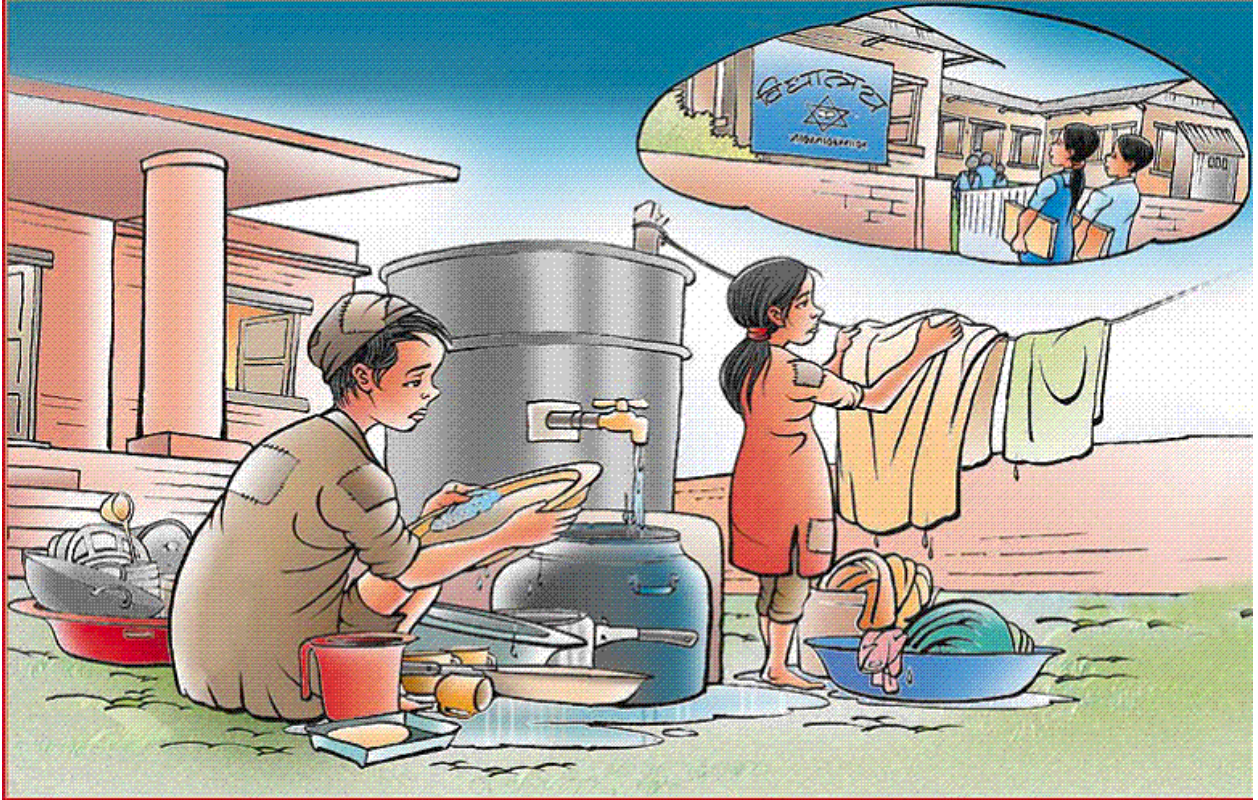


# Domestic Workers in Kathmandu

## Survey Report 2009



**Children-Women In Social Service and Human Rights  
(CWISH)**

**Chabahil, Kathmandu**

**[www.cwish.org.np](http://www.cwish.org.np)**

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Children-Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH) is active on the field of child domestic workers since last 16 years with the intervention of advocacy, education, awareness, legal aid, empowerment and social mobilization. In this regard every year CWISH has been sharing the status of child domestic workers on the occasion of world day against child labor. The status report shows the trend and practices with child domestic workers and is based on the primary data collection interviewing a large number of domestic workers. CWISH has conducted a detailed household survey on the issue of domestic workers in different 9 wards of Kathmandu metropolis during April-May 2009. The survey area consist core city area, urban area and newly emerging urban area together. To conduct this survey CWISH has mobilized local survey volunteers with the coordination and cooperation of child protection committee, Community Police and Service Center, Kathmandu Metropolis and it's ward offices. The survey was financially supported by Save the Children and INTERPEDIA Finland.

