

**Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Good and Promising Practices and  
Lesson Learned to Promote Decent Work for Domestic Workers and to  
Eliminate Child Labour particularly in Domestic Work**

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**By: Bhogendra Jha  
National Committee Member  
NTUC**

# Child Labour in Nepal

- Child Labour and its worst forms in particular have emerged as a problem of immense global proportions and Nepal is no exception. Despite some reduction globally there are still 225 million children in prohibited child labour, of which a staggering number of 115 million are exposed to hazardous work. The picture in Nepal somewhat similar.
- Domestic child labour is defined internationally as children working in an employer's house with or without a wage. DCL are employed to perform domestic chores such as washing dishes, cooking, cleaning the house, looking after young children, and other house hold activities.

## **Facts and Figures on child work and child labour in Nepal**

- Of the total 7.7 million children between 5 and 17 years of age in Nepal, an estimated 3.14 million (40.4%) children are working (in employment), the great majority in rural area.
- Two thirds of working children are below the age of 14 to .....
- Of the total number of working children, half (1.6 million children) fall into the category of child labour, which is likely to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful for the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.
- 621,000 children are estimated to be engaged in hazardous work
- More girls (48%) than boys (36%) work, and 60% of children in hazardous work are girls

## **Facts and Figures on child work and child labour in Nepal**

- In Kathmandu valley, an estimated 11,000-13,000 girls and women are working in the "night entertainment industry" (cabin restaurant, dance bars, dohari (Song) restaurants and massage parlors), of which many are forced to engage in sexual activities and are vulnerable to trafficking. Nearly one half of all entertainment workers entered the industry before the age of 18.
- 4.5% of primary school aged children are out of school
- Domestic Child Labour in Kathmandu
  - < 18 years of age: 21,191
- Domestic Child labour in urban areas of Nepal
  - < 14 years of age: 42,674
  - < 18 years of age: 55,655

## Facts and Figures on child work and child labour in Nepal

### Estimate of DCL in Kathmandu

	Total Wards	Total Households	Surveyed Households	DCL in Surveyed Households	Estimated DCL in wards
Core Urban	14	29,333	345	38	3,231
Urban	10	41,363	771	171	9,174
Semi-Urban	11	46,679	1,121	211	8,786
<b>Kathmandu</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>117,375</b>	<b>2,237</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>21,191</b>

## **Domestic Child Labour as a Worst Form of Child Labour**

- About 10 in every 100 DCL are probably bonded. Parents have incurred debt from the employer and the children are not free to leave the employer until the debt is paid back.
- A majority (53 percent) of DCL work without pay, although many are instead given the opportunity to go to school, which from the viewpoint of the employer justifies the lack of wages.
- 47 percent of DCL work excessive hours, over 16 hours in the case of school goers and 14 hours for non-school goers.<sup>5</sup>
- 79 of every 100 DCL work until or beyond nine at night, meaning the majority work at night.
- Seven percent of DCL are employed before the age of 10.

## **Activity Taken by GON**

- The GoN signing to the UN Child Rights' convention in 1990 raised expectation that the child right to be protected from the Economic and Social exploitation.
- Ratifying two important ILO conventions on minimum age no. 138 (in 2003) and on the worst forms of child labour no. 182 (in 2014)
- Kamaiya (form of bonded labour) (prohibition) Act (2002) provide ample legal ground for initiating effective action against child labour.
- Formulated a master plan to eliminate child labour in 2004 -2014
- Extended it to 2011-2020, the National master plan aims to eliminate child labour by 2020 and its worst forms by 2016

## Gaps and Major Challenges

- Despite various government commitments made in the past and reiterated through the national master plan, and efforts to translate commitments into effective and adequate action, still remains gaps
- Absence of national child labour policy and a concrete implementation strategy including child friendly budget allocation
- Insufficient legislation and regulatory frameworks and enforcement capacities
- Lack of adequate OHS and child protection measurers at both preventive and curative level
- Inadequate HR and institutional capacity to coordinate, monitor, initiate responses and report upon child labour elimination effort
- Insufficient awareness on the causes and effects of child labour

## Initiation by TU

- NTUC selected some informal workers as network member and provide them network card for Improvement of Livelihood of informal sector workers and their family members.
- For above NTUC provided them life support seminar and also provided them vocational training on Sewing, Knitting, Hair cutting, beautician, and candle making etc. and produced goods through them.
- Some of the members involve in other vocational training program which was started by Government of Nepal, FNCCI and other stockholder through bridging.
- Some of trainee gets job in the market.
- Those network members also established own cooperatives and planning to establish shop and research the market and they also planned to sell goods through these shops.
- NTUC is also organising nonformal education program in nine districts, which focuses the child labour.

Thank you