

**A Situational Analysis of Child Sex Tourism in Nepal
(Kathmandu Valley and Pokhara)**

**By
Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Center
(CWIN)**

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END CHILD PROSTITUTION
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
& TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN
FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Nepal: A Country Profile

Located in the southern part of Asia, Nepal is relatively a small country with a total geographic area of 143 000 square kilometres. The total population is 23.4 million according to the recent census. Though *Nepali* is the official language that is spoken, there are hundreds of other ethnic languages and dialects widely used throughout the country. The capital city of the country is called Kathmandu; located in the central region.

Known for its natural beauty and treasure of snow-capped mountains, Nepal is a central attraction for the tourists from all over the world. The tourists visit Nepal especially for trekking, white water rafting, mountaineering and sight seeing. Apart from this the tourists are attracted also to its rich cultural heritage. The ancient architecture and vibrant tradition and practices also draw tourists to this country.

1.2. Tourism in Nepal

Nepal officially opened its threshold for foreigners after the dawn of democracy in 1950. Realizing the diverse range of natural and cultural attractions, the government of Nepal took some far - reaching steps for the smooth and steady development in Nepal. The establishment of various institutions like Department of Civil Aviation - 1957, Royal Nepal Airlines Cooperation -1958, Department of Tourism (DOT)-1961 directly promoted tourism thereafter.

The first recorded tourist arrival of 6,197 in 1962 following the establishment of the Department of Tourism witnessed a continual growth of 334,353 in 1992. The international wave of public- private partnership in tourism among various other sectors brought forward by the power of economic liberalization and globalisation also enraptured Nepal in the 1990s. This process of public-private partnership building exercise dominated the travel trade scene of Nepal for a few years paving the way for formation of Nepal Tourism Board. The initiative taken by the Government and UNDP to form public-private partnership for quality tourism development in Nepal started with the joint launching of Establishing a Partnership for Quality Tourism (PQT) project from July 1994- Dec. 1998. Based on the recommendation of PQT and as per Tourism policy guidelines of 1995, *Nepal Tourism Board* came into being after the enactment of Nepal Tourism Board Act 2053 B.S. The Board became operational on 1 January 1999 replacing the Department of Tourism. The main objective of the Board is to develop Nepal as an attractive travel destination by maintaining, improving and diversifying the quality of tourism products and services in the country and promoting them effectively in the international market place.

HMG/Nepal Ministry of Tourism defines a tourist as “*any foreign guest, having foreign passport irrespective of his, her purpose.*” So, international visitors are only included within its definition. Most of the tourists engage in trekking, mountaineering, official works, business work, pilgrimages and so on.

1.3. Tourism Trends

In terms of tourists length of stay in 1999 the number of days according to the major nationalities were Denmark – 22.6 days, Australia -19.5 days, Canada 19.3 days, UK – 18.7 days, Switzerland -17 days, Germany -16.2 days, the Netherlands -16.1 days, USA – 15.5 days, France 13.5 days, Austria – 13.5 days, Japan -11.2 days, Italy -10.4 days, Spain – 9.2 days. India although the biggest inbound market for Nepal has got one of the shortest stays of 6.9 days; as they usually do not go for trekking/ mountaineering that needs longer stay.

With regard to the places of visit in the country, Pokhara established itself as the second tourist destination in Nepal, which attracts about 22% of the total visitors followed by Chitwan with about 16.5%. trekking and mountaineering activities attract 24% of the total tourists of which ACAP draws about 60% followed by Sagarmatha National Park 20% and Langtang National Park about 9%.

In terms of the tourist arrival per month for other countries except India, October is the peak month followed by March and November whereas June is the month with the lowest arrivals.

Tourist inflow gained momentum from in the 1960s. In the fiscal year 1965-66 some 9,211 tourists visited the country while the figure reached 380, 301 in 1995-96. Due to the armed conflict situation in country since 1996 the numbers of arrivals of tourists have gone down dramatically. For example the tourist arrival in 2000 was 376, 503 with a 10.61% growth rate. (The Rising Nepal. 9th Jan 2001)

The history of rural tourism in Nepal is not long. Nepal introduced a programme of village tourism aiming at promoting country's tourism industry in 2052 B.S. for the first time. Since then "Nepal Village Resorts" from the private sector has been active. The concept of village tourism has emerged to assist the tourism industry to expand from urban centres to the rural areas.

1.4. Tourism and the National Economy

Tourism has long been a driving force for the economic development of Nepal. Tourism is a vital sector that contributes significantly to the national confers of a country. It is also the largest foreign currency earner. The sector has provided employment opportunities to a large number of people. For these reasons, tourism is considered the backbone of Nepal's national economy. The tourism sector contributes almost 3.6% to the total GDP. As a matter of fact a total of Rs 12073.9 million was released as receipts from the tourism sector in FY 1999/2000.

Tourism is an important consideration in the major national plans and policies of the country. This can be clearly seen in the following Long term objectives as laid down in the Ninth Plan:

- Develop tourism sector as an important part of the overall economic development.
- Establish Nepal as a premium destination on the world tourism map
- Expand the benefits of tourism down to the village level
- Enhance employment opportunities, income generation and foreign currency earning from the tourism sector and extend these benefits down to the village level.

1.5. Organised Tourism

Tourism is a significant phenomenon in Nepal. Nepal is well known as a cheap destination for tourists. A tourist spends US\$ 48 a day on an average and his average staying period is 13 days. However an article published in The Rising Nepal dated 6th April 1998 states- Tourists visiting Nepal with the idea of spending \$100 a day spend only \$10 a day and take remaining \$90 to other countries. Here, the point is there is a growth in the number of tourists who stay for a long time but whose average spending is well below the mark.

Attractive offers at cheaper prices including accommodation, free sight seeing and lunch and dinner are attracting backpackers and in some cases, upper class Nepalese including honeymooners. Affiliated with various networks of agencies and airlines, the package programs differ from one hotel to another and offer a range of choices.

There is cutthroat competition among hotels and resorts for a handful of "room night" visitors. Faced with no options, line tourism organizations like Nepal Tourism Board are being seized by the "package mania". Worries are growing that Nepal will lag far behind in the competitive market for world tourism, as tourism is Nepal's one of the thriving industries for economic development.

Tourism is definitely the largest foreign currency earner. However, while income from this industry is a welcome factor for this country that is striving to uplift the economy, the negative impact on the environment is something, which must be looked at with concern by everybody, especially those people who are involved in this business. The tourism industry has been widely recognized in the modern world as one of the fastest growing economic activities and increasingly important means of foreign exchange earnings with its multiple effects. It has asserted itself as a major component of national economy. It not only earns foreign exchange but also contributes to employment, the balance of payments, strengthening diplomatic relationships, cultural exchange and trade diversification.

1.6. Children At-risk and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Millions of children live a disadvantaged life in Nepal. Children, especially in the rural areas, are deprived of their fundamental human rights of survival, education, health care and protection from harm. There are about 2.6 million children between 5 to 16 years of age, working as child labourers in almost all labour sectors. About 5,000 children survive as street children. Every year hundreds of children migrate to urban centres in search of

better lives. Every-year around 5,000-7,000 women and girls are trafficked to different Indian cities for commercial sexual exploitation and thousands of other children are trafficked inside and outside the country for different labour exploitation. 34% of marriages are held with children below 14 years of age.

Though the cases of abuse are frequently reported (especially rape cases), the majority of the cases of child sex abuse go unreported due to social stigmatisation and inaction of law enforcing agencies. Similarly, sex abuse of boys is completely ignored and our society has not realised the magnitude of sexual abuse and its effect in boys. In addition, there is little awareness and acknowledgement of different non-contact forms of child sex abuse apart from rape. Preliminary findings of the research on Child Sex Abuse carried out in the Kathmandu Valley by CWIN and Save the Children Norway has revealed some serious facts. Almost 20% of the children from both the schools and living in at-risk conditions face sexual abuse of one type or another.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children has become a critical issue in Nepali society. There are several incidences of exposing a child to pornography, using children for pornography and prostitution, use of children in oral sex, sodomy, of both boys and girls by both Nepalese and foreigners. Boys living on the streets are much more vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. At least 5 per cent street boys report that they are sexually abused/used by foreign paedophiles operating in Kathmandu. Apart from this, the increasing numbers of dance and cabin restaurants, which employ underage girl, are found to be exploiting the girls. During routine police raids at these places these young girls often face harassment from the police as well. Additional harm is caused by the media, which publishes pictures of these young girls in police custody, portraying them as prostitutes. According to a research report of ILO carried out with 440 commercial sex workers in Kathmandu, 30 per cent are children. Most of them work in restaurants.

1.7. Child Sex Tourism (CST)

Tourism as an experience of social interaction and experiencing different cultures is unparalleled in modern life. Today, tourism promotion and development are part of the profit making mechanism. However, tourism development in certain countries appears to be directly connected with the presence of extensive sex industries in these countries. Though exact figures are not available, the growth of tourism has been identified as a contributing factor to growth of sexual exploitation of children. This intolerable form of exploitation of children has found its way into the tourism market.