During this survey a total 71130 families living in 26731 houses were visited and 3703 domestic workers were identified. Out of this, only 2324 domestic workers were interviewed. The details of ward and their HH size is given on the following table.

<b>Details of HH/FAMILY/DW/RATIO</b>						
<b>Ward No.</b>	<b>Number of House Visited</b>	<b>Number of HH Surveyed</b>	<b>Number of DWs Identified</b>	<b>Ratio of HH/Houses</b>	<b>Ratio of HH &amp; DW</b>	<b>Number of DWs Interviewed</b>
KMC-3	3856	7715	391	2	20	251
KMC-6	2798	5105	168	2	30	153
KMC-7	2153	4932	171	2	29	242
KMC-14	3499	11756	509	3	23	402
KMC-31	783	3340	119	4	28	110
KMC-32	2147	5264	373	2	14	234
KMC-33	2236	4472	347	2	13	218
KMC-34	5299	10869	1215	2	9	424
KMC-35	3960	17677	410	4	43	290
<b>Total</b>	<b>26731</b>	<b>71130</b>	<b>3703</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2324</b>

### **Situation of Domestic Workers**

- Out of total 2324 domestic workers 1575 (67.77 percent) were female and 749 (32.23 percent) were male. Among children, within the group of 14 years and below age 65 percent were girl child and 35 were boys, while in the group of 14-18 years, 62 percent were girls and 38 percent were boys.
- Out of total interviewed domestic workers, 1429 (61.48 percent) were children less than 18 years and 535 (23.02 percent) were adults above 18 years. 361 (15.53 percent) respondents could not mention their age and most of these respondents seem children. In domestic work 30 percent (696) are found less than 14 years. To be considered that employing children less than 14 years is legally prohibited.
- A large number of the interviewed respondents mentioned they don't have birth registration. Only 50.34 percent (1170) mentioned they have birth registration. Among children out of 1429 only 662 (46.32 percent) mentioned they have birth registration.
- According to the ethnicity of the respondents as domestic workers most of them are found from ethnic communities. Out of 2324 domestic workers population, 1281 (55.10 percent) ethnic, 512 (22 percent) Chhetri, 389 (16.7 percent) Bramhin and 56 (2.4 percent) were from Dalit communities. 86 did not mention their cast and ethnicity. Among Dalit 85.71 percent (46/56), among Ethnic 64.32 percent (818/1281), among Bramhin 65.81 percent (249/389) and among Chhetri 58.79 percent (295/512) were found children.
- Among the 2324 domestic workers only 240 were from Kathmandu Valley. The district sending domestic workers mainly to Kathmandu are: Kavre (198), Dolakha (159), Dhading (149), Sindhupalchowk (144) and Ramechhap (123). 110 domestic workers could not mention their home district.
- Among the total domestic workers interviewed in survey 10.46 percent (243) were part time non residential and 89.54 percent (2081) were working as full time residential live in domestic workers.
- Most of the domestic workers mentioned that their family knows their working place, respondents mentioning such response is 96.85 percent (2251/2324).
- 86.45 percent (2009) of domestic workers mentioned that they have regular contact with their family with telephone, postal and visiting home. Among child domestic workers, out of 1429 only 1317 mentioned that they have regular contact with their family.
- Among 1429 child domestic workers, they have mentioned several reasons for migration and getting involved in child labor at such an early age. Among them for 95.73 percent (1368) is poverty, 32.89 percent (470) looking for educational opportunities, 5.46 percent (78) is domestic violence, 11.62 percent (166) is urban attraction and 0.84 percent (12) is due to the armed conflict left home and involved in child labor.

