Thus, an increase in labour hours would mean lesser time for schooling, and lesser work hours equals to an increase in time spent for schooling.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines child labour as "work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to

physical and mental development". This includes work that interferes with schooling, separates children from their families, or exposes children to serious hazards. The ILO's definition of child labour does not include work done outside of school hours or assistance provided to family. Their reasoning is that these activities are beneficial to a child's development. While the age that which someone is considered a child is different in different countries. UNICEF(2021) , defines child labour as someone who is between 5 and 14 years old involved in economic activity or domestic work.

Child labour can create many different problems in the life of child such as malnutrition, mental issues, during addiction. Nepal is low per-capita income country. Poverty is the main problem of us. Poverty is regarded as the main causes of child labour around developing countries, where a family is poor everyone has to work extra contribution or help. But many children work because of the lack of their opportunities. School might be unavailable independent or just too expensive (UNDP 2004). Today's children are tomorrow's citizens they are the key to the future ; as adequately they transform into an adult, more the nation will prosper child labour is costly both to the child and the country (ILO 2004). Child labour not only affects the future productivity of working children but also affect it's the productivity of the siblings in the family (Nepal and Nepal 2012).

With almost 78 million child laborers in Asia, child labor continues to be a complicated problem (ILO 2021). Its prevalence is influenced by poverty, poor educational opportunities, cultural norms, lax legal enforcement, and international supply chains. Children work in dangerous industries like agriculture and manufacturing, complete household chores, and more, endangering their health and well-being. Legal changes, educational programs, awareness campaigns, and assistance for vulnerable populations are all part of the fight against child labor. Although there has been progress, cooperation between governments and groups is necessary to end child labor and guarantee the children of Asia a better future.

Thamel, a bustling tourist destination in the center of Kathmandu, Nepal, attracts tourists from all over the world with its vibrant atmosphere, busy streets, and a plethora of lodging options. However, there is a concern that goes unnoticed behind this thriving hotel industry: child labor exploitation. This article clarifies the complex relationships between child labor and Thamel's hotel sector, a critical issue that requires attention on a worldwide scale. Child labor is a serious violation of children's fundamental rights and a global issue since it involves the employment of kids in jobs that are bad for their physical and mental growth. This problem manifests itself in different ways in Thamel, where young people work as waiters, cleaners, and even in the kitchens of restaurants and hotels.

For a number of reasons, it is crucial to comprehend the underlying causes and effects of child labor in Thamel's hospitality industry. First and foremost, it's a matter of social justice since children are denied access to a quality education and a carefree upbringing. Second, it has financial ramifications that prolong poverty cycles and obstruct the creation of a trained labor force. Finally, it damages Thamel's reputation as a tourist attraction, causing visitors to question its morality. This article will delve into the factors driving child labor in Thamel, examining socio-economic determinants, cultural norms, and legislative gaps contributing to this issue. It will also explore the immediate and long-term effects of child labor on the well-being of the children, their families, and the community at large.

By presenting a concise analysis of this crisis, this article aims to inform readers and stakeholders, sparking discussions and actions to eradicate child labor in Thamel's hospitality industry. It underscores the urgency of protecting children's rights while promoting sustainable and ethical tourism in this vibrant corner of Nepal. This paper will examine the socioeconomic determinants, cultural norms, and statutory shortcomings that contribute to child labour in Thamel. It will also look at the short- and long-term effects of child labor on children, their families, and the neighborhood as a whole. This paper intends to educate readers and stakeholders about this situation through a succinct analysis, igniting debates and initiatives to end child labor in Thamel's hotel sector. It emphasizes how critical it is to safeguard children's rights while fostering ethical and sustainable tourism in this exciting region of Nepal. Education, mental health, and economic conditions have various effects on the labour market, which are discussed here.

### **Education**

Even though schooling increases a child's future income, there is a low enrollment rate by poor families. Parents may feel that by enrolling their children in school they are missing out on the income that they could bring in immediately. This effect is seen in a study by Ray (2002) found that increasing the labour market activity of a child negatively affects their schooling experience. When a child is involved with the labour force they are less likely to be enrolled in school. This effect is seen much more strongly in girls than in boys.

### **Mental Health**

There is a higher proportion of mental illnesses such as anxiety and post-traumatic (PTSD) for Nepali child soldiers than for Nepali children who were never conscripted. This is especially true for female child soldiers as found in a study about the mental health of conscripted child soldiers by Kohrt (2008). Female child soldiers also experienced gender-based stigma from their community after their work in the military. One year after the war 55% of the child soldiers participating in the study were found to have PTSD.

### **Economic Development**

According to Galli (2001), in the long run, child labour impedes long-run economic growth through a slower rate of human capital accumulation. One way in which human capital is accumulated is through education. As working takes up time for children to go to school, rate of human capital accumulation is negatively affected. Also, child labour is expanding as the economy is growing, which some see as an indication of a flawed economy. Nonetheless, a study by Ersado (2005) found that children in Nepal contribute about 7% of the household income, which is quite high compared to other developing countries.