Tourism is not the sole cause for the proliferation of child prostitution but it is increasingly playing a role in the same. In general it can be claimed that tourism is a significant factor in societies where prostitution is intentionally used as an integral part of the package of tourist attraction and where a choice has been made by the authorities to deliberately turn a blind eye to what is happening.


Tourism not only brings hard currency for the development of the country but in addition it also promotes sex tourism for the high number of tourists visiting developing nations.


Sex tourism has spread widely in Thailand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and other developing countries but now such an impact has resulted in the countries like Nepal and India facing the onslaught of paedophiles (The Rising Nepal). If such trend increases Nepalese children will not be safe from sexual exploitation in the hand of foraging number of tourists.


Paedophiles prefer developing countries like Nepal probably because Nepal does not have significant laws against paedophilia and the extradition law also is not put in practice.

Glimpses of prevalence of CST in Nepal

 *The arrest of a British and a French national for paedophilia was a turning point for the paedophiles in Nepal. JJH (French) and CRF (British) both managed child care centres in Kathmandu and Pokhar and were arrested in May 1999 following complaints by children who were sexually abused by these two men.*

 *The British paedophile CRF was caught red handed by the police during a raid at Manakamana Guest House in Thamel in May 1999. CRF first came to Nepal as a visitor in 1980. In January 1999 he started a children home named Starlight Children's home at Chandole in Kathmandu. But later he shifted the Home to Pokhara (The Rising Nepal). Allegedly a notorious paedophilia, CRF is also suspected of making child pornography with support from both Nepali and foreigners. (Voice of Child Workers, 27)*

 *NH popularly known as GUY, aged around 50 was a British national with a teaching position at the British Primary School in Kupondol. He had been working in Nepal for at least five years. He was resided in the vicinity of the United Nations building in Patan. He also occupied a rented house behind Jhochhe (freak street) where he kept street children.*

 *A 19 year old female French national, AL was arrested for having sexual relationship with boys. AL was arrested by the police at Souvenir Guesthouse at Thamel on June 1999. AL came to Kathmandu as a tourist in mid March 2000. Though her visa did not allowed her to work here she used to stay at community Health Centre at Harisiddhi in Latitpur and was teaching English Voluntarily at a boarding school in Prabhat English for one month.*

A CWIN report reveals that 5,000- 7,000 women are sold annually and 40% of them are children below 16 years of age. Children working at various sectors such as domestic households, carpet-factories, hotels, construction company, pubs and street children are also becoming more vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. It is estimated that there are about 5,000 street children in Nepal and among them at least 5 percent have been sexually abused by foreign paedophiles. In the period of 1995-2001 at least 8 paedophiles have been arrested as a result of efforts from organisations working on child rights in

Nepal. It has been discovered that large international networks of paedophiles are visiting and often living permanently in Nepal. For cover-up some of them have opened “orphanages” and “street shelter” for poor and neglected children. They are active under these orphanages and street shelters. Investigations have revealed that some of these so-called “social servants” are actually exploiting Nepalese children in their orphanage or shelters.

Where tourism plays an important part in the contribution to our country’s economic growth, the hazards of tourism should not be deserted. Tourism development appears to be directly connected with the presence of extensive sex industries in these countries. The growth of tourism has been found a contributing factor to growth of sexual exploitation of children. Sex tourism, as it is called has found its way into the tourism market. Paedophiles prefer developing countries like Nepal probably because the services of children are easily available at cheaper rates that encourage Nepalese children suffer at the hand of foreigners. Regardless of whatever this concern springs a humanitarian, religious or any other motivation, this is an issue, which needs to be tackled with urgency, especially since Nepal has no law against this form of crime. Although the seriousness of problem is being felt, there have been fewer efforts to address the problem from the government side.

1.8. National and International Commitments against CST

There has been a significant progress in the acknowledgement of the rights of the child in past few years, though very limited.

The convention on the rights of the child, 1989: Nepal ratified the UN Convention on the rights of the child in 1990.

Optional Protocol: In addition, HMG/Nepal signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography at the Millennium Summit in the year 2000.

ILO Convention no. 182: Nepal has also ratified ILO Convention no. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, in the year 2000.

Muluki Ain: The Muluki Ain (Civil Code) formulated 35 years back also has a provision against unnatural sex but Nepalese acts are silent about the paedophiles.

The Children's Act 1992: The Children's Act formulated some eight years back has provisions against any kind of sexual abuse against the girl child but it is silent when the victims are boys. The Children's Act 1992 merely states children's sexual exploitation. It also does not mention sexual abuse of boys.

Bill on Prohibition and Regulation of Child Labour: Nepal has also adopted a Bill on Prohibition and Regulation of Child Labour in 2001, according to which commercial

sexual exploitation of children is considered a form of labour exploitation and a punishable crime.

World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: There have been the following international commitments regarding this social evil

- World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm
- 2nd World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Yokohama
- South Asia Consultation for the 2nd World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Dhaka , 4-6 November 2001)

The South Asia Strategy, drawn up during these international meetings, distinguishes between commercial sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse, drawing attention to the fact that in the region non commercial forms of child sexual abuse need to be recognised and tackled, because of its magnitude, the serious violation of children's rights, and implication for CSEC. The commitment to a zero tolerance policy for both forms of abuse and the action points cover both equally.

The South Asia strategy points to the need for strong actions against sex offenders, who can act with impunity and have attitudes that reflect their power, gender and masculinity as well as their misconceptions about sexual health.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Data Types

The nature of the research issue calls for a proper mix of qualitative and quantitative methodology. Qualitative information from each of the diverse groups holds great importance in drawing the complete portrait of the issue of concern. However, the patterns and trends have been traced through the quantitative information.

2.2. Data Collection

The data collection has been done through the key informant interviews. The key informants interviewed are the people in the tourism sector, police, social organisations, young people, child tourist guides, street children, school-attending children and children living in the slum area. Structured questionnaire and focus group discussions have been primarily used as the tools for data collection.

Child centred participatory research methods such as drawings, skits and drama, have been used in collection of the data. The pictorial questionnaire was used to get the detailed information on the practice of CST.

Structured questionnaire:

- *With people from the tourism sector-* The people from the tourism sector has been seen as the important key informant for the research. Not only the information regarding tourism but also about what is happening currently in the country (which can be helpful for the research study) has been gathered from them. The people interviewed were hotel owners, travel and tour agencies, restaurant owners, associations in tourism industry, trekking guides, national tourism bodies etc.
- *Police* – Police personnel were other key informants in the research. They provided us with facts and case studies of child sexual exploitation and also the present trend in child sex tourism.
- *Social organisations* – Some social organisations working with children at-risk were also interviewed during the study. These are the places where children go for any kind of support needed.
- *Young people (below 18)* – the young people were the major source of information. Many of these children have shared their life experiences and stories of their close ones, which have revealed the real picture of the issue.
- *Tourists:* Some tourists have also been interviewed so that they could also share other side of the story.

- *Related professionals:* The professional working in the children’s organisations and legal organisations were interviewed to identify the gaps prevalent with this regard.

FGDs (Focus Group Discussions)

Focus group discussions were held with children. The drama prepared by the street and working children was staged (portraying child sex tourism) before the focus group discussions started. Once the context was set by the drama, the children were asked to reflect on the series of incidences shown in the drama. The drama thus guided the discussion to the real life experiences of the children of similar experiences.

The focus group discussions were held with children from the street, children living in slum areas, school children and school teachers.

SN	Background of children	Age Group	Gender	Total no. Present
1	Children from slum areas and street children, Kathmandu	8-18	5 – F 20 – M	25
2	Children from slum areas, Pokhara	8-16	20 – M	20
3	Street Children , Pokhara	1-18	5 – F 20 – M	25
4.	School children	12 -14	6- F 6- M	12
4.	School Teachers	15	12 – M 3 –F	15

2.3. Data Analysis

The quantitative data collected from the children have been categorized and simple statistical tools have been used to analyse the data. The detailed patterns and trends in the practice have been shown in the form of tabular data.

The information from key informants has also been categorised in major thematic areas. These pieces of information were then put together to get a complete picture of the entire issue.

2.4. Limitations

- Since sexual relationships are considered to the matter of privacy, the children did not want to reveal the information in detail. This might have hindered the collection of complete information in the issue.
- Many children have narrated the stories as it happened to their friends. This has been an important source of information.

2.5. Operational definitions

Child: Any person male or female; residing in Nepal at the time of research and under the age of 18.

Tourist: Any person; male or female, not originally from Nepal and/ or have foreign citizenship and visits Nepal for short period of time.

Child Sex Tourism: The sexual use/abuse of children by the tourists and/ or the visits of tourists specially planned for the purpose of sexual use/abuse of children, regardless of commercial gain by the children.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Sexual use of children where the sexual activity with the children is bartered for in cash, kind or any other form of consideration.

Sexual Relationships: All relationships where there is sexual contact with children including kissing, fondling, showing pornographic pictures, taking nude pictures etc.

2.6. Implementing Organisation

Established in 1987, Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) is a pioneer organisation in Nepal for the rights of the child and against child labour. CWIN is an advocacy organisation for the child's rights with focus on children living and working under the most difficult circumstances. CWIN's main areas of concern are child labour, street children, child marriage, bonded labour, trafficking of children, children in conflict with laws and commercial-sexual exploitation of children. As a concerned organisation for children at-risk, CWIN has been also undertaking a number of social, support and rehabilitation activities through its various programmes.