- Most of the children are taken to the work by their parents and family members. 53.33 percent (762) were by parents, 21.41 percent (306) were by family members, 19.20 percent (274) were by relatives, 5.57 percent (80) were by villagers and 0.49 percent (7) were by unknown people.
- 78.14 percent (1816/2324) of domestic workers mentioned that they some agreement before being employed, and majority of them (1765) had only verbal agreement while 50 domestic workers have written agreement as well. A total 22 percent mentioned they have not made any kind of agreement before being hired.
- Domestic workers mentioned that they start the work at early in the morning and continues late night. 42.51 percent (988) starts before 6 a.m. and 45.96 percent (1068) starts during 6-8 a.m. in the morning. Similarly 64.46 percent (1498) continues their work till 8-10 p.m. and 18.07 percent (420) have to continue the work even after 10 p.m. in the evening. Only 5.85 percent (136) mentioned they finished their work till 6 p.m. in the evening.
- Among child domestic workers 43.60 percent (623) has to start their work before 6 a.m. in the morning and 87.26 percent work even after 6 p.m. in the evening. 17.98 percent have mentioned they continue the work even after 10 p.m. making children to work before 6 a.m. and after 6 p.m. is legally prohibited.
- The job descriptions of domestic workers are diverse. 60.63 percent have to work in kitchen, 71.30 percent work on sanitation and cleaning, 16.87 percent have to take care of children and elderly people, 4.09 need to support in their employers' business, 29.39 have to go market for vegetable and daily needs shopping and 5.94 have to perform all of the work mentioned above.
- Regarding the working hours of domestic workers, 32.57 percent has been found working 6 to 8 hours a day, 28.74 percent were working 4 to 6 hours, 14.29 percent were working 4 hours and less, 10.07 percent were 8 to 10 hours and 8.65 percent were working more than 10 hours a day.
- Among children working as domestic workers, 14.14 percent (202) were found working less than 4 hours a day, 30.72 percent (439) were found working 4-6 hours a day, 31.84 percent (455) were working 6-8 hours a day, 10.22 percent (146) were working 8-10 hours a day and 8.12 percent were found working more than 10 hours a day. According to Nepali legal standard children are not allowed to work more than 6 hours a day.
- 80.3 percent domestic workers mentioned it's mid day time that they have some free time, 9.81 percent mentioned it is in the evening and 7.83 percent mentioned it's morning time when they have less work and some free time.
- 10.20 percent (237) of domestic workers mentioned that do not get any kinds of salary, 18.37 percent (427) mentioned they don't know about it. Among the domestic workers

receiving salary 45.40 percent (1055) withdraw Rs.1000 or more, 13.38 percent (311) withdraw Rs.501-1000, 6.07 percent (141) withdraw Rs.201-500 and 0.52 percent (12) withdraw Rs.200 or less as monthly salary. The minimum wage standard of Nepal is Rs.169-200 daily or Rs.5000 a month.

- Among child domestic workers only 38.63 percent withdraw Rs.1000 or more in a month. 12.8 percent do not receive any kinds of salary and 20.64 percent mentioned they don't know anything about their salary.
- Among domestic workers receiving salary e.g. 1660, 90.73 percent (1526) receives in the form of cash, 3.15 percent (53) receive in forms of kind, 4.64 percent (78) in both and 0.95 percent (16) were working to pay back their or their family debt.
- Only 70.87 percent receive their salary on monthly basis, 17.90 percent receive on annual basis, 2.56 percent on daily and 0.48 percent weekly basis.
- It is found that most of the domestic workers 63.86 percent received their salary themselves, their parents received salary of 26.69 percent, their family members received salary of 7.77 percent and for 1.69 percent people not related to the workers received salary.
- Only 77.88 percent (1810) domestic workers mentioned they have leave facilities. Among them, only 4.3 percent (100) get weekly leave, 8.43 percent (196) get monthly leave and 56.67 percent (1317) get leave only during festivals and 3.70 percent get leave only when it is necessary.
- Similarly 71.34 percent of domestic workers mentioned that the food served to them at working place is good, 14.63 percent mentioned it is satisfactory and 0.30 percent mentioned it is not good.
- Regarding the educational status of domestic workers, out of 2324 domestic workers 1631 (70.18 percent) were found literate and 693 (29.82 percent) were found illiterate.
- Among 1429 child domestic workers, 862 (458/901 Girls and 404/528 Boys) were found school going, 70 (64/901 girls and 6/528 boys) were found enrolled in Non Formal Education and 5 girls were found enrolled in vocational skill training. Remaining 357 girls and 110 boys were found not involved any educational programs.
- Regarding the expenses of educational opportunities, employers have beard the cost of 834 (89 percent), 34 child domestic workers beard themselves, CDWs parents beard for 42 and NGOs beard for 18.
- Domestic Workers mentioned that they have caught up by several health problems after getting involved in this profession. Out of total 2324 domestic workers, 544 (23.41 percent) mentioned so. Among children the number is 283 (19.80 percent) complaining health problem after the involvement into work.

