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Migration of Working Children in Nepal

(Report from Migration and Employment Survey, 1995/96 data)

by

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Acknowledgements

The present study on "Migration of Working Children in Nepal" is carried as a part of the national level study on Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 conducted by the Central Department of Population Studies. The study is especially carried out by cross-matching the separate data file created for Migration and Employment Survey.

The first chapter of the report is broadly a background and the context of the study including the methodology employed for the larger survey. Mr. Keshab Prasad Adhikari largely contributed to preparing this chapter. The second chapter includes migrant characteristics of children 5-17 years of age. Mr. Yogendra Bahadur Gurung was able to put this chapter together on the basis of his previous experience for preparing the main report on in-and out-migration. The third chapter is mainly the contribution of Mr. Bhim Raj Suwal who had gained substantial experience in preparing the Child Labour Situation in Nepal submitted previously to ILO Office. They all deserve special thanks. I am grateful to Mr. Dhanendra Veer Shakya for processing the entire document.

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Executive Summary

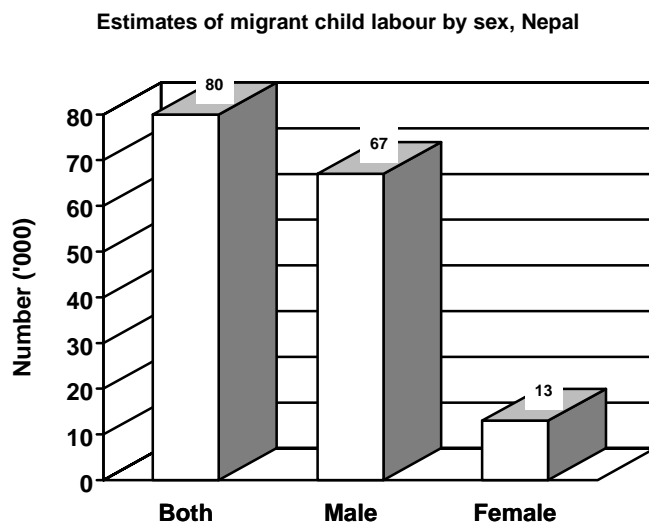
This report focuses on the study of “Migration of Working Children” in Nepal with nationally representative sample based on Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 carried out by the Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS), Tribhuvan University. The main objective of this study is to provide estimates of migrant child labourer as well as to examine activities of the children by migration status. By scale and content, this is the first study of its kind. The probability proportionate to size (PPS) technique involved the selection of samples from rural and urban areas.

The major findings of the study are summarized as follows:

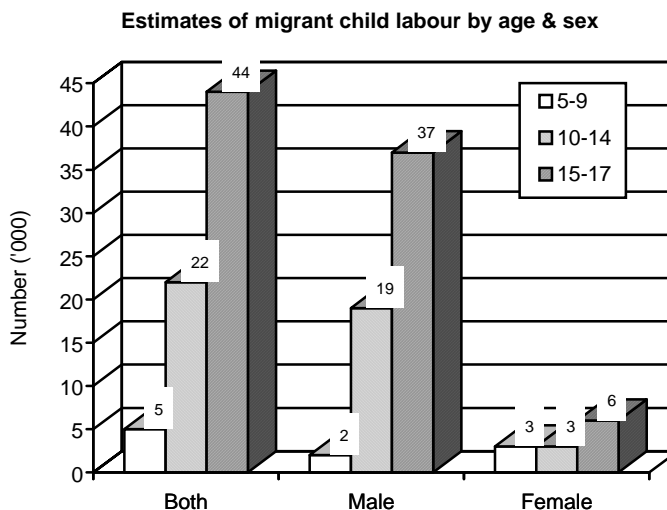
Migrant Child Labourer Type 1: Migrant child labourer as of those who moved due to economic reasons.

- Analyzing the information on children aged 5-17 years absent from home for six months to 5 years, it is estimated that migrant children of this age group accounted for about one-third (1,123) of the total absentees. Among them, 29.4 per cent (330) migrated due to economic reasons. If the child labour is defined in terms of economic reasons for migration of children,

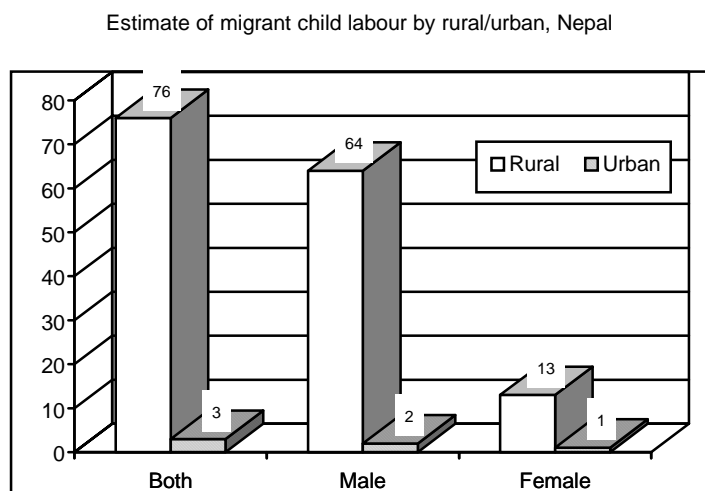
so to say migrant child labourer type 1, it is estimated to be 1.06 per cent (80 thousands) of the total children aged 5-17 years for the country. This implies that about 80 thousand children moved from their place of origin for economic reasons during five years period preceding the survey. Of this 67 thousands were males and 13 thousands were females.



- Age appears to be an important factor for migration of child labourers. The age group 15-17 years accounted for 3.4 per cent (44 thousands) of the total children of this age group. The corresponding figures for the children aged 10-14 and 5-9 years are about 22 thousands (0.78%) and 5 thousands (0.16%) respectively.



- Rural area overwhelmingly dominates the urban in terms of migration of child labourer type 1. Of the 80 thousand migrant child labourers for economic reasons 76 thousands (1.12%) moved from rural areas and 3 thousands (0.48%) moved from urban areas.

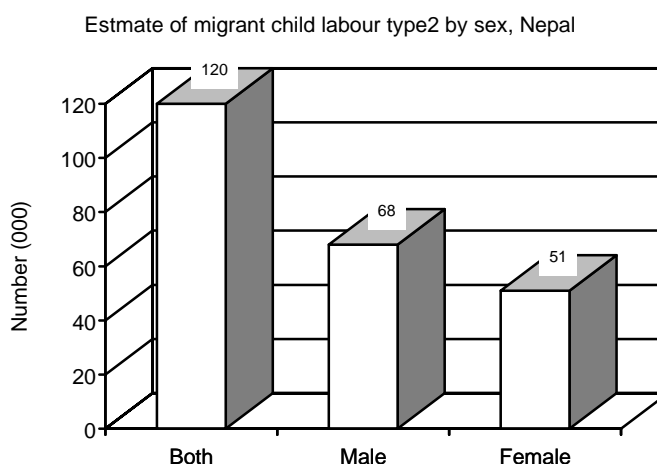


- About 28 thousand child labourers moved out of eastern development region followed by western (17 thousands) and far-western development region (14 thousands).
- About 40 thousand migrant child labourers were estimated to have originated in the hills. This is followed by Tarai (32 thousands) and mountain zone (8 thousands).
- According to the country of destination, India absorbed the largest number of child labourer from Nepal, that is, 49 out of 80 thousands.

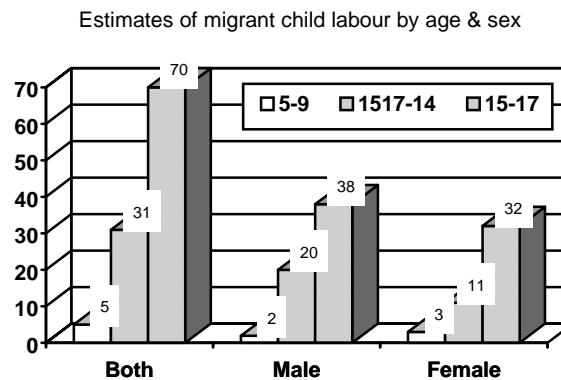
- Irrespective of the place of destination, migration of child labourers from rural to urban areas constituted 53.8 per cent and that from urban to urban areas constituted 54.8 per cent.
- It received 68.9 per cent of the child labourer originated from the same zone. It also received 35.3 per cent originated from the mountain and 30.8 per cent originated from the Tarai.
- Interregional migration stream of child labourer shows that mobility within the same region is common for all regions. However, central region is the major child labourer receiving region compared to other regions.
- It is revealed that the major occupational shift of the migrant child labourer is from other occupations to service. Shift to non-agricultural labour from other occupations occupies the second position.

Migrant Child Labourer Type 2: Migrant child labourer as of those who moved due to economic reasons and those who moved due to non-economic reasons but were working in economic activities before and after migration.

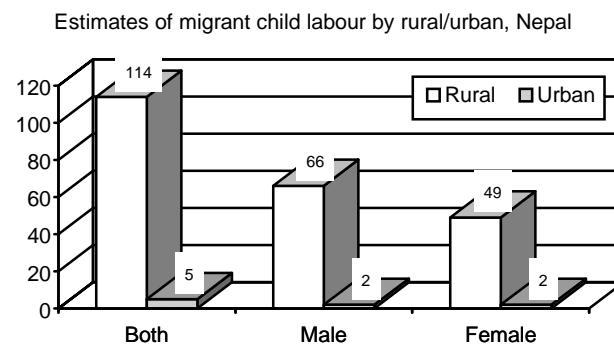
- Considering this criterion, migrant child labourer is estimated to be about 120 thousands: 68 thousands for males and 51 thousands for females. Of the total children aged 5-17 years, migrant child labourer constituted 1.58 per cent. The corresponding proportions for male and female are 1.77 and 1.39 per cent respectively.



- Most of the migrant child labourer were aged between 15 and 17 years (70 thousands) with 5.3 per cent of total children of this age group.



- Child labourers in rural areas accounted for 114 thousands (1.7%) of the total rural children. The corresponding figure for urban areas is estimated to be about 5 thousands (0.72%).



- Eastern region has the highest number of estimated migrant child labourer (33 thousands) with 1.78 per cent of the children in this region. This is followed by western (30 thousands), central (25 thousands), mid-western (10 thousands) and far-western (14 thousands).

- The highest number of migrant child labourer is estimated for hill (60 thousands) which accounts to 1.72 per cent of the children in this zone. The corresponding figure in Tarai is 45 thousands and that in mountain it is 8 thousands. In relative term, it is highest in mountain having 2.79 per cent of the total children in this zone.

- Majority of child labourers (61 thousands) were internal migrants, 53 thousands moved to India and 6 thousands moved to other countries.

- Examining the migration stream of child labourers, the flow from rural to rural is 49.2 per cent and that from urban to urban is 54.3 per cent. The flow from rural to urban is a prominent 38.2 per cent and that from urban to rural is 26.1 per cent.

- The mobility within the same zone is much common. However, hill is again the main zone of absorbing child labourer. It absorbed 4.3 per cent of mountain, 87.9 per cent of the same zone, and 6.5 per cent of Tarai originated child labourers.
- Mobility within the same region is rather overwhelming. Among the regions, central and western are the main child labourer receiving regions from almost all regions.
- Occupational shift clearly shows the continuation of the same occupation before and after migration. However, shift to service, especially, from agriculture (24.5%), agri-labour (27.8%), and from others category (29%) is notable.

Life-time Migration

Based on information on life-time migration, number of life-time migrant children aged 5-17 years constituted 8.8 per cent (662 T) of the total children in these ages (7,563 T). Migration of children increased with increasing age as about 17 per cent of the children aged 5-17 years are estimated to be migrants as compared to 8.2 per cent aged 10-14 years and 5.0 per cent of aged 5-9 years.

Estimates of the migration stream reveal that 15.3 per cent of the migrant children aged 5-17 years live in urban areas. The number of interzonal child migrants in Tarai who originated from hill and mountain accounted for about 5.6 and 0.8 per cent of the total children in Tarai respectively.

Based on the information on the total number of children 5-14 years of age (6.2 million), 413 T were migrants and the rest 5,728 T were non-migrants. In general, migrant children are less likely to participate in work (39%) compared to non-migrants (42%).

Higher work participation of migrant children is found for all ages. Migrant children in urban areas have higher work participation rate than non-migrant children (26.7% for migrants and 22.7% for non-migrants). The same holds true for the Tarai zone (40.1% for migrants and 36.1% for non-migrants)

Higher work participation of migrant children leads to lower proportion of *schooling only* children particularly in urban areas. However, as compared to non-migrants, proportion of *schooling only* children in all the ages, ecological zones and development regions is higher among migrant children.

Though general work participation of migrant children is lower, it is revealed that participation of migrant children in non-economic activities is higher as compared to non-migrants.

Migrant children are less likely to participate in economic activities particularly in unpaid economic activities. Except few exceptions, migrant children more likely to participate in paid economic activities in all areas, zones and regions.

Summary Table
Migration of Working Children in Nepal

Items	Number
Economic reasons: Migrant Child Labourers Type 1	
Total	331
Male	278
Female	278
Estimation of Migrant Child Labourers (Type 1) for Nepal	
	<i>In '000</i>
Total	80
Male	67
Female	13
Non-economic reasons but working before and after migration: Migrant Child Labourers Type 2	
Total	493
Male	285
Female	208
Estimation of Migrant Child Labourers (Type 2) for Nepal	
	<i>In '000</i>
Total	120
Male	68
Female	51
Estimation of Life-time Migration of Children aged 5-17 for Nepal	
	<i>In '000</i>
Total	662
Male	283
Female	380
Estimation of Working Children aged 5-14	
	<i>In '000</i>
Nepal	2,596
Non-migrant	2,407
Migrant	162
Estimation of Working and Schooling Children aged 5-14	
	<i>In '000</i>
Nepal	1,584
Non-migrant	1,453
Migrant	116
Estimation of Working Only Children aged 5-14	
	<i>In '000</i>
Nepal	1,004
Non-migrant	950
Migrant	45
Estimation of Economically Active Children aged 5-14	
	<i>In '000</i>
Nepal	1,664
Non-migrant	1,563
Migrant	87
Estimation of Economically Active Children Involved in Paid Activities	
	<i>In '000</i>
Nepal	278
Non-migrant	254
Migrant	24
Estimation of Economically Active Children Involved in Unpaid Activities	
	<i>In '000</i>
Nepal	1,383
Non-migrant	1,309
Migrant	63

Chapter I

Background

1.1 Introduction

The World Summit for Children, 1990 calls *'every efforts should be made to prevent the separation of children from their families. Whenever children are separated from their family owing to force Maseru or in their own best interest, arrangements should be made for appropriate alternative family care or institutional placement due regard being paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing in his or her own cultural milieu'*.

