

Cross Border Trafficking of Boys



no 2

Cross Border Trafficking of Boys



**IPEC** Trafficking in Children-South Asia (TICSA)

The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) is dedicated to the progressive elimination of child labour worldwide, emphasizing, as a matter of urgency, the eradication of its worst forms. IPEC works to achieve this through country-based programmes which implement concrete measures to end child labour; and through international and national advocacy and awareness-raising aimed at changing social attitudes and promoting ratification and effective implementation of ILO conventions relating to child labour.

The designations employed in ILO publications, which are in conformity with United Nations practice, and the presentation of material therein do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Labour Office concerning the legal status of any country, area or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers.

The responsibility for opinions expressed in signed articles, studies and other contributions rests solely with their authors, and publication does not constitute an endorsement by the International Labour Office of the opinions expressed in them.

Reference to names of firms and commercial products and processes does not imply their endorsement by the International Labour Office, and any failure to mention a particular firm, commercial product or process is not a sign of disapproval.

ILO publications can be obtained through major booksellers or ILO local offices in many countries, or direct from ILO Publications, International Labour office, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland. Catalogues or lists of new publications are available free of charge from the above address.

Published by the International Labour Organization, Kathmandu, Nepal

First Published 2002



# Cross Border Trafficking of Boys

By  
WOREC  
Women Rehabilitation Centre  
Gaushala, Kathmandu

Submitted to  
International Labour Organization  
International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour  
(ILO/IPEC)

March, 2002



## Acknowledgements

---

It is a matter of great pleasure for us that WOREC has completed a research on “Cross border trafficking of boys” in the financial assistance of ILO/IPEC, Kathmandu. We would therefore like to gratefully acknowledge ILO/IPEC, Kathmandu for the support provided to conduct this research. We would like to extend special thanks to Ms. Tina Staermose and Mr. Bimal Rawal of ILO/IPEC for the inspiration and valuable inputs that they provided throughout the whole process of this research.

We would also like to acknowledge Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, Research Team Leader, and other members of the research team for their hard work, which made the research successful within a short period of time. Similarly we would like to thank Dr. Binayak P. Rajbhandari for reviewing the research report and providing valuable suggestions.

We would also like to thank to all of the individuals and organisations including government authorities of India and Nepal who were directly or indirectly involved in the research process and provided relevant information to make the research more informative and useful. We would also like to express our special thanks to Maiti Nepal, Mumbai and PRAYAS, Delhi for their moral and managerial supports to conduct research activities in Mumbai and Delhi.

Last but not least, we would like to thank Ms. Sangita Shrestha and Mr. Mani Karmacharya for their assistance in processing and designing the research report.

Dr. Renu Rajbhandari  
Chairperson  
WOREC



## Foreword

The Government of Nepal ratified the ILO Convention concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, 1999 (No. 182) in September 2001. Slavery, debt bondage, trafficking, sexual exploitation, the use of children in the drug trade and in armed conflict, as well as hazardous work are all defined as worst forms of child labour. The related ILO Recommendation (No. 190) states that “detailed information and statistical data on the nature and extent of child labour should be compiled and kept up to date....” This is particularly challenging as the worst forms of child labour are often hidden from public view, since many of them are illegal or even criminal in nature.

In order to assist the government of Nepal in setting up a National Action Plan for the elimination of child labour, the ILO undertook the first national child labour survey in partnership with the Central Department of Population Studies in 1996. This was followed by a number of studies over the years including five recent rapid assessments on the worst forms of child labour in preparation for the Time-Bound Programme in Nepal. Although these endeavors have contributed to our body of knowledge and helped constitute a database on child labour in the country, gaps still remain.

ILO-IPEC is presently implementing a Sub-regional Project against Trafficking in Children in South Asia (TICSA) covering Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka that is funded by the United States Department of Labor.

In partnership with local agencies working in the field, new areas of research in Nepal were identified to investigate unexplored trafficking issues at grassroots level and to design new and effective strategies to combat trafficking. The trafficking issues and research locations were carefully chosen by our partners and three investigations were carried out: **i) Trafficking and sexual abuse among the street children, ii) Cross border trafficking of boys and iii) Internal trafficking among children engaged in prostitution.** The present publication is the report of the second of these investigations.

I would like to express my gratitude to the TICSA project colleagues and other partners who have contributed to the realization of this report for their sensitive approach in undertaking research on these difficult subjects. Moreover, we feel particularly indebted to the children who consented to providing us with an insight into their intolerable living and working conditions.

I sincerely hope that the information provided in this report will give us a deeper understanding of the harsh realities they endure and help us in designing more effective strategies against trafficking together with other stakeholders including policy makers, trade unions, employers' organizations, NGOs and the children themselves in Nepal.



Frans Röselaers

Director

International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)

International Labour Office

Geneva

## Research Team

---

|                        |   |                      |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Dr. Renu Rajbhandari   | - | Advisor              |
| Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi | - | Research Team Leader |
| Ms. Sharmila Karki     | - | Research Team Member |
| Mr. Tank Pant          | - | Research Team Member |
| Ms. Tulasa Dahal       | - | Research Team Member |
| Mr. Kshitiz Adhiraj    | - | Research Team Member |
| Mr. Babu Ram Gautam    | - | Research Team Member |



# Table of Contents

---

|                                                                           |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Acknowledgements</b>                                                   | <b>iii</b> |
| <b>Foreword</b>                                                           | <b>v</b>   |
| <b>Research team</b>                                                      | <b>vi</b>  |
| <b>Acronyms</b>                                                           | <b>xi</b>  |
| <br>                                                                      |            |
| <b>Introduction</b>                                                       | <b>1</b>   |
| The history of labour migration and trafficking of boys                   | 1          |
| Presentation of the Mahotai and Dhanusa case                              | 1          |
| Research objectives                                                       | 2          |
| <br>                                                                      |            |
| <b>Research methodology</b>                                               | <b>3</b>   |
| Geographical location                                                     | 3          |
| The sample size                                                           | 3          |
| Key informants                                                            | 3          |
| Collaboration with the concerned communities                              | 3          |
| Dissolving one lead – Finding another                                     | 4          |
| Data collection and analysis                                              | 4          |
| Definition of trafficking                                                 | 4          |
| Research findings                                                         | 6          |
| Recruitment strategy and purpose                                          | 6          |
| <br>                                                                      |            |
| <b>A. Situation analysis of trafficking of boys</b>                       | <b>7</b>   |
| 1. Analysis from the perspective of the trafficked boys who have returned | 7          |
| 2. Analysis from the perspective of the trafficked boys in India          | 11         |
| 3. Analysis from the perspective of parents                               | 16         |
| <br>                                                                      |            |
| <b>B. Analysis of the perception and attitude of the stakeholders</b>     | <b>19</b>  |
| The depth, dimensions, and severity of the problem                        | 25         |
| Research techniques and observation                                       | 25         |
| Perspective of a child member of the research team                        | 27         |
| Concluding remarks                                                        | 28         |
| Case studies                                                              | 34         |
| <br>                                                                      |            |
| <b>References</b>                                                         | <b>36</b>  |



## List of Tables

---

|           |                                                                     |    |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table 1.  | Distribution of the returnees by religion                           | 7  |
| Table 2.  | Present age of the boys who have returned                           | 7  |
| Table 3.  | Age at the time of trafficking                                      | 8  |
| Table 4.  | Distribution of the returnees by current occupation                 | 8  |
| Table 5.  | Total Khet land of the returnees                                    | 9  |
| Table 6.  | Total no of buffalo raised by the returnees                         | 9  |
| Table 7.  | Total no of cattle raised by the returnees                          | 9  |
| Table 8.  | Type of work done by trafficked boys while working in India         | 10 |
| Table 9.  | Monthly salary of the boys while working in India                   | 10 |
| Table 10. | Districts of origin of the trafficked by who are currently in India | 12 |
| Table 11. | Distribution of the trafficked Nepalese boys by religion            | 12 |
| Table 12. | Age of the trafficked Nepalese boys in India                        | 13 |
| Table 13. | Type of Employment of trafficked boys by place of work              | 13 |
| Table 14. | Types of abused faced by boys trafficked to India                   | 14 |
| Table 15. | Monthly salary of the boys trafficked in India                      | 15 |
| Table 16. | Ambition in life of the boys trafficked to India                    | 16 |
| Table 17. | Age distribution of the parents of the boys trafficked              | 16 |
| Table 18. | Education status of the parents of the trafficked boys              | 17 |
| Table 19. | Occupation of the parents of the trafficked boys                    | 17 |
| Table 20. | Total family members of the trafficked boys                         | 17 |
| Table 21. | Parents views on trafficking                                        | 18 |

## List of Figures

---

|    |                                                          |    |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. | Educational Status of the returnees                      | 8  |
| 2. | Job Satisfaction                                         | 11 |
| 3. | Education level of the Nepalese boys trafficked in India | 13 |
| 4. | Types of work done by the boys in India                  | 13 |
| 5. | Working hours of the boys in India                       | 14 |



## Acronyms

---

|          |                                                                                                 |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AATWIN   | Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal                                     |
| CDO      | Chief District Officer                                                                          |
| CRC      | Child Right Convention                                                                          |
| CWIN     | Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Center                                                         |
| GAATW    | Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women                                                    |
| GOs      | Governmental Organizations                                                                      |
| ILO/IPEC | International Labour Organization / International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour |
| INGOs    | International Non-Governmental Organizations                                                    |
| IRs      | Indian Rupees                                                                                   |
| JIB      | Janakpur Information Booth                                                                      |
| LDO      | Local Development Officer                                                                       |
| NGOs     | Non-Governmental Organizations                                                                  |
| NPC      | National Planning Commission                                                                    |
| NRs      | Nepali Rupees                                                                                   |
| PRAYOG   | Prayash Youth Group                                                                             |
| SAARC    | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation                                                |
| SP       | Superintendent of Police                                                                        |
| SPSS     | Statistical Package for Social Sciences                                                         |
| UNICEF   | United Nations Children's Fund                                                                  |
| UNO      | United Nations Organization                                                                     |
| VDC      | Village Development Committee                                                                   |
| WOREC    | Women's Rehabilitation Center                                                                   |

# Introduction

Trafficking in women and girls from Nepal is a distinct discriminatory phenomenon that has been gaining increasing attention among concerned individuals and institutions in Nepal. There are ample evidences, which indicate that trafficking in women and girls is not a new phenomenon in this country. Due to continuous efforts in areas of social mobilization, awareness and advocacy campaigns by various segments of the society, in particular by women's groups, trafficking in women and girls has become an issue of national priority with its own National Plan of Action at the policy level. Although much more action needs to be taken, there is a strong realization of the significance of the problem and concerted efforts are directed towards its prevention.

However, little, if any, attention has been given to the trafficking of boys, mainly because not many cases have been known. This study takes its departure in one concrete discovery of a case of what seems at the outset to be organized trafficking of boys from three border districts in Nepal. It is the first study of its kind in Nepal.

## **The History of Labour Migration and Trafficking of Boys**

Exploring the trafficking of boys brings us to look at the patterns of migration in Nepal. The seasonal labor migration of men in order to earn income in cash is a very common socio-economic phenomenon. Although labour migration has been a common survival strategy among the rural poor for a considerable time, the issue of separated families due to migration and its social implications has only recently become known.

The relationship between traditional labour migration and trafficking was vividly described by Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Special

Rapporteur on Violence against Women, when she stated that “trafficking is fishing during migration”.<sup>1</sup>

One can assume that migrants have always faced hardship and challenges, even to the degree of abuse by new employers, as they are often employed without any legal status in the country they have migrated to. According to general social perceptions in Nepalese communities men migrate to find work and to keep poverty away, while women's migration was never perceived as a necessity linked to poverty alleviation. On the contrary, protection of girls and women also meant restricting their movement in terms of migrating to far distances in search of work.

The frequency of men's migration has a direct impact on boys' migration, although this was never perceived as an issue. Children below 18 were migrating, independently or with parents and acquaintances not only cross borders but also internally within Nepal to different urban and semi urban areas.

The reasons for migration may be numerous but indications suggest that elements of force, induction, involuntariness, economic compulsion or even deliberate trafficking through informal labour agents have been a part of the picture for a long time. However, migration of boys was not commonly known or talked about as being trafficking.

## **Presentation of the Mahottari and Dhanusha Case**

On 30 April 2001 the Janakpur Information Booth (JIB) of the Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) intercepted a train wagon and rescued 25 boys who were about to be taken to Mumbai. This case was the first discovery of organized trafficking of boys from Nepal to India.

<sup>1</sup>Radhika Coomaraswamy

The intercepted children's age ranged from 8 to 15 years. The incident raised grave concern among women rights activists, child rights activists and the media. Since all the children were from one specific ethnic community it also raised queries about the end destination and the purpose of trafficking.

Although the villagers, the trafficked children, and traffickers initially did not agree to accept this incident as a process of trafficking the NGO community, human rights activists, media personnel, police and administrative authorities were more inclined to consider it as "trafficking".