As a watchdog in the field of child rights in the country, CWIN acts as a voice for children through lobbying, campaign and pressure to the government to protect and promote children's rights in the country, and to end all kinds of exploitation, abuse and discrimination against children. And it is in this line that this research project on Child Sex Tourism was undertaken by CWIN.

2.7. Location of the Research

Tourism in Nepal has flourished mostly around urban centres. It is usually through the contact points based in these urban centres that the tourist groups disperse in the different parts of Nepal. The research will therefore concentrate on the following sites.

- *Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Patan, Bhaktapur)* – is known for its cultural heritage and ancient architecture. The durbar square areas of these places have been enlisted in the World Heritage List. The rich architecture and amalgamation of eastern and western culture has been the main attraction of tourism in this place. Kathmandu, also being the capital of the country, is the central point to go to other tourist destinations.

- *Pokhara* – the ultimate tourist destination, renowned for its panoramic views of Himalayas and lakes. It is the most common starting point for Himalayan trekking, well served by daily flights. Due to the growing tourism, urbanisation has become an increasing trend.

2.8. Timeframe

The research was completed in a total of 3 months time.

ACTIVITIES	MONTHS/WEEKS											
	JULY				AUGUST				SEPTEMBER			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Preparatory Work												
Detail conceptualisation and further development of the tools of data collection												
Build contacts with identified stakeholders												
Field Operation												
Rapport building with children												
Data collection / field Work												
Data Analysis/Report Writing												
Data management (editing and tabulation)												
Qualitative and quantitative data analysis												
Report Writing (Draft)												
Final Report Preparation												

2.9. Composition of Research Team:

Position	Responsibilities	Names
Advisor	To provide advise to the research team throughout	Mr. Gauri Pradhan, President, CWIN
Research Coordinator	Design outline of the study, orientation to the research team, coordinate field work and other research activities, data analysis and finalisation of the report	Ms. Sumnima Tuladhar
Research Team Member	Field supervising, lead the research team members for field operation	Ms. Subala Subba
Research Team Member	Field operation, report writing	Ms. Uma Pradhan
Research Assistant	Field operation, field status report	Mr. Niraj Shrestha
Research Assistant	Field operation, field status report	Ms. Sabera Gurung
Field Supporter	Rapport building and field work with street children	Mr. Sanu Giri

3. INTERVIEWS

3.1. At-Risk Children: Background Information

Children of different backgrounds in Kathmandu and Pokhara were interviewed in depth to find out the prevalence and trends of Child Sex Tourism. The interviews were conducted in different organisations working on the issue of children, childcare centres, and streets and in schools. Child-friendly methods like pictures were used in the questionnaire, so as to make it interesting and easier for the children. A total of a hundred children were interviewed and the information collected has been tabulated below.

3.1.1. General Background of the Children

Age:

S.No	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1	5-10yrs	4	4%
2	10-14yrs	49	49%
3	14-16yrs	24	24%
4	16-18yrs	23	23%
Total		100	100%

The children who were interviewed were 5- 18 years of age. The majority of children were of 10-14 years (49%) and 24% of the age group 14-16 and 23% were of 16-18 years.

Sex:

S.No	Sex	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	89	89%
2	Female	11	11%
Total		100	100%

Among the interviewed children, 89 % were boys. The children-at-risk were selected on the basis of work background on the streets, and this nature of work was found to be more popular with boys.

Ethnicity:

S.no	Caste	Frequency	Percentage
1	Bahun	18	18%
2	Chhetri	18	18%
3	Newar	12	12%
4	Tamang	14	14%
5	Magar	8	8%
6	Gurung	6	6%

7	BK	6	6%
8	Pariyar	10	10%
9	Others	8	8%
	Total	100	100%

It was seen that majority of these children belonged to Bahun (18%), Chhetri (18%), Newar (12%) and Tamang (14%). There were children who belonged to the Magar, Gurung, BK and Pariyar ethnic groups.

Place of origin:

S. No	Place of Origin	Frequency	Percentage
1	City	38	38%
2	Outside the city	62	62%
	Total	100	100%

Most of the children had migrated from outside the city where they were living presently. 62% of the children said that their place of origin was outside the city and they had migrated either with the family or alone.

Family Background:

S. no	Father	Frequency	Percentage
1	Living	79	80%
2	Dead	17	18%
3	D/K	4	2%
	Total	100	100%

S. no	Mother	Frequency	Percentage
1	Living	78	78%
2	Dead	18	18%
3	D/K	4	4%
	Total	100	100%

Most of the children had parents who were still alive. Only 17% responded saying that their father is not living and 18% said that their mother is not living. However, most of the children had parents living in the village and not living together with them in the city.

S.no	Father's occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Labor	9	11%
2	Agriculture	20	24%
3	Porter	5	6%
4	Driver	4	5%
5	No work	5	6%
6	Other	21	25%
7	D/K	19	23%
	Total	83	100%

S.no	Mother's occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Labor	6	7%
2	Agriculture	11	13%
3	Porter	1	1%
4	Domestic	4	5%
5	Housewife	24	29%
6	Other	18	22%
7	D/K	18	22%
	Total	82	100%

It was seen that most of the parents were engaged in wage work. The majority of children came from an agricultural background. 20% of them had their fathers engaged in agricultural work and 11% had their mother working in the agricultural sector. The other most frequent occupational background was labour work (9%), porter (5%) and driver (4%) among the fathers of the children. Similarly, 24% of the mothers were housewives and 6% were doing labour work and 4% as domestic help. 19% of the children said that they did not have an idea of what their father did and 18% did not know about their mother's occupation.

Education:

S.no	School	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	80	80%
2	No	20	20%
Total		100	100%
Average class of children-3.79			

Among the children interviewed, 80% of them had attended school. The average class attended by the children was 3 to 4 grade. Most of them had dropped their schools and some were still continuing their studies in the school.

3.1.2. Working Background of the Children:

Previous work:

Kind of previous work of children	Yes		No	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Porter	0	0%	72	100%
Vendor	6	8%	66	92%
Rag picker	13	18%	59	82%
Tourist guide	11	15%	61	85%
Singer	1	1%	71	99%
Trekking porter	1	1%	71	99%
Rickshaw puller	1	1%	71	99%
Restaurant/hotel workers	25	35%	47	65%
Student	8	11%	64	89%
Others	23	32%	49	68%
Average period of work: 20months (1.6years)				

It was seen that most of the children had worked as the restaurant workers (25%) and rag pickers (13%). The children were also working as vendors, tourist guides, singers, trekking porters, and rickshaw pullers. There were 8% of the children who had not worked and were in schools.

Present work:

Kind of recent work of children	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Porter	1	1%	71	99%	72	100
Vendor	4	6%	68	94%	72	100
Rag picker	18	25%	54	75%	72	100
Tourist guide	21	29%	51	71%	72	100
Singer	0	0%	72	100%	72	100
Trekking porter	0	0%	72	100%	72	100
Ricksaw puller	2	3%	70	97%	72	100
Restaurant/hotel workers	12	17%	60	83%	72	100
Student	8	11%	64	89%	72	100
Others	11	15%	61	85%	72	100

During the time of interview, the majority of the children were engaged in rag picking (25%), tourist guide (29%) and restaurant / hotel workers (17%). The children also worked as rickshaw pullers, vendor and trekking porter.

Duration of the present work:

S.no	Recent work	Frequency	Percentage
1	Less than one yr	31	45%
2	More than 2yrs	19	28%
3	More than 5yrs	19	28%
	Total	69	100%

The children had been engaged in this work for quite sometime. 28% had been working for more than five years, 28% for more than 2 years and 31% for less than one year.

3.1.3. Location

S.no	Location	Frequency	Percentage
1	Kathmandu	66	66%
2	Lalitpur	9	9%
3	Bhaktapur	8	8%
4	Pokhara	17	17%
	Total	100	100%
Average stay period: 6.3months			

The children who were interviewed were staying in or around the tourist areas of Kathmandu and Pokhara. 66% among the children who were interviewed were staying in Kathmandu, 9% in Lalitpur, 8% in Bhaktapur and 17% in Pokhara.

3.1.4. Problems Faced by Children

Problem Faced while working	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Injuries	5	7%	67	93%	72	100
Family	4	6%	68	94%	72	100
Finding Work	20	28%	52	72%	72	100
Police	7	10%	65	90%	72	100
Harassment	10	14%	62	86%	72	100
Health	4	6%	68	94%	72	100
Education	6	8%	66	92%	72	
Food	2	3%	70	97%	72	100
Money	10	14%	62	86%	72	
No Response	16	22%	56	78%	72	100

Among the children who had a working background, they responded that they faced various kinds of problems in the street. Finding work (28%), not having enough money (10%) and harassment (10%) were the main problem that they had faced. Other problems that they faced were regarding injuries, health problems and problems due to police.