Most children work in some ways. Some of this work involves wage employment; a good deal consists of task around the home; much more lies in a statistical limbo, not treated as conventional labour force activity but of evident economic and social significance (Gerry and Guy, 1981). In Nepal, most children have to work as an integral part of the family farming work force in the agriculture. Over 80 per cent of the total population in Nepal is reported to be engaged in agricultural pursuits. Over the period of 30 years from 1961 to 1991, proportion of population depending on agriculture has been reduced from 93.8 to 81.1 per cent respectively (CBS, 1985 and 1995). This fact suggests that there exists a very high demand for children to work in agricultural operations. The 1991 census also revealed that, over 31 per cent of the population of ages 10-17 years are reported to be economically active. Some studies found out that both boys and girls begin their working lives around six years of age and spend a significant amount of their time in productive and household activities (NCP, 1988: 61).

Parents in agricultural societies are motivated to have a large family size due to perceived benefit of children as source of labour. The persisting level of high fertility in rural areas is the governing factor for the excess supply of child labour in Nepal. If the household economy is sufficient to absorb them they stay at home performing household activities. If not, they have to go outside home either to work as cheap agricultural wage labourers to supplement earnings for the family or to stay as domestic servants at a low salary. In most of the instances, more and more children are being pushed into the labour market in order to earn and accumulate adequate resources to sustain the family. In search of such market, children

often migrate outside the boundary of their own birth place. In some cases, parents also help them to move away in the hope of good earnings. Likewise, some families move away to the urban centres or to industrial estates with a hope of getting jobs for all family members including their children. A substantial number of Nepali children also travel to major cities of India in search of jobs.

Most of the provocative Child Issue based NGO's literature claim that about 60 per cent of the total child population in Nepal is engaged in labour market of both formal and informal sectors including the street children working as rag pickers in major cities. Involvement of children in household activities or even in paid work is often a necessity of poor parents. Although, children working in hazardous activities in Nepal are being highlighted frequently by various media, most of the child labourers actually are to be found in the informal sector - at work in agriculture or hidden away in houses from the reach of official labour inspectors and from media. Many of such children miss schooling, some strive to combine schooling and work but suffer. Poverty drives children into work. In Nepal, parents of child labourers are often unemployed, underemployed or seasonally employed desperate for secure employment and income. Yet, it is their children who are offered the job in a low paid basis because they are more easier to exploit.

Another problematic aspect of working children is their migration. In what conditions they do migrate ?. whether the migrant and non-migrant children involve in the work of the same nature ? What may be the differentials in the characteristics of migrant children with respect to the nature of migration viz. immigrant working children who moved along with family migration and out-migrant working children who moved independently. Therefore, to seeking the answers of such issues this study is purport to study of the *Migration of the child Workers in the country*. This is the first study of this kind representing the situation of the whole country utilizing a larger data set prepared by the Migration and Employment Survey, 1996.

1.2 The Context

Child labour as well as migrant child labour is uniquely a problem of the developing countries. Although children in varying magnitude work in all industrialized countries, hazardous forms of child labour can be found in many instances in many countries. Migrant

children from Mexico and Ethnic minorities in the United States are employed in the agricultural sector (UNICEF, 1997). Likewise, child labour is so commonplace in Nepal that it is unremarkable and therefore, invisible. Small scale anecdotal and case studies attempted to prove that the root of child labour in Nepal lies in the poverty of the rural people. Therefore, extreme poverty and landlessness in rural areas are fueling migration of children toward the urban centres (CWIN, 1989; INSEC, 1996). It has been claimed that a substantial number of Nepali migrant child workers are working in India in Carpet industries and as domestic servants in the big cities or in small hotels in unhealthy conditions hampering their physical as well as mental growth (Ghatia, 1988).

In Nepal, little substantive research has been carried out in the field of child labour and migrant child workers. Small scale anecdotal and case studies suggest that the situation of child labour is definitely getting worse in Nepal. Urban migration aggravated and accelerated by rural poverty has led to more exploitation of child labourer in recent years and the trend of child migration from hill to Tarai and from rural to urban areas has also been increasing alarmingly (ILO, 1995). Irrespective of the nature of migration either seasonal or permanent, migration has become a coping strategy for family survival for both adults and children in Nepal. An obvious fact is that child labourers in carpet factories, hotels/restaurants and tea estates are usually from families who have migrated from the hill areas either to the urban centres or to the plains of Tarai. This fact indicates that migrant children have to work irrespective of individual or family movement. A recent study on '*Child Labour Situation in Nepal*' revealed that over 8 per cent of the children aged 5-14 years are migrant on the basis of information on place of birth (Suwal, KC., and Adhikari, 1997).

In Nepal, there are five sectors identified as absorbing the major portion of child labour: agriculture and related sectors, service and related works, trade and commerce, industry and construction and transportation. Still over 94 per cent (94.7%) of child labourers have been observed by the agriculture sector followed by service and service related works and construction, transportation and communication (1.6% each). Slightly less than one per cent (0.8%) of the economically active children are involved in general technical and production works. Only 0.4 per cent children are found involved under business and related activities (Suwal, KC., and Adhikari, 1997). This fact indicates that not only the urban child labourers involved in different sectors of employment are migrants but also a substantial number of

migrant child labourers work as family servants as plough man (*Hali*) and cattle herder (*Gothalo*). Study of such migrant child labourers hidden in agriculture sector is beyond the scope of this study.

The study on '*Child Labour Situation in Nepal*' based on the nationally representative sample of over 19,000 households, covering about 28,000 child population aged 5-14 years estimated that there are 2.6 million or 41.7 per cent of the total 6.2 million children working in Nepal. The participation rate for the children by sex varies from 36.1 per cent for males to 47.6 per cent for females. Furthermore, 25.4 per cent of the total children are found in both working and schooling and 16.1 per cent each in the categories working only and ideal. About 27 per cent of the total 6.2 million children are doing some economic work and only 4.5 per cent of them are involved in paid economic activities and the rate for those children involved in unpaid activities is found to be 22.2 per cent.

Using the same source of data (Migration and Employment Survey, 1996) this study is aimed at finding out the stream of migration of working children in the country. Further, the study attempts to examine differential characteristics among migrant and non-migrant working children.

The constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal (1990) is a fundamental law of the country, which prohibits the employment of minors in any factory, mine or any other hazardous work and calls for making necessary arrangements to safeguard the rights and interest of children and to ensure that they are not exploited.

The Labour Act (1992) prohibits the employment of children and provides various safeguards to minors (child is defined as a person who has not attained the age of fourteen years and a minor is defined as a person who has attained the age of fourteen but has not completed the age of eighteen years). Such safeguards includes; operations of dangerous machines hazardous to health, prohibition of carrying excessive loads, prohibition on doing night duties (in between 6 P.M. to 6 A.M.), restriction on working hours (not more than 6 hours a day and 36 hours a week) and minimum wage for children.

The Children's Act (1992) states that a child before attaining the age of 14 years shall not be employed in any work as a labourer against his will. For the implementation and reinforcement of the Children's Act 1992, a number of measures have been suggested such as establishment of the Central Child Welfare Board and a District Child Welfare for each District. Established machinery of the Ministry of Labour through its various channels has been made responsible for the formulation, coordination and implementation of the labour policy of the government. In fact, the Department of Labour under the Ministry of Labour is responsible for labour administration and enforcement of labour legislation (cited in ILO, 1995).

Due to the ignorance of the value of education and child rights and prevailing socio-cultural practices, child labour, especially, migration of working children remains still a burning problem despite prohibition by successive constitutions and legal provisions to protect their rights.

1.3 Conceptual Issues

The number of children in the household determines the potential supply of child workers; hence fertility behaviour is a determinant of the supply of child labour. Also on the supply side, the role of risk management in the household is a factor influencing the extent of child labour. On the demand side, the two main determinants of child labours have been identified as the structure of labour market and the prevailing production technology (Grootaert and Kanbur, 1995). In a traditional agricultural society, parents are motivated to have a large family due to perceived high labour value of children, children's value as old age security or risk insurance, low economic cost of child rearing and high level of infant and child mortality. These factors for determining large family size are associated with the fertility behaviour of parents. Hence, the demand aspects of the children in the study of fertility itself becomes the supply of child labours. Because of various aspects of social, cultural, economic and psychological reasons, parents want to have more number of children than they actually need for the alternative insurance strategy. In reality, this behaviour ultimately pushes parents living in a marginal subsistence level in difficult situation for family management and family survival. When the poor parents themselves are unemployed or underemployed and desperate for secure employment and income, the survival strategy either of the family or of the

successive elder child has to set out for searching jobs. Hence, parents' expectation from children is concerned both with their work and their potential support in old age (Grootaert and Kanbur, 1995).

Studies have suggested that large household size reduces children's educational participation and progress in the school and reduces parents' investment in schooling. This will increase the probability that a child will work (Grootaert and Kanbur, 1995). Further, it has been indicated that children in landless and marginal farm households generally engage in wage labour while those in household with large farms engage in agricultural work.

Most studies on child labour do identify that extreme poverty of households and low level of education of parents are important factors in determining child labours as well as their migration, whereas the structure of labour market is most responsible factor for the migration of both adult and child workers. For the decision of migration, complex relationship between negative push factors associated with the labour market of sending area and positive pull factors associated with the labour market of the receiving area play important roles. In the context of Nepal, evidences have shown that pull factors such as better employment and economic prospects outweigh push factors such as poverty in inducing hill to Tarai and rural to urban migration (KC., 1995 cited in ILO, 1995).

The structure of labour market as a major determinant of child labour determines the level of wage and conditions of work which in turn determines the contribution of the child labour in household income. In Nepal, traditional and less productive agricultural economy of hill and rural areas fails to absorb the potential human resource in the area, thus sending the labourers to the industrial estates and construction sites of the Tarai plain and urban centres. Furthermore, a key factor for the demand of child labour is the flexibility in prevailing wage rate. Where wages are flexible, children can substitute adults in the market place due to his inability to bargain. When the rules and regulations are strictly fixed and wage rates are implemented at a floor level, employers tend to prefer adult workers on the basis of nature of work rather than type of labours (Grootaert and Kanbur, 1995). Technology of production also is a major determinant of the demand for child labour as well as attraction for migration of child labour, since it affects the extent to which children can be substituted for adults. In Nepal, the technology of carpet weaving demands nimble and fine fingers of children to tie

the smaller knots. Similarly, the *Bidi* and matches factories in the industrial estates of Tarai also demand child labours to roll fine *Bidi* and properly fill up matches box.

Child labour and migration in Nepal influenced by Demand-Supply theories of economics. The demand of child labours comes largely in the form of wage labours in industries or in domestic and commercial establishments or from the agricultural sectors and the self employed street children as rag pickers. The supply side for the child labours is influenced by extreme poverty of households with high level of fertility. The perceived extreme poverty and landlessness in the hills and rural areas are being highlighted as a main reasons for the migration of the child labourers either to urban centres or abroad (CWIN, 1997; INSEC, 1996).

In the context of Nepal, when the economy of the loosing areas (hill and rural) is no longer able to contain potential human resources there appears pressure for the people to migrate for survival. Evidences have suggested that most child labourers in various factories and hotel/restaurants and tea estates are usually migrants from hills or from rural areas (ILO, 1995). Even in the Tarai area, low economic intensification in the rural agricultural sectors and somehow effective implementation of Child Labour Act's rules and regulations in the formal sectors, a substantial number of children from landless or marginal farm size households go to the cities of India as a labourers.

1.4 The Study

The Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS), Tribhuvan University has recently completed a national survey on Migration and Employment (M/E) in 1996. As this survey is the largest survey of its kind, in Nepal, it covered all the geographic subdivisions, and development regions to examine the level and pattern of migration and employment in Nepal. The survey was conducted in an integrated manner. The survey was designed to incorporate child labour component as a piggy bag of the employment survey. Hence, this survey collected a wider range of information about the various aspects of *child work* and *child labour* in the country.

Except some localized case studies, until recently, no study has been conducted to know the extent of migrant child labourer and migration and child labour relationship in the country at the national level. There is a *big research gap* in this respect. In this context, though there exists a lot of scope for the study on this respect from the M/E survey data, the main report on *Child Labour Situation in Nepal* (submitted to the ILO) covered only the child labour situation in the country disregarding the migration status of the children and study on migrant child labourers.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

Specific objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To estimate the migrant child labourer in the country,
2. To assess the regional variation in the migrant child labour,
3. To examine the activities of the children by migration status

1.6 Methodology¹

This study will be based on the M/E survey data. Specifically, information on migration and employment components related to the population of children 5 to 17 years age will be used for this study on migrant child labourer (for sample size see respective Chapters). Since this study attempts to cover migration of working children, it is a first step towards analysing migration and child labour relationship. This survey was conducted as a part of the Migration and Employment (M/E) Survey. Therefore, methodology of the M/E survey is also the same for the present study on child labour/work.

1.6.1 Stratification and Selection Procedure

Samples are selected separately from rural and urban areas of Nepal. The sample procedure adopted for the selection of PSUs² from rural/urban area is the *probability proportionate to size (pps)* where the measure of size being the household counts of rural/urban wards. The

¹ For detail methodology and operational procedure of the survey, sample information, see the earlier report on *Child Labour Situation in Nepal, 1997* submitted to the ILO/IPEC, Kathmandu, NEPAL.

² Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) are well defined location consisting of a cluster of households. Throughout this section, such location is termed interchangeably as "ward", "subward", "segment" and "cluster".

sample frame, therefore, in the selection of PSUs from rural/urban areas consists of the household counts of each ward of rural/urban areas.

A total of 600 sample clusters (or PSUs) were selected from the whole country, out of which 450 clusters were allocated for rural areas and the remainder 150 for urban areas. The multistage sampling procedure was applied to select sample clusters. Excluding the last stage for selecting secondary sampling units (SSUs) as households, selection of the PSUs in rural areas was completed in 3 stages, whereas in urban areas it was completed in 2 stages (Table 1.1).

1.6.2 Sample Size

The ultimate or secondary sampling units (SSUs) being households, it was decided to select approximately 20,000 households for the M/E surveys. In order to have complete cross-classification of the results of M/E surveys it was decided to combine them, in the sense that the data for two surveys will be collected from each of the 20,000 households. Although, the M/E survey collected data from the same households, the two surveys are different in the sense that the target populations of the two surveys are not the same. The allocation of the total number of household to urban and rural areas is in the ratio of 1 to 3. This will ensure the allocation of 25 per cent of the total sample to urban areas.

Table 1.1: Sample Selection Stages for the M/E Survey, 1995/96

Stages	Rural	Urban
First Stage	<i>Selection of Districts:</i> Out of 75 districts, 73 districts were selected in this stage. The two districts - Manang and Dolpa were not selected.	<i>Selection of Municipalities:</i> All the 33 municipalities were selected in this stage.
Second Stage	<i>Selection of Village Development Committees (VDCs):</i> Four hundred and fifty VDCs were selected from the 73 districts selected in the first stage.	<i>Selection of Wards (PSUs):</i> Wards (as cluster) of the municipalities were selected in this stage. Like in the rural areas, one ward was selected from each of the 33 municipalities. As 150 clusters were allocated for the urban areas, selected wards in this stage had to be segmented if necessary. Segmentation of ward was done according to the equal size rule and required number of sub division (s) of ward were selected randomly
Third Stage	<i>Selection of Wards (PSUs):</i> One ward (as cluster) was selected from each of the four hundred and fifty VDCs selected in the second stage. Wards were segmented, if necessary, according to the equal size rule and one of the sub-divisions of ward was selected randomly.	<i>Selection of Households:</i> Required number of households were selected from the wards or sub-divisions of ward. It was done according to the household selection rule (see household selection rule).
Fourth Stage	<i>Selection of Households:</i> Required number of households was selected from the ward or sub-division of ward selected in the third stage (see household selection rule).	

1.6.3 Contents of the Questionnaires

Broadly, the survey collected two types of information for migration, employment and child labour study: household level information and individual level information by designing separate questionnaire schedules. The migratory status of the surveyed household members was identified from the "household schedule". Those individuals who were not born at the place of current residence but were born within the country have been identified as in-migrants and those who were born outside the country as immigrants. Further information about children identified as migrants was obtained from the "In-migration Schedule". This schedule covers the following aspects of information on in-migration:

- place of birth, place of current residence
- duration of current residence
- reasons for migration

The "Out-migration Schedule" was designed to obtain information on out-migration of the population. Out-migration Schedule contained questions on reasons for out-migration and

education and occupation of the migrants at the time of move. Depending upon the reported number of out-migrant children from the Schedule, a separate analysis of out-migration pattern, reasons for out-migration and duration of absence of children is carried out.

The Employment Schedule was designed to collect information on various aspects of employment of all the surveyed population aged 5 years and above. The Employment Schedule mainly covered the following aspects of employment and other related information: marital status, completed level of schooling, current schooling status, reasons for not going to school, helping status at the household chores, type of household work, working status outside the household, type of outside household work, employment status (paid, profit making and unpaid household work), number of days and hours of work during the last week, reasons for not working, sectors of employment, status at work, place of work, daily wage rate and monthly income.

1.6.4 Data Management

Data were managed in two phases: first manual editing and second machine entry and editing. Further manual editings was done in two steps, first in the field just after of the household interview and second at the central office by Regional Coordinators as well as other well-experienced personnels. Then after, machine entry, cross verification and editing were done by utilizing software package dBASE IV. After completion of the entry, cross verification and editing, experienced staffs of the CDPS were involved in identifying errors in data, if any. Computer experts designed several data editing programmes to verify and correct the errors accordingly. Data editing were done in integrated manner for these surveys.

1.7 Weights

The urban areas were oversampled to ensure the separate analysis of the data for urban areas by larger sample size. Therefore, to adjust the oversampling of the urban areas on aggregate estimates, weight factor is estimated and used to deflate the urban sample in proportion to the urban population observed in the 1991 census. Weight is estimated as a proportion of the ratio of the urban to rural population aged 5-17 in the 1991 census to the ratio in the sample. Weight factor for this urban child population aged 5-17 is 0.3278435. The weight for national urban child population aged 5-14 is 0.336637, 0.362134 for hill urban and 0.317086 for Tarai

urban. Likewise, weight for Eastern urban is 0.325249, 0.349849 for Central urban, 0.338467 for Western urban, 0.305073 for Mid-western urban and 0.278583 for Far-western urban. Weight for the rural sample is 1.

1.8 Techniques of Data Analysis

Throughout the analysis decomposition techniques are applied to make the sample values as equivalent to population. This requires the following procedures: Projection of child population, estimated proportion from sample, and decomposition.

1.8.1 Projection of Child Population

Child population is estimated by projection method. For this purpose, growth rate (exponential) for child population during the 1981-1991 intercensal period is estimated. It is found out that growth rate for the child population aged 5-17 years and 5-14 years for this period is 2.80 and 2.75 per cent per annum respectively. Using these rates, again exponential growth function, $P_t = P_0 e^{rt}$, has been applied to the total count of the child population of the respective age groups obtained from 1991 census to project the child population for the survey date. Projection is made for rural/urban residence, ecological zones, and development regions separately using the same growth rate.

1.8.2 Estimated Proportions from Sample

Proportion based on the sample is estimated as, $p = y/n$, where y is count-sum of the defined class either of binomial or multinomial variable, and n is total sample children.

1.8.3 Decomposition

In this stage, total estimated child population is decomposed into number of working/labouring children using the value of p . If p represents the estimated proportion from sample for working children, and c for total estimated children, total working children, w is equal to $p*c$.

Chapter II Migration of Child Labourers in Nepal

2.1 Background

Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 also collected information on those who were absent from household at the time of survey for at least six months and up to five years. Of the total absentees, 1,123 were reported to be aged 5-17 years.

Among the 1,123 migrants, 330 (29.4%) left home due to economic reasons (Table 2.1). Economic reasons include search for job (15.7%), service (10.6%) and agriculture (3.2%). Those migrating for non-economic reasons included marriage (56.2%), dependent (7.3%), and education (7%). Among all the reasons marriage and dependent constituted the highest proportion (63.5%). Sex composition shows that two-third of the migrants are females (66.7%). The proportion of males migrating for service and search for job is more dominant than the proportion of females for the respective reasons for migration. Over 56 per cent of females migrated for due to marriage.

Table 2.1: Reasons for Migration of Children Aged 5-17 by Sex

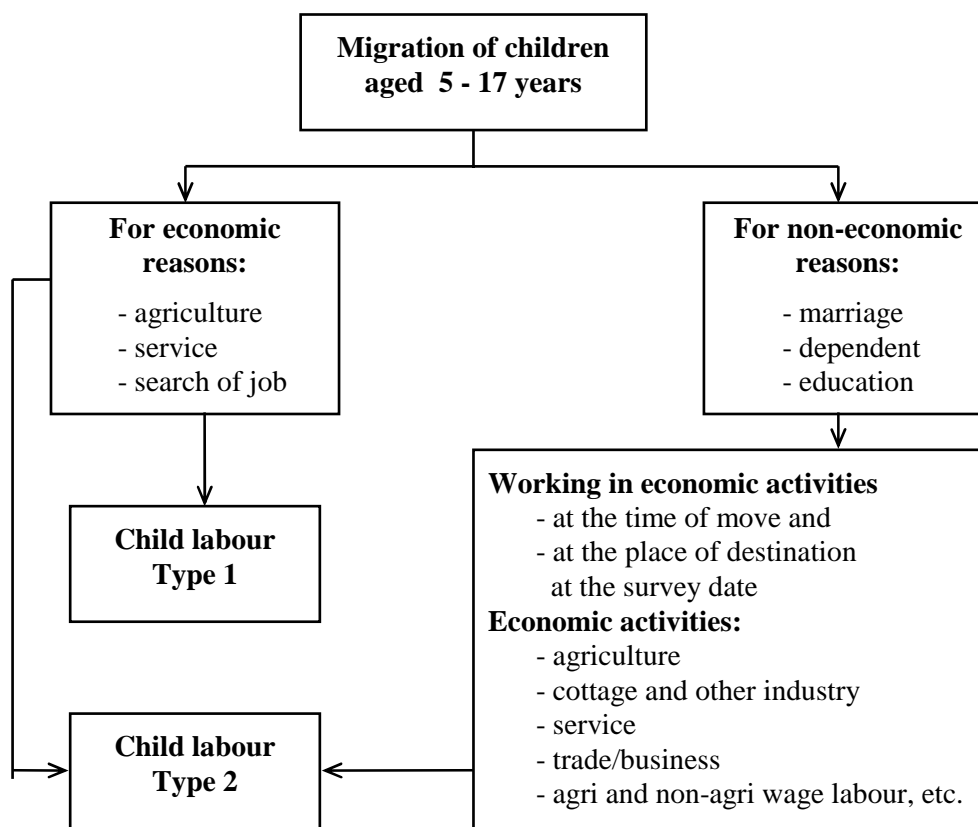
Reasons for migration	Sex		Total	
	Male	Female	%	N
Marriage	-	56.2	56.2	631
Dependent	3.3	4.1	7.3	82
Education	5.3	1.7	7.0	79
Service	9.7	0.9	10.6	119
Agriculture	1.1	2.0	3.2	35
Search of job	13.9	1.9	15.7	176
Total	374	749	-	1,123
%	33.3	66.7	100.0	-

Source: ME Survey, 1996.

Analysis is carried out by defining migrant child labour in this study in two ways:

- i. those who migrated due to economic reasons are defined as “child labourer type 1” and
- ii. those who migrated due to economic and non-economic reasons but were working in economic activities immediately before and after migration (at the time of survey) are defined as “migrant child labourer type 2”.

Figure 1: Schematic Diagram of the Definition of Child Labour



2.2 Estimation of Migrant Child Labourer in Nepal

Migrant child labourer is estimated at the national level. For this purpose, proportion of migrant child-labourer is obtained from the sample population of children aged 5-17 year enumerated between December 1995 and February 1996. The child population in the same age range from 1991 census is projected to the survey date based on the exponential growth rate during 1981-1991 census year. Then an estimate of the national level child labourer is made as the product of sample proportion and the projected child population aged 5-17 years (Table 2.2). The same procedure is used for both males and females and for various population subgroups being considered.

Table 2.2 shows the estimation of child labourer considering the Type 1 definition (Figure 1). Children aged 5-17 years who moved out from their place of origin due to economic reasons are estimated to be about 80 thousands, that is, 1.06 per cent of the total children aged 5-17 years in the country (7,563 thousands). Among them, 67 thousands are males with 1.7 per cent of total male children (3,865 thousands) and 13 thousands are females with 0.36 per cent

of the total females (3,698 thousands) indicating male child labourers are in overwhelming majority. According to their age at the time of move the highest number of child labourer is estimated in the age group 15-17 years (44 thousands) which is 3.4 per cent of total children aged 15-17 years in the country. The mobility of child labourer in rural areas overwhelmingly dominates the urban areas. There is 76 out of 80 thousands migrant child labourer in rural areas compared to 3 thousands in urban areas. By development regions, eastern development region has the highest share of migrant child labourer, that is, 28 thousands with 1.5 per cent of total children in the region. This is followed by western (14 thousands) and far-western (14 thousands) region. Mid-western region has the least migrant child labourer (9 thousands). Among the ecological zones, hills (40 thousands) alone holds one-half of the total child labourer in Nepal with 1.15 per cent. Tarai has 32 thousands migrant child labourers which is 1.26 per cent of the total Tarai children.

The estimation is also made according to the country of destination. Destinations are classified broadly in three categories, that is, same country, India, and others. The place of destination not stated is also included in others category. The estimation shows that the majority of the child labourer went to India (49 thousands) which is 0.65 per cent of the total children aged 5-17 years in Nepal (7,563 thousands) and those who moved within the country is only 27 thousands with only 0.36 per cent of the total children. The distribution of the males and females is found to be similar for each category for all subgroups as the total.

Table 2.2: Estimation of Migrant Child Labourer (Type 1) Aged 5-17 Years from Those Who Migrated for Economic Reasons, 1996

Back-ground Variables	Projected population (in `000) ¹			Estimated migrant child labour (`000) ²			% 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
<u>Age at move</u>									
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	22	19	3	0.78	1.30	0.22
15-17	1,318	653	664	44	37	6	3.37	5.63	0.98
<u>Residence</u>									
Urban	708	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
<u>Development Region</u>									
Far-western	697	353	344	14	12	2	2.04	3.35	0.71
Mid-western	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
<u>Ecological Region</u>									
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
Tarai	3,532	1,837	1,695	32	27	5	0.91	1.50	0.27
<u>Place of Destination⁴</u>									
Within the country				27	19	8	0.36	0.50	0.21
India				49	44	5	0.65	1.13	0.13
Other countries				5	4	1	0.06	0.10	0.01

¹ Projected child population aged 5-17 years 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 the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition process.

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

⁴ To estimate the migrant child labourer by place of destination, the national (Nepal) projected population was used.