In general, it was found that the majority of the villagers considered the entire phenomena of trafficking of boys as a system of giving employment to poor children in order to solve their and their family's "hand to mouth" problems. According to them, they are in India or abroad to earn their livelihood and support their families and are not being trafficked but sent abroad due to the lack of any income generation activities in Nepal. From the subsequent focus group discussions it was found that local people are very unhappy and angry with the Nepalese government and those individuals and organizations who consider the system of sending children to India or abroad for income generation activities as a crime or trafficking.

Traffickers gave the information that they were taking these children for the purpose of labour in Indian *sari* embroidery factories and that they had brought many batches of child labourers to Mumbai already. When further inquiries were made into why young boys were preferred over adults, the answer was twofold: the eyes of the boys are very sharp on the one hand while on the other they can work for longer time than adults. They reported that the children can work more than 17 hours a day and in addition their labour is cheaper. Almost all the information provided by them suggested that these children were forced to work under slavery like conditions and in hazardous work. Consequently, this event led to the realization by WOREC of the need to look at this problem in depth.

To establish whether the discovery in fact was a case of organized trafficking it was decided to look at the situation in detail and identify the aspects of this kind of "trafficking cum labour migration". The gap in information on trafficking of boys, the unavailability of data or research justified the initiation of a situational analysis. In partnership with ILO-IPEC, Nepal an initial research proposal was undertaken to analyze the situation of trafficking of boys from Nepal and the present study saw its beginning.

## Research Objectives

The general objective of this research is to establish the magnitude of the problem and analyze the situation of the trafficked Nepalese boys. The research had the following specific objectives:

- To assess the personal attributes like age, occupation, level of education, family size, religion, caste, household economic status, knowledge of trafficking, attitude towards work and family background of the trafficked Nepalese boys;
- To gather information on the magnitude of Nepalese boys (below 18), who are trafficked and forced to work in different forms of exploitative conditions both inside and outside the country;
- To gather information on the magnitude of trafficking of Nepalese boys (below 18) particularly for those who are forced to work as beggars in temples and at the roadside in Varanasi, India;
- To evaluate the type and quantity of work done by the Nepalese boys trafficked to India;
- To analyze the level of exploitation by different people engaged in the process of trafficking as well as those employing the trafficked Nepalese boys;
- To assess knowledge, perception and attitudes of the key informants or stakeholders (Politicians, GOs especially Police Officers, CDO and LDO; NGOs; INGOs; Human Right Organizations; Parents, Teachers, and Focus Group constituted by the Villagers of the trafficked boys) towards trafficking of boys and gather suggestions and recommendations to tackle this problem.

# Research Methodology

## Geographical Location

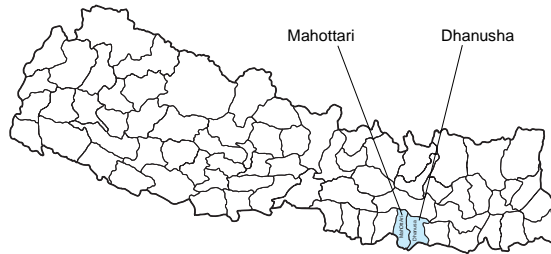
The intercepted children mainly came from Mahottari and Dhanusha districts in Nepal. These districts are located in the Central Development Region of Nepal constituted mainly by the Terai region and to a limited degree also by Shiwalik zones. The reason for selecting these two districts was that the boys who were rescued in the Janakpur railway station, in the process of being trafficked to India, originated from these districts.

## The Sample Size

The study target group consisted of 70 trafficked Nepali boys, of which 30 have returned to Nepal and 40 boys who are still working in exploitative labour situation in India. The sampled boys of Mahottari and Dhanusha included those who had returned from India after abandoning their jobs or who had come to visit their families and had plans of going back to join the same job or to find other jobs in India. A focus group discussion was also held in Dhanusha and Mahottari districts being the district of origin of the 25 intercepted boys.

## Key Informants

During the field work in Mahottari and Dhanusha District in Nepal, the research team collected primary data from different sources besides the 30 trafficked sampled boys. The other sources included: 20 parents (10 males and 10 females), 2 school teachers (1 male and 1 female), a campus teacher from Rara Multiple Campus, 2 Chief District Officers (each from Mahottari and Dhanusha), Local Development Officer (Dhanusha District), 2 Superintendent of Police (Mahottari and Dhanusha), District Committee Chairperson (Dhanusha District), representatives from



major political parties (Nepali Congress, CPN (UML) and Sadbhawana Party), the chairperson of All Nepal Women's Organization, a member of the Nepal Teacher's Association, and 2 local-level human rights organizations.

The research team also collected relevant data from the concerned Police Departments, Honorable Member of the National Human Rights Commission, Journalists, President of CWIN, and Coordinator of AATWIN.

## Collaboration with the Concerned Communities

While conducting the survey in Nepal, the research team had no difficulty at all in finding the required number of trafficked boys. Immediately after the research team reached the research sites a large number of people gathered as soon as they knew of our presence there. When the research team members inquired whether they have any knowledge or information of boys who had gone to India for jobs and had returned temporarily or permanently, the local people started to identify many boys who had returned from India. They also identified adult people who had gone to India for the same purpose during their childhood. The research team was surrounded by a large number of local people because the case of the 25 boys who were rescued with four brokers had already sensitized the villagers. The research team members clarified their mission, sensitized the villagers about the issue of trafficking and



convinced them to participate in the research by developing rapport with them.

In India the situation was slightly different from Nepal. Despite enormous cooperation and support from NGO's, police and human rights activists, the research team encountered difficulties in getting access to the trafficked boys. It was not because the number of such children was very limited but because most of the employers of the boys were hesitant to allow the research team to contact the trafficked Nepalese boys in their working places.

While collecting data and information in India, particularly, in Mumbai and Delhi, the research team approached several concerned organizations and people besides 40 (25 from Mumbai and 15 from Delhi) trafficked boys. In Mumbai, the research team interviewed employers of the trafficked boys, Assistant Police Commissioner, Mumbai Police, Sister Cisily from Saint Catherine Home, representatives of different organizations like Maiti Mumbai, Davidsasoon, Mumbai News National Daily, brothels, and YUVA. In Delhi, Police Officer of Delhi, General Secretary of PRAYAS, factory and hotel owners, teachers, Women Right Activists and concerned people who have employed Nepalese boys as guards were also interviewed.

### **Dissolving One Lead – Finding Another**

One of the objectives of this research was to investigate if some Nepalese boys are used as beggars in different temples and roadsides in Vanarasi. This had been identified as a lead deducted from numerous articles in local papers and hearsay. The research team visited different temples and roadsides in Vanarasi and found no Nepalese boys engaged in such activities. In order to verify and validate their observations the team members further interviewed some people working in the temples. They interviewed the person in charge of the Nepali Dharmasala, Nepalese

youth studying in Vanarasi, and joint Secretary of a Trust called Samrajyaswor Pasupatinath Mahadev Mandir Tatha Dharmasala. Information from these key informants all indicated that many Nepalese boys are working in the carpet factories under highly exploitative situations in the adjacent districts, such as Mirjapur.

### **Data Collection and Analysis**

The primary data collected through structured questionnaires by interviewing 70 sampled Nepalese boys and 20 parents were analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Whereas the perceptions of the people engaged in different disciplines are summarized in charts.

### **Definition of Trafficking**

There are presently a number of definitions of trafficking available:

The **ILO Convention No. 182** on the the elimination of the worst forms of child labour which has recently been endorsed by the government of Nepal labels trafficking as one of the worst forms of child labour comparing it to a practice similar to slavery and also covers issues such as the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances and also work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried and is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

The recently endorsed **SAARC** (South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation) Convention on prevention and combating trafficking in women and children for prostitution defines trafficking as “moving, selling or buying of women and children for prostitution within and outside a country for monetary or other considerations with or without the consent of the person subjected to trafficking”. Person subjected to trafficking

means women and children victimized or forced into prostitution by traffickers by deception, threat, coercion, kidnapping, sale fraudulent marriage, child marriage or any other unlawful means”.

According to **GAATW** (Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women), all acts involved in the recruitment and/or transportation of a person within and across national borders for work or services by means of violence or threat of violence, abuse of authority of dominant position, debt-bondage, deception or other forms of violence. Trafficking means the moving, selling or buying of women and children (for prostitution) within and outside a country for monetary or other considerations with or without the consent of the person subjected to trafficking .

According to the **United Nations General Assembly, 1994**: The illicit and clandestine movements of persons across national borders, largely from developing countries with economies in transition, with the end goal of forcing women and girl children into sexually or economically oppressive and exploitative situations for profit of recruiters, traffickers and crime syndicates as well as other illegal activities related to trafficking such as forced labor, false marriage, clandestine employment and false adoption.

The definitions reiterate existing international human rights standards prohibiting such acts. The Slavery Convention, article (1), defines slavery as: *“the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the power attaching to the right of ownership are exercised.”* The supplementary Convention to the slavery Convention, article (1), calls for the elimination of the slavery-like conditions in which many trafficked persons find themselves. The International Labour Organization also

condemns such slavery -like practices. Article 2 of ILO No. 29 prohibits use of forced or compulsory labour. Also article 4 holds that *“the competent authority shall not impose or permit the imposition of forced or compulsory labour for the benefit of private individuals, companies and associations.”* Similarly ILO convention on worst form of labour prohibits children to be engaged in any kind of dangerous work. CRC restricts the engagement of children below 14 years in any kind of work.

According to **IMADR** (International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism), trafficking in women consists of the transport, sale and purchase of women for the purpose of prostitution and bonded labor within their country as well as abroad. It includes a variety of forms and practices under which women are forced to submit and work in oppressive situations and inhuman conditions.

According to **WOREC** (Women Rehabilitation Center) Nepal, if any person is taken from one place to another within or across national boundaries through use of deceit, force, threat, debt bondage and power, for any purpose, then this is trafficking. This is a violation of that person’s human rights.

All these documents provide sufficient evidence to suggest that the case reported from Mahottari and Dhanusha Districts in Nepal is a case of trafficking. This case has drawn the attention of the civil society and the people working in the field of trafficking to analyze the overall situation of trafficking of boys by undertaking scientific research covering both sending and receiving areas both inside and outside the country. Such research can give indications about the magnitude of the problem and help to design intervention strategies.

### Media reports on trafficking of boys

The WOREC staff stationed in the Information Booth at the railway station in Janakpur found 25 boys being taken away by four people on 30 April 2001. With the help of police and other people they were caught and submitted to the District Police Office of Dhanusha. While doing so WOREC staff received life threats over the telephone (*Nepal Samacharpatra*, National Daily, 1-23-2058).

The employees of WOREC, Janakpur who had played a role in stopping 23 boys from being trafficked and arresting the four adult traffickers who were illegally taking these boys to India, were attacked by two identified youths (*Kantipur Daily*, 2058-1-23).

Under the heading that “Not only girls but also boys are trafficked to Mumbai” it is mentioned that there are 400 Nepali children in *jari* factories in Mumbai. There are reportedly 4000 Nepalese boys in Mumbai, who have either gone there voluntarily or trafficked and are forced to work for 14 to 16 hours a day. Generally, the visitors are not allowed to enter the factories, where boys are working. The factory owner or hotel owner hide the boys when they suspect that a visitor may be interested to know about them. There are forty large and many small *jari* factories in Mumbai, where many boys are employed under exploitative conditions. There are 30-35 Nepali boys working in *Subas Jari* factory (*Nepal Samacharpatra*, National Daily, 2058, 8-9).

Under the heading “The tradition of sending sons to foreign country at the age of five years”, it is highlighted that respect of child rights will have direct impact in producing healthy citizens and a civilized society, however, the opposite is happening in villages as boys are compelled to becoming slaves to factory owners (*Nepal Samacharpatra*, National Daily, 2058-7-6).

It is a fact that Nepalese boys are trafficked to many parts of India and are severely exploited. Generally, the employers of such children try to hide the children from probing eyes, keep secret the location of the factory where they are employed, and any information about them is not available. One can imagine the possible miserable scenario of the children through such behavior and attitude of the employers (*Nepal Samacharpatra*, National Daily, 2058-8-11).

### Research Findings

The findings are based on the data and information gathered from different sources as mentioned in the research methodology. This section is divided into two parts: (a) situation analysis of the trafficked boys and (b) the perception and attitude of the various people affiliated with different governmental and non-governmental organizations and villagers.

### Recruitment Strategy and Purpose

The people engaged in trafficking may use a number of methods for the purpose of trafficking. Once under the control of traffickers, further abuses are employed to maintain control over the trafficked persons. In addition, it is commonly assumed that trafficking occurs for prostitution. However, there are other numerous purposes for which women and children are trafficked both within and across the national border. Though there is little research in terms of the end purpose

of trafficking there are emerging indications that the purposes are very diverse and can be as identified as follows:

#### (a) Within the country

- Forced labor (in factories, stone quarries, etc)
- Domestic labor
- Hotel/Restaurant worker
- Performers (Dancers)
- Massage parlor
- Forced labor in farm/garden work
- Forced prostitution.