3.1.5. Interaction and Relationship with Tourists:

S.no	Know about tourist	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	83	83%
2	No	17	17%
	Total	100	100%
S.no	Met tourist	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	62	62%
2	No	38	38%
	Total	100	100%
S.no	Relationship with tourist	Frequency	Percentage
1	Strong	14	14%
2	Medium	37	37%
3	No	49	49%
	Total	100	100%

As far as knowledge interaction and relationship with the tourist is concerned, 83% of the children said that they knew who the tourists were. The general identification of a tourist was a person with white skin and light hair; also referred in their word as “*khair*”. 62% of the children said that they had met tourists at least once. However; only 51% of the children said that they had some relationship with the tourists. 14% responded it to be very strong and 37% responded that the relationship was medium.

Many of the children did not know the exact origin of the tourist; some of the children used physical features to describe the tourists. According to what children said, they met tourists of varying origin ranging from European, American and South Asian.

3.1.6. Help from the Tourists

S.no	Help from tourist	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	54	54%
2	No	46	46%
	Total	100	100%

As far as help received from the tourists is concerned, the 54% of the children said that they received some kind of help from the tourists at least once.

Kind of help received

Help From Tourist	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Money	41	76%	14	26%	54	100
Food	43	80%	11	20%	54	100
Clothes	33	61%	21	39%	54	100
Friend	37	69%	17	31%	54	100
Family Support	6	11%	48	89%	54	100
Educational Support	16	30%	38	70%	54	100
Health Support	12	22%	42	78%	54	
Travelling	18	33%	36	67%	54	100

The help received from the tourist was in the form of food (80%), money (76%), clothes (61%), travelling (33%) etc. Some tourist also helped them in terms of health support (22%) and family support (11%). Many of the children also said that they were very good friends with the tourists. 69% of them responded that the help they got was in the form of friendship.

S.no	Taken around to different places	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	43	43%
2	No	57	57%
	Total	100	100%

43% of the children said that they had gone to different places with the tourists. The places they had gone included overnight stay and faraway places in some cases.

Places of visit with the tourists:

Where	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Hotel	27	63%	16	37%	43	100
Restaurant	32	74%	11	26%	43	100
Trekking	10	23%	33	77%	43	100
Rafting/Boating	5	12%	38	88%	43	100
Cycling	6	14%	37	86%	43	100
Disco	7	16%	36	84%	43	100

Swimming	14	33%	29	67%	43	100
Film	7	16%	36	84%	43	100
Lonely Places	9	21%	34	79%	43	100
Others	5	12%	38	88%	43	100

Most of the children had gone to hotels (74%) and restaurants (63%) with the tourists. Trekking (23%) and swimming (33%) were another popular pastime activity. 16% of the children said that they went for watching movies and to the disco also. 21% of children had been taken to the lonely places.

Talk about	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Sight Seeing	13	30%	30	70%	43	100
Personal Matters	26	60%	17	40%	43	100
Financial Matters	4	9%	39	91%	43	100
No Response	10	23%	33	77%	43	100

Most of the children said that they talked about the personal matter (60%) with the tourists. The personal matters included the family and other problems of the children. They also frequently talked about the country of the tourist and their family as well. 9% of the children said that they also discussed the financial matters with the tourists.

3.1.7. Physical Relationship with the Tourists

S.no	Physical close	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	21	21%
2	No	72	72%
3	Escaped	7	7%
	Total	100	100%

Only 21% of the children interviewed for the study responded that they were physically close with the tourists. 7% of the total children said that they could escape from eventualities.

Nature of relationship:

Activities	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Obscene Language	10	48%	10	48%	21	100
Touch	17	81%	3	14%	21	100
Kiss	13	62%	7	33%	21	100
Shown naked body of tourist	10	48%	10	48%	21	100
Seen child's naked body	17	81%	3	14%	21	100
Shown porn pictures	13	62%	7	33%	21	100
Taken naked picture of the children	20	95%	0	0%	21	100
All of the above	3	14%	17	81%	21	100

Most of the children (95%) responded that the tourists had taken naked picture of the children. 81% of the children experienced touching and being undressed by the tourist. 62% of the children had seen porn pictures with the tourists. 62% were kissed by the tourists. 48% of the children said that they had seen the naked picture of the tourists.

Motivation:

How	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
By Force	3	14%	10	86%	21	100
Love and affection	21	100%	0	0%	21	100
Providing Food and gifts	21	100%	0	0%	21	100
By threat	1	4%	12	96%	21	100

All the children who had physical relationship with the tourists said that their motivation was the love and affection shown by the tourists and the tourists providing them food. 14 % said that the physical relationship took place through force. Only one of the children said that threat was used to establish the physical relationship.

Number of times:

S.no	How many times	Frequency	Percentage
1	one time	6	6%
2	sometimes	7	7%
3	many times	8	8%
4	None	79	79%
	Total	100	100%

Among the total children interviewed, the six of them had the relationship only one time, seven had it sometimes and 8 of them said that they had it many times.

In front of whom?	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Alone	17	81%	4	19%	21	100
Group	2	10%	19	90%	21	100
With friends	6	29%	15	71%	21	100
Tourists friends	4	19%	17	81%	21	100

The majority (81%) of these relationships took place alone. 29% of the children responded that it took place with their friends together and 19% had it in presence of the friends of tourists. 10% of the children said that the relationship took place in a group.

S.no	Future possibility	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	14	14%
2	No	86	86%
	Total	100	100%

14% of the total children interviewed feel that they are still in danger of being involved sexually with the tourist. It could happen anytime again in future.

3.1.8. Profile of the Tourists (perception of the children)

Kind of Tourists	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
New Tourists	20	20%	80	80%	100	100
Old Tourist	12	12%	88	88%	100	100
Kind of Tourists	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Male Tourists	10	10%	90	90%	100	100
Female Tourists	2	2%	98	98%	100	100
Both	26	26%	74	74%	100	100
Kind of Tourists	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Rich Tourists	16	16%	84	84%	100	100
Backpackers	15	15%	85	85%	100	100
Bad tourists	3	3%	97	97%	100	100
Kind of Tourist	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
European	25	25%	75	75%	100	
American	21	21%	79	79%	100	100
South Asian	4	4%	94	94%	100	100
Japanese/Chinese	7	7%	93	93%	100	
Others	3	3%	97	97%	100	100

According to the total number of the children interviewed, 20% felt that only new tourists would engage in these kinds of activities. 18% of the children said that old tourists would engage in these.

26% of the children said that both male and female children could equally get engaged in this where as 10% said that only male can do this and 2% said that only female can do it.

As far as economic status of the tourist is concerned 16% of the children said they were rich tourists and 15% said that they were backpackers who did not have much money with them.

25% of the children reported that they were Europeans, 21% said that they were Americans, 4% South Asians and 7% Japanese/ Chinese origin.

3.1.9. Profile of the Children Sexually Exploited Through Tourism

To whom?	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Girls	10	10%	90	90%	100	100
Boys	18	18%	82	82%	100	100
Both	32	32%	68	68%	100	100
No idea	40	40%	60	60%	100	100
Age Group	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Below 10 years	7	7%	93	93%	100	100
10- 14 years	24	24%	76	76%	100	100
Youth	4	4%	96	96%	100	100
Any age	3	3%	97	97%	100	100
No idea	62	62%	38	38%	100	100

According to the perception of the children, 32% of them said that it could happen to both boys and girls whereas 18% said that it could happen to only boys and 10% said that it could take place only with girls. 40% said they had no idea at all. 24% of the children said that this could take place with the children of the age group 10-14.

Preferred Children	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Living on street/slum	27	27%	73	73%	100	100
Tourist guide	14	14%	86	86%	100	100
Hotel and Restaurant worker	9	9%	91	91%	100	100
Trekking porter	4	4%	96	96%	100	100
Others	1	1%	99	99%	100	100

27% of the children said that the tourists preferred the children living in the street and slum areas. 14% said that they liked tourist guided and 9% were of the opinion that hotel and the tourists preferred restaurant workers.

3.1.10. Characteristics of the Abuse

How many times	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Once by one tourist	15	15%	85	85%	100	100
Many times by one tourist	5	5%	95	95%	100	100
Once by many tourists	2	2%	98	98%	100	100
Many times by many tourists	3	3%	97	97%	100	100

15% of the children said that one tourist does it once. 5% said that many times by one tourist and 2% responded that it id dome once by many tourists. Only 3% were of the opinion that it is done may times by many tourists.

Where	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Hotel	29	29%	71	71%	100	100
Secluded Places	8	8%	92	92%	100	100
Restaurant	7	7%	93	93%	100	100
Trekking	2	2%	98	98%	100	100
Rafting/Boating	1	1%	99	99%	100	100
Road	1	1%	99	99%	100	100

29% of the children said that these kinds of activities took place in the hotel room of the tourist. 7% said that these took place in the restaurant and 2% during the trekking. 8% of the children said that this kind of activity took place in secluded places.

Why tourists do such activities	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Can do anything	6	6%	94	94%	100	100
Children are helpless	10	10%	90	90%	100	100
Sexual gratification	19	19%	81	81%	100	100
No idea	68	68%	32	32%	100	100

The 19% of these children felt that tourists chose these children purely for sexual gratification. 10% felt that they preferred children because children are helpless and 6% said the tourists feel that they can do anything with the children. 68% of the children responded that they had no idea of why tourist preferred children.