Source: ME Survey, 1996.

Table 2.3 presents the estimation of migrant child labourer 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. Child labour type 2 is estimated to be 120 thousands for the country which is 1.58 per cent of the total children aged 5-17 years 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 labourer.

Table 2.3: Estimation of Migrant Child Labourer Aged 5-17 Years (Type 2) Among Those Who Migrated for Economic Reasons and for Non-economic but Working in Economic Activities Before and After Migration, 1996

Back-ground Variables	Projected population (in `000) ¹			Estimated migrant child labourer ('000) ²			% 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
<u>Age at move</u>									
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
<u>Residence</u>									
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
<u>Development Region</u>									
Far-western	697	353	344	18	12	6	2.57	3.35	1.78
Mid-western	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	33	22	11	1.78	2.33	1.18
<u>Ecological Region</u>									
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
Tarai	3,532	1,837	1,695	45	28	17	1.26	1.51	0.98
<u>Place of Destination⁴</u>									
Within the country				61	20	42	0.81	0.52	1.13
India				53	45	7	0.70	1.16	0.20
Other countries				6	4	2	0.08	0.10	0.05

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

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

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

⁴ To estimate the migrant child labourer by place of destination, the national (Nepal) projected population was used.

Source: ME Survey, 1996.

Most of the child labourers who were aged 15-17 years (70 thousands with 5.3 per cent of the total children of this age) and who were residing in rural areas (114 thousands with 1.66 per cent of the total rural children) moved out from the origin. According to development regions, the first and second highest share of child labourer belongs to eastern (33 thousands) and western (30 thousands) regions respectively as found in Type 1 definition. But the third position here goes to central region which has 25 thousands of migrant child labourer.

Though Tarai also has a large number of migrant child labourer (44 thousands), hill is the most prominent among ecological zones for migrant child labourer which has 60 thousands with 1.72 per cent of the total hill children (3,468 thousands). In the case of country of destination, unlike in Type 1, Type 2 child labourer moved within the country in large majority (61 thousands).

There are some striking results found for the estimation of child labourer type 2 when looking at it by sex. Among child labourer type 2, the largest number belongs to central region (females 15 thousands and males 10 thousands). In hills, females (10 thousands) are estimated to be just double of males (5 thousands). However, in the case of mobility within the country, females (42 thousands) are more than double of males (20 thousands). This type of result may be due to the fact that among child labourers who migrated for non-economic reasons but were working in economic activities are mostly females (see Table 2.8).

2.3 Migration Stream

2.3.1 Migration by Country of Destination

Migration destinations are classified into three categories: Nepal (within the country), India, and other countries. The category NS is for those whose country of destination was not stated. Table 2.4 shows the highest proportion of child labourer (type 1) are reported to have gone to India, that is, three-fifth of the total. Those who moved within the country is only one-third (33.7%). Other countries, like, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, etc. are also the child labourer receiving countries from Nepal.

On the other hand, the opposite patterns of the distribution of migrant child labour type 2 is found compared to type 1. The highest proportion of child labourer of Type 2 moved within the country (51%), unlike child labourer (type 1). This result is due to the fact that those who migrated due to non-economic reasons, like marriage, dependent, and education, were mostly females and their magnitude to go outside the country is small. The next largest chunk of child labourer went to India, that is, 44.1 per cent of the total.

Table 2.4: Migrant Child Labourer Aged 5-17 Years by Country of Destination

Country of destination	Child labour: Type 1		Child labour: Type 2	
	%	N	%	N
Nepal	33.7	112	51.0	252
India	60.8	202	44.1	218
Other countries	3.3	11	2.8	14
NS	2.4	8	2.0	10
Total	100.0	332	100.0	494

Source: ME survey 1996.

2.3.2 Rural/Urban Stream

Rural/urban migration stream of child labourers for both types is presented in Table 2.5. Percentage of migrant child labourer type 1 currently residing in urban areas (54.1%), irrespective of the place of origin, is almost double of those who are residing in rural areas (26.9%). However, this proportion is higher for rural (46.6%) than for urban (40%) among child labour type 2.

Proportions going to urban from both rural (53.8%) and urban (54.8%) areas are found to be higher than those going to rural areas among type 1 child labourer. However, among child labourer type 2, the proportions going from rural to rural (49.2%) and from urban to urban areas (54.3%) dominate the stream even though the stream from rural to urban (38.2%) is also notable. The proportion of migrant child labourer whose place of destination was not stated is also significant.

Table 2.5: Rural-Urban Stream of Migrant Child Labourer Aged 5-17 Years

Place of Origin	Place of destination			Total	
	Rural	Urban	NS	%	N
Child labourer: 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
%	26.9	54.1	19.0		100
Child labourer: 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
%	46.6	40.0	13.3		100

Source: ME Survey, 1996.

2.3.3 Interregional Migration Stream

Interregional migration stream of child labourers is assessed in three ecological zones: mountain, hills, and Tarai zones and five administrative regions: far-western, mid-western, western, central, and eastern development regions. Table 2.6 presents the stream by ecological zones for both types of child labourers. Among type 1 child labourers, hill is the main child labour receiving zone which absorbed 35.3 per cent of mountain, 68.9 per cent of the same zone, and 30.8 per cent of Tarai origin, though the Tarai has the highest proportion of child labourer (61.5%) moved within the same zone and equal proportion from mountain went to hill (35.3%) and to Tarai (35.3%).

Table 2.6: Migration Stream of Child Labourers by Ecological Zones

Place of origin	Place of destination				Total	
	Mountain	Hill	Tarai	NS	%	N
<u>Child labourer: Type 1</u>						
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
<u>Child labourer: Type 2</u>						
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

Source: ME Survey, 1996.

Among the child labourers type 2, though the mobility within the same zones is much common. However, 4.3 per cent of the mountain originated and 6.5 per cent of the Tarai originated child labourers are currently residing in hill. Among the hill originated child labourers, 5.2 per cent went to Tarai. There was none from mountain going to Tarai.

Table 2.7 presents the migration stream of child labourer in five development regions. For child labourer type 1, the mobility within the same regions is common in all regions even though central region is the most child labourer receiving region compared to others. The percentages are 11.1 of far-western, 35.7 of western, 85.7 of the same region, and 54.3 of eastern region went to central development region. Likewise, 25 of mid-western, 35.7 of the same region, 14.3 of central, and 2.2 of eastern development region went to western region. Eastern region is the main origin of child labourer and that Tarai and far-western region received no person from any other regions.

Among the child labourer type 2, as for child labour type 1, the mobility within the same regions is overwhelming. However, eastern region has only 52.5 per cent of the child labourer from the same origin, which is much fewer than that for others. The remaining large chunk of eastern region originated child labourers went to central (42.4%) and a small proportion went to western development region (1.7%). Central and western were the main child labourer receiving regions from almost all regions. For instance, 4.8 per cent of far-western, 14.8 per cent of mid-western, and 42.4 per cent of eastern originated child labourer are currently residing in central development region. Central region has 91.7 per cent of child labour moved within the same region and western region has 72.2 per cent of the child labour moved within the same region. Similarly, 6.3 per cent of mid-western, 4.2 per cent of the central, and 1.7 per cent of the eastern origin child labourers are currently residing in western development region.

2.7: Migration Stream of Child Labourer by Development Regions

Place of origin	Place of destination						Total	
	Far-western	Mid-western	Western	Central	Eastern	NS	%	N
Child labourer: Type 1								
Far-western	55.6	-	-	11.1	-	33.3	100	11
Mid-western	-	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 labourer: Type 2								
Far-western	81.0	-	-	4.8	-	14.3	100	27
Mid-western	-	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

Source: ME Survey, 1996.

2.4 Education and Occupation of Migrant Child Labourer

2.4.1 Education of Migrant Child Labourer

Table 2.8 shows that the largest proportion of the child labourer type 1 moved from the origin with school level education, that is, primary and secondary (61.3%). Of which primary education constituted the highest proportion (31.8%) and secondary constituted the next

highest (29.5%). If it is examined by sex, the highest proportion of males had primary education (30.3%) while 6.9 per cent of females were only literate.

For child labourer type 2, the highest proportions were literate (27.8%). This is followed by child labourer with primary education (27.5%) at the time of move. Migrant child labourers having secondary education comes next with 23.1 per cent. According to sex, males with primary education are in majority (20.6%) which is followed by males with secondary education (18.3%). Among females, majority are literate (17.2%) which is followed by illiterate (12.3%).

Table 2.8: Educational Status of Migrant Child Labourer

Educational status at the time of move	Sex		Total	
	Male	Female	%	N
Child labourer: Type 1				
Illiterate	8.0	4.2	12.3	41
Literate only	15.3	6.9	22.2	74
Primary (1-5)	30.3	1.5	31.8	105
Secondary (6-10)	26.4	3.1	29.5	98
SLC & above	3.8	0.4	4.6	15
Total	278	53.0	-	331
%	83.9	16.1	100	-
Child labourer: Type 2				
Illiterate	5.7	12.3	18.0	89
Literate only	10.8	17.0	27.8	137
Primary (1-5)	20.6	6.9	27.5	136
Secondary (6-10)	18.3	4.9	23.1	114
SLC & above	2.6	1.3	3.9	19
Total	285	208	-	493
%	57.8	42.2	100	-

Source: ME Survey, 1996.

2.4.2 Occupation of the Migrant Child Labourer

As occupational status of migrants is one of the criteria for defining child labour, it is important to examine. Information on the occupational status of migrant child labourer was obtained about previous and current occupation respectively. Table 2.9 and 2.10 display two types of information on occupation of both types of migrant child labourers: distribution of migrant child labourer according to both previous and current occupation. Last but one column provides the percentage distribution of previous occupation and bottom row provides current occupational distribution.

Table 2.9 shows that among child labourer type 1, the highest proportion was involved in occupation of others category immediately before they moved, that is, 55.6 per cent. This is followed by agriculture (35.3%). Child labourers involved in both agricultural and non-agricultural labour are also of significant proportion. In the case of current occupation at the place of residence, the highest proportion of migrant child labourers are doing service (38.4%) which is followed by others category (36%) and non-agricultural labour (11.2%).

Table 2.9: Occupational Shift of Migrant Child Labourer Type 1, Aged 5-17 Years

Previous Occupation	Current Occupation							Total	
	Agri-culture	Cott. industry	Service	Busi-ness	Agri-labour	Non-agri labour	Others ¹	%	N
Agriculture	13.0	3.3	51.1	-	3.3	7.6	21.7	35.3	117
Cottage industry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	1
Service	-	-	85.7	-	-	-	14.3	2.7	9
Agricultural labourer	-	-	38.5	7.7	15.4	30.8	7.7	4.8	16
Non-agri- labourer	-	-	-	-	-	50.0	50.0	0.9	3
Others ¹	2.1	2.8	29.0	3.4	2.1	11.7	48.3	55.6	184
Total	19	9	127	8	10	37	119	-	331
%	5.7	2.7	38.4	2.4	3.0	11.2	36.0	100.0	-

¹ Others category includes housewives/dependents/disables/students/laid off/not stated.

Source: ME Survey, 1996.

Table 2.9 also presents the occupational shift of migrants from the time of move at the place of origin to the time of interview at the place of current residence. Data clearly show that the shift to the service from almost all occupations is more common for child labourer type 1. The majority of the child labourers shifted their occupations from agriculture (51.1%), agricultural wage labour (38.5%), and from other occupations (29%) to the service. However, shift to others occupations is also common. One also important shift, specially, from agriculture to non-agriculture is notable.

Table 2.10 shows the distribution of child labourer type 2 according to previous occupation which shows that the highest proportion is involved in agriculture (53.5%) which is followed by other category as in type 1. Service (2.6%) and agricultural labour (3.7%) are also important occupation at the place of origin while they moved. In the case of current occupation at the place of destination, the highest majority of migrant child labourer type 2 are engaged in agriculture (31.6%) which is followed by service (26.8%) and other category (24.1%). Non-agriculture and agricultural labour are also important occupation for child labourer type 2.

Occupational shift among child labourer type 2 presented in Table 2.10 shows that migrants who continue the same occupation at the current place of residence as at the place of origin is more common. However, data show that the shift from other occupations to the service is the major occupational shift among the child labourer type 2. Among child labourer who had agricultural occupation, 24.5 per cent shifted their occupation to service. Similarly, 27.8 per cent of agricultural labourers and 29 per cent of other occupation holders shifted their occupation to the service. Shift to non-agricultural labour is also found to be an important, especially, from agriculture (3.8%), agricultural-wage labour (27.8%), and other occupation category (11.7%).

Table 2.10: Occupational Shift of Migrant Child Labourer Type 2, Aged 5-17 Years

Previous Occupation	Current Occupation							Total	
	Agri-culture	Cott. industry	Service	Busi-ness	Agri-labour	Non-agri labour	Others ¹	%	N
Agriculture	55.8	1.9	24.5	1.4	2.9	3.8	9.6	53.5	264
Cottage industry	33.3	33.3	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	4
Service	10.0	-	60.0	10.0	-	-	10.0	2.6	13
Agricultural labour	5.6	-	27.8	5.6	27.8	27.8	5.6	4.7	23
Non-agri- labour	-	-	-	-	-	75.0	25.0	1.0	5
Others ¹	2.1	2.8	29.0	3.4	2.1	11.7	48.3	37.3	184
Total	156	11	132	13	18	42	119	-	493
%	31.6	2.2	26.8	2.6	3.7	8.5	24.1	100.0	-

¹ Others category includes housewives/dependents/disables/students/laid off/not stated.

Source: ME Survey, 1996.

Chapter III

Activities of the Children by Migration Status³

3.1 Life-time Migration

This Chapter describes activities of the children according to their migration status. The survey acquired information about migration status of the children and other members of the household based on whether he/she has been living in the sample cluster (Village Development Committee (VDC) or Municipality) since birth or moved afterwards from other VDCs or Municipalities. This question on migration was designed to acquire information on life-time migration in order to capture movement of the population between birth and the survey date. This question was designed for all members of households irrespective of age and sex.