#### (b) Outside the country

- Forced labor (in factories, stone quarries, etc)
- Forced prostitution
- Hotel workers
- Watchmen /Guards with low salaries
- Mail-order brides
- Camel jockeying
- Organ procurement
- Adoption

Circus  
 Domestic labor in servitude like conditions  
 Exotic dancing  
 Massage parlor.  
 Forced labor in farm/garden works.

### (a) Situation Analysis of Trafficking of Boys

The trafficked boys and their parents are the sources of primary data and information for the situation analysis of the trafficked boys. Applying a structured questionnaire, the data and information were collected through face-to-face interviews and analyzed by employing statistical package for social sciences.

The discussion of the findings is made focusing on those interviews provided by trafficked boys falling under two categories:-  
 a) the first category comprised of returnees who were returned to their villages of the sampled Mahottari and Dhanusa districts of Nepal either by abandoning the job or by taking some sort of leave from their respective employers for the time being and  
 b) the second category includes all the trafficked boys who are presently working in the sampled cities of India, namely, Mumbai and Delhi. The situation and

the views of the parents, other stakeholders and informants are also presented. A brief discussion of the major findings is given hereunder.

### 1. Analysis from the Perspective of the Trafficked Boys who have Returned

The sampled interviewees/respondents in Nepal consisted of 63 percent of trafficked boys and the rest (37 %) of adults whose age was above 18 years at the time of inquiry but were trafficked in their childhood. A vast majority (87%) of the respondents belonged to the Muslim community and the rest (13%) to the Hindu religious group (Table 1).

The current age of the boys who have returned ranges from 6 to 35 years (Table 2), whereas their age during trafficking ranged from 6 to 18 years. Eighty percent of the boys who have returned were below the age of 12 years at the time of trafficking.(Table 3).

**Table 1: Distribution of returnees by religion<sup>1</sup>**

| Religion | Frequency | Percent |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| Muslim   | 26        | 86.7    |
| Hindu    | 4         | 13.3    |
| Total    | 30        | 100.0   |

**Table 2: Present age of the boys who have returned**

| Age (Years) | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| 6           | 1         | 3.3     | 3.3                |
| 9           | 1         | 3.3     | 6.7                |
| 10          | 1         | 3.3     | 10.0               |
| 11          | 1         | 3.3     | 13.3               |
| 12          | 8         | 26.7    | 40.0               |
| 13          | 1         | 3.3     | 43.3               |
| 14          | 3         | 10.0    | 53.3               |
| 15          | 1         | 3.3     | 56.7               |
| 16          | 1         | 3.3     | 60.0               |
| 17          | 1         | 3.3     | 63.3               |
| 19          | 1         | 3.3     | 66.7               |
| 21          | 1         | 3.3     | 70.0               |
| 22          | 4         | 13.3    | 83.3               |
| 25          | 2         | 6.7     | 90.0               |
| 26          | 2         | 6.7     | 96.7               |
| 35          | 1         | 3.3     | 100.0              |
| Total       | 30        | 100.0   |                    |

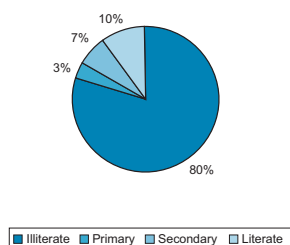
<sup>1</sup> In Nepal, only 3.53 % of the entire population is Muslim, whereas 86.51 % are Hindus, 7.78 % Buddhists and 2.18 % other religions. (HMG - Central Bureau of Statistics - 1991 data)

**Table 3: Age at the time of trafficking**

| Age (Years)  | Frequency | Percent      | Cumulative Percent |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|
| 6            | 1         | 3.3          | 3.3                |
| 7            | 5         | 16.7         | 20.0               |
| 8            | 2         | 6.7          | 26.7               |
| 9            | 2         | 6.7          | 33.3               |
| 10           | 6         | 20.0         | 53.3               |
| 11           | 4         | 13.3         | 66.7               |
| 12           | 4         | 13.3         | 80.0               |
| 14           | 1         | 3.3          | 83.3               |
| 15           | 1         | 3.3          | 86.7               |
| 16           | 1         | 3.3          | 90.0               |
| 17           | 2         | 6.7          | 96.7               |
| 18           | 1         | 3.3          | 100.0              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>100.0</b> |                    |

### Educational Profile

In terms of education 80 percent were found illiterate followed by primary-level (3%), secondary-level (7%) and just literate (10%) (Figure 1). Three fourth of the respondents (75%) indicated that they belonged to a joint type of family

**Figure 1: Educational status of returnees**

### Employment Profile

Table 4 presents that the majority (64%) of respondents indicated wage labor as their main occupation followed by agriculture and embroidery (13% each), and driving (10%). Regarding their employment it was found that the service years after their trafficking ranged from 1 to 15 years and the working site

represented different places of India mainly Mumbai, Delhi and Punjab.

### Family Size

The average family size was found to be 8.6 and the number of household members ranged from 2 to 15. Regarding the education status of their parents it was found that all the mothers were illiterate and among fathers 92 percent were illiterate and the remaining (8%) had only primary-level education.

In terms of occupation, fathers were found to be engaged in agriculture, wage labor and business by 61 percent, 22 percent, and 17 percent, respectively, whereas 67 percent of the mothers were engaged in household chores & agriculture and remaining (33%) in wage labor. Khetland (Khet is low-lying land where paddy cultivation is possible) predominate the total cultivated land of the Terai farm households. It was found that 67 percent of the respondents belonged to households without khetland. (Table 5). More than 80 percent of the respondents owned neither buffalo nor cattle (Tables 6 and 7).

**Table 4: Distribution of returnees by current occupation**

| Occupation   | Frequency | Percent      | Cumulative Percent |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|
| Agriculture  | 4         | 13.3         | 13.3               |
| Wage Labour  | 19        | 63.3         | 76.7               |
| Driving      | 3         | 10.0         | 86.7               |
| Embroider    | 4         | 13.3         | 100.0              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>100.0</b> |                    |

Table 5: Total *khet* land of the returnees

| <i>Khet</i> land (dhur) | Frequency | Percent |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 0                       | 20        | 66.7    |
| 1                       | 1         | 3.3     |
| 2                       | 1         | 3.3     |
| 4                       | 1         | 3.3     |
| 12                      | 2         | 6.7     |
| 15                      | 1         | 3.3     |
| 20                      | 1         | 3.3     |
| 100                     | 1         | 3.3     |
| 200                     | 1         | 3.3     |
| 1200                    | 1         | 3.3     |
| Total                   | 30        | 100.0   |

Note: 13 Sq.ft. = 1 laggi, 20 laggi = 1 dhur

Table 6: Total number of buffalo raised by the returnees

| Buffalo (Number) | Frequency of Households | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| 0                | 25                      | 83.3    | 83.3               |
| 1                | 2                       | 6.7     | 90.0               |
| 2                | 1                       | 3.3     | 93.3               |
| 4                | 1                       | 3.3     | 96.7               |
| 5                | 1                       | 3.3     | 100.0              |
| Total            | 30                      | 100.0   |                    |

Table 7: Total number of cattle raised by the returnees

| Cattle (Number) | Households | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-----------------|------------|---------|--------------------|
| 0               | 24         | 80.0    | 80.0               |
| 1               | 4          | 13.3    | 93.3               |
| 2               | 2          | 6.7     | 100.0              |
| Total           | 30         | 100.0   |                    |

Seven percent of the respondents had reared goats and no one had raised poultry. Only three persons were employed in the government service out of the 30 households of the respondents. Among the family members of the 30 sampled households it was found that 8 members were in Malaysia and 6 members in the Middle East. This indicates that the local people have been keeping their eyes open for the employment and income generation possibilities abroad as well. Based on the information obtained by the villagers those people who had gone abroad to Malaysia and the Middle East were facing problems like low salary and work overload. As per the same source, many of them have been facing unemployment problems too. The actual working conditions were entirely different from what they had been informed about by the recruitment agencies prior to their departure.

### *Magnitude*

Trafficking of boys, as evident from the sampled respondents, has been rampant since 1987. Of the total respondents thirty-one percent of them were trafficked in 1999 to 2000. It indicates that trafficking is not only continuing but also increasing at an alarming rate. The plausible reason behind the increase in the trafficking of boys may be because of the high rate of population growth in the rural poor and ultra poor communities. It is further compounded by the fact that the girls in this specific community lead a very protected/restricted life.

### *Reasons for Leaving Home*

There is no particular month or season for trafficking as it takes place through out the year. It was also essential to identify who



inspired or compelled the children to leave home for employment. It was found that 33 percent were “talked into migrating” by their own family members, 25 percent by relatives, 21 percent by friends, and the rest by brokers. The main reason for “migration” as indicated by 90 percent of the respondents was the lack of resources and opportunities to earn a livelihood at the village or local level. About 86 percent of the respondents said that they were taken in a group. However, 10 percent migrated independently and the remaining 4 percent of the boys were taken individually from the villages and later on mixed in a group after crossing the border. During migration, 93 percent of the respondents were transported by bus and then by train. Interestingly, the remaining 7 percent of the boys were transported by air. A person named Mohanjaya was alone found to have taken more than 54 percent of the respondents. The remaining respondents were taken away by villagers (21%), brokers (21%) and company people (4%). All the respondents said that the rate of migration for work and then falling into slavery-like conditions is increasing.

The amount of money charged per person by the broker ranged from NRs. 300 to 500 for India and NRs. 70,000 for Qatar.

Table 8 presents the type of work done by the respondents in India. The main areas of work are embroidery (68%), wage labor (20%), hotel worker (10) and driving (3%). The contract period as mentioned was one year (7%), two years (20%), three years (7%) and as long as they can work (66%). They do not have formal contracts. Their working relations are verbally fixed and in many cases “taken for granted”.

Those who joined work for the first time did not get any salary for about one to two years but were only provided with food. The salary of this period usually goes to the pocket of the traffickers.

Monthly savings range from 0 to 1500 Indian Rupees. Holidays or vacations are not given except for the government holidays in some cases. The working hours per day was reported to be 14 hours by 25 percent of the respondents and 12 hours by the remaining

**Table 8: Type of work done by trafficked boys while working in India**

| Type of Work | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| Embroidery   | 20        | 66.7    | 66.7               |
| Driving      | 1         | 3.3     | 70.0               |
| Wage Labor   | 6         | 20.0    | 90.0               |
| Hotel Worker | 3         | 10.0    | 100.0              |
| Total        | 30        | 100.0   |                    |

The monthly salary ranged from IRs. 600 to 3500 averaging IRs. 1275 per month (Table 9).

**Table 9: Monthly salary of the boys while working in India**

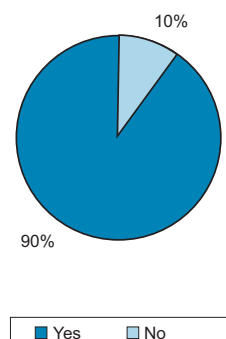
| Salary (Indian rupees) | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| 600                    | 6         | 20.0    | 20.0               |
| 700                    | 5         | 16.7    | 36.7               |
| 800                    | 3         | 10.0    | 46.7               |
| 900                    | 2         | 6.7     | 53.3               |
| 1000                   | 1         | 3.3     | 56.7               |
| 1200                   | 1         | 3.3     | 60.0               |
| 1500                   | 6         | 20.0    | 80.0               |
| 1750                   | 1         | 3.3     | 83.3               |
| 2000                   | 2         | 6.7     | 90.0               |
| 3000                   | 1         | 3.3     | 93.3               |
| 3500                   | 2         | 6.7     | 100.0              |
| Total                  | 30        | 100.0   |                    |

(75%) of the respondents. The living conditions were very poor (34%), poor (44%) and satisfactory (22%). Only 67 percent of the respondents got permission to visit their home and the remaining 33% percent did not. Eighty percent of the respondents said that their working address was known to their family members in Nepal.

Ninety percent of the respondents were found unsatisfied with the jobs they were assigned to in India (Figure 2). Majority of the respondents were not aware of the type of job or the actual working conditions before they “migrated”.

Ninety percent of the trafficked boys who have now returned remarked that trafficking is not only bad but very bad. The suggestions to solve trafficking problems as provided by the respondents were: a) income generation activities should be started in the villages (63%), b) employment opportunities should be created in Nepal (26%), and c) the government should develop policies to control such activities (11%).

Figure 2: Job satisfaction



### Sub-Conclusion

Most of the boys who were trafficked and have now returned did not feel that they were trafficked and it was only after the initial sensitization sessions that they felt that they were victims of trafficking. To most of them it was an opportunity to work and send money

back home to support their families. In some cases it was a situation of forced migration with family consent indicating extreme poverty in the community and also the lack of awareness on the issue of trafficking.

It is interesting to note that the girls are not trafficked for exploitative labour as the targeted ethnic community is extremely protective of the girls and there is a strict control on their migration however girls of the same community have been identified as being trafficked for sexual purposes when they are a little older.

Large family sizes and a joint family structure with little income generating opportunities or activities for subsistence compels children to migrate or be trafficked with the tacit approval of the community. In a joint family, unlike the nucleus type, assets, incomes, expenditures are commonly shared, including running a common kitchen with the family elder making the decision on behalf of all the members. All members are expected to contribute in order for the family to survive.

