

# Street Children and Language in Nepal

Shanta Maharjan  
School of education, Kathmandu University

## Abstract

The issue of street children is a not new phenomena and just new problem in Nepal. There are many causes and influencing factors that is helping to be a street child. The culture of pushing and pulling factors are playing an important role to increase in number of street children. We have so many reasons like family violence, abusing, discrimination, modernization, urbanization, and political conflict, lack of proper care and lack of law implementation for street children. Street children are the most vulnerable and they are in high risk situation. They are exploiting from national and global people in the street and they are treating a Khate which is low and chip language. 99% of them are physically and psychologically abused from people in Nepal (NAOSC, 2005). That means they are highly abuse by many people and highly risk from people in Nepal. However, this article highlights some hidden points of street situation, their languages in the street. It also talks about feeling of street children that how they are working and facing problems in the street.

**Keywords:** Street children, discrimination, abuse, risk behaviors, conflict, street language

## Abbreviations

CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CWIN	Child Workers in Nepal
NAOSC	National Alliance of Organizations working with Street Children
CSS	Child Street to School

## 1. Introduction

In the European federal, street children are those who are an extremely vulnerable living in risk situations and near to poverty and they face a gross violation of their human rights, such as violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, chemical addictions and numerous other human rights violations (Ryckmans, 2012). However in Nepal, street children who stay and live in the street and of the street with high risk situation, labour exploitation, sexual abuse, involving criminal activities, violence of human right.

People view to the street children as “Khate.” (SathSath, n.d.). However, this word is becoming a introduction of street children in Nepal but it is not a good word that is using from people of Nepal in the street. In my observation, children are found living on the streets for many reasons, including difficult social situations at home, discrimination, unemployment, alcoholism, violence and abuse. Street children who live on the street who don't have parents, work on the street during the day but sleep at home during the night, live on the street together with their family, move between their home, the street and institutions, live on the street periodically and traveling between cities and countries

Street children are those who spend and stay at nights anywhere in the street, stay up late, and get sleep are exposed to passersby as abandoned, homeless, thieves or juvenile delinquents (ennew, 1994). However, the situation of living stander is changing day by day. Some has started to stay at rent for night shelter and shelter open by social organization.

Three categories have been defined as street living, street working and street family (Ryckmans, 2012). However, there are also other children living in the street who are living with their family and family members are not living and working in the street.

Street children are those children who live on the street and of the street (Humanium, 2011), and street child a group of vulnerable and marginalized children whose lives and works on the streets (Avanse, 2016). However, children are those who stay in the street, on the street and of the street who are living at risk and surviving difficult circumstance.

Some street children live on the streets during the day for begging or working, and return home at night (Streetaction, 2012). However, many children who work as rag picker, conductors, street vender, and also involving risk criminal activities.

## 2. Global and national situation

Globally, there are 150 million street children who are living in the street with family and without family (CWIN, 2014) and **there are estimated to be around 30 million in Africa, 30 million in Asia, and 60 million in South America** (Humanium, 2011). but In Nepal it is about 5000 children in the street and they are working as Khalasis, Beggars, Rag Pickers, Sell newspapers, bread, biscuits, wash dishes in restaurants, carry water, and work as construction laborers (CWIN, 2014). However, they are living with family and without family due to

poverty, lack of awareness and education, caste discrimination, risk behaviors from step father or mother, family violence, Peer influence, conflict; seek opportunities and earthquake in Nepal.

In Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal where there are 600 children who are living in the street (CSS, 2012) but according to the (CWIN, 2014) it is estimated about 1200 to 1500 street children in Kathmandu. However, each street organization has their own data on the street children but it is based on observation survey from each street organization. According to (SathSath, n.d.), 96 % of street children are boys and very less are girls who are working in the street of Nepal. However, the treat from people to the street very different like viewed with negatively and useless children for developing nation.

**Table no 1. Reason of children for becoming homeless on the streets of Kathmandu**

S.No	Particulars	Percents
1.	Children leave home due to family violence	41%
2.	Due to peer influence	27%
3.	Due to economic factors	19%
4.	Due to disintegration of the family	15%

Source (CWIN, 2014)

The above table shows that 41% of street children who become street children and leave home due to family violence, due to peer influence and motivated from their friends are 27%, weak economic sectors that is 19% and 15% street children, they are due to disintegration of the family.