Based on the question on life-time migration, it is found that number of life-time migrant children aged 5-17 years accounted for 8.8 per cent (662 T) of the total children in these ages (Table 3.1). As compared to male children (7.3%), a higher proportion of female children are migrants (10.3%). This is mainly due to higher mobility of female children for marriage reason.

Mobility of children tends to increase with increasing age. About 17 per cent of the children 15-17 years of age are estimated to be life-time migrants as compared to 5.0 per cent of 5-9 years age group and 8.2 per cent of 10-14 years age group. Increasing mobility of children with increasing age holds true for both sexes. Considering the current place of children's residence, about one-fifth of the children in urban areas are found migrants. The corresponding figure in rural areas is just 7.8 per cent. A higher proportion of migrant children in urban areas indicates an urban-ward migration (Table 3.2).

Tarai zone shows the highest proportion of migrant children (12.0% or 425 T) followed by hill (8.2% or 216 T) and mountain zone (3.9% or 22 T). This is an indicative of the fact that Tarai zone is the largest child migrant receiving zone in Nepal. As a matter of fact, of the 425

T migrant children in Tarai zone, 224 T are interzonal migrants. Development regions do not vary much in terms of proportion of migrant children. Far-western region shows the highest percentage (11.1%) of migrant children. However, in absolute term, this region comprised of the lowest 77 T of the total migrant children. Highest number (244 T) is in central region (Table 3.1). Western region shows the lowest proportion of migrant children (7.2%).

Table 3.1: Estimates of the Number of Life-time Migrant Children Aged 5-17 Years Old, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Background Characteristics	Estimates of						Percent ²		
	Total Children			Migrant			Both	Male	Female
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female			
Nepal	7,563	3,865	3,698	662	283	380	8.8	7.3	10.3
Age									
5-9	3,414	1,740	1,674	172	85	87	5.0	4.9	5.2
10-14	2,832	1,472	1,360	233	109	124	8.2	7.4	9.1
15-17	1,318	653	664	226	78	150	17.1	12.0	22.6
Residence									
Rural	6,855	3,523	3,385	532	216	321	7.8	6.1	9.5
Urban	708	343	313	138	68	60	19.5	19.9	19.1
Ecological Zones									
Mountain	564	285	278	22	6	16	3.9	2.1	5.9
Hill	3,468	1,743	1,725	216	99	117	6.2	5.7	6.8
Tarai	3,532	1,837	1,695	425	179	246	12.0	9.8	14.5
Development Regions									
Eastern	1,839	938	900	149	63	86	8.1	6.7	9.6
Central	2,452	1,278	1,174	244	105	139	9.9	8.2	11.8
Western	1,568	791	778	113	49	65	7.2	6.1	8.4
Mid-western	1,007	505	502	81	33	48	8.0	6.6	9.5
Far-western	697	353	344	77	34	43	11.1	9.6	12.5

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table do not add to total because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

² per cent of population at the place of destination.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

³ Migration throughout this Chapter refers to life-time migration occurred between birth and the time of the survey. A life-time migration is one whose current place of residence is different from his/her area of birth, regardless of intervening migrations (Shryock and Siegel, 1976).

3.2 Migration Stream

Migration stream is commonly defined in terms of group of migrants having common origin and destination in a given migration period (Shryock and Siegel, 1976). Migration stream represents the movement across contiguous territory - such as residence, zones and development regions.

3.2.1 Rural-Urban Stream

Urban areas appear to have been common place of destination of large number of migrant children. It is estimated that of the 138 T migrant children in urban areas, 109 T reported their place birth in rural areas. This comprises of 15.3 per cent of the urban children. Urban to rural migration of children is not so much prominent. It is estimated that about 37 T of migrant children in rural areas are migrants from urban areas.

Table 3.2: Estimates of Migration Stream of the Children Aged 5-17 Years by Rural Urban Residence, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Place of Birth	Place of Destination			
	Estimates		Percent ²	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Rural	495	109	7.26	15.34
Urban	37	29	0.54	4.16
Inmigrants	37	109		

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table may not add to total estimated migrants in Table 3.1 because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

² per cent of population at the place of destination.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

3.2.2 Interzonal Stream

The volume of interzonal migration of children is estimated to be 268 T. It is revealed that Tarai zone receives the largest number of interzonal migration of children. Of the 425 T estimated number of migrant children in this zone, 224 T are interzonal migrants from hill and mountain (Table 3.3). Hill to Tarai migration appears to be the most prominent stream. It is estimated that, of the 224 T interzonal migrant children in Tarai zone, 196 T originated from hill. This comprises of about 5.6 per cent of the child population in Tarai. It is revealed

that about 42 T of the interzonal migrants are in hills; about 19 T from mountain and 23 T from Tarai.

Table 3.3: Estimates of the Migration Stream of Children Aged 5-17 Years by Ecological Zones, Nepal, 1995/96¹

(estimates are in '000)

Place of Birth	Place of Destination					
	Estimates			Percent ²		
	Mountain	Hill	Tarai	Mountain	Hill	Tarai
Mountain	19	19	28	3.41	0.54	0.79
Hill	1	170	196	0.24	4.91	5.56
Tarai	1	23	195	0.24	0.67	5.53
Inmigrants	2	42	224			

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table may not add to total estimated migrants in Table 3.1 because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

² per cent of population at the place of destination.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

3.2.3 Interregional Stream

The volume of interregional migration of children is estimated to be 128 T. of which the largest 62 T are estimated to be in central development region followed by 23 T in mid-western region (Table 3.4). Stream from western region to central region is most prominent as about 36 T of the interregional child migrants in central region (1.49%) originated from western region. It is estimated that about 23 T interregional child migrants in central region originated from eastern region. Of the total interregional child migrants, in mid-western region, 17 T are estimated migrants from western region.

Table 3.4: Estimates of the Migration Stream of the Children Aged 5-17 Years by Development Regions, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Place of Birth	Place of Destination				
	Eastern	Central	Western	Mid-western	Far-western
Eastern	138	23	1	0	1
Central	10	178	9	2	3
Western	1	36	98	17	1
Mid-western	0	2	2	56	13
Far-western	0	1	1	3	58
Inmigrants	11	62	13	23	19
Percent as of Population at the Place of Destination					
Eastern	7.50	0.95	0.06	0.03	0.20
Central	0.53	7.25	0.59	0.24	0.44
Western	0.04	1.49	6.23	1.17	0.08
Mid-western	0.00	0.10	0.14	5.60	1.93
Far-western	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.27	8.37

¹ *Sub-total some of the entries in the Table may not add to total estimated migrants in Table 3.1 because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.*

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

3.3 Activities by Mobility Status

3.3.1 Analytical Scheme

The basic of the analytical scheme for the present study is adopted from the earlier report on *Child Labour Situation in Nepal* prepared by CDPS for IPEC, International Labour Office (ILO), Kathmandu. Using more or less the same analytical framework, entire focus of the present study is upon analyzing children's⁴ activities with respect to their mobility status.

This study focuses on the study of the following types of children's activities - schooling, works, and doing nothing (idle) - with major focus on their work activities (helping status of children) from different perspectives. Work activities of the children are studied in relation to their current school attendance status by distinguishing group of children *working and schooling*. It means children who participate in works and attend school, and *work only* who work but do not attend school. Another perspective employed to study the children's work activities is to examine children's involvement by types of work. Broadly, children's works are categorized into two types - economic and non-economic.

Children's economic activities are further categorized into unpaid and paid economic activities. Unpaid economic activities here refer to agricultural as well as nonagricultural activities of domestic nature. Agricultural activities of domestic nature comprise of care after siblings, kitchen works, collecting firewood and fodder, cattle grazing, farm works, whereas "others" household economic enterprises other than the agricultural ones for which children are not directly paid, come under the nonagricultural activities of domestic nature.

Besides these, it has been evident from the survey that a sizeable number of children have been reported to have been involved in all the above types of domestic activities indicating children's involvement in both economic and housekeeping activities. Such responses are also grouped under economic activities on the ground that economic activities will have priority over housekeeping activities.

Paid activities of the children refer to the work for which they are directly paid either in cash or kind as wage but the work may be either regular or seasonal. For analytical purpose, they are grouped under 6 main headings according to the nature of activities. They are: *Agricultural Workers*: agricultural labour, livestock keeping, poultry farming, cattle grazing and ploughing, managers and workers in garden and nursery; *General Technical workers*; *Sales Workers*: workers in wholesale or retail shops, mobile traders, newspaper sellers and related workers; *Service Workers*: cook and waiter in hotels and restaurants and related works, domestic servants, caretakers and sweepers, laundry, barber and related works, and watchman; *Production Workers*: workers in rice mills, knitting and carpet weaving, butchers, factory workers, tailoring, hosiery workers, plumbers, jewelry workers, carving and painting and related workers; *Construction, Transportation, and Communication Workers*: carpentry, transportation workers, construction labour and related workers.

Housekeeping activities of the children in parents'/guardians' home are classified as noneconomic activities which comprise of basically the activities like care after siblings and kitchen works.

⁴ The present study is confined to children aged 5-14 years old because the survey did not ask questions about current school attendance status as well as work activities (help status) to those aged 15 years and above.

Children's activities are studied with reference to some selected characteristics. They are: age and sex of the children and residential characteristics such as rural/urban, ecological zones, and development regions. Mobility status of the children is taken as a major criterion variable.

3.3.2 Estimates of Total Children by Mobility Status

It was estimated that as of December-February 1995-96, there were 6,225 T children in Nepal aged 5-14 years old which comprise of 29.1 per cent of the total estimated population in that period. Out of 6,225 T, 5,728 are estimated to be non-migrants and the rest 413 T are migrants. Number of male and female children are estimated to be 3,202 T and 3,023 T respectively with a sex ratio of 105.9 males per 100 females. Of the total migrant children, 198 T are males and 216 T females.

Of the children aged 5-9 years, 172 T are estimated to be migrants and 3,178 T non-migrants. Number of migrant children aged 10-14 years is 233 T. Estimates reveal that 5,705 T (91.6%) Nepali children live in rural areas of which 323 T are migrants. About 90 T of the urban children aged 5-9 years are estimated to be migrants in urban areas, and the rest, 426 T are non-migrants.

Of the total children, 2,939 T (47.2%) is estimated to live in Tarai. This zone has 265 T migrant children as compared to 141 T in hill and 10 T in mountain. Taking the distribution of the children by development regions, the largest, 1,505 T children are in Eastern region, followed by 1,293 T (20.8%) in Western region and 2,020 T in Central region. Similarly, 826 T children live in the Mid-western region, and the least 580 T (9.3%) in the Far-western development region. The largest 152 T migrant children is estimated to be in central region followed by 90 T in eastern region and 71 T in western region. It is estimated that lowest 49 T and 52 T migrant children are in mid-western and far-western region respectively.

3.3.3 Working Children by Mobility Status

It is estimated that there are 2,596 T working children of 5-14 years of age in Nepal comprising of 41.7 per cent of the total children of the same ages (Table 3.5). Of the working children, 2,407 T are non-migrants. Number of working migrant children accounted for 162

T. Work participation rate is found to be slightly higher among non-migrant children. It is estimated that, 42.0 per cent of the non-migrant children involved in works in comparison to 39.3 per cent among migrants. In general, work participation rate among female children does not vary according to the mobility status, whereas it varies remarkably among male children.

Overwhelming majority of the working children are in 10-14 years age group. This age group accounted for 1,645 T of the total working children; 844 T are in the ages 5-9 years. Among migrant working children of 162 T, 34 T are estimated to be in the 5-9 years age group and the rest 118 T in 10-14 years age group. Work participation rate is remarkably lower among children aged 5-9 years as compared to older children aged 10-14 years. About 58 per cent of the 10-14 years old children are reported at work in comparison to 24.8 per cent who were 5-9 years old. As compared to migrant children, participation rate is higher for non-migrant children of both age groups.

Rural areas comprise of 2,476 T of the total working children and it is 120 T in urban areas. The corresponding work participation rate is substantially low in urban areas. Work participation rate does not vary much according to mobility status of the children in rural areas. About 43 per cent of both migrant and non-migrant children in rural areas reported to have been involved in work. Contrarily, work participation rate in urban areas is found to be higher among migrant children. For instance, about 27 per cent of the migrant children in urban areas worked in comparison to about 22 per cent among non-migrants.

A higher proportion of children in mountain zone is found involved in works. Work participation rate for this zone is estimated to be about 52 per cent in comparison to 45 and 36 per cent in hill and Tarai zone respectively. In comparison to non-migrants, work participation rate is lower among migrants in all the zones except Tarai. In Tarai, about 40 per cent of the migrants involved in work as compared to 36 per cent of non-migrants.