## 2. Analysis from the Perspective of the Trafficked Boys in India

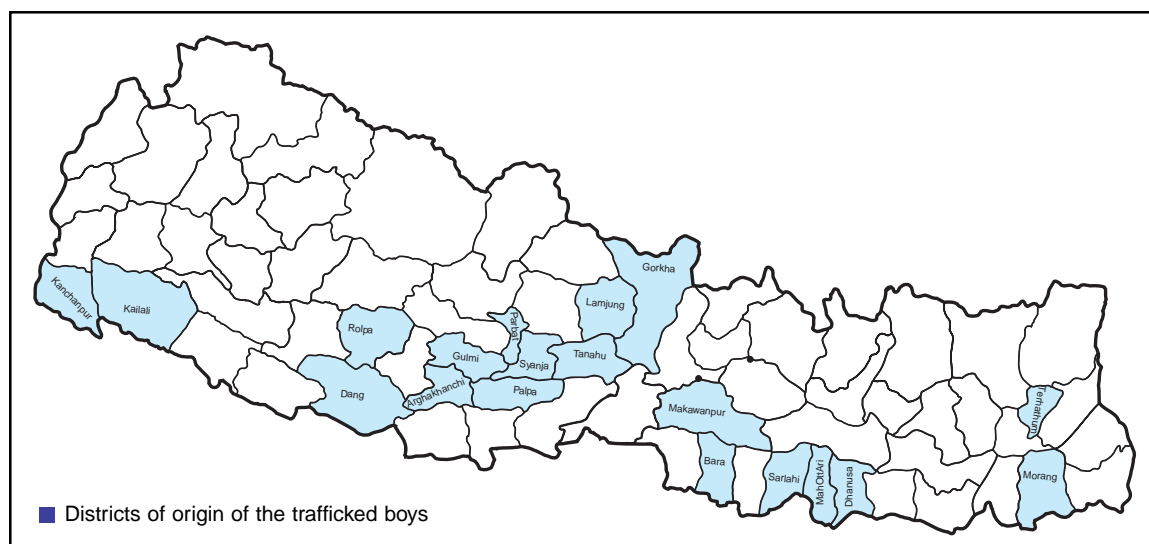
Of the 40 trafficked boys who served as respondents in this study, 25 (62.5%) were from Mumbai and 15 (37.5%) from Delhi. One of the interesting features of the finding is that the sampled 40 boys belonged to 19 different districts of Nepal. One third of them were from Mahottari and Dhanusha (Table 10). This implies that trafficking of boys is a problem that covers the entire nation and is not limited to a few districts as previously thought.

With respect to religion, 62.5% were Hindus and the remaining were (37.5%) Muslims (Table 11). Among them a vast majority (85%) were illiterate. Only 10 percent of the respondents had primary-level education and the remaining 5 percent had secondary-level education (Figure 3). The education they had was obtained before being trafficked.

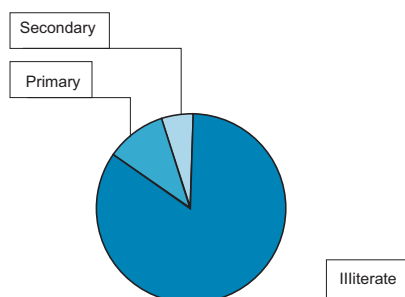


**Table 10: Districts of origin of the trafficked boys who are currently in India**

| Serial Number | District     | Frequency | Percent      |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1             | Mohattari    | 7         | 17.5         |
| 2             | Dhanusa      | 6         | 15.0         |
| 3             | Kailali      | 4         | 10.0         |
| 4             | Parbat       | 2         | 5.0          |
| 5             | Morang       | 2         | 5.0          |
| 6             | Lamjung      | 2         | 5.0          |
| 7             | Kanchanpur   | 2         | 5.0          |
| 8             | Gulmi        | 2         | 5.0          |
| 9             | Dang         | 2         | 5.0          |
| 10            | Arghakhanchi | 2         | 5.0          |
| 11            | Terathum     | 1         | 2.5          |
| 12            | Tanahun      | 1         | 2.5          |
| 13            | Syangja      | 1         | 2.5          |
| 14            | Sarlahi      | 1         | 2.5          |
| 15            | Rolpa        | 1         | 2.5          |
| 16            | Palpa        | 1         | 2.5          |
| 17            | Makawanpur   | 1         | 2.5          |
| 18            | Gorkha       | 1         | 2.5          |
| 19            | Bara         | 1         | 2.5          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |              | <b>40</b> | <b>100.0</b> |


**Table 11: Distribution of the trafficked Nepalese boys in India by religion**

| Religion | Frequency | Percent |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| Hindu    | 25        | 62.5    |
| Muslim   | 15        | 37.5    |
| Total    | 40        | 100.0   |

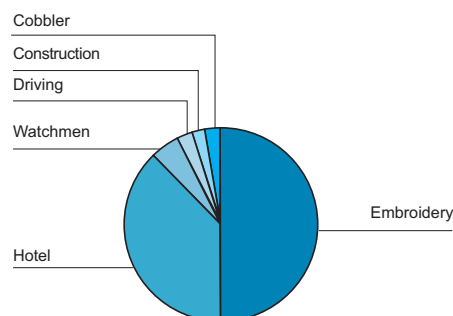
**Figure 3: Education level of the Nepalese boys Trafficked in India**

The average age of the boys trafficked to India was found to be 12 years. Their age ranged from 8 to 16 years (Table 12). The average family size was 8.65 and the number of household members ranged from 4 to 17.

The types of work in which the respondents were engaged included embroidery (50%), washing dishes in the hotels (35%), watchman (5%) and a cook in a hotel, driver, construction worker and cobbler by one percent (1%) each (Figure 4). Table 13 indicates that out of the total interviewed trafficked boys to India their main involvement was in embroidery (80% in Mumbai and 20% Delhi), hotel work (53% in Mumbai and 47% in Delhi), and as guards (50% in Mumbai and 50% in Delhi).

**Table 12: Age of the trafficked Nepalese boys in India**

| Age   | Frequency | Percent |
|-------|-----------|---------|
| 8.00  | 3         | 7.5     |
| 9.00  | 5         | 12.5    |
| 10.00 | 1         | 2.5     |
| 11.00 | 4         | 10.0    |
| 12.00 | 9         | 22.5    |
| 13.00 | 2         | 5.0     |
| 14.00 | 10        | 25.0    |
| 15.00 | 4         | 10.0    |
| 16.00 | 2         | 5.0     |
| Total | 40        | 100.0   |

**Figure 4: Types of works done by boys in India****Table 13: Type of employment of trafficked boys by place of work**

| Employment Type | Place of work |       |        |      | Total |       |
|-----------------|---------------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------|
|                 | Delhi         |       | Mumbai |      |       |       |
|                 | f             | row%  | f      | row% | F     | %     |
| Embroidery      | 4             | 20.0  | 16     | 80.0 | 20    | 50.0  |
| Hotel worker    | 7             | 46.7  | 8      | 53.3 | 15    | 37.5  |
| Watchmen        | 1             | 50.0  | 1      | 50.0 | 2     | 5.0   |
| Driver          | 1             | 100.0 | -      | -    | 1     | 2.5   |
| Construction    | 1             | 100.0 | -      | -    | 1     | 2.5   |
| Cobbler         | 1             | 100.0 | -      | -    | 1     | 2.5   |
| Total           | 15            | 37.5  | 25     | 62.5 | 40    | 100.0 |

All the respondents were trafficked to India and fell into slavery like conditions between 1997 and 2001. Inquiries revealed that they were not aware of the type of work they were expected to perform neither did they have any information on the remuneration or about their rights. The main motivators for their "migration" as said by the trafficked boys were

their parents (47%), parents and relatives (29%), relatives (11%), brokers (3%), and their own will (10%). When inquired about the reason for leaving home for an uncertain future the responses were various, e.g. for food, money and better life (74%), money (11%), clothes (8%), forced by parents (5%) and good food (2%). All of these reasons

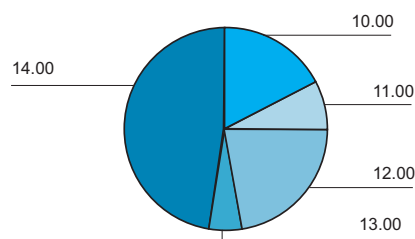
indicate that they are compelled to leave and end up in slavery like conditions mainly to earn their livelihood. Obviously, livelihood insecurity, poverty, lack of education and awareness were the primary factors for creating a situation of vulnerability that led to their being trafficked or created a situation of compulsion to migrate.

Altogether 73 percent of the respondents indicated that they left their home in a group and the remaining 27% as singles. The parents did not accompany them. It was found that 18 percent of the respondents were completely unaware about where they were being taken and for what specific purpose. 97 percent of the respondents indicated that the local male villagers were involved in trafficking right from the village itself. The trafficked boys reported that they were not abused until they were brought to the destination. However, ninety-five percent of the respondents reported that they had to go through abuses once they were admitted to work assigned by the employers.

Various forms of abuses (Table 14) included physical (95%), psychological (40%), and sexual (10%). A negligible response (5%) was not abused at all.

The physical abuses include biting, beating, pinching and pushing. Similarly psychological abuses include harassment, scolding, and shouting. Likewise, the sexual abuses denote molestation, abnormal relationships and verbal abuse with a sexual connotation.

Figure 5: Working hours of the boys in India



The average daily working hours of the children appears to be 13 ranging from 10 to 14 hours. The highest percentage of the respondents (47%) indicated that they had to work for 14 hours a day followed by 12 hours (23%), 10 hours (17%), 11 hours (8%), and 13 hours (5%). The trafficked boys were extremely exploited in inhuman working conditions in terms of hygienic conditions, food, sleeping hours, and entertainment.

The average monthly salary was found to be IRs. 657, ranging from 100 to 3,600 IRs. Two children working as cooks in hotels were getting the highest salary i.e. IRs. 3,600. The vast majority of the respondents (73%) were found earning less than or equal to IRs. 600 per month (Table 15). Only ten percent of the respondents indicated that they could save part of the money from their salary. The average saving was IRs. 410 per month ranging from IRs. 150 to 800. Twenty percent of the respondents indicated that they receive other allowances in cash, which ranged from IRs. 300 to 1000 per year.

Table 14: Types of abuse faced by boys trafficked to India

Multiple References

| Abuse Type      | Frequency | % (f=60) | % (n=40) |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Physical        | 38        | 63.33    | 95.00    |
| Psychological   | 16        | 26.67    | 40.00    |
| Sexual          | 4         | 6.67     | 10.00    |
| No Abuse at All | 2         | 3.33     | 5.00     |
| Total           | 60        | 100.00   |          |

**Table 15: Monthly salary of the trafficked boys in India**

| Monthly Salary (Indian Rupees) | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 100.00                         | 6         | 15.0    |
| 150.00                         | 2         | 5.0     |
| 200.00                         | 6         | 15.0    |
| 300.00                         | 3         | 7.5     |
| 400.00                         | 1         | 2.5     |
| 500.00                         | 8         | 20.0    |
| 600.00                         | 3         | 7.5     |
| 700.00                         | 2         | 5.0     |
| 800.00                         | 1         | 2.5     |
| 1000.00                        | 3         | 7.5     |
| 1200.00                        | 1         | 2.5     |
| 1500.00                        | 1         | 2.5     |
| 2000.00                        | 1         | 2.5     |
| 3600.00                        | 2         | 5.0     |
| Total                          | 40        | 100.0   |

Ninety-two percent of the respondents said that they did not get any holidays or vacation. Three respondents reported that they have been availing vacations. One of them said that the vacation taken was 52 days, another boy said 20 days and the third one said only 15 days per year. Twenty percent of the respondents reported that they were transferred from one job to another or from one place to another. Their transfers were mostly dependent upon the will of the employer. By changing the employer and places the boys could be further exploited.

Only 35 percent of the respondents were getting leisure time of 1 hour (28%) and 2 hours (7%) in a day. A vast majority (83%) reported that their mobility was highly restricted. Only 10 percent of the respondents pointed out that they were frequently visiting their home in Nepal. It was found that 77 percent of the respondents had no time to visit mosque, temple or the market places and had no access to media. Only 15 percent had access to radio followed by television and radio (5%) and only television (3%). Twenty-five percent of them reported that they occasionally went to the cinemas.

More than 81 percent of the respondents were found very unhappy with the given level of salary and allowances. Despite great desire and need, seventy percent were unable to

send money back home to Nepal. The question that arises is if the respondents are not happy either with the work environment or the income then why do they continue working? The finding reveals that 90 percent of the respondents are compelled to work because of absolute poverty in their family. Although, there is no legal debt bondage or signed obligations it is evident that the children or their family have few other options.

The remaining 10 percent of the children had gone to work by their own will. It can be argued that although the children had gone willingly they had little information or knowledge of the work, level of income or conditions of work they would find themselves in, thus an element of deception is obvious. A vast majority of the children were transported to work in servitude-like conditions without their knowledge, consent or will and without access to education. These are obvious cases of trafficking but to the children and their family it is perceived as a matter of their survival.