How tourists do such activities	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Bribing the child with money and clothes	34	34%	66	66%	100	100
By taking to new places	13	13%	87	87%	100	100
With love and care	14	14%	86	86%	100	100
Threaten	5	5%	95	95%	100	100
To keep secret	4	4%	96	96%	100	100
Can't keep relation with others	1	1%	99	99%	100	100
By giving money to others (pimp)	1	1%	99	99%	100	100

34% of the total children responded that the tourists got them into sexual activities by bribing the children with money and clothes. Another popular way of getting the children into it was by taking them to new places (13%). 14% of the children said that it is show love and care that the children were lured into it. 5% of the children said that they were threatened so as to get their consent. 1% of the children said that they got engaged in sexual relationship with the children because they can't have relationship with any other people.

Not to say anyone	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
By giving money, clothes and food	16	76%	5	24%	21	100
End of friendship	3	14%	18	86%	21	100
By informing police	2	10%	19	90%	21	100
threat to kill	2	10%	19	90%	21	100
by fear	0	0%	21	100%	21	100
threat to kill family members	0	0%	21	100%	21	100

The children shared that they were told not to say anything to anyone by giving them money, food and clothes (76%). 14% of them said they were threatened with the ending the friendship if they told it to anyone. 10% of the children said the they were threatened

with reports to the police if they shared the incidence with anyone else and with threats of death.

3.1.11. Reactions

Why don't children share with anyone	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
They feel shame	14	14%	86	86%	100	100%
Received help from tourists	12	12%	88	88%	100	100%
Threatened by tourists	5	5%	95	95%	100	100%
tourists told them to keep secret	5	5%	95	95%	100	100%
Their own mistake	4	4%	96	96%	100	100%
Due to punishment	4	4%	96	96%	100	100%
Tries to forget such incidents	3	3%	97	97%	100	100%
Unaware about the abuse	3	3%	97	97%	100	100%
No one believes them	2	2%	98	98%	100	100%
Their own willingness	2	2%	98	98%	100	100%
No idea	64	64%	36	36%	100	100%

Children said that they did not share the incidence with anyone because they felt shame (14%). 12% said that they did not say it to anyone because they were receiving help from the tourists. Threats from the tourists and keeping it a secret were other reasons. 4% of the children thought that it was their own mistake and they feared punishment also.

How did you feel after that incident	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Disgusted	11	52%	10	48%	21	100
Hurt	2	10%	19	90%	21	100
Angry	2	10%	19	90%	21	100
Fear	2	10%	19	90%	21	100
Enjoy	1	5%	20	95%	21	100

52% of the children said that they felt disgusted after the incidence, 10% of them were hurt and 10% were angry. Another 10% said that they inculcated a lot of fear after the incidence. Only 1% said that they enjoyed the experience.

What did you do to	Yes	No	Total
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forget that incident	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Nothing	9	43%	12	57%	21	100
Wants to forget	5	24%	16	76%	21	100
Keep it to oneself	2	10%	19	90%	21	
Cry	2	10%	19	90%	21	100
Angry	2	10%	19	90%	21	100

Responding to the question on the coping strategy used, the 43% of the children said that they did nothing in reaction to it. 24% are still trying to forget the incident. 10% of the total of children kept it to themselves, 10% cried and another 10% were angry about the incident.

3.1.12. Support and Recommendations

S.no	Told anyone	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	30	30%
2	No	70	70%
	Total	100	100%

If yes, to whom	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Friends	25	83%	5	17%	30	100
Social worker	9	30%	21	70%	30	100
Family	4	13%	26	87%	30	100
Police	2	7%	28	93%	30	100

30% of the children said that they shared these kinds of incidence with other people. 83% of whom were friends, 30% of them were social worker and 13% were family members. Only 7% of them shared it with the police.

S.no	Need help	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	29	29%
2	No	71	71%
	Total	100	100%

29% of the total children interviewed said that they expected some level of help so that they could cope and fight against these kinds of incidences.

Help needed	Yes	No	Total
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from whom?	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Police	20	69%	9	31%	29	100
Social workers	18	62%	11	38%	29	100
Friends	17	59%	12	41%	29	100
Family	15	52%	14	48%	29	100
Others	7	24%	22	76%	29	100

69% of the children said that they needed more help from the police on such cases. 62% wanted more help from the social workers and 59% wanted help from their friends. 52% of the children expected help from the family members.

3.2. Interviews with the Children

Key stakeholders in the issue of Child Sex Tourism were identified and primary data was collected from each of these groups. In-depth interviews, in a semi structured interview format, were used as the key tool of data collection. During the study it was felt that child sex tourism has not started as a very prominent activity but incidences of children being sexually abused is not rare. People have heard about it and see a high possibility of these incidences in and around their area. Some children reported of being abused by the tourists. But the general state that was seen was of a denial and unawareness. Many were not even aware that this could ever happen and good people like tourists could do something like this.

The information collected from children and other key informants have been narrated below.

3.2.1. At-risk Children

3.2.1.1. Focus Group Discussions

Four FGDs were conducted with the children. Care was taken so as to have the discussion with the group of children who came from the similar working background. During the FGD, a drama prepared by the children themselves was shown before starting the discussion. The drama was prepared by the children who had previously lived in the street and had worked for some time. They staged different incidences of sexual exploitation of the children by the tourist.

Thus, the ambience for the discussion was created, as the children not only got introduced to the issue but also could feel free. The facilitator then asked different questions regarding the drama and children's observation of the drama. After the children narrated the incidences staged in the drama; slowly the facilitator moved towards asking questions on the possibility of these incidences in the real life situations. And through the discussions; different incidences where the children had experienced sexual relationships with the tourists were shared.

The information shared by the children has been listed below:

Why are children attracted to the tourists?

- Tourists look very nice. They behave very well with the children and in many cases help the children. They give food, clothes and money. In fact they treat children better than the locals.
- Children like tourists because they are one of the best friends they have ever had. Usually people drive them away; they scold them and sometimes also beat them. But tourists are very friendly, they like talking to them and try to help them as much as possible.
- Most of the children are always in need of money or food. They come from quite a poor family and they have their own need that takes them to the tourists.
- The tourists look very attractive also because of the perception that they have a lot of money. They deal in dollars and other foreign currency; which certainly have more value than the local currency. Even if they get a dollar it would be a big amount of money for the children.
- There have been many instances where the tourists have genuinely helped the children. Therefore, the children hope that if they also meet a good-hearted tourist which would make their life happier.
- Even some of the families encourage their children to get close to tourists so that they could help them.

How do children come in contact with the tourists?

- It is more on the personal level than through a mediator that the children come in contact with the tourists.
- Children see tourists in different places; while they are working. In most of the cases; it is the children who approach the tourists asking for some money. Begging is one of the most common forms of approaching the tourist. Even those children; who do not usually beg would switch into begging if they feel that the tourist would give them some money.
- Another popular form of approaching tourists is through vending. Many children work in the tourist areas as vendors and hawkers. They go after the tourists to sell their goods.
- And if they see any tourists giving money or buying goods from the child then other children would also approach them very fast.

What type of help do the tourists provide?

- The most common form of help provided by the tourist is money, food and clothes.
- Tourists also give children stationary and other educational materials

- Tourists have also supported some of the children in their education through sponsorship.
- And the most valued help provided by the tourist is their friendship. They love and care for them.

Any negative opinion about tourists?

- They sometimes shout at them and do not buy their goods.
- They induce children to the bad habits like taking marijuana and other drugs.

How do tourists get sexually close to the children?

- Not all tourists try to abuse the children sexually. Many children also had good tourist friends who supported them in the times of need and never approached them sexually.
- Once the tourists come close to the children by helping them then they usually take them to the hotel room.

3.3. Local NGOs

3.3.1. NGOs working with Children-at-risk:

They have come across children who have been sexually exploited in *Tundikhel*, in the hotels of the *Thamel* areas, *Basantapur*, *Lakeside in Pokhara*. Children have tried to share these incidences during informal conversation, with peers, and during counselling.

They start with begging in the street. The tourists take them as tourist guides. They also buy clothes for the children to attract them. They also take them to the hotel. Usually male children of 9-13 years are preferred. Smaller children living near the tourist centre are the most abused.

We have heard of stories of American women giving money to street boys to take photographs of little boys and old men coming to Thamel and trying to marry 13 year old girls using street boys as intermediaries.

A boy was suspected of mental illness but later on it was found out to be a case of sexual abuse. He is around 10-11 years of age and he hasn't said anything as his mental state is not well. He shows symptoms of sexual abuse. He uses foul language when he sees men and also touches the genital parts of the men. He was also saying that there was a case of boys who have been abused by female tourists. It's hard to get details from the conversation as they usually avoid talking about it.

There were few cases but due to lack of evidence and witnesses the cases were not reported to police. Even the children find it hard to talk about the issues. These incidents were not recorded but it came out during informal conversation with children. Children don't directly talk about such incidents and most of them avoid the conversation. Not

new tourists but there are gangs of paedophiles who come frequently and gather groups of children. They take them to rooms. In the beginning they provide health services, food and facilities and later they abuse the children sexually.