Table 3.5: Estimates of Working Children Aged 5-14 Years by Migration Status, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Background Characteristics	Estimates of						Participation Rate		
	Total Children			Working Children			Both	Male	Female
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female			
Nepal	6,225	3,202	3,024	2,596	1,156	1,439	41.7	36.1	47.6
Non-migrant	5,728	2,964	2,766	2,407	1,087	1,322	42.0	36.7	47.8
Migrant	413	198	216	162	60	104	39.3	30.1	47.9
Children's Age									
5-9	3,403	1,734	1,668	844	352	492	24.8	20.3	29.5
Non-migrant	3,178	1,621	1,556	798	333	466	25.1	20.5	30.0
Migrant	172	85	87	34	14	21	20.1	16.5	23.7
10-14	2,822	1,467	1,355	1,645	756	893	58.3	51.5	65.9
Non-migrant	2,558	1,344	1,214	1,515	707	808	59.2	52.6	66.6
Migrant	233	109	124	118	42	77	50.9	38.9	61.7
Residence									
Rural	5,705	2,929	2,776	2,476	1,110	1,366	43.4	37.9	49.2
Non-migrant	5,303	2,742	2,561	2,312	1,049	1,264	43.6	38.3	49.3
Migrant	323	148	175	139	50	89	42.9	33.9	50.8
Urban	520	272	248	120	47	73	23.0	17.2	29.4
Non-migrant	426	221	205	95	37	58	22.3	16.8	28.3
Migrant	90	49	41	24	9	15	26.7	19.2	35.8
Ecological Zones									
Mountain	462	235	227	241	108	133	52.2	45.7	58.9
Non-migrant	444	227	217	233	105	128	52.4	46.2	59.0
Migrant	10	4	6	5	2	3	50.0	40.0	57.1
Hill	2,824	1,432	1,392	1,282	594	690	45.4	41.5	49.6
Non-migrant	2,643	1,342	1,301	1,217	568	651	46.0	42.3	50.0
Migrant	141	72	70	52	21	32	37.2	28.8	46.4
Tarai	2,939	1,534	1,405	1,067	448	617	36.3	29.2	43.9
Non-migrant	2,640	1,392	1,248	952	406	544	36.1	29.1	43.6
Migrant	265	123	141	106	38	68	40.1	30.7	48.2
Development Regions									
Eastern	1,506	772	735	691	312	380	45.9	40.5	51.7
Non-migrant	1,393	715	678	644	292	352	46.2	40.8	51.9
Migrant	90	43	46	40	16	24	45.0	37.7	52.1
Central	2,020	1,056	964	784	250	436	38.8	33.1	45.2
Non-migrant	1,846	971	874	720	324	397	39.0	33.4	45.4
Migrant	152	76	77	59	23	36	38.8	30.9	46.8
Western	1,293	659	634	429	194	236	33.2	29.5	37.3
Non-migrant	1,206	619	587	407	188	219	33.7	30.4	37.3
Migrant	71	31	40	20	5	15	27.8	15.7	37.6
Mid-western	826	418	408	416	185	231	50.4	44.2	56.6
Non-migrant	765	392	373	392	178	214	51.3	45.4	57.4
Migrant	49	22	27	20	6	14	40.8	27.4	51.4
Far-western	580	297	283	282	120	162	48.7	40.6	57.1
Non-migrant	518	265	252	252	108	144	48.6	40.6	57.0
Migrant	52	26	26	25	10	15	47.8	38.0	57.8

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table do not add to total because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

Considering the development regions, western region has the lowest work participation rate of 33.2 per cent for children with lowest rates for both non-migrant as well as migrant groups. The highest work participation rate is found for mid-western (50.4%) and far-western region

(48.7%). Work participation rate by mobility status does not vary much in all the regions except in mid and far-western regions.

3.3.4 Working and Schooling Children by Mobility Status

It is estimated that, of the 2,596 T working children, 1,584 T attend school. It means that about 25 per cent of the 5-14 years old children work and attend school. Number of male children who work and attend school constituted 26.6 per cent of the total male children and the corresponding figure for female children is 24.2 per cent. It is interesting to note that, as compared to non-migrants, proportion of *working and schooling* children is higher among migrant children particularly among female children. About 24 per cent of the non-migrant female children are estimated to be *working and schooling* as compared to 32 per cent among migrants.

For both sexes, proportion of *working and schooling* children does not vary substantially in 5-9 years of ages according to mobility status. About 13 per cent of the non-migrants as well as non-migrants children of both sexes work and attend school. However, for both sexes, there is a remarkable variation in the proportion of *working and schooling* children in 10-14 years of ages according to mobility status. For instance, about 40 per cent of the non-migrant male children work and attend school as compared to migrant children of the same sex. The corresponding figure for female children is estimated to be 35.1 and 41.8 per cent respectively for non-migrant and migrant group.

Table 3.6: Estimates of the Working and Schooling Children Aged 5-14 Years by Migration Status, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Background Characteristics	Estimates			Percent		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
Nepal	1,584	852	731	25.4	26.6	24.2
Non-migrant	1,453	796	656	25.4	26.9	23.7
Migrant	116	48	69	28.2	24.1	32.0
Children's Age						
5-9	457	241	216	13.4	13.9	13.0
Non-migrant	427	226	200	13.4	14.0	12.9
Migrant	24	11	13	13.8	12.8	14.9
10-14	1,053	571	482	37.3	38.9	35.5
Non-migrant	959	532	426	37.5	39.6	35.1
Migrant	86	34	52	36.8	31.3	41.8
Residence						
Rural	1,489	814	674	26.1	27.8	24.3
Non-migrant	1,377	766	610	26.0	27.9	23.8
Migrant	97	40	58	30.0	26.8	32.8
Urban	96	38	57	18.4	14.1	23.2
Non-migrant	76	30	45	17.8	13.7	22.2
Migrant	19	8	12	21.7	15.9	28.7
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	135	80	55	29.2	34.1	24.2
Non-migrant	130	77	53	29.4	34.1	24.4
Migrant	3	2	1	27.8	40.0	19.0
Hill	877	479	397	31.1	33.4	28.5
Non-migrant	832	459	371	31.5	34.2	28.5
Migrant	38	15	23	26.7	21.2	32.7
Tarai	565	285	280	19.2	18.6	19.9
Non-migrant	483	251	232	18.3	18.0	18.6
Migrant	77	31	45	28.9	25.3	32.1
Development Regions						
Eastern	452	236	216	30.0	30.6	29.4
Non-migrant	411	217	194	29.5	30.3	28.6
Migrant	35	15	20	38.5	34.6	42.4
Central	444	239	205	22.0	22.6	21.2
Non-migrant	402	219	183	21.8	22.6	20.9
Migrant	39	18	21	25.5	24.3	26.8
Western	322	162	159	24.9	24.6	25.1
Non-migrant	304	157	146	25.2	25.4	24.9
Migrant	16	4	12	22.7	12.7	31.5
Mid-western	218	128	90	26.4	30.6	22.0
Non-migrant	201	122	78	26.2	31.2	21.0
Migrant	15	5	10	29.8	21.4	36.4
Far-western	150	89	62	25.9	29.9	21.8
Non-migrant	135	81	54	26.0	30.5	21.6
Migrant	13	6	6	24.2	23.9	24.4

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table do not add to total because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

About 26 per cent of the rural children work and attend school compared to 18.4 per cent in urban areas. In general, both the areas demonstrate a higher proportion of *working and schooling* children among migrants with substantial variation among female children. It is

estimated that 29.1 per cent of the children in mountain zone work and attend school in comparison to 31.1 per cent and 19.2 per cent in hill and Tarai. As compared to non-migrants, substantially higher proportion of the migrant children of both sexes in Tarai work and attend school. In mountain, proportion of *working and schooling* children is found to be lower among migrant female children (19.0%) compared to non-migrant children of the same sex (24.4%). Contrarily, for males, this zone demonstrates remarkably higher proportion (40%) of *working and schooling* children among migrants. The case of hill zone appears to be reverse as the proportion of *working and schooling* children is lower among male migrants and it is higher among female migrants.

Proportion of *working and schooling* children is found to be highest in eastern development region (30.0) followed by mid-western (26.4%) and far-western region (25.9%). Eastern and central regions demonstrate higher proportion of *working and schooling* children among migrant children of both sexes with substantial variation among female children. Other regions show fairly higher proportion of working and school attending children among migrants particularly females.

3.3.5 Working Only Children by Mobility Status

It is estimated that, of the 2,596 T working children, 1,004 T work only implying that about 16 per cent children in Nepal work, but do not attend school. As compared to male children (9.4%), much higher proportion of female children work without attending school (23.3%). Proportion of *working only* children is found to be remarkably lower among migrant children as 10.9 per cent of the migrant working children do not attend school compared to 16.6 per cent of the non-migrants.

About 21 per cent of the children in 10-14 years of age work but do not attend school in comparison to 11.3 per cent in 5-9 years of age. In both age groups, proportion of working children but not attending school is remarkably higher among migrants. This holds true for both sexes.

Table 3.7: Estimates of the Working Only Children Aged 5-14 Years by Migration Status, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Background Characteristics	Estimates			Participation Rate		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
Nepal	1,004	301	705	16.1	9.4	23.3
Non-migrant	950	288	665	16.6	9.7	24.0
Migrant	45	11	34	10.9	5.8	15.6
Children's Age						
5-9	384	109	275	11.3	6.3	16.5
Non-migrant	370	105	265	11.6	6.5	17.1
Migrant	10	3	7	5.9	3.4	8.5
10-14	590	182	410	20.9	12.4	30.2
Non-migrant	553	173	381	21.6	12.9	31.4
Migrant	32	8	24	13.9	7.3	19.7
Residence						
Rural	981	293	690	17.2	10.0	24.9
Non-migrant	931	281	652	17.6	10.3	25.5
Migrant	41	10	31	12.6	6.7	17.7
Urban	23	8	15	4.5	3.0	6.1
Non-migrant	19	7	12	4.5	3.0	6.1
Migrant	4	2	3	4.8	3.2	6.9
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	106	27	79	23.0	11.7	34.8
Non-migrant	102	27	75	23.0	12.1	34.6
Migrant	2	0	2	22.2	0.0	38.1
Hill	402	115	292	14.2	8.0	21.0
Non-migrant	383	108	279	14.5	8.1	21.5
Migrant	15	5	10	10.5	7.6	13.7
Tarai	498	161	335	17.0	10.5	23.8
Non-migrant	467	153	311	17.7	11.0	25.0
Migrant	28	6	22	10.6	5.0	15.7
Development Regions						
Eastern	240	77	163	15.9	10.0	22.2
Non-migrant	232	75	158	16.7	10.5	23.2
Migrant	6	1	5	6.4	3.1	9.7
Central	338	109	230	16.8	10.3	23.9
Non-migrant	317	104	214	17.2	10.7	24.5
Migrant	20	5	15	13.3	6.6	20.1
Western	107	31	76	8.3	4.7	12.0
Non-migrant	102	30	73	8.5	4.8	12.4
Migrant	3	1	2	4.3	3.0	5.5
Mid-western	197	56	140	23.8	13.4	34.5
Non-migrant	190	55	135	24.8	13.9	36.2
Migrant	5	1	4	11.0	6.0	15.0
Far-western	132	31	100	22.7	10.5	35.3
Non-migrant	117	27	89	22.6	10.1	35.4
Migrant	12	3	8	22.0	12.0	32.2

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table do not add to total because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

However, in urban areas, variation in the proportion of working children without school attendance is not substantial according to mobility status as about 6 per cent non-migrant as well as migrant female children work without school attendance in urban areas. The

corresponding figure for male children is about 3 per cent. All the zones and development regions demonstrate a lower proportion of *work only* children among migrant children of both sexes as compared to those of non-migrants.

3.3.6 Economic Participation of the Children by Mobility Status

It is estimated that 26.7 per cent of the Nepali children aged 5-14 years participated in economic activities accounting for about 1.7 million of the total children. The proportion for male and female children is 27.9 and 25.5 per cent respectively. As overall work participation is lower among migrant children, economic participation is also lower among migrants as compared to non-migrants. About 27 per cent of the non-migrant children participated in economic activities in comparison to 21.0 per cent of the migrants. For both sexes, economic participation rate is lower among migrants.

Not surprisingly, older children aged 10-14 years of age are more likely to participate in economic activities. About 41 per cent of the children in this age group participate in economic activities in comparison to 12.5 per cent in 5-9 years of ages. Both the age and sex groups demonstrate a lower economic participation rate for migrant children.

As compared to urban areas (8.5%), economic participation of children is substantially higher in rural areas (28.4%). Migrant children in rural areas are less likely to participate in economic activities as about 29 per cent of the non-migrant children participate in economic activities in comparison to 24.4 per cent of the migrant children. In urban areas, economic participation rates for non-migrant and migrant children do not vary much. About 9 per cent of both migrant and non-migrant children participate in economic activities.

The highest economic participation rate for children is found in mountain. About 38 per cent of the children in this zone participated in economic activities in comparison to 30.5 per cent and 21.2 per cent in hill and Tarai zone respectively. All the zone demonstrate remarkably lower economic participation rate for migrant children except Tarai. In Tarai, about 21 per cent of the non-migrant as well as migrant children participated in economic activities. Sex-specific economic participation rate shows that migrant female children in mountain are more

likely to participate in economic activities in comparison to their non-migrant counterparts of the same zone.

Table 3.8: Estimates of the Number of Economically Active Children Aged 5-14 Years by Migration Status, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Background Characteristics	Estimates			Economic Participation Rate		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
Nepal	1,664	894	770	26.7	27.9	25.5
Non-migrant	1,563	845	717	27.3	28.5	25.9
Migrant	87	41	46	21.0	20.9	21.1
Children's Age						
5-9	426	215	211	12.5	12.4	12.6
Non-migrant	407	204	202	12.8	12.6	13.0
Migrant	15	9	7	8.9	10.1	7.8
10-14	1,150	629	521	40.8	42.9	38.4
Non-migrant	1,075	595	480	42.0	44.2	39.5
Migrant	66	30	36	28.4	27.9	28.6
Residence						
Rural	1,620	867	752	28.4	29.6	27.1
Non-migrant	1,526	824	702	28.8	30.0	27.4
Migrant	79	37	42	24.4	24.7	24.1
Urban	44	27	18	8.5	9.7	7.2
Non-migrant	36	22	14	8.5	9.8	7.1
Migrant	8	5	3	9.0	9.5	8.4
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	176	84	92	38.0	35.6	40.6
Non-migrant	170	82	88	38.3	36.0	40.7
Migrant	3	1	3	33.3	20.0	42.9
Hill	862	457	405	30.5	31.9	29.1
Non-migrant	826	439	386	31.3	32.7	29.7
Migrant	29	15	15	20.7	20.5	20.9
Tarai	622	348	275	21.2	22.7	19.5
Non-migrant	562	319	243	21.3	22.9	19.5
Migrant	55	26	28	20.6	21.1	20.2
Development Regions						
Eastern	449	253	196	29.8	32.8	26.6
Non-migrant	424	239	185	30.4	33.4	27.3
Migrant	19	11	8	21.1	25.9	17.0
Central	489	266	223	24.2	25.2	23.2
Non-migrant	454	249	205	24.6	25.7	23.4
Migrant	33	16	17	21.9	21.2	22.5
Western	268	148	119	20.7	22.4	18.8
Non-migrant	257	143	113	21.3	23.2	19.3
Migrant	9	4	6	13.0	11.9	13.9
Mid-western	276	140	137	33.4	33.4	33.5
Non-migrant	264	135	129	34.5	34.4	34.5
Migrant	11	4	7	22.0	17.9	25.2
Far-western	189	91	97	32.6	30.8	34.3
Non-migrant	170	82	87	32.7	31.1	34.5
Migrant	16	7	8	30.2	28.3	32.2

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table do not add to total because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

The lowest and the highest economic participation rate of children is found in western (20.7%) and mid-western development region (33.4%) respectively. Except in far-western region, for both sexes, economic participation rate is remarkably lower among migrants. However, migrant and non-migrant children in central region participate in economic activities more or less equally.