Table 16 shows the ambition of trafficked boys. It reveals that about 53 percent of the respondents' main interest is to earn money and make their family happy. The remaining respondents are without any ambition (23%), study (7%), to become rich (7%), to be a driver (6%), to learn skills and practice in Nepal (2%), and to join the army (2%).

The large number of children who feel and think like adult breadwinners indicates the social and cultural values, which under circumstances such as these, put immense pressure on the boys exposing them to the worst forms of child labor. Only 23 percent of them have no ambitions in life primarily because they are too small to think about.

### *Sub- Conclusion*

Though a small research this has demonstrated the magnitude of the problem as children from over 19 different districts were identified working in hazardous environment and deprived of education. It is also evident that the issue is not confined to one specific community but the networking amongst the traffickers is evident, as all the children from one specific community have been trafficked to “jari embroidery” factories where the owners also belong to the same community.

It is also clear that most of the children were unaware of the end destination or the type of work and despite long working hours with

little freedom most were unable to save or send money back home. The interviewed children were regularly abused yet they continued to work indicating absolute control by the employers and/or no other viable options for the children.

### **3. Analysis from the Perspective of Parents**

The parents of children who are working in India under slavery like condition were interviewed in Dhanusa and Mohattari districts. Altogether 20 Parents (10 men and 10 women) from twenty households were interviewed. Among the sampled parents 65 percent were Muslims and 35 percent Hindus. The average age of the parents was 37 years ranging from 24 to 55 years (Table 17).

80% of the female and 70% of the male parents were illiterate (Table 18). In terms of occupation 100% of the female parents were agricultural laborer. Whereas 90 percent of the male parents were agricultural laborers and remaining 10 percent were politicians involved in local politics but holding on posts (Table 19)

**Table 16: Ambition in life of boys trafficked to India**

| Ambition in Life                      | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| To be rich                            | 3         | 7.5     |
| To earn money and make family happy   | 21        | 52.5    |
| To be a driver                        | 2         | 5.0     |
| To learn skills and practice in Nepal | 1         | 2.5     |
| To study                              | 3         | 7.5     |
| To join the Army                      | 1         | 2.5     |

**Table 17: Age distribution of parents of the boys trafficked**

| Age (Years) | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| 24:00       | 2         | 10.0    | 10.0               |
| 26.00       | 2         | 10.0    | 20.0               |
| 31.00       | 2         | 10.0    | 30.0               |
| 32.00       | 3         | 15.0    | 45.0               |
| 35.00       | 2         | 10.0    | 55.0               |
| 36.00       | 2         | 10.0    | 65.0               |
| 41.00       | 2         | 10.0    | 75.0               |
| 48.00       | 2         | 10.0    | 85.0               |
| 50.00       | 2         | 10.0    | 95.0               |
| 55.00       | 1         | 5.0     | 100.0              |
| Total       | 20        | 100.0   |                    |

**Table 18: Education status of parents of the trafficked boys**

| Education Status | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| Illiterate       | 15        | 75.0    | 75.0               |
| Illiterate       | 15        | 75.0    | 75.0               |
| Primary          | 2         | 10.0    | 85.0               |
| Primary          | 2         | 10.0    | 85.0               |
| Secondary        | 3         | 15.0    | 100.0              |
| Secondary        | 3         | 15.0    | 100.0              |
| Total            | 20        | 100.0   |                    |
| Total            | 20        | 100.0   |                    |

**Table 19: Occupation of parents of the trafficked boys**

| Occupation                                      | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| Agriculture and Agricultural Wage Labour (Male) | 9         | 45.0    | 45.0               |
| Agriculture and Agricultural Wage Labour (Male) | 9         | 45.0    | 45.0               |
| Housewife and Agricultural Wage Labour (Female) | 10        | 50.0    | 95.0               |
| Housewife and Agricultural Wage Labour (Female) | 10        | 50.0    | 95.0               |
| Politics (Male)                                 | 1         | 5.0     | 100.0              |
| Politics (Male)                                 | 1         | 5.0     | 100.0              |
| Total                                           | 20        | 100.0   |                    |
| Total                                           | 20        | 100.0   |                    |

**Table 20: Total family members of the boys trafficked**

| Family Members | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| 6.00           | 2         | 10.0    | 10.0               |
| 8.00           | 2         | 10.0    | 20.0               |
| 9.00           | 5         | 25.0    | 45.0               |
| 10.00          | 1         | 5.0     | 50.0               |
| 11.00          | 4         | 20.0    | 70.0               |
| 15.00          | 2         | 10.0    | 80.0               |
| 17.00          | 2         | 10.0    | 90.0               |
| 20.00          | 2         | 10.0    | 100.0              |
| Total          | 20        | 100.0   |                    |

Seventy percent of the parents indicated that they were living in a joint family. The average family size was apparently very big i.e. 12. It ranged from 6 to 20 persons per family (Table 20).

The finding indicated that 85 percent of households has on upland. Generally in the Terai of Nepal such land is necessary for at least housing purposes. Therefore, many had to encroach on public or other's land to live in. Thirty percent of the respondents had no khet land, essential for basis subsistence agriculture. The average size of the land holding was found to be as small as 12.0 *dhur* (3276 sq.ft.). Twenty percent of the households were landless. The

landholding size ranged between zero and 60 *kattha* (6520 sq. ft.).

Only 10 percent of the households were rearing buffaloes. However, 50 percent of the household reported that they were rearing cattle. Among these households 20 percent had only one cattle and 30 percent of the households had two cattle. Only ten percent of the households were found raising goats. Thus almost all households had very limited source of income. Limited financial resources, a large family size, illiteracy and unemployment created a situation of vulnerability and an ideal breeding ground for trafficking or forced migration.

Inquiry about the other sources of income revealed that 10 percent of the households had one member engaged in service or business. The number of skilled members in the family ranged from 2 to 9 and 4 persons per family on an average. Each household was found with current migrant (s) to foreign countries, mainly to India. Since work opportunities in Nepal are limited they prefer to migrate to India. The number of family members who have migrated to foreign countries ranged from 1 to 3 and altogether 25 males were found to have migrated from the sampled 20 households. When asked about how frequently the migrant family member(s) visit them the answers varied from twice a year (40%), once a year (50%) and not at all (10%). These facts clearly showed that the targeted population group lacked opportunities for skill development and earning their livelihood in the village level. Members of the economically active or productive group, besides children, also migrate to India in search of employment and most of them visit their households once or twice a year. It is evident that most migration is temporary, unorganized, for purpose of employment and creates a situation of separated families.

Ninety percent of the parents indicated that they were motivated by friends and relatives to send their children to foreign countries. The remaining ten percent did not answer the question. However, 100 percent of them reported that the purpose of sending their children to foreign countries was to earn money. Seventy percent of them said that their children were sent in a group while remaining 30 percent reported that the children were sent alone. Among the sampled parents 40 percent of them reported that their children were taken by friends, followed by own relatives (35%) and villagers (25%). The places where their children are sent are Delhi (56%),

Mumbai (38%), and Panjab (6%). According to the parents their children's employers were factory owners (70%), hotel owners (10%), private people (10%) and the rest is unknown.

It is evident that some people, who have arranged employment opportunities for children, may themselves not be aware of the exploitative nature of their work and may genuinely be wanting to help the family little realizing that they are being labeled as traffickers – therefore we need to know if they benefit by taking children to India.

The parents reported that the average reported daily working hours for their boys in India were 12 to 17 hours. Fifteen percent of the parents indicated that they did not have any idea about the salary of their trafficked children. They reported that more than 80 percent of their trafficked boys earn less than or equal to 1000 Indian Rupees per month. Sixty percent of the parents said that they are receiving some money from their trafficked children where as remaining 40 % were not.

More than 94 percent of the parents indicated that their children's living standard is not only poor but very poor in both places at home and workplace. Therefore, they showed their disappointment but at the same time they pointed out that they have no other better option. They further stressed that this is being practiced not because of their will but by compulsion created by the abject poverty that they are compelled to live in.

When an assessment of parents' views on trafficking was made no one was found happy on having to send their children to work particularly during their childhood. Forty percent of them viewed trafficking as a very bad practice and remaining (60%) considered it as not a good practice (Table 21).

**Table 21: Parents' views on trafficking**

| View     | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| Not good | 12        | 60.0    | 60.0               |
| Very bad | 8         | 40.0    | 100.0              |
| Total    | 20        | 100.0   |                    |



### *Sub- Conclusion*

It is evident that most parents are compelled to send their children or accept trafficking as a means of economic survival. In the two target districts there are no I/NGO's working and no government schools proving that the genuinely marginalized and specific ethnic minorities are not reached by programs. The community on the other hand has not demonstrated any pro-active role in bringing about changes and are waiting for assistance from the government or the development agencies.

There is very little awareness about the issue of trafficking and specifically to the realization that their children are victims of trafficking. To many it is merely migration borne out of economic compulsion and traffickers merely facilitators in this process.

#### **(b) Analysis of the Perception and Attitude of Stakeholders**

The primary data on perception and the attitude of the people (stakeholders) engaged in different disciplines were collected by using checklist and summarized into Charts 1 to 3. The stakeholders were divided broadly into two categories, namely micro-level or field-level and macro-level or national-level for Nepal and only one field-level category for India.

The stakeholders consulted were the people representing governmental offices (Police Officers, CDO, and LDO), NGOs, INGOs, Human Right Organizations, Politicians,

Teachers, Journalists, and the Villagers as focus group. The checklist was designed to gather data and information from these stakeholders focusing on their knowledge about the trafficking of boys, the severity of this problem, availability of any publications, documents and rules and regulations, and their suggestions to solve the trafficking problem. According to their perception and responses a clear notion emerged that signifies that the problem of trafficking of boys is very severe for which detailed survey/research-based action programs are urgent.

Politicians, NGO/INGO People, Human Rights Activists, Government People, Teachers and Villagers at the micro-level found with a common and very strong feeling that the Nepalese Government should take the effective step on solving poverty and related other socio-economic problems including trafficking of the children. All the stakeholders except the villagers pointed out that they were fully aware about girl trafficking but it was the first time that they hear about the trafficking of boys.

There seems to be a clear difference of opinion between different stakeholders as the villagers strongly reacted that the current system of sending their boys to India is neither trafficking nor a crime. According to them, it is the best option for their boys to be employed in India and to earn their livelihoods. Since the poor villagers are unable to send their children to school and there are no local employment opportunities or role models the parents are found sufficiently motivated to send their boys to India.



**Chart 1. Perception of the people of different discipline at the micro level (district, VDC and village level in Mahottari and Dhanusha districts)**

| People of Different Discipline     | Response/Perception /Attitude                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                    | Knowledge on Trafficking                                                      | Severity/Depth of the Problem                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Publications, Laws, Rules, Regulations                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Suggestion to Solve this Problem                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Politicians                        | Girl Trafficking was known but the first time heard about trafficking of boys | <p>Problem is connected with poverty therefore it is very severe</p> <p>“Hand to mouth” problem has forced them to go to India or elsewhere</p> <p>Exploitation of children takes place both inside and outside the country</p> | <p>Not available</p> <p>No laws and rules exist against trafficking of boys</p> <p>Not on trafficking but available for child abuse</p> <p>No laws, acts, and report on trafficking of boys</p> <p>New Laws or amendment in the old laws needs to be made</p> | <p>Political party should perform as per their party manifesto</p> <p>Increase public awareness</p> <p>Program on women and children rights should be launched</p> <p>Income generation / employment creation</p> <p>Legal and educational provisions</p> <p>Practical application of child right</p> <p>VDC budget should be used properly</p> <p>Program targeting these people</p> <p>More Organization like WOREC</p> |
| NGO / INGO / Human Right Activists | As above                                                                      | <p>Heard that children are taken, disabled and forced to work as beggars</p> <p>Lack of political commitment</p>                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Responsibility of the Government</p> <p>Civil society's responsibility is to create pressure on the Government and advocacy</p> <p>Increase awareness of both parents and children</p> <p>Create new law and implement it effectively</p> <p>Sustainable development programmes should be introduced</p>                                                                                                               |