The problem of child labour in Nepal is due principally to acute poverty of people and excessive growth of population particularly in the rural areas where most people live on subsistence farming (Rathod and Athing, 2013). In Nepal many children are engaged in various kinds of labour. In about 65 different organisation and unorganized labour sectors children work for their own survival and family subsistence (Safi, 2011). Child labour can also refer to the practice of exploiting children for financial gain. Some industries employ children in order to shut down on labour costs since their wage demand is low (Victor, D. 2017).

The Central Bureau of statistics (CBS) Reported that children involved in labour have been reduced by million over 10 years. This is surely a positive at some of the hard efforts of the Government of Nepal as well as civil society organizations of the past several decades (CBS,2011). Despite the child labour situation having improved in Nepal, Nepali children still face the highest risk of being involved in child labour elsewhere in South Asia (Khan and Lyon 2015). Child labour has increased in the post-disaster (earthquake) period. A 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal in April 2015. The earthquake destroyed approximately 600,000 homes, 7000 schools and 9000 lives (NPC2015).

Child labour is a serious violation for human rights. The GON has unders cored decent work employment and social security as the top most priority, and is fully committed to related any human rights violations and lying innocent children .

A joint report prepared by the CBS of the NPC and ILO states that nearly 1.1 million children are involved in child labour of which 0.2 million children are involved in it is worst forms.

The statistics reveal that child labour is still significant although the overall trend is declining in Nepal (2.6 million in 1998, 1.6 million 2008 and 1.1 million in 2018).

### Objectives

- To identify the job satisfaction among the child labour.
- To access the problems of child labour in their working place.
- To analyze the situation of the working environment.

### Methods

This study was conducted in Kathmandu Metropolitan city ward No 29 of the Thamel area which are working in hotels, restaurants, shops, and tea-shops. This study is analytical and exploratory. The primary data was collected by the researcher using a questionnaire. I selected 135 child workers through the purposive sampling method. A set of questionnaire was prepared as tool of data collection.

### Analysis and Interpretation

Education is very important for the development of family status. Due to low income in the family the educational status also poor. The education on the status of child workers as shown below.

#### *Education Situation of Child Workers*

Education is essential for the development of personality. Child labours were the cause of low educational status the educational status shown in table below.

Table 1. *Education situation child workers*

Educational Status	Respondents	Percent
Educated	115	85.18
Uneducated	20	14.82
Total	135	100
Below Secondary Level	85	73.92
Above Secondary Level	30	26.08
Total	115	100

The data shows that the majority of the child workers were educated. Out of 135 respondents, 20 workers were uneducated and 115 workers were educated. Likewise, 85 respondents educational status were below Secondary and 30 respondents were above Secondary level education.

### ***Satisfaction Level of Child Workers***

Children who worked in different area they felt different kinds of problems normally few child labour are satisfy all of them feel unenjoyable condition which was shown below.

Table 2. *Situation of satisfaction*

Satisfaction	Respondents	Percentage
Fully satisfied	10	7.4
No satisfaction	60	44.45
Considerable	50	37.01
Somehow satisfied	15	11.12
Total	135	100

The above data show that majority of workers 60(44.45%) were not satisfied with the situation to their work, 50(37.01%) responded to have considerable working environment, 15(11.12%) were bound to enjoy the job as they did not have other options and 10(7.4%) of the respondents were having full satisfaction to their job and they were enjoying it.

### ***Problems Faced by Workers in Working Place***

According to the field report child workers have been facing different kind of problems like psychological poor environmental, poor economic, unhelpful, fairness of owner etc. Due to this problem, there was a negative impact on the psychological and psychological condition of child labour. Actually, poverty was considered as one the contributory factors in child workers. Children facing the problems are shown in the following table.

Table 3. *Current problems in the work place*

Problems	Respondents	Percentage
Over load of work	40	29.63
Un security of work	25	18.51
Low salary	30	22.23
Harassment by owner	40	29.63
Total	135	100.0

From the finding of field report over load of work facing respondent were 40(29.63%), like was un security of work 25(18.51%), low salary 30(22.23%) and harassment by owner on the work place were 40(29.63%) respondent.

### ***Health Condition of Child Labour***

"Health is Wealth" So, good health is essential part of human life. Healthy person can so everything effectively. An unhealthy person always becomes physically as well as mentally back in Society. The conditions of child labours were shown in below.

Table 4. *Workers health condition*

Health Condition	Respondents	Percent
Suffering from different diseases	40	29.62
Normal condition	40	29.62
Difficult condition	30	22.23
Unable to work proper	25	18.53
Total	135	100

According to field survey 40(29.62%) children were suffering by deterrent kinds of diseases like skin cracking, common cold, throat infection. Similar 40(29.62%) workers health condition were found normal, 30(22.23%) respondent were difficult condition to do work. Out of 135 respondent 25 (18.53%) were physical and mental condition were not good for work in hotel and restaurants.