There is a child from Basantapur area who was abused by foreigners. He didn't want to talk about the event. He wanted to forget but he gave few names of them that were different from their usual name. So it was hard to search for them. These paedophiles use a nickname for themselves. The children say these foreigners take them to their rooms, give them food and love them. Usually, children don't explain what they mean by love. They are unwilling to talk. Sometimes they even fear these paedophiles. According to them these paedophiles are very powerful and they think that they will find and kill them. The children are afraid.

Big boys who were abused earlier by the tourists have now started abusing the small boys. They even send small boys to such tourists who ask for them. He had heard from the children that one of the boys runs a group of 5 or 6 members. They go around with such tourists. Boys find this easy way to earn money. Female tourists rent rooms in Thamel and hire male tourist guide for sexual purpose. There was one incident, one foreigner took few children to room luring them with food and taken their nude photographs. One of the children escaped and came to the organization. Later the staff together with the boy went to search but couldn't find him.

Paedophilia is a face behind a mask so it is very difficult to identify. There are few suspected cases. It may be present in both organized and informal way. We have heard of children selling sex in exchange of food clothes and other support.

3.3.2. NGOs working with Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) :

Two NGOs working directly with female sex workers: one from Kathmandu and one from Pokhara. These organizations provide health facilities, counselling, trainings for alternative employment, educational support, awareness about STDs and use of condom etc. The organization also carried out different income generation program to facilitate the shift to other alternative employment.

They have come across following different levels of sex work that is prevalent in Kathmandu and Pokhara.

- Sex workers living in the street
- Women working in hotels, restaurants, bars, disco etc.
- Students who have come from outside the valley and need money to maintain their high-expense life.
- Women from rich families; usually husbands working outside the country.

Their study has shown that among the women involved in the commercial sex work; more than 50% are minors. The demand in this profession decreases after they cross the age of 23. The majority of the clients are Nepali themselves but Indians are also the popular clients. Usually they take these girls to far away villages; stay there for 4-5 days

and comeback. Much less foreigners are involved in commercial sex work compared to Nepalese and Indians.

According to a survey conducted, they estimate that around 150 Lakh girls working in restaurants, cabins, massage centres, discos, the streets, dance restaurants and dohori restaurants. The age group of the majority of the girls is between 14 – 30 years. The general background of these girls come from is diverse -15% come from Maoist violence, 28% domestic violence and 13% because of poverty. Only 3% of these girls are from the Kathmandu valley. 55% of these are illiterate. It is only till 22 years of age that they are desired in the profession. Only 10% of the total CSW population is living in the good condition. The remaining is living only on the basis of the tips that they get. The actual money that is paid to them is taken by the owners and they never get to even see that money.

The trend of organized sex work is growing in Nepal. The hotels and CSWs have a very good network; especially the dance restaurants and cabin restaurants. The trend of keeping an album with the photographs and rate of each girl has also started. The customers go through the album and choose the girls depending upon their taste and rate.

CSWs have also started developing a very strong network among them. They exchange and provide women to each other's group also.

3.3.3. NGOs working on the issue of sexuality:

Sexuality is one of the serious issues that need to be reconsidered by our society. It is seen as something very unnatural. This perception can be very harmful for self-esteem of many of these people. Male children who behave in a feminine manner are usually the ones who have been sexually abused in the childhood.

At the moment Child Sex tourism is not a big issue in Nepal. However, the evidence of it existing to some extent cannot be denied. Pederasty and abuses of children who are in their puberty and still young are very common. These abuses are usually done by the Nepalese rather than foreigners.

3.4. Law Enforcement Personnel

3.4.1. Police (Women and Children's Cell)

Due to the situation of unrest and conflict, the inflow of tourists has dramatically decreased in the last few years. As far as tourist complaints is concerned, we usually get the cases of theft of camera, money; misuse of MasterCard etc. some tourists also do it to get their insurance; some are genuine cases. There have been cases of excessive use of drug and alcohol resulting in fights. There have been some cases of murder.

The tourism industry certainly has a strong linkage with the commercial sex activity in Nepal, especially through the massage parlours (in Thamel). It is through these massage

parlours that the tourists get supplies of any kind of people they want; with variety of range in age, sex and racial background. Some women in the massage parlour also see their luck through the cards; they believe that card determines the kind of customers that they will get on that day – European, South East Asian, South Asian, Nepali. These centres also use children for this kind of work.

Children are easily attracted to the tourists. And there is a tendency of being very attached to them. Children work for/with tourists in the hotel to sell goods and as porters. Children usually shared their good experiences with the tourist and the help that they have received from tourists. They learn foreign languages and English from the tourists

Children find it very difficult to share the negative experiences. We have found that three girls were kept in the hotel room by a foreigner but even they did not share anything. It is very easy for street children to get involved with the tourist. Due to the increase of drug abuse among street children, they are in greater need of money.

Some parents have made informal complaints. But it is not possible to check each and every guesthouse and moreover children do not complain because of the help that the tourists give them.

Children coming in the Women's Cell have shared that they have gone to different place both inside and outside Kathmandu Valley with the tourists. They usually go trekking with tourists. The children seem to enjoy this as they have not complained about this. They also get some money out of this. Both girls and boys are involved in these kinds of activities. There are around 15-20 girls in the street who are in contact with the women's cell. They usually stay with their families, but are in the street. The age group ranges to 22 years. Many of them are involved in commercial sex work. Sometimes they even come and share their stories in the women's cell.

There is special tourist-police which deals with the tourist-related problems. The cases that are usually registered here are the cases of theft of different electronics like video camera, camera etc. We think that they usually sell it away and then report the case of theft so that they get the insurances from their own countries. The most frequent reported incidences are of theft than any other.

Child Sex Tourism in Nepal has started but is not very prominent. There are no strict laws in Nepal; therefore it is very easy to get away with it. Even if they are arrested, they can get released in the bail of Rs.500 – 30,000. Most of the parents also do not know; they think that they are helping.

Few years back, with the help of CWIN, we were able to arrest many foreigners who had been exploiting the children sexually. One of the Australian tourists had been keeping some children in the children's home called "helping hand". There was another incidence where a foreigner had children in his hotel room. He had kept the children saying that they will go for the computer course.

These kinds of cases must be prevalent even now but they are not being reported very openly. This is something that is very important as once the child goes through this cycle of abuse it becomes very difficult for the child to come out of it psychologically. There is a tendency that these children later become the abusers of other children

There is a lack of coordination between NGOs and other stakeholders this gap needs to be filled. To stop this problem, there needs to be awareness among children, police, parents and hotel owners. Community in the tourist areas also could keep a close watch on the tourists. Surveillance is the key tool for prevention of problem like this. The Women's cell also has detected approx. 15 cases of HIV positive in the street children. There is a high possibility of transmission of these amongst the street children and others as well.

3.4.2. Tourist Police

It started as a department of Ministry of Culture and Civil Aviation. The personnel are deputed by the police but are logistically supported by the Ministry/ the main objective is to ensure the safety and security of the tourist visiting Nepal. Presently, there is 1 inspector and 6 sub-inspectors allocated to this department. But we have altogether 16 personnel in deputation. There are substations in airport, Basantapur, and Thamel. The equipments are supported by the Ministry and logistically it is supported by the Tourism Board.

The usual activities that the Tourist Police deal with are complaints of theft, lost, harassment, thug, violation of contracts. Carrying out investigation is not very easy as tourist police is not very strong legally. And even the police want to settle down the cases in less time as they have to go back. They usually look for compensation. If the case is to be dealt legally, they have to go through CDO. For complicated cases, it is forwarded to the department of foreign affairs of the Headquarter.

There has been an observation that the foreigners coming for a long stay usually work in the NGOs and come for their study purposes. There have been no official/ registered complaints made till now. We have just heard about these cases. If there are complaints about the tourists, usually non-payment of the bill, it is forwarded to the consulate or the embassy.

Children are involved in the tourism sector to some extent. We can see them as hawkers, and street vendors. In Thamel areas, we have see children gathering around with the tourist. We are keeping him in a close watch. Usually the guides need to be holding a BA degree and know English to get the license but there are unauthorized tourist guides also. There are some tourist guides who are below 16 years of age. There are examples of tourists being directly involved with the children. In Thamel, some tourists gather a whole group of children and go around with them. Some have even started the orphanages. There are some tourist (both male and female) who are in observation of the tourist police and are being kept a watch on

We have heard about the French paedophile whose case had hit the newspaper few years back. In Thailand, there is organized sex tourism while in the case of Nepal one cannot say that it is the case. However, there is enough room for this to evolve. In next 10-15 years, it might be very prominent

3.4.3. Community Police

Community police work with the people of community, and not directly with the tourists. They have come across tourists complaining about the hotel services, and cases of theft. There has not been any direct complains regards the paedophiles and sexual abuse by the foreigners

They have observed that the children are usually engaged for short-term work with tourists as tourist guides, street vendors and begging. Money and other goods are given to them instead of their services. However; the involvement of children is not in a big ratio. In Thamel areas, children can be seen working as hawkers and street vendors.

They have come across a case where a child was lost and later found out that the child was kept in the house of the tourist and was send for education. Community police addresses the issue of almost all the problems of the community; therefore Child Sex Tourism is also its concern. However; they haven't found any cases of children being used for sexual purposes.

We have observed how easily children get attracted to the tourists. We keep close watch on these people. But we still have not got enough evidence to charge them with any offence.