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Government Agencies (CDO, LDO, SP) | As above                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>They are forced to do so because of higher rate of illiteracy and poverty in this belt</p> <p>Muslim society has more children due to their customs</p> <p>Open border No awareness among the people</p> <p>Heard that children are taken and made</p> <p>blind and used as beggars and also trafficked for organ transplant</p> <p>It is obviously difficult to differentiate between Nepali and Indian people in this area</p> <p>Unwanted traditions like <i>boksi pratha</i> (witch craft) is also a serious problem</p> |                                                                                                              | <p>Open border has made trafficking easy</p> <p>Political leaders should work for the people</p> <p>If the children are not well taken care of today they will become criminals</p> <p>Extensive investment for education and income generation</p> <p>Amendment in old laws and formulation of new</p> <p>Follow up and monitoring of development activities</p> <p>Wide range of public awareness programs</p> <p>Foreign organizations should be honest while working</p> <p>A Special Court should be introduced at district level</p> <p>Detail research is a felt need</p> |
| Teachers                           | As above                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>The problem is the outcome of weak economic conditions, lack of education and awareness</p> <p>They have no desire to leave home but they are compelled to do so.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Not available                                                                                                | <p>Create environment to attract children to schools</p> <p>A committee should be formed at village level to mobilize resources to promote education</p> <p>Government should open employment opportunities at the local level and raise awareness</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Villagers                          | <p>Girl trafficking is there but we have not known about trafficking, of boys however, boys are sent to different parts of India for employment, which is not a crime.</p> | <p>Is it not a serious problem that we are forced to send even a six year old boy to India and even in different parts of Nepal for earning money?</p> <p>Is it not a shame for the Government and the NGOs/INGOs and other donor agencies?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>We do not have records but a lot of boys go to different part of India and middle east for employment</p> | <p>Control corruption of SP, DSP and CDO offices</p> <p>Bring democracy at the grassroot level</p> <p>Develop irrigation and other support systems for agriculture</p> <p>Many people are earning their livelihood as wage</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | <p>Child and even adult people who are working in India, Middle east or even inside Nepal are highly exploited but the Government is doing nothing</p> <p>Agriculture is not a profitable business and what can small and land less farmers do?</p> <p>Corruption is a big problem.</p> <p>Democracy is for the MP and politicians not for us</p> |  | <p>labor but the wage rate is 4-5 kg or 25 NRs. at the most per day which needs to be increased</p> <p>Vocational education need to be introduced</p> <p>Factory should be established for employment</p> <p>Exploitation of child labor is much more in Kathmandu particularly by ministers, MP and carpet factories, therefore to control child labor you have to start from Kathmandu</p> <p>Price of the Agricultural Input, mainly of fertilizers and seeds should be reduced</p> |
|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Synopsis

While inquired about the severity, depth and dimension of the problem all the stakeholders accepted that trafficking is a very severe and deeply rooted socio economic problem. They particularly pointed out that the lack of employment opportunity and the rampant poverty are responsible for compelling boys to go to India or elsewhere for earning their livelihoods. The villagers were very critical of the government by stating that “is it not a shame for the Government, NGOs, INGOs, and donor agencies?” Their concern was that the Government is doing nothing. They are of the opinion that democracy is established for the politicians, particularly, members of the parliament and the ministers who are highly corrupt.

All the stakeholders had no information on research and publications on trafficking of boys. According to them there are no rules, regulations and law against trafficking of boys. The people working under the Government also pointed out the need for a new law as well as amendments in the old ones.

The suggestions to solve the issue of trafficking of boys at the micro-level are manifold. Political commitment, awareness creation, programs on women and children rights, legal and educational provisions, income and employment generation activities, measures to monitor the open boarder, corruption control, and non partisan involvement of the civil society are some of the felt needs as perceived by the stakeholders (Chart 1).

**Chart 2: Perception of the NGO community, human right activists, and police personnel at macro level, Kathmandu**

| People of Different Discipline | Response/Perception /Attitude                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                | Knowledge on Trafficking of boys                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Severity/Depth of the Problem                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Publications, Laws, Rules, Regulations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Suggestion to Solve this Problem                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| NGO / Human Right Organization | <p>Girl Trafficking was known but it is for the first time that trafficking of boys has emerged as an issue</p> <p>Aware that many children (male and female) are taken to Badaihi Mirjapur, India for circus, particularly from Makwanpur District of Nepal</p> | <p>Problem is severe and known nationally and internationally</p> <p>Observation in the field itself provides evidence how severe the problem is</p> <p>The root cause of the problem is ignorance and lack of other survival options</p> <p>Ignorance and lack of other income earning opportunities are escalating the problem</p> | <p>Perfectly matching documents and statistics are not available</p> <p>However, literature on migration may be useful</p> <p>Some statistics documents are available on children (males / females) who are trafficked as well as involved in criminal activities</p> | <p>Detail situation analysis should be initiated through the help of related organizations both in sending and receiving countries</p> <p>The organizations of Maharashtra, India are very cooperative and supportive they can be used for this purpose</p> <p>Government should be fully aware and active</p> <p>Coordination between District Children Working Committee and Police Officers is necessary</p> <p>Issue should be identified and prioritised by the national and international organizations</p> <p>Local organizations should be strengthened to make them functional</p> |
| Police                         | <p>The poverty situation has forced boys to leave their homes at a young age. This is the first time that such large number of boys were rescued.</p>                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Awareness programs in the community</p> <p>Programs should be local culture friendly</p> <p>Awareness in the society is necessary</p> <p>Parents need to be fully aware about the consequences of such problem</p> <p>Poverty alleviation programs should be launched</p> <p>Coordination between GO and NGOs need to be strengthened</p> <p>Laws should be made and implemented</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

### Synopsis

In the macro-level, an inquiry from the Kathmandu based police and the people involved in NGO and Human Rights Organization was made. For them also the trafficking of boys was a new phenomenon. They found this problem very severe nationally and internationally. According to them, the root causes of the problem are ignorance, poverty, and lack of income generating opportunities. They do not have knowledge or access to publications related to trafficking of boys, however, documents on migration, child trafficking and child crimes are available and they feel that such materials may be useful. They suggested that a detail situation

analysis should be undertaken in partnership with related organizations in India. They stressed that the local organizations should be empowered, poverty alleviation programs that are “local environment and culture friendly” should be launched. They also felt that parents need to be fully aware about the potential consequences of trafficking of boys. Furthermore, they highlighted the need for coordination and cooperation among and between national and international organizations. Formulation and effective execution of new laws was another priority area (Chart 2).

**Chart 3: Perception on the trafficking of Nepalese boys by the people of different discipline to India**

| People of Different Discipline     | Response/Perception /Attitude                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                    | Knowledge on Trafficking                                                                       | Severity/Depth of the Problem                                                                                                                                  | Publications, Laws, Rules, Regulations                                                              | Suggestion to Solve this Problem                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Journalist                         | Girl trafficking was well known, however they had little information about trafficking of boys | Despite laws which prohibits not only trafficking but also child labour the prevailing problem of child trafficking is very serious                            | No written statistics and documents are available with any government and non-governmental agencies | Awareness is important<br><br>The working conditions of the Nepalese boys in India should be disseminated in every village in Nepal so that villagers are sensitized                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| NGO / INGO / Human Right Activists | Aware that Nepalese boys are working in jari factories                                         | Children are working in different places under miserable and slavery like conditions<br><br>Child labor should be controlled as it is becoming a major problem | Reports are not available                                                                           | Problem should be solved at the source<br>Government should launch income generation activities<br>Nepalese children and women are honest (simple)therefore they are susceptible to forced work and trafficking<br>Human right should be enjoyed by all<br>Brokers and involved persons should be strongly penalized<br>Education development<br>Governments should formulate effective policies    |
| Police Officers                    | Children are trafficked                                                                        | The people involved in trafficking are mainly Nepalese brokers, even Nepali police are involved                                                                | No reports are published or available on the trafficking of boys                                    | Nepal Government and Maharashtra Government should start concrete step<br>This problem is being institutionalized which needs to be taken seriously<br>If Nepali children are brought by the Nepali Police themselves what can be done?<br><br>Commitment from both the governments (Nepal and Indian) is lacking<br>Border Checking should be strengthened<br>Awareness program should be launched |
| Employer                           | Many Nepalese boys come for work to India                                                      | Due to poverty and unemployment problems, many Nepalese boys have to come to India                                                                             | Not available                                                                                       | Nepal government should create environment for education and employment for children in Nepal itself                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

### Synopsis

An inquiry was made about the knowledge on trafficking of boys of journalist, people involved in NGO / INGO / Human Right Agencies, police officers and employer of the trafficked boys. Most were familiar with the phenomena of Nepalese boys going to India for work and working under slavery like conditions however many did not equate it to trafficking. They had considered it to be a very serious problem. They do not have any

publications and documents related to trafficking of boys.

They suggested that the problem should be solved at the source, the brokers and other persons involved in trafficking should be strongly penalized, both Nepal and India Governments should take a combined initiative, monitoring should be done in the border areas, awareness creation programs

should be launched and the Nepal Government should create environment for education and future employment opportunity for the children (Chart 3).

### The depth, dimensions, and severity of the problem

The research team was highly aware of the time limitation and afraid of the possible difficulty of getting required number of respondents both in Nepal as well as from India. However, the team members were totally surprised when they found sufficient respondents in the very first day of field work in Mahottari district which demonstrates the magnitude of the problem. When the team inquired about the possibility of talking to boys who were trafficked once or more and whether they were prepared to participate in the survey then the local people started to identify such boys one by one. The research team members were shocked when they were shown a trafficked boy of six years who had returned a few months back after having problem with his eyes while working at the *jari* factory in Mumbai, India.

The research team came to know that the Indian employers, particularly in Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata were taking boys because the children's eyes are sharper compared to adults. *Jari* embroidery is a very fine work and requires sharp eyes and fine fingers. It is evident that such work will stress the eyes especially when the work environment itself is unsafe. The villagers reported that if a person continuously works in such a job for 10 years or more then his/her eyes would be severely damaged. After the completion of the fieldwork in Nepal the research team reached to a conclusion, that revealed the depth, dimensions and severity of the trafficking of boys which is summarized in the following points:

- A vast majority of the rural households have large number of children and do not have access to resources, which could support their livelihood.

- Wage labor is the main source of income. However, the wage rate is very low and therefore many adults as well as children are compelled to go to other places in order to earn some income.
- The economically poor rural people do not have access to employment opportunities and education for their children. Such environment is favorable for out-migration. Since information about job opportunities and conditions is not known the traffickers take advantage of such situation and children are forced to work under slavery-like conditions.
- The socio-economic set up, cultural-religious taboos, and marginalization of the community by main stream development programs and agencies is also found to be responsible for escalating or perpetuating the problems leading to the trafficking of boys.
- There is a large responsibility as well as scope for GOs, NGOs, INGOs and other bilateral organizations to initiate activities, which could improve their current situation.
- There are no concentrated efforts for minimum wage standards, skill development and other activities which can improve their living condition, awareness creation programs and education for safe migration and solutions to the trafficking problems.

### Research techniques and observation

The research team had to employ some clever ways and means to collect data and information about the trafficked boys in India. Beside the 40 boys they consulted with the factory owners, police, NGO and Human Right activists in Mumbai and Delhi and some Nepalese priests and university students in Varanasi, India. In Mumbai, the Nepalese boys were mostly found working in *jari* factories, garment factories, hotels, and mobile hotels (called "Chinese Hotel"). Whereas in Delhi, boys were found working in metal works, *jari* factory, hotels and as guards in certain areas in the city while in Varanasi no Nepali children

were located. Based on the observations following conclusions were drawn:

- It was not possible to get detailed information by directly accessing the boys in India because the factory owners try to lie or hide such children if some outsider went for such research work. Therefore, appropriate and indirect ways of data collection methods were adopted and implemented which became successful to meet the research mission. However, the police, human right activists, NGOs, journalists, teachers, politician, and relevant various institutions established for the empowerment of children were very cooperative and without their help such research can not be done successfully.
- The working environment of the boys was found to be hazardous, congested, and exploitative. At an average they have to work for 13 hours per day ranging from 10 to 14 hours without rest.
- The boys were found to be frequently abused by the factory owners.
- In order to keep on working for a longer time the factory owners provide some tea

like drink to the working boys so that they can work continuously for a longer period of time.

- According to the respondents, majority of the trafficked boys, do not receive a salary for their work for the initial 1 to 2 years but whatever small amount of salary is fixed for this period is given to the brokers or traffickers implying debt bondage. During the entire period of 1 to 2 years the factory owners give food and snacks to the trafficked boys. By doing so these children neither escape from the factory nor earn money for themselves or their families.
- Though no girls were identified (nor was it an objective of this study) it is evident from a case study that girls are also trafficked for labor exploitation but there is little information about their end purpose or destination.

Since this is a pilot survey, a detailed scientific research is needed to uncover the entire depth and magnitude of the problem and to provide feasible solutions to combat this problem.



## Perspectives of a child member of the research team

In Nepal, even after 11 years of being a signatory to the United Nations Child Rights Convention and over 15,000 local NGOs registered, it seems that no change has taken place in the status of the Nepalese children. Following the old traditional ways of lifestyles, the people themselves do not either raise a voice to change the discriminations they have been habituated to live in or their voices do not get heard even when they are raised. One very good example is the trafficking of children to the big cities of India as workers in *sari* factories. The question is who is responsible and who is there to see that this problem is taken seriously because the high level district officers also seemed uneasy to answer our question on what is being done to prevent children from being trafficked?

We can not deny the fact that there is poverty and there are many social problems but are we ready to sell our children just because we cannot afford to feed them? Whatever be the reason, the truth is there in front of us and it is that our children are being sold and we have to prevent their trafficking.

### Status of Children / Deprivation from Education

Since the 1950's the government of Nepal has started a movement of building schools and training teachers however no school exists in the Muslim area which is essential keeping in mind their social and cultural needs? Most of the local schools in Mahottari are made and run by the locals with little contribution from the government.