- Among those who complain health problems, 14.15 percent (77) mentioned eye problem, 2.21 percent (12) mentioned ear problem, 26.10 percent (142) mentioned Nose and Throat problem, 32.17 percent (175) mentioned stomach problem, 3.7 percent (21) mentioned Neuro and 21.51 percent (117) mentioned joint and rheumatic problems.
- Health Facilities most of the domestic workers were provided health facilities by employers themselves. Out of total 83.93 percent were by employer, 13.79 percent were by themselves, 1.06 percent were by their parents and remaining were by NGOs.
- Among the 1429 children working as domestic workers, 1053 (73.69 percent) mentioned that they are no more interested on the work and want to be withdrawn. Remaining 376 (26.31 percent) mentioned they want to continue the work.
- Among the children want to be withdrawn from the work, 641 (44.86 percent) asked for income generation program, 68 (4.76 percent) demanded for family counselling, 149 (10.43 percent) demanded for vocational skill training and 393 (27.50 percent) asked for educational support.
- The children want to continue the work have mentioned several reason behind this. Some of them are: Poor financial condition (35.37 percent), Domestic Violence (17.55 percent) and urban life attraction (47.07 percent).

### **Comparison of the Fact with 2007 Status**

If we compare the fact on the situation of child domestic workers, we could see the progressive changes, however the changes are not enough and new challenges and complexities are still exist there.

- In 2007 the number of child domestic workers less than 14 years was found 40 percent, which is now 48.70 percent.
- Regarding ethnicity as well, in 2007 children from ethnic community it was found 69 percent which is just 57 percent this year and among dalit it has reduced from 3.6 percent to 3.22 percent.
- In previous year CDWs getting school education was just 25.5 percent, while this year it is increased to 60 percent and additional 10 percent is to other educational program.
- The number of children employed by parents has increased from 42 percent to 95 percent and children employed by someone not known are decreased to less than One percent.
- Similarly children involvement due to the financial poverty has increased to 95 percent from 53 percent, Looking for educational opportunities increased from 19 to 33 percent, reasons of domestic violence is decreased from 8 to 5 percent and reasons of conflict decreased to 1 percent from 5 percent.

- The working hours of CDWs has reduced. In 2007, 42 percent CDWs mentioned working more than 8 hours, while in 2009 only 19 percent CDWs mentioned so and children working less than 6 hours a day increased from 34 percent to 45 percent.
- Number of CDWs receiving salary has also increased and the amount of salary is also found increased. In 2007 it was 49 percent CDWs mentioning not receiving salary while this year it was about 40 percent.
- In previous year 30 percent CDWs mentioned receiving salary less than 5 hundred rupees, while it was just 7 percent this year and CDWs mentioning salary more than 1 thousand has increased from 14 percent to 38 percent.
- In previous year, only 42 percent CDWs received their salary by themselves, while this year it reached 64 percent.
- In the year of 2007, only 54 percent mentioned interested to be withdrawn from the work, while this year almost 74 percent mentioned so.

**Thank You!**

**For More Information**

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