Presently, there is no issue like child sex tourism but there is a high possibility of this starting. There needs to be an active role in creating awareness among women's group, in school and in family. It does not take place in an organized manner but it could take place in a hidden way. We foresee that it will emerge as an important issue in 5-10 years.

3.5. Tourism Authorities

3.5.1. Nepal Tourism Board

The main focus of Nepal Tourism Board is to increase the number of tourists. It aims to make Nepal a premium tourist destination. The main strategies that are used are:

1. Reduction or discount in the fares
2. Sales mission through hotels and travel and tours
3. Press conferences in different priority countries (USA, Japan, China, India, Germany, France, Spain, Holland)
4. Cultural programmes in different target countries.
5. Information dissemination in the International media – documentary, films, coverage etc.
6. Discovering and publicizing new tourism spot.

Usually the government gives the infrastructure and the ambience whereas the private sector promotes the programmes. The municipality does the preservation of the heritage, monuments and other domestic preservation. The Royal Nepal embassies also help by conducting the press conferences and distributing the publicity materials – brochures, and other awareness-raising programme.

The board is also focusing on the regional market in terms of religion like Buddhism in Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Hinduism in India.

Now there are 11 Board members. The chief executive is elected every year and coordinates the activities. The representatives of the travel and tour agencies are also the on the board. The ministry provides the general legal guidelines and board is the agency that takes care of the details of implementation.

The tourist police has been started to help the tourists. The grievances that has come till now are the case of visa and complaints towards the hotel owners, theft etc. The logistics are looked after by the NTB.

As far as the involvement of children in the tourism sector is concerned, they are involved as porters and vendors. But this is usually done by them rather than through any organized manner. There have been some incidences of paedophiles using the children also.

As far as sex tourism is concerned, there has been much divided opinion. It has been practiced in an unorganized manner. There have been discussions going on about whether we need to make it legal or not. There have been many people in the important positions who are in favour of this.

3.6. Tour Operators

3.6.1. Travel Agencies

Recently there is a new phenomenon know as Dot Com Business (Internet bookings). Here, even payments are made through Internet. Their main services start when a customer sends e-mail asking for a certain kind of program. They also do the Hotel Booking, ticket confirmation, and Airport pick-up.

Travel agencies are semi government organizations. Nepal Tourism Board's main work is promotion of Nepal as a whole. NTB organizes programs while travel agencies participate. NATA is the association of travel agencies in Nepal. Basically NATA organizes meetings, helps in promotion of travel agencies programs, deal with their difficulties while at times they even pressurize the government for provision of better facilities to travel agencies. There is certain code of conduct for the travel agencies, which is available from NTB. Travel agencies are registered under industry law.

There are about 400 -500 travel agencies in Nepal. The travel agencies have their own associations. There are Nepal Association of Travel Agents (NATA), Trekking Association (TA) etc., likewise different associations exist for other sectors like rafting, hotel and restaurants. These associations have proven to be good especially for the flow of information. It has been a great support in dissemination of needed information like different programs and packages in Nepal and abroad, which would be important for planning tourism programs. The top ten best dollar earning agencies are also given recognition from the government.

Basically, travel agencies are involved in 3 types of tourism promotion programs, which are as follows:

1. Sales and marketing: *The sales executive does the fieldwork. They go to hotels and promote the products in terms of packages of cultural tours or adventure tours. They even got to airport.*

2. International trade fair: *Travel agencies have recruited travel operators who go abroad to participate in such international trade fair. They put stalls of their travel agencies to promote their sales and services and also their packages.*

3. Through Internet: *Some foreigners contact directly via e-mails. They have websites, which the customers can browse through. Then the customers send mail to the travel agencies asking for quotas and what kind of program do they want.*

There is the tourist police but it has not been effective. Police have not been able to take care of tourist problems. He also added that their main target is to buy cheap and sell it in maximum. He was saying that they cannot always sell packages but also organize customer programs depending on what kind of program a customer demands. There is mouth to mouth publicity as well from the customers. Tourists talk among each other about the services available. Government and NTB organize and promote programs such as VNY 98' while travel agencies participate in such programs. The main role of travel agency is to inform the tour operators abroad and advertise which is very expensive process. The travel agencies give invitations to tour operators abroad. They are free services.

90% of the travel agencies market is down. As manpower, numbers of hotels and products have increased; there is cutthroat competition. Price wise and tourist wise the market is definitely declining. He also informed about organized trekking.

There are generally two categories of Tourist who come to Nepal. The first category is of those who have come to Nepal for the first time and do not know much about the place. They usually prefer the package programmes (1 week to 3 weeks in average). In this kind of package programme, the schedule and place of visit is usually fixed before hand and the group follows the same schedule.

The second category is of the repeaters. They have already come to Nepal before; therefore they know about the place and have connections with people also. They usually stay for a longer period and are not in touch with any formal organization. They plan their own visit and carry it out on their own.

The busiest season for tourist inflow is end of September till March every year. In Nepal, Tourist generally prefers to enjoy natural sceneries, adventures – trekking, rafting and culture of the place. Kathmandu valley, Chitwan, Lumbini and Pokhara are the renowned places for their visit. They come in groups, with families and individuals as well.

For the organized tourism, the agents in those countries are contacted or they contact the agencies here. Packages are offered with a fixed rate and the tourists abroad choose according to their comfort and interest. We have tourist more from Japan but the Government statistics show that American tourists make up the majority.

Comparatively, the South Asian tourists are less than Europeans. Among the south Asians, Indians are more – they usually come for pilgrimage (Pashupatinath, Mansarivar, Kailash etc.) for shopping, casino, honeymoon etc. But this trend is also changing, now they prefer to go to places like Malaysia, Bangkok, Singapore.

Tour guides used by the travel agencies are usually people with guiding license. The NTB gives licenses to the guides. They need to be a graduate, should have undergone the training and knowledge of any foreign language is an advantage. There are about 100 registered and license holding tourist guides.

There have been no cases of involvement of children in tourism industry for the official package programmes. But chances of this kind of exploitation could be high with the repeaters. Since they already have knowledge about Nepal and people, they also have individual friends. However; children have been seen usually involved in selling goods and as porters.

Though travel agencies do not have much contact with the tourist police, they have been found to be quite effective in the case of pick picketers and harassment of the tourists. They also deal with the tourist guides without license.

3.6.2. Trekking Agencies

The information regarding the programmes and plans are propagated usually through the word of mouth rather than the formal advertisements. The tourists that avail of the trekking services are usually the people from USA and UK. Usually the young and adventurous people are the one who choose trekking during their stay in Nepal.

As far as involvement of children in tourism is concerned, they are found to be used as short distance porters. But usually in an organized-trekking programme, children are not used. Children get attracted to the tourism very easily. Especially in the village area

schools, the children are found to run after the trekkers. There are also some street vendors who sell hashish (Himalayan chocolate) to the foreigners.

Tourists also help the children by helping them in education and giving them food and clothes. They also take them to different places, usually short distances.

There have been many instances where the foreigners have married young Nepali girls. They usually stay back for sometime. Some of the foreigners take the girls along with them while others leave them back while they leave for their country.

We have seen that some tourists take some children along with them during trekking. They take them to their rooms also, but what happens inside the room is not known to all. There are commercial sex workers also who are directly involved in this. Usually the girls of 12-13 years are found to be involved more. This has been a business these days.

3.7. Tourism Facility Owners / Providers

3.7.1. Hotels and Restaurants:

Children are involved as porters, cleaners and rooms and as vendors. In the established and well known hotels, there are no children formally employed by the hotel or restaurant owners but in road side restaurants and lodges children working for them is not a rare occurrence.

Usually it has been observed that the children are helped in terms of food, clothes etc. by the tourists. Tourists also provide the children with stationeries and educational support.

We do not allow the tourists to take outside people in the hotel room; there have been incidences where we have send few girls back. The trend of young girls involving in commercial sex work is increasing very rapidly. If CSW is legalized it would be nice both for the tourists and for the CSWs also. If it is regarded as a job and necessary regulations are made then we can save these girls from exploitation and health hazards. This will also check the increasing rate of trafficking to other countries. The society and government should be open for these things. This could check the crime rate and rape incidences also. We have environment and natures beauty that is well suited for flourishing of this industry. We need to organize this properly

3.7.2. Tourist Guides

Tourists who take guides along with them come with an organized programme. They have a fixed schedule. We usually have a fixed route and fixed place to stay. Tourists usually complain about the cleanliness of the place. We have not seen them taking children while they go for trek. But they do interact with the children in the villages. Actually the children swarm around the tourist once they see them. We have seen tourists behaving very nicely with the children in front of us, but what happens in other places is not known.

3.8. Associations

3.8.1. Nepal Association of Travel Agents (NATA)

NATA was established on 1966 by a group of leading local travel agents of Kathmandu who felt that it was the time to work together to formulate sound business principals and to regulate the travel industry in Nepal.

The primary purpose of NATA has been to protect the interests of those engaged in the travel trade business, to promote its orderly growth and development and to safe guard the travelling public from exploitation by unreliable agents. NATA is a non-political, non-profit making, non-governmental and pioneer national association of travel industry in Nepal. It is recognized as the main representative body of tourism industry in the kingdom. In short, NATA works as the bridge between the government and travel agents for better functioning of the organizations.