Even though the government says that education has been made free the children have to pay for hidden costs such as books and at times the teachers salary and these children belonging to lower castes and marginalized ethnic groups do not have enough money to pay for these expenses.

### Child Labour not a Necessity but a Compulsion

Children below the age of 10 who can barely write or speak are sent to work. The reason is not only poverty but also the entire socio-economic setup that is conducive for such phenomena.

Observations and Findings in Mahottari and Dhanusha districts in the course of research.

- Economic discrimination and feeling of subordination among lower caste people has been the important factor responsible for servitude and trafficking, which is promoted by the fact that money (capital) is in the control of one group/class of rich people over the less fortunate.
- Discrimination based on caste, gender and religion are playing decisive roles in the exploitation and trafficking of children.
- Poverty is rampant. There is no cropland or industries to generate local employment.
- Population growth is alarming.
- Government has not been addressing the issues of illiteracy, food insecurity and livelihood in these areas.

### Solutions

The child researcher in partnership and consultation with the local children has the following solution to the problem of trafficking in the locality.

- Building community-farming systems/collective farming as no one has enough land of their own to grow food crops for them.
- Building cottage industries in the villages based on the expertise, local resources and need of local people to ensure sustainable livelihood.
- Special emphasis on free primary level education and free primary health care service.
- Free counseling and medical service for married couples and adolescents within the framework of women's health and reproductive health.
- Government to promote policies on safe migration keeping in mind the best interest of the child.
- Public awareness in building up respect to cultural and religious diversities and trafficking within the framework of human rights.



## Concluding remarks

Based on the field research as well as observations it is clear that boys are compelled to migrate from their villages at a very small age. Due to the large family size and the lack of resources to support them it has been a long tradition of sending their children to India. The situation analyses of the trafficked boys (both returnee and on the job) has become the basis for concluding that the boys are not only severely deprived of their rights of education, health, food and freedom but they are also highly exploited, abused and compelled to live a life of servitude removed from their natural surrounding. It is difficult to believe that boys at the age of even six are trafficked and compelled to work for more than 11 hours a day. The ongoing system of sending boys for employment does not look like trafficking if looked at it superficially. When the actual situation of the trafficked boys was analyzed thoroughly the research team is firmly convinced that it is trafficking as per the international conventions to which Nepal is a signatory, no matter, what justifications or reasons are given to deny it. The severity, depth and dimensions of the problems of the trafficked boys demand the immediate and appropriate policy measures and action programs in order to emancipate trafficked boys from their exploitative situation however it is essential to ensure that they are successfully reintegrated. (The overall situation of the trafficked boys is presented in Figure I).

An assessment on the perceptions and attitudes of the people engaged in different disciplines at the field or micro-level as well as macro or national level in Nepal was made. All the stakeholders strongly responded on the severity of the problem of the trafficked Nepalese boys. (Their response is summarized in Figure II).

The concerned people of different organizations to India, particularly from Mumbai and Delhi were also contacted and inquired about their knowledge, attitude, and perception on the trafficked Nepalese boys. They were found to be worried about the exploitative situation of such children. (Their feelings are summarized in the Figure III).

The situation analysis of trafficking of boys also found strong linkages with child abuse practices. (Based on the observation of the research team a pictorial presentation of child abuse has been depicted in Figure IV).

It is evident that there are virtually no agencies working in the target area leading to the conclusion that the highly marginalised are not being targeted by any interventions as a result the community accepts the trafficking of boys as a coping strategy. It is nevertheless interesting to note that though the girls are not trafficked for the purpose of forced labor there are recorded instances of them being trafficked for sexual purposes when they have become adolescents.

FIGURE 1:  
Depicting the entire situation of trafficked boys



FIGURE II:  
Perception of different people of Nepal on trafficking of boys

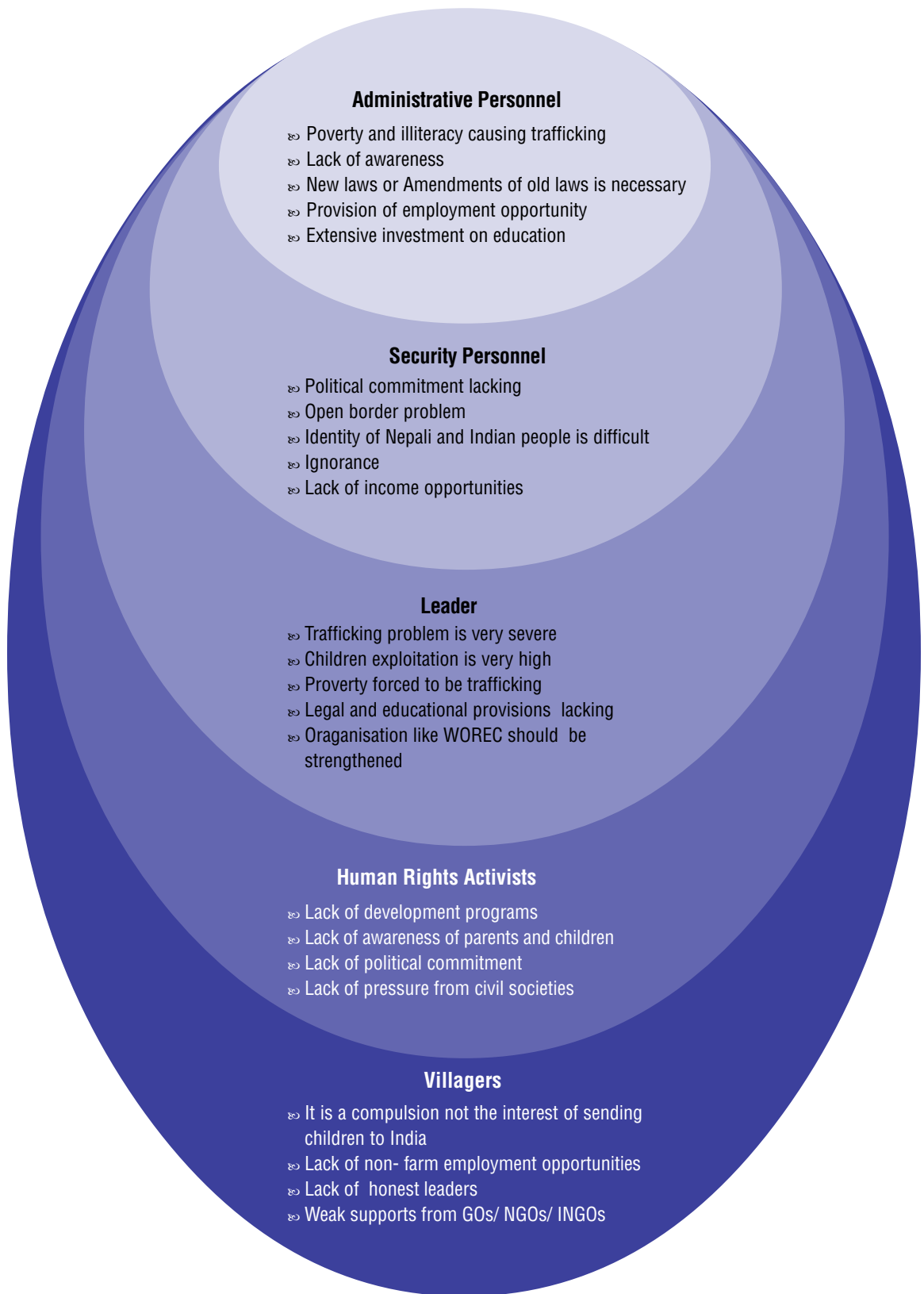


FIGURE III:  
**Perception of different people of India on trafficking of boys**

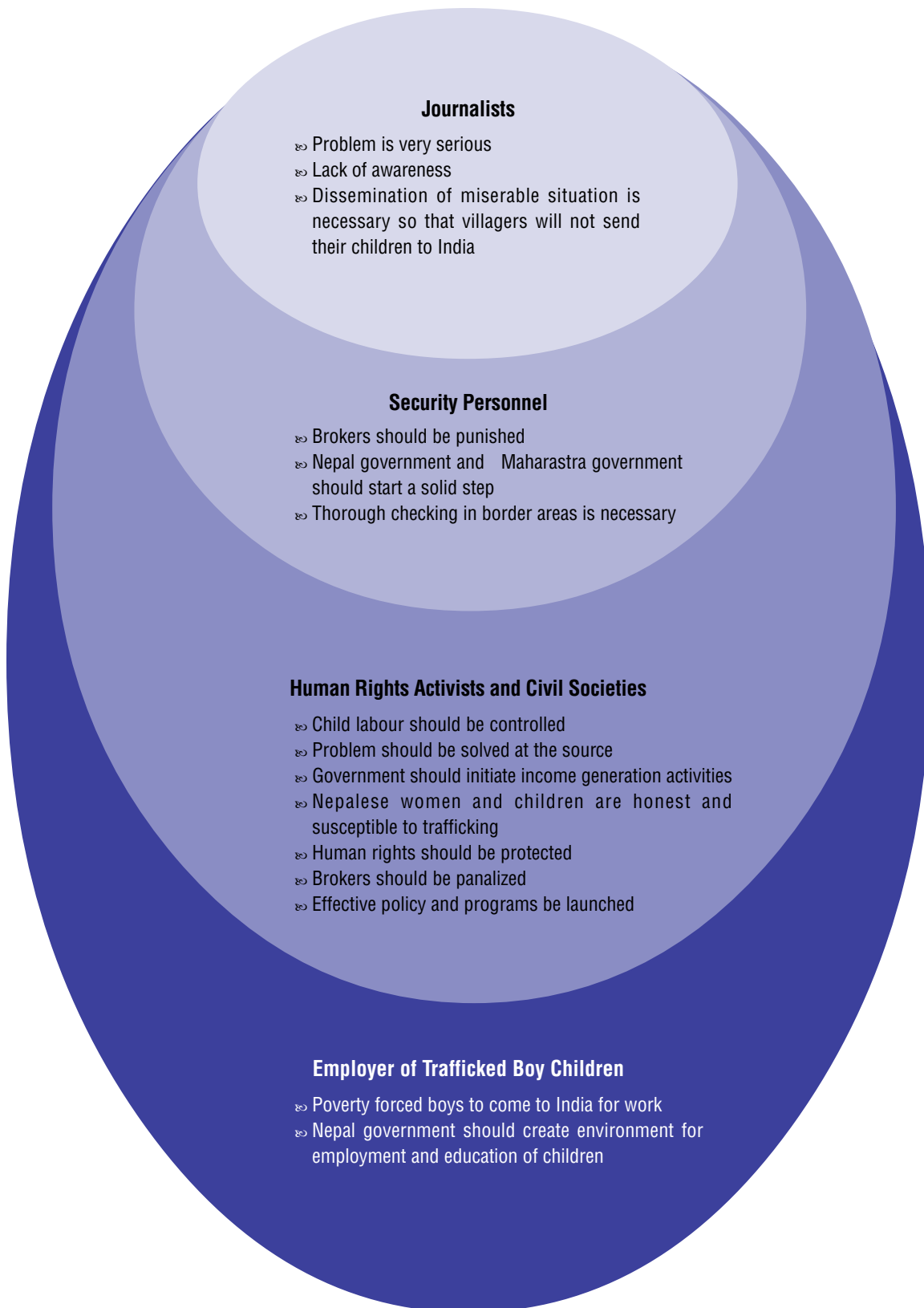


FIGURE IV:  
**Abuse on trafficked boys**

- 1. Physical Violence                      A child being beaten
- 2. Psychological Violence              Mentally tensed picture
- 3. Economic Violence                  Abuse when asked for wages
- 4. Emotional                              Insulted publicly