**Table no 2. The perpetrators of sexual abuse to children**

S.No	Particulars	Percents
1.	Foreigner	11%
2.	Nepali male	83%
3.	Nepali female	3%
4.	Third gender	3%

Source (CWIN, 2014)

In sexual abuse to street children, 83% of street children they are abuse from Nepali male and 11% are from foreigner and 3% of children are abuse from Nepali female and third gender.

However, the above table refers that street children are not save in any places. They are risk in their family, community, society. They are risk from Nepali people as well as foreigner people and they are also not saved from their friends. They are at risk nationally and globally.

### 3. Street Language

Language is a tool for communicating to each other. People have their own language to speak and talk. Likewise, street children have their own language to speak and talk among their friends. They have their similar language as other people use and speak but there are some words that they use in different. For example ADHIPICHIK, it means last situation. This word would use when they are in trap in gang fight or something risk situation. In that situation, they have to save their life either killing, dying or run away from this place.

According to Krishna Thapa (street boy interview 2008), these words they develop themselves to understand only for street children. Due misbehavior from people, always in risk situation, for survival from people, they use their language so that they could feel save and do not understand that what they are talking about from others.

**Table no 3. Some language of street children**

S.No	Words	Meaning
1.	Gabba todne	Crass key
2.	Adhi bodi khichne	Beat to people
3.	Yaina	Television
4.	Cake	Deck
5.	Guriya	Plastic materials
6.	Lichcha	Shoes and Sandal
7.	Lasun	Silver
8.	Malpot/Jot	Discussing
9.	Adhipichik	Last situation
10.	Gabba Hanne	Sex
11.	Suddi	wife
12.	Suddo	Husband
13.	Chhawa	Boy
14.	Chhawi	Girl
15.	Thula	Police

16.	Hat	Crass key by iron tool
17.	Billa payo/Gilla paryo	Knew it
18.	Pilla	Gold
19.	Seto	Silver
20.	Kachwa	Good
21.	Gaj	100
22.	Half Gaj	50
23.	Sikka	1000
24.	Sikka	One
25.	Disi	Computer
26.	Ka Lepne	Pic-pocketing
27.	Lama	Drugs
28.	Jwaina	Ji
29.	Pud	Sex girl
30.	Charphi	Watch
31.	Tin Varnu	Pic-pocketing
32.	Sepnu	Block
33.	Vari sakyoy	Had already received
34.	Ho tyo	Hero
35.	Gasi	Target
36.	Tiemo	Fat
37.	Timo	Temple
38.	Guest House	Police station
39.	Karkhana/Kati	Jail
40.	Kawar	A place where old material sell
41.	Murga Thalne	Discussing and take all materials from people
42.	Khate	Chip Language
43.	Sotla	Long
44.	Thur chepne	Having meal
45.	Kati Tadne	Crass table and rack
46.	Goal Kati	Problem in police station/investigation by police
47.	Thokkar	Shoes
48.	Dhur Dhalne	people
49.	Pipi	Plastic bags
50.	Gudiya	A piece of Plastic
51.	Pauroti	Camera/Radio
52.	Licha	Sandal of Plastic
53.	Ghoda	Bike Cycle
54.	Pani	A plastic of milk
55.	Chhala	Cloths
56.	Murga	Alcoholic people / Drunk men or women
57.	Dhur	Non alcoholic people

The above table also says that Khate means a low and chip language that people use which they do not like. They want to be recognized as a street child who is working in the street.

78% of the street children were part of a street based group or gang and more than 60% agreed that being in a group is compulsory for survival on the street and 66% of the respondents agreed that street life in a group is enjoyable (CWIN, 2014). However, the above language would use when they involve in risk and criminal activities such as gang fighting to each other. They feel more safety from other people when they use this language because these languages communicate to each other to their friends but do not understand by others.

#### 4. Conclusion

Street children who live and stay in the street are facing many problems with physical, psychological and sexual exploitation by nationally and globally. They are most risk and vulnerable to malnutrition, substances abuses and severe health problems. Street children are not only engaging in begging, rag picking on the street but also they are involving in other activities like trash picking, pick pocketing and other criminal activities.

So, they are using their own language for their communication and safety in their day to day street life.

Working in bars, restaurants and tempo buses and street are not an important but important is how they are surviving and what the government of Nepal is doing for them. The life of street children is fearful and stressful, their situation and life are harm for nation. So, the government of Nepal, local non government organizations and international non government organizations should raise and address the issues of street children in right way on the base of law and policy of Nepal.

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