3.4 Economically Active Children by Paid and Unpaid Activities

3.4.1 Paid Activities

Of the total economically active children, about 278 T are involved in paid activities (Table 3.9). Number of economically active children involved in paid activities comprises of 4.5 per cent of the total children aged 5-14 years. Slightly higher proportion of female children participate in paid activities.

It is revealed that 5.8 per cent of the migrant children participated in paid activities in comparison to 4.4 per cent of non-migrant children. Corresponding proportions for migrant male and female children are found to be 4.9 per cent and 6.5 per cent with comparative figure of 4.3 per cent and 4.5 per cent for non-migrant children. Proportion of children who are 5-9 years old are less likely to participate in paid activities (1.6%) as it is 7.3 per cent among children 10-14 years of age. For both age and sex groups, participation rate of children in paid activities is higher among migrants; so is the case in rural as well as in urban areas.

Number of non-migrant children involved in paid activities constituted 4.6 per cent of the total non-migrant children in rural areas in comparison to 6.1 per cent among migrant children. In urban areas, the corresponding proportion is found to be 2.0 and 4.4 per cent respectively for non-migrant and migrant groups.

As compared to non-migrant children, participation rate of economically active children in all the zones is higher among migrant children. About 8 per cent of the migrant children in mountain involved in paid activities with corresponding participation rate of 6 per cent among non-migrant children. Likewise, in hill, participation rate of migrant and non-migrant children in paid activities is 7.1 per cent and 4.3 per cent respectively. The corresponding figure for Tarai is 5.0 per cent and 4.3 per cent.

Table 3.9: Estimates of the Number of Economically Active Children Involved in Paid Activities by Migration Status, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Background Characteristics	Estimates			Participation Rate		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
Nepal	278	138	140	4.5	4.3	4.6
Non-migrant	254	129	125	4.4	4.3	4.5
Migrant	24	10	14	5.8	4.9	6.5
Children's Age						
5-9	55	28	27	1.6	1.6	1.6
Non-migrant	52	26	25	1.6	1.6	1.6
Migrant	3	2	1	2.0	2.0	1.7
10-14	206	101	104	7.3	6.9	7.7
Non-migrant	186	95	92	7.3	7.0	7.6
Migrant	19	7	12	8.1	6.7	9.3
Residence						
Rural	266	130	136	4.7	4.4	4.9
Non-migrant	245	123	122	4.6	4.5	4.8
Migrant	20	7	13	6.1	4.9	7.2
Urban	12	8	4	2.4	2.9	1.8
Non-migrant	8	6	3	2.0	2.5	1.4
Migrant	4	2	2	4.4	4.8	4.1
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	29	14	15	6.2	5.8	6.6
Non-migrant	28	13	15	6.2	5.7	6.7
Migrant	1	1	0	8.3	13.3	4.8
Hill	124	59	65	4.4	4.1	4.7
Non-migrant	114	54	60	4.3	4.1	4.6
Migrant	10	5	5	7.1	6.9	7.2
Tarai	126	65	61	4.3	4.3	4.3
Non-migrant	112	61	51	4.3	4.4	4.1
Migrant	13	4	9	5.0	3.5	6.4
Development Regions						
Eastern	96	48	48	6.3	6.2	6.5
Non-migrant	92	45	46	6.6	6.3	6.9
Migrant	3	2	1	3.1	3.7	2.4
Central	92	47	46	4.6	4.4	4.8
Non-migrant	80	42	38	4.3	4.3	4.4
Migrant	13	5	8	8.4	6.6	10.2
Western	32	16	16	2.5	2.4	2.6
Non-migrant	30	15	15	2.5	2.5	2.5
Migrant	2	0	1	3.0	1.5	3.6
Mid-western	39	19	20	4.7	4.5	5.0
Non-migrant	38	18	19	4.9	4.7	5.2
Migrant	2	1	1	3.7	3.6	2.8
Far-western	22	11	11	3.8	3.8	3.8
Non-migrant	17	9	7	3.3	3.6	3.0
Migrant	5	2	3	9.9	6.5	13.3

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table do not add to total because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

As compared to non-migrants, a higher proportion of migrant children participated in paid activities in all the development regions except eastern and mid-western regions. In eastern region, participation rate of non-migrant children in paid activities is as much as two times

higher than that of migrant children in the same region. The corresponding figure for non-migrant and migrant children in mid-western region is found to be 4.9 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively.

3.4.2 Unpaid Activities

Number of children involved in unpaid economic activities constituted of 1,383 T of the total economically active children with corresponding participation rate of 22.2 per cent. Sex-specific rates show that a higher proportion of male children is likely to participate in unpaid economic activities. Migrant children are less likely to participate in unpaid activities as compared to non-migrants. About 15 per cent of the migrant children aged 5-14 years participated in unpaid activities. The corresponding figure for non-migrants is found to be 22.9 per cent.

For both age and sex groups, participation rate of children in unpaid activities is lower among migrant children. About 7 per cent of the migrant children aged 5-9 years participated in unpaid activities as compared to 11.9 per cent of the non-migrant children. For 10-14 age group, it is 20.3 per cent and 34.7 per cent respectively.

As compared to urban areas, rural areas show a substantially higher proportion of children involved in unpaid economic activities. Proportion of children involved in unpaid economic activities is found to be 23.7 per cent in rural areas with corresponding figure of 6.1 per cent in urban areas. Migrant children in both the areas participated less in unpaid activities. For instance, 18.3 per cent of the migrant children in rural areas participated in unpaid economic activities as compared to 24.2 per cent of their non-migrant counterparts in the same area. The corresponding proportions for migrant and non-migrant children in urban areas are 4.5 per cent 6.5 per cent respectively.

Except female children in mountain, all the zones demonstrate a lower participation rate of migrant children in unpaid economic activities. In Mountain, it is higher among migrant children, particularly, females. In all the development regions, migrant children of both sexes participated in unpaid economic activities less than those of non-migrant children.

Table 3.10: Estimates of the Economically Active Children Involved in Unpaid Activities by Migration Status, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Background Characteristics	Estimates			Participation Rate		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
Nepal	1,383	753	629	22.2	23.5	20.8
Non-migrant	1,309	717	592	22.9	24.2	21.4
Migrant	63	32	31	15.3	16.1	14.4
Children's Age						
5-9	370	186	184	10.9	10.7	11.0
Non-migrant	355	178	177	11.2	11.0	11.3
Migrant	12	7	5	6.9	8.1	5.8
10-14	943	526	416	33.4	35.9	30.7
Non-migrant	889	500	388	34.7	37.2	32.0
Migrant	47	23	24	20.3	21.2	19.3
Residence						
Rural	1,351	743	616	23.7	25.1	22.2
Non-migrant	1,281	701	580	24.2	25.6	22.6
Migrant	59	29	30	18.3	19.8	16.9
Urban	32	19	13	6.1	6.8	5.3
Non-migrant	28	16	12	6.5	7.3	5.7
Migrant	4	2	2	4.5	4.8	4.3
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	147	70	77	31.8	29.8	33.9
Non-migrant	142	69	74	32.1	30.3	34.0
Migrant	2	0	2	25.0	6.7	38.1
Hill	737	397	339	26.1	27.7	24.4
Non-migrant	712	384	326	26.9	28.6	25.1
Migrant	19	10	10	13.8	13.5	13.7
Tarai	494	281	214	16.8	18.3	15.2
Non-migrant	450	258	192	17.0	18.5	15.4
Migrant	42	22	19	15.7	17.9	13.8
Development Regions						
Eastern	353	206	148	23.5	26.7	20.1
Non-migrant	332	193	139	23.9	27.0	20.4
Migrant	16	10	7	18.3	22.2	14.5
Central	397	219	177	19.6	20.7	18.4
Non-migrant	374	208	167	20.3	21.4	19.0
Migrant	21	11	10	13.6	14.6	12.7
Western	235	132	103	18.2	20.2	16.3
Non-migrant	227	128	99	18.8	20.7	16.8
Migrant	7	3	4	10.0	10.4	9.7
Mid-western	236	120	116	28.5	28.6	28.4
Non-migrant	226	117	109	29.5	29.7	29.3
Migrant	9	3	6	18.3	13.1	22.4
Far-western	166	80	86	28.7	26.9	30.6
Non-migrant	153	73	79	29.5	27.6	31.5
Migrant	11	5	5	20.3	20.7	20.0

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table do not add to total because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

3.5 Children in Non-economic Activities by Mobility Status

It is estimated that about 15 per cent (928 T) of the children aged 5-14 years participated in non-economic activities; 8.2 per cent males and 22.1 per cent females. As compared to non-

migrant children, a higher proportion of migrant children participated in non-economic activities; 18.2 per cent migrants and 14.7 per cent non-migrants. Male participation in non-economic activities is substantially lower compared to their female counterparts.

Non-economic participation of older children aged 10-14 years is higher than those aged 5-9 years. In general, non-economic participation of children does not vary much in 5-9 year of age as it varies in 10-14 years of age. Non-economic participation of children is higher among migrants in rural as well as urban areas.

All the zones demonstrate higher non-economic participation of children among migrants except migrant female children in mountain. In mountain, a higher proportion of migrant female children participated in non-economic activities (14.3%) compared to their non-migrant (18.3%) counterparts in the same zone. Likewise, with few exceptions, all the development regions demonstrate higher non-economic participation for migrant children of both sexes.

Table 3.11: Estimates of the Number of Children in Non-economic Activities by Migration Status, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Background Characteristics	Estimates			Participation Rate		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
Nepal	928	263	667	14.9	8.2	22.1
Non-migrant	844	241	605	14.7	8.1	21.9
Migrant	75	18	58	18.2	9.2	26.8
Children's Age						
5-9	417	136	281	12.2	7.8	16.8
Non-migrant	392	128	264	12.3	7.9	17.0
Migrant	19	5	14	11.1	6.4	15.9
10-14	495	125	371	17.5	8.6	27.4
Non-migrant	440	113	328	17.2	8.4	27.0
Migrant	52	12	41	22.6	11.0	33.1
Residence						
Rural	853	242	613	15.0	8.3	22.1
Non-migrant	786	226	562	14.8	8.2	21.9
Migrant	60	14	47	18.5	9.1	26.7
Urban	75	20	55	14.4	7.4	22.2
Non-migrant	59	15	44	13.8	6.9	21.3
Migrant	16	5	11	17.7	9.7	27.4
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	65	24	42	14.2	10.2	18.4
Non-migrant	63	23	40	14.1	10.2	18.3
Migrant	2	1	1	16.7	20.0	14.3
Hill	419	138	285	14.8	9.6	20.5
Non-migrant	391	130	265	14.8	9.7	20.3
Migrant	23	6	18	16.5	8.3	25.5
Tarai	444	100	341	15.1	6.5	24.2
Non-migrant	390	86	300	14.8	6.2	24.1
Migrant	51	12	39	19.4	9.6	28.0
Development Regions						
Eastern	242	60	183	16.1	7.7	25.0
Non-migrant	220	53	167	15.8	7.5	24.6
Migrant	21	5	16	23.9	11.7	35.2
Central	293	83	212	14.5	7.8	22.0
Non-migrant	266	75	192	14.4	7.7	22.0
Migrant	26	7	19	17.0	9.7	24.3
Western	161	46	116	12.5	7.0	18.3
Non-migrant	150	45	106	12.4	7.2	18.1
Migrant	10	1	9	14.7	3.7	23.6
Mid-western	140	46	94	16.9	10.9	23.1
Non-migrant	129	43	85	16.8	11.0	22.9
Migrant	9	2	7	18.8	9.5	26.2
Far-western	94	29	65	16.2	9.8	22.9
Non-migrant	82	25	57	15.9	9.5	22.5
Migrant	9	3	7	17.6	9.8	25.6

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table do not add to total because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

3.6 Schooling Only Children by Mobility Status

Of the total children aged 5-14 years, 36.7 per cent (2,287 T) do not participate any type of work, but attend school. Proportion of *schooling only* children is substantially higher among

male children; 43.5 per cent for males and 29.5 per cent for females. It is revealed that proportion of schooling only children is higher among migrant children (36.1%) compared to non-migrant children (44.3%). Substantially higher proportion of children (46.1%) in 5-9 years of age attend school without work while the proportion for *schooling only* for the age group 10-14 years is 27.5 per cent. Both the age groups demonstrate higher proportion of *schooling only* children without work. This holds true for both sexes.

As compared to rural children (34.4%), substantially higher proportion of urban children (62.1%) attend school without work. Rural areas show higher proportion of schooling only children among migrant children, however, in urban areas, slightly lower proportion of its migrant children attend school without work. All the zones and regions demonstrate higher proportion of *schooling only* children among migrants.