### ***Working Hours of Child Workers***

Table 5. *Duty hours per day*

Duty hours/day	Respondents	Percent
Less than 6 hr	19	14.08
6-12 hr	27	20
12 -24 hr	40	29.62
Greater than 24 hr	49	36.296
Total	135	100

The above data shows that maximum respondents 49(36.296%) of labour were bound to perform duty of greater than 24 hrs, similarly 40 (29.62%) of them were bound perform 12-24hr duties while 27(20%) of them were bound to perform 6-12 hr duties and 19 (14.08%) of them were bound to perform duties less than 6 hr.

### ***Working Environment of Child Workers***

Table 6. *Duty hours per day*

Working environment	Respondents	Percent
Satisfactory	42	31.12
Normal	35	25.92
Considerable	17	12.59
Not satisfactory	41	30.37
Total	135	100

The above data shows that 42(31.12%) of the respondents were working under satisfactory working environment while 41(30.37%) of them were not satisfied by their working environment. Similarly 35(25.92%) of them found their working environment to be normal and 17(12.59%) were working under considerable working environment.

Table 7. *Job security of child workers*

Job security	Respondents	percent
Yes	55	40.75
No	80	59.25
Total	135	100

The above data shows the scenario of job security among child labour working in Thamel where 80(59.25%) of the respondents were insured of their jobs while 55(40.75%) of the respondents were secured about their jobs and were working on the contract basis.

### Conclusion

This study concerned the status of child labour in Thamel area. Poverty was widely considered as the top reason low income, lack of educational opportunities and loss of parents were the main causes of child labour. The problem of child labour as faced by the developing economics today, has indeed taken on serious dimensions. It refers to work that is mentally, Physically, Socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling by developing them opportunities to attend school not attending school is a cause and effect of child labour. The look into child labor in Thamel's hospitality sector has uncovered a complicated web of problems that necessitate prompt attention and thorough resolution. We have gotten a deeper grasp of this urgent issue through an analysis of numerous aspects, including the education level of child workers, laborer satisfaction, workplace problems, health status, working hours, job security, and working environment.

First and foremost, it is encouraging to learn that young laborers in Thamel's hospitality sector have a respectable level of schooling. This shows that these kids have the ability to advance academically and have a better future. However, given that they must juggle employment and school while frequently working long hours, their current situation is far from ideal.

Despite having a good degree of education, child laborers nonetheless have low workplace satisfaction. They are clearly dissatisfied due to the difficulties they encounter on a daily basis, including the physically demanding nature of their work and a lack of job security. Additionally, the majority of kid workers claimed that their working conditions weren't sufficiently healthful, which raised considerable worries for their wellbeing.

These young workers' health is a serious cause for concern. Their physical and emotional health suffer because of the long work hours they put in, which frequently go over the legal limit. These problems are made worse by the lack of sufficient rest intervals and breaks. It is obvious that quick action is needed to protect the health and wellbeing of these vulnerable individuals.

Another crucial problem is job stability. Children who work as slaves sometimes do so in hazardous situations with little guarantee of future employment. Since their families depend on their income, this insecurity not only harms their mental health but also feeds the cycle of poverty.

The fact that most juvenile laborers complained about an unsafe job environment highlights the need for better working conditions. In order to ensure their wellbeing, this also includes appropriate ventilation, sanitary facilities, and safety precautions.

## Recommendations

1. **Strengthen Legislative Enforcement:** The Nepalese government must strictly implement all current laws and rules pertaining to child labor. This entails keeping an eye on working hours, ensuring that everyone has access to a quality education, and harshly punishing firms that use child labor.
2. **Education and Awareness:** Initiatives to increase awareness of the value of education and the rights of children should be put into place. It is important to educate society, parents, and employers on the negative effects of child work.
3. **Support Services:** Create support services, such as counseling, healthcare access, and programs for vocational training, for child laborers and their families to offer alternatives to child labor.
4. **Workplace Improvement:** To enhance working conditions, the government should work with companies in Thamel's hospitality sector. All employees should have a secure job, a safe and healthy work environment, and acceptable hours.
5. **Monitoring and Reporting:** Establish a thorough monitoring program to identify and stop child labour in Thamel's hospitality sector. Encourage reporting systems for illegal child labor.
6. **Economic options:** To lessen the financial strain that frequently leads children into labor, promote economic options for families in impoverished areas.

In conclusion, combating child labor in Thamel's hospitality sector necessitates a multifaceted strategy that includes awareness-raising, education, legal enforcement, and better working conditions. The responsibilities of forced labor must be lifted from Nepal's children so they might have a shot at a better future. To end child labor and prepare the road for a more just and equitable future, it is the duty of the government, corporations, and society as a whole to collaborate.

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