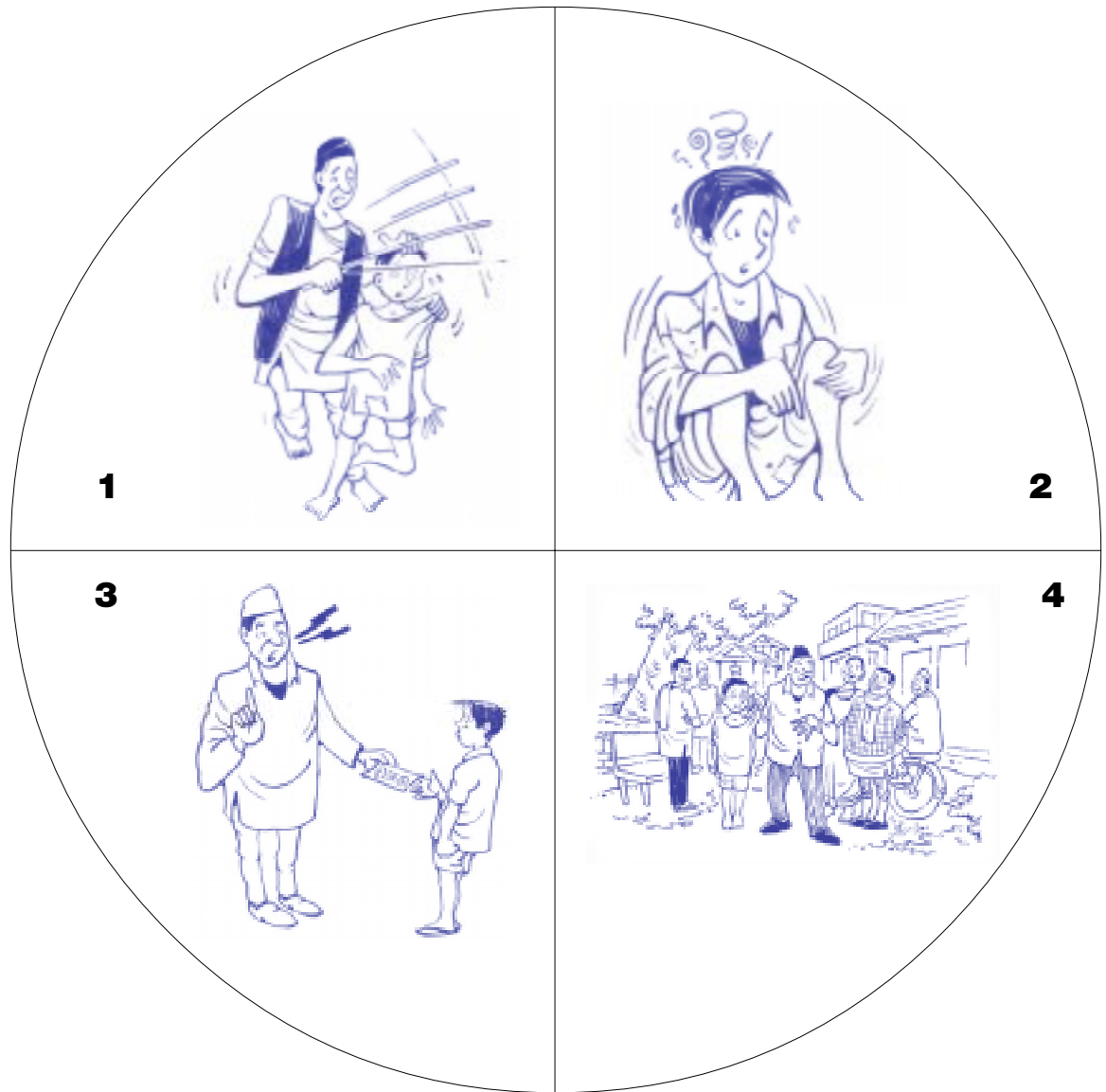
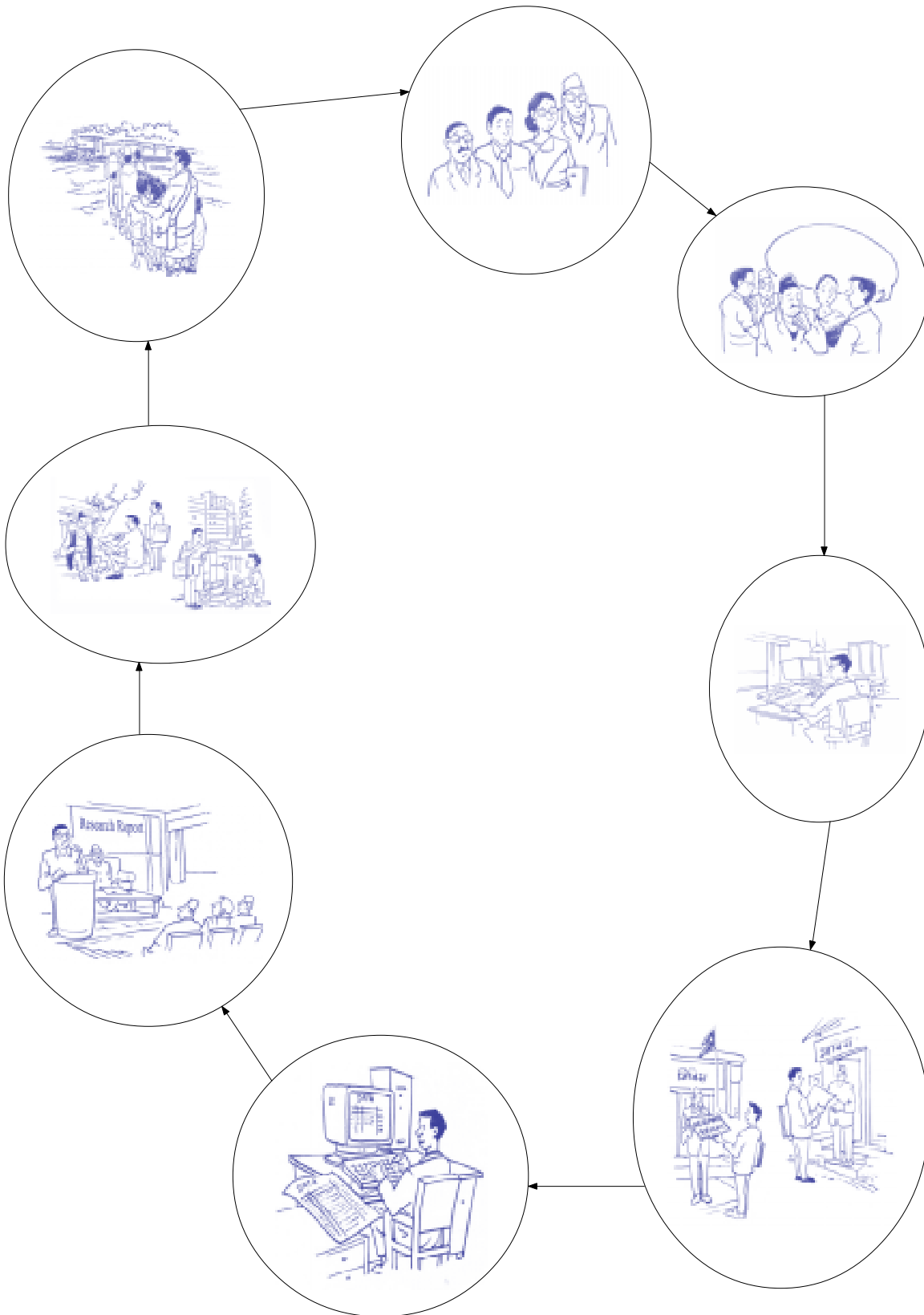


FIGURE V:  
**Background and process of research methodology**



## Case Studies

|                 |   |                                                      |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------------------------------|
| Name            | : | Master Krishna Rawal                                 |
| Age             | : | 9 Years as of 2001                                   |
| Family Members  | : | 2 Parents, 2 Brothers & 2 Sisters                    |
| Address         | : | Achham District, Nepal                               |
| Current Address | : | Om Sai Chinese Hotel in Machhi Market, Mumbai, India |

Krishna Rawal has been continuously working in more than 5 hotels as a dish washer and kitchen hand but has been unable to earn or save a single Rupee. He reported that the hotel owner “gives me food to eat and sleep on the corridor of the hotel”. At the age of 5, his parents forced him to go to Mumbai with “Tholakancha” to earn his livelihood and earn some money for them. He reported that “Tholakancha” received 1,500 Indian Rupees immediately after he was submitted to the hotel owner in Mumbai.

Krishna came to know from a 10 year’s old Nepali girl that “Tholakancha” is still doing the same job. One day, “Tholakanchha” appeared and asked how he was and how much money he had earned and even offered to delivery the money to his parents. Krishna broke down in tears and said that he had no money and he was leading a miserable life. Tholakancha reported this to his parents, as Krishan later found out, but apart from feeling sorry for him they did nothing.

Krishan said that he worked in more than five hotels, however, all the hotel owners had the same behavior and attitude. They did not give a salary/wage for at least one year. According to him they used to say “you will get your salary/wages after a year”. He said all the owners are cheats and nothing can be done against them.

Then Krishan met a Nepalese person who owns a embroidery factory & offered training programs to interested people. Krishna also joined that training program. After completion of this training program, the Nepalese embroidery owner introduced him to a large embroidery factory owner in Matunga, Mumbai. Krishan started working in this large embroidery factory. After working for a month Krishan requested for his salary/wage only to be informed that his salary for two years at the rate of Rupees two thousand per month was already taken by the Nepalese factory owner at the time when he was introduced. Krishna had been working for 14 to 15 hrs daily without salary but only food twice a day. He also added that 15 to 20 boys including himself sleep in a big hall, where they have to work in the daytime. He further said that he is living in a very poor condition.

Name : Mohammed Sharif  
 Age : 8 Years  
 Address : Mahottari District, Hoharpatti VDC Ward No. 1  
 Family Members : 2 parents, 6 brothers, 4 sisters = 12 members,  
 all are illiterate.  
 Current Address : Shivir Embroidery factory, Andheri, Mumbai, India.

Sharif started working in the Shivir embroidery factory since the last 7 months and was a trainee in the factory. According to him the factory owner provides meals twice a day and tea occasionally. He said that he has been working for 16 to 18 hours per day.

Sharif showed a lot of dark marks and wounds on his thigh and other parts of his body as a result of severe beating by the employer. He said that this is very common, particularly when the workers delay on their jobs. He was brought there by a person from Mohottari, named Mohammed, who was paid 1500 Nepali Rupees for taking him to India.

Generally, it is said that the factory owners provide wages after 6 months of work or the so called internship period. On the day to receive his Sharif was informed that his one year training period wages plus one and half year wages is already taken by Mohammed. He also informed that Mohammad may come next month, and therefore, Sharif should talk this out with him but meanwhile he is bonded to the factory owner”.

Sharif informed that his family is very poor and no one in the family, no matter how young, can survive without working. He said that he was sent to India under the expectation that he could earn some money for them as well. However, given his present situation he says:

“How can I fulfill my family’s as well as my own expectation of earning money, education and good life? This has all remained a myth and a dream. I have reached to the conclusion that no one in this world is really helping the poor”.

Sharif said that two or three persons are assigned to supervise the factory workers like him. He said that there are 30-40 Nepalese workers in the same factory where he is working. There were six girls in the beginning but later they left. He said that the factory owners and supervisors do not allow them to meet with outsiders or visitors.

Upon inquiry, Sharif informed that the police gets money from the factory owners and does nothing against such activities.

Sharif said that he had seen five-six Nepalese girls approximately between 13-14 years of age were working in the same factory but now he does not see them around.

Sharif said that they are not permitted to go outside with friends for watching movies, television etc and even not allowed to listen to the radio and news. He said,

“we were sold like cows and buffalos by the middlemen taking sole advantage of our poverty I don’t know how to read & write. If I get a chance to meet my parents I will tell them everything about me, they don’t know where I am. Recently, I have heard and know for fact that these people make us handicapped and force us to become beggars.”

**Sharif further added,**

“while working if I fall asleep they pour salt & chilly powder in my eyes. If I will get a chance to return to my home then I surely would not want to miss that opportunity. It is a long period that they didn’t provide us any salary. When, if at all, they will give our salary is also unknown.”



# References

- GAATW, 1996, Handbook For Human Rights Action in context of traffic in women, Bangkok, Thailand
- Fallon Peter and Zafiris Tzannatos, 1998, Child Labor Issues and Directions for the World Bank, The World Bank, Washington D.C..
- IMADR, 1998, Strengthening the International Regime to Eliminate the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism.
- Pradhan, Gauri, 1996, Back Home from Brothels: A Case Study of the Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Across Nepal-India Border, Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Center, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Radhika, Coomaraswamy, 2000, Integration of the Human Rights of Women and Gender Prospective: Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, on trafficking on women, women's migration and violence against women, submitted in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/44, E/CN.4/2000/68.
- Rajbhandari, R. & Rajbhandari B, 1997. Girl's Trafficking: A Hidden Grief in Himalaya. Women's Rehabilitation Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- UNICEF, Nepal / NPC, Nepal, 1996, Children and Women of Nepal: A Situation Analysis, United Nations Children's Fund, Nepal and National Planning Commission, His Majesty's Government of Nepal.
- United Nations, 1998, Human Rights Minimum Standard: Treatment of the Trafficked Persons, United Nations
- WOREC.1998. Conceptual Clarity on Trafficking in Women. Women's Rehabilitation Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- WOREC. 2000. A Situational Analysis of Traffic in Women in Morang and Sunsari Districts. Women's Rehabilitation Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Publications of the International Labour Office enjoy copyright under protocol 2 of the Universal Copyright Convention. Nevertheless, short excerpts from them may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicate. For rights of reproduction or translation, application should be made to the publications Bureau (Rights and Permissions), International Labour Office, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland. The International Labour Office welcomes such applications.

Libraries, institutions and other users registered in the United Kingdom with the copyright Licensing Agency, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP (Fax: +44(0)207631 5500), in the United States with the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 (Fax: +1978 7504470), or in other countries with associated Reproduction Rights Organizations, may make photocopies in accordance with the licences issued to them for this purpose.



**Trafficking in Children - South Asia (TICSA)**

**International Programme on the  
Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)  
International Labour Organization**

International Labour Organization  
IPEC - TICSA Programme  
GPO Box 8971  
Pulchowk, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Phone # 977-1-522259, 542148  
Fax # 977-1-531332  
Email: KATHMANDU@ilo.org

<http://www.ilo.org>