Table 3.12: Estimates of the Schooling Only Children 5-14 Years by Migration Status, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Background Characteristics	Estimates			Percent		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
Nepal	2,287	1,392	893	36.7	43.5	29.5
Non-migrant	2,066	1,263	801	36.1	42.6	29.0
Migrant	183	109	75	44.3	55.0	34.5
Children's Age						
5-9	1,570	915	654	46.1	52.8	39.2
Non-migrant	1,435	840	594	45.2	51.8	38.2
Migrant	106	59	48	61.9	69.0	54.9
10-14	775	507	268	27.5	34.5	19.8
Non-migrant	685	451	234	26.8	33.5	19.2
Migrant	78	50	28	33.7	46.0	22.8
Residence						
Rural	1,964	1,207	755	34.4	41.2	27.2
Non-migrant	1,799	1,111	686	33.9	40.5	26.8
Migrant	130	76	54	40.3	51.2	30.8
Urban	323	185	138	62.1	68.1	55.5
Non-migrant	267	151	116	62.8	68.5	56.5
Migrant	52	32	20	58.5	66.0	49.5
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	106	74	32	23.0	31.6	13.9
Non-migrant	101	71	30	22.9	31.5	13.8
Migrant	3	2	1	27.8	40.0	19.0
Hill	1,046	604	438	37.0	42.2	31.5
Non-migrant	963	554	405	36.4	41.3	31.1
Migrant	64	39	25	45.6	54.9	35.4
Tarai	1,135	716	422	38.6	46.7	30.1
Non-migrant	1,000	638	365	37.9	45.8	29.3
Migrant	117	69	49	44.3	55.6	34.6
Development Regions						
Eastern	540	321	219	35.9	41.6	29.8
Non-migrant	491	293	198	35.2	40.9	29.2
Migrant	38	22	16	42.5	50.6	34.5
Central	755	477	277	37.4	45.1	28.8
Non-migrant	681	431	248	36.9	44.4	28.4
Migrant	63	40	22	41.3	53.1	29.2
Western	624	356	267	48.2	54.0	42.1
Non-migrant	572	327	244	47.4	52.8	41.5
Migrant	42	23	19	59.5	73.1	48.5
Mid-western	186	117	69	22.5	28.0	16.9
Non-migrant	163	105	58	21.3	26.8	15.5
Migrant	20	10	9	40.3	47.6	34.6
Far-western	170	116	55	29.3	38.9	19.4
Non-migrant	149	101	48	28.7	38.1	19.1
Migrant	19	13	6	36.8	48.9	24.4

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table do not add to total because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

3.7 Idle (Doing Nothing) Children by Mobility Status

The survey reveals that about 15 per cent of the children aged 5-14 years are idle (doing nothing); 13.9 per cent males and 16.0 per cent females. As compared to non-migrant

children, proportion of idle is lower among migrant children of either sexes. For migrant children, proportion of idle is about 7 per cent and it is about 16 per cent among non-migrant children. Proportion of idle children is higher among younger ages 5-9 years (25.1%) in comparison to older ones aged 10-14 years (4.9%). Both the age groups demonstrate higher proportion of idle among migrant children. Rural children are more likely to be idle compared to urban children. About 16 per cent of the rural children have been reported to be doing nothing. The corresponding figure for urban children is about 8 per cent. Both the areas show lower proportion of idle children among migrants.

Proportion of idle children is found to be highest in mountain zone (18.9%) followed by 17.9 per cent in Tarai and 11.3 per cent in hill. All the zones and development regions demonstrate lower proportion of idle children among migrants.

Table 3.13: Estimate of Idle (Doing Nothing) Children Aged 5-14 Years by Migration Status, Nepal, 1996¹

(estimates are in '000)

Background Characteristics	Estimates			Percent		
	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female
Nepal	928	445	484	14.9	13.9	16.0
Non-migrant	887	426	462	15.5	14.4	16.7
Migrant	27	12	15	6.5	6.1	7.0
Children's Age						
5-9	854	401	453	25.1	23.1	27.1
Non-migrant	818	385	433	25.7	23.8	27.8
Migrant	23	10	13	13.3	11.8	14.9
10-14	137	72	64	4.9	4.9	4.8
Non-migrant	129	69	61	5.1	5.1	5.0
Migrant	5	3	3	2.3	2.4	2.5
Residence						
Rural	888	425	463	15.6	14.5	16.7
Non-migrant	852	409	444	16.1	14.9	17.3
Migrant	22	9	13	6.9	6.3	7.3
Urban	40	20	21	7.7	7.2	8.3
Non-migrant	35	17	18	8.2	7.7	8.8
Migrant	5	2	2	5.4	5.1	5.8
Ecological Zones						
Mountain	88	42	46	18.9	17.7	20.3
Non-migrant	84	39	45	18.9	17.2	20.6
Migrant	2	1	1	16.7	20.0	14.3
Hill	320	146	175	11.3	10.2	12.6
Non-migrant	304	139	166	11.5	10.3	12.8
Migrant	10	5	5	7.3	7.3	7.2
Tarai	525	261	264	17.9	17.0	18.8
Non-migrant	504	252	251	19.1	18.1	20.1
Migrant	15	6	10	5.8	4.8	6.8
Development Regions						
Eastern	205	103	101	13.6	13.4	13.8
Non-migrant	195	99	96	14.0	13.8	14.2
Migrant	6	3	3	6.7	6.2	6.7
Central	316	151	165	15.6	14.3	17.1
Non-migrant	302	145	157	16.4	15.0	17.9
Migrant	10	4	6	6.8	5.2	8.5
Western	158	69	89	12.2	10.5	14.1
Non-migrant	154	67	87	12.8	10.8	14.9
Migrant	3	2	2	4.7	5.2	4.2
Mid-western	151	77	75	18.3	18.3	18.3
Non-migrant	144	73	71	18.8	18.5	19.0
Migrant	4	2	2	7.9	10.7	5.6
Far-western	101	46	54	17.4	15.6	19.2
Non-migrant	95	44	50	18.3	16.8	20.0
Migrant	4	1	3	7.7	4.3	11.1

¹ Sub-total some of the entries in the Table do not add to total because of the differences in the non-response rate of sample and rounding effect in decomposition processes.

Source: Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 data.

Chapter IV

Summary and Conclusions

Migration and Employment Survey, 1996 collected information on migration and employment status with various socio-economic, residential, and demographic backgrounds. As a further analysis on those information, this study focuses on the study of “Migration of Working Children” in Nepal. The primary objectives are to provide estimates on migrant child labourer as well as to examine the activities of the children by migration status. By scale and content, this is the first study of its kind with nationally representative samples. The sample design of the survey involved stratified multi-stage probability cluster sampling from rural and urban areas. Probability proportionate to size (PPS) technique was applied to select from both rural and urban areas.

4.1 Migration of Child Labourer

Information on children aged 5-17 years, absent from home for six months to 5 years, have been analyzed to estimate the extent of migrant child labourer in the country. Migrant children of this age group accounted for about one-third (1,123) of the total absentees. Among them, 29.4 per cent (330) were absent from home due to economic reasons. However, there were also a number of absentees who left home due to non-economic reasons but they were working in economic activities at the time of move as well as at the time of enumeration at the current place of residence. Both types of migrants are included in ‘child labour’ in this study. In this context, two types of migrant child labourer is defined: child labourer Type 1 is defined as those who moved for economic reasons irrespective of occupation; and Type 2 as those who moved for non-economic reasons but they were undertaking economic occupations before and after move including those of type 1.

Migrant child labourer type 1 are estimated to be about 80 thousands accounting for 1.06 per cent of the total projected 7.5 million children aged 5-17 years as of the survey date. Among them males (67 thousands) overwhelmingly dominate females (13 thousands). As age is an important factor for migration, children in age group 15-17 are in highest majority (44 thousands) which is 3.37 per cent of the total children of this age group. The difference in sexes is not much wider compared to national level. According to place of residence, child

labourer from rural areas is estimated to be of overwhelming majority (76 thousands) out of 80 thousands which is 1.12 per cent of total rural children. Eastern region is also a major place of child labourer type 1 holding region which had 28 thousands (1.5%). The western region holds the second position having 17 thousands of migrant child labourer. In case of ecological zones, hill has the highest number of child labourer (40 thousands). Tarai is also a region of large number of child labourer (32 thousands). According to the country of destination, India absorbed the largest number of child labourer from Nepal, that is, 49 out of 80 thousands with overwhelming domination of males.

A total of 120 thousands migrant child labourer type 2, 1.6 per cent of total children aged 5-17 years, is estimated for the country with lesser variation of sexes as compared to type 1. Most of them were aged between 15 and 17 years (70 thousands) with 5.3 per cent of total children of this age group were from rural areas (114 thousands) with 1.7 per cent of total rural children. According to the region, as for type 1, eastern region has the highest number of estimated child labourer (33 thousands) but the regional variation with western (30 thousands) and central (25 thousands) is much closer. The highest number of child labourer type 2 is estimated for hill (60 thousands) among ecological zones. Unlike child labourer type 1, those who moved within the country (61 thousands) is estimated to be the highest for type 2, though those moved to India (53 thousands) also can not be ignored.

According to the country of destination categorized in this study, more than 60 per cent of child labourer type 1 are currently residing in India, whereas only one-third (33.3%) are in Nepal. While, in type 2, majority moved within the country (51%) and only 44 per cent went to India.

Irrespective of the country of destination, from both rural (53.8%) and urban (54.8%), stream to urban areas is overwhelming among the child labourer type 1. Among child labourer type 2, however, flow from rural to rural (49.2%) and urban to urban (54.3%) dominates the streams though the flow from rural to urban and urban to rural is also notable.

Stream within the country is also examined. According to ecological zones, hill is the main child labourer receiving zone for child labourer type 1. It absorbed 35.3 per cent of mountain, 68.9 per cent of the same zone, and 30.8 per cent of the Tarai originated child labourer. Tarai

stands at second position in absorbing child labourer type 1. In the case of child labourer type 2, though the mobility within the same zone is much common, hill is again the dominant zone of child labourer.

Interregional migration stream of child labourer type 1 also shows the mobility within the same region is common for all regions. However, central region is the major child labourer receiving region compared to others. The percentages are 11.1 of far-western, 35.7 of western, 85.7 of the same region, and 54.3 of eastern origin currently residing in central region. Western region stands at the second position for absorbing child labourer.

Mobility within the same region is rather overwhelming among child labourer type 2. But, stream to other regions shows similar patterns as for child labourer type 1. Central and western regions are the main child labourer receiving regions from almost all other regions.

In terms of educational status acquired at the place of origin before move, child labourer type 1 tends more likely to move who have primary and higher education, that is, percentage having primary education is 31.8 and having secondary and above is 34.1. By sex, more educated males than females tend to move from the place of origin, that is, higher proportion of males are with primary and higher education (60.5%).

The highest proportion of child labourer type 2 with literate only moved (27.8%), however, the literate and having primary education are almost equal. In terms of sex, similar pattern is observed as for type 1.

Except others category (55.6%), majority of child labourer type 1 were involved in agriculture (35.3%) at the time of first move. However, majority are involved in service (38.4%) at the current place of residence which is followed by others category (36%). Occupational shift of child labourer type 1 also indicates a clear shift to service from almost all occupation categories being considered. Among the shifts, major shift to service is found from agriculture (51.1%) and from agri-labour (38.5%). Shift to non-agricultural labour is also notable, especially, from agricultural labour (27.8%).

Among child labourer type 2, majority were involved in agriculture before (53.5%) as well as after (31.6%) their move. Second majority are involved in service (26.8%) at the place of current residence while this position was held by others category (37.3%) at the place of origin. Examining the occupational shift among type 2, continuation of the same occupation before and after migration is found to be a common phenomenon. However, shift to service, especially, from agriculture (24.5%), agricultural labour (27.8%), and from others category (29%) is remarkable. Non-agricultural labour is another important occupation to shift their occupations from others as among child labourer type 1.

4.2 Activities of the Children by Migration Status

Based on information on life-time migration, number of life-time migrant children aged 5-17 years constituted 8.8 per cent (662 T) of the total children in these ages. Migration of children increased with increasing age as about 17 per cent of the children aged 5-17 years are estimated to be migrants as compared to 8.2 per cent aged 10-14 years and 5.0 per cent of aged 5-9 years. A higher proportion of female children are found particularly in 10-17 ages. Higher mobility of female children may be attributed mainly to marriage migration.

Urban areas show the largest proportion of the migrant children followed by Tarai. About 19 per cent of the urban children are migrants and it is about 12 per cent in Tarai. Estimates of migration reveal that 15.3 per cent of the migrant children in urban areas originated from rural areas, and urban to urban migration of the children is 4.1 per cent of the total urban child population aged 5-17 years. Likewise, number of interzonal migrant children in Tarai who originated from mountain accounted for about 0.8 per cent of the total children in Tarai and 5.6 per cent originated from hill. It clearly indicates that urban areas are the most child migration receiving areas; and in terms of zones, it is Tarai. As the estimated number of interzonal child migrants exceeds those of number of rural-urban migration as well as interregional migrants, interzonal stream is the largest stream of the child migration in the country followed by rural-urban stream.

Based on the information on life-time migration of children, of the estimated 6.2 million children as of survey date, the number of migrant children comprises of 162 T and the rest 2,407 T are non-migrants. In general, migrant children are less likely to participate in work

compared to non-migrant children. About 39 per cent of the migrant children participated in work in comparison to 42.0 per cent of non-migrant children. Higher work participation of migrant children is found for all ages. However, the most migration receiving areas - urban areas (26.7% for migrant children and 22.7% for non-migrant children) and Tarai zone (40.1% for migrant children and 36.1% for non-migrant children - clearly show higher work participation rate for migrant children. Higher work participation of migrant children leads to lower proportion of *schooling only* children particularly in urban areas. However, as compared to non-migrant children, proportion of *schooling only* children in all the ages, ecological zones and development regions is higher among migrant children. Though general work participation of migrant children is lower, it is revealed that participation of migrant children in non-economic activities is higher as compared to non-migrants. Migrant children are less likely to participate in economic activities, particularly, unpaid economic activities. Except few exceptions, migrant children are more likely to participate in paid economic activities in almost all the residential areas, zones and regions.

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