The involvement of children in tourism is very small but children might also be engaged informally. Though the problem exists, it is in very small ratio. But children are involved in the professions like trekking and other sectors where they are being used as porters.

There is a possibility that these sort of problems may arise in our country too but for now issue is rare so it is difficult to take any move. When situation arises in a large scale, role can surely be defined according to the situation. Awareness and other measures can be taken as per the nature of the problems.

3.10. Tourists

Few tourists who were interviewed did not accept the fact that child sex tourism could be so prevalent or at least they have not come across such incidences. But they do not deny the possibility that this can occur. All the tourists that were interviewed were of the opinion that if they come across any of these incidences then they should not encourage it. If in any case they find these practices they should report to the police and facilitate necessary action against it.

3.11. General Professionals

We have heard that it exists in Nepal but do not have the exact information on that. The source of information is usually through the newspapers, reports of NGOs working with children, articles on the Internet and general conversation with the people. There has also been a general observation that children and tourist are in regular and close interaction in the tourist areas of the city. We have also heard the occasional account of foreigners adopting children.

This is an issue that needs to be seriously addressed since there is a danger of Nepal also going towards the way of other South Asian countries. This is especially true in the

context of increasing unemployment and declining per capita income and increasing consumerism.

4. SUMMARY ANALYSIS

On the basis of the information collected through children and other key informants following analysis has been made.

The issue of child sex tourism has not yet surfaced up as “*an issue*” in Nepal. Though almost everyone felt that there is a possibility of child sex tourism being prevalent and high possibility of this emerging in the days to come; most of the key informants said that they have seen it or heard about it in proximity. But none of the stakeholders said that they had not heard about it completely. The startling fact remains that people did not recognize it as *an issue that needs to be taken seriously*. There is recognition of the fact that this is an emerging issue and has to be tackled immediately.

Many organizations are very happy to overlook the issue and think that it doesn't exist. Especially the agencies involved in the tourism sector felt that this issue is not something to be so concerned about. There are many other issues that need more attention and action than this issue. We should be more concerned about promoting our country's economy through activities of tourism promotion rather than these non-issues.

There was a tendency to merge the issue of commercial sex work/tourism and child sex tourism with each other. It was felt that even commercial sex work/tourism was also of a concern of the research as the maximum number of girls/boys in demand in sex industry are of young age; usually 13-18 yrs old. People who are exploited/used and abused to the maximum are children.

4.1. Where does CST take place?

Child Sex Tourism is not an issue that has come out very visibly in Nepali society. There were few cases of paedophiles that had come out in the media few years back. The police and the NGO had come together and arrested the paedophiles red handed in their hotel rooms. That was for the first time that this issue was brought in the attention of the public. It was received as unbelievable news. After these incidences, there have been no cases that have been reported in the police regarding sexual exploitation of children by the tourists.

Through the interviews with the at-risk children, it was seen that the practice of tourists using children for sexual gratification is still prevalent. Some of the children who were interviewed revealed that they have been sexually abused by the tourists.

The sexual exploitation of children took place in the tourist areas of Kathmandu and Pokhara.

In many areas, like *Pokhara* and *Thamel* in Kathmandu, Commercial sex work is very much prevalent. The most sought after age is younger ones; therefore there are many children involved in this sector. It is not that they are exclusively catering to the tourist but tourists do come under their clients groups

4.2. How does CST take place?

4.2.1. Initial contact:

Almost all the children responded that the initial contact was done at the personal level. The children came across the tourists during the course of their work usually in their work places. The tourists get in touch with the children at the personal basis, rather than through other people. Usually the tourists with whom the children have been in touch with for a period of time take an advantage of their trust.

Children come in contact with the tourists personally. Initially they start off as very good friends; they go out together, they are given good food and clothes etc and once the trust is built up they are taken to the hotel room. The place for sexual exploitation is usually the hotel room where the tourist is staying. The smaller children of the age group 8 to 13 yrs are mostly preferred

4.2.2. Relationships:

In the course of time when the trust was built up between them; the children were taken in the hotel rooms. This was the interesting information that was shared by the children and people working with children. The most common pattern is that the children are asked to take a bath in the bathroom of the hotel, after a while the tourist will also come in and help the child to take a bath. In the process to cleaning up the child, the tourist starts touching the private parts of the children. In some cases once this act is started, children manage to run away but in many cases, they are sexually exploited by the tourists. Many children continue to be friends with them even after that as they feel they are being loved and taken care of.

Children are usually not aware of what is happening to them; they don't have any idea of what is going on. They do not feel that they are exploited; they feel that they are being loved by the tourist and are happy with the money and other things that they get from the tourist in return. Usually they share the incidents with their friends; but the parents and other adults are rarely trusted for this. Even on the occasions when they find this incident confusing and difficult to cope with; they themselves are blamed for it – so they prefer to keep it with themselves.

Most of the children said that tourists rarely use threat of any kind of force. They are usually lured with much attraction that is put in front of them; ranging from food to good clothes and money. And it is because these kinds of help that they get from the tourists that they do not speak a word against them. Even they are aware of the fact that what is happening to them is not good. At the same time, many children are too young to realize what is happening to them they feel that they are being loved and taken care of.

4.3. Push and Pull Factors

The following push and pull factors were identified during the process of the study

4.3.1. Push factors

- *Lack of love and care:* The children who get very close to the tourists are usually the ones who have not received love and care from the family or other people around them. They usually have faced neglect and abuse by the people. This experience has pushed them to get attracted towards the tourists.
- *Need for money and other basic needs:* The children are in need of money to meet their expenses. Usually because of their poor economic conditions but sometimes also because of their high living expenses which cannot be met by their earnings. These children looking for an extra earning and usually tend to approach the tourists.
- *Want for better life:* In some of the cases, the children's hope for the better life has pushed them to approach the tourists. They do not feel very good about the life that they are living and keep on looking for a door which would lead them to better life.
- *Family encouragement:* Some of the parents also were found to be encouraging the children to be friends with the tourist so that they could get help from them.

4.3.2. Pull factors:

- *Perception about tourists being wealthy:* Attraction to the tourists because of the perception that tourists have a lot of money. They also see the tourist spending a lot of money on different things and get attracted to them.
- *Love and care shown by the tourist:* Usually compared to locals, children have found that the tourists are more loving and caring. They talk nicely with them and behave gently with them.
- *Money, food or / and clothes given by the tourists:* in most of the cases, tourists give children clothes, money or food when they approach them. So they easily get attracted to the tourists.
- *Instances of genuine help received from tourists:* There have been few instances where the tourists have genuinely helped the children and their family. The children have been especially helped through the admission in schools and educational sponsorship.
- *Prestige:* Children take association with the tourist as a prestige symbol. If a child has a tourist friend he gains more social reputation among his friends.

5. PROFILES

Following are the profiles of the children and adults involved in commercial sexual exploitation; as narrated in the discussion with the children. The following profiles show the perceptions of the children on these issues

5.1. Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Tourism

Average Profile

Age: 8-14yrs

Gender: both boys and girls; but boys preferred

Background: children without family; working children, children from poor families

According to the perception of the children, 32% of them said that it could happen to both boys and girls whereas 18% said that it could happen to only boys and 10% said that it could take place only with girls. 40% said they had no idea at all. 24% of the children said that this could take place with the children of the age group 10-14.

5.2 Child Sex Exploiters

Country: European countries; Australia

Age: 35-50 in average

Gender: Both but usually male.

Background: working and usually backpackers.

According to the total number of the children interviewed, 20% felt that only new tourists would engage in these kinds of activities. 18% of the children said that old tourists would engage in these.

26% of the children said that both male and female children could equally get engaged in this where as 10% said that only male can do this and 2% said that only female can do it.

As far as economic status of the tourist is concerned 16% of the children said they were rich tourists and 15% said that they were backpackers who did not have much money with them.

25% of the children reported that they were Europeans, 21% said that they were Americans, 4% South Asians and 7% Japanese/ Chinese origin.

6. CONCLUSION

The study revealed that there is vagueness in the conceptualisation and understanding of the issue. The issues of paedophiles, commercial sex work, commercial sex tourism and child sex abuse are taken synonymously. There was difficulty in categorizing these as separate forms of sexual abuse of children. In the context of Nepal, “*child sex tourism*” in itself has not yet emerged as a distinct problem but is inseparably linked with commercial sex work (where more than 50% are under sixteen and serve both nationals and tourists), paedophiles (where adult tourists use the children sexually), and child sex abuse (where children are abused in different forms by relatives as well as tourists).

In Nepal, the sexual abuse of children has very indirect manifestations. It is usually through the cabin restaurants and bars that the demand for sex work is fulfilled, in both individual and organized manners. It caters to both tourists and locals. The massage parlours are the popular medium through which the commercial sex service reaches the tourists. This population has children in the majority.

The study did not find any organized form of sex tourism existing in Nepal. The contact with the children is usually through the individual contact rather than in the organized manner or through middlemen. The dissemination of the information, if any, is through the individual contact; and therefore is very difficult to be traced.

Children are found to be very easily available to the tourists. In the streets of the tourists areas, children are found selling different items and running after the tourists. Children are found to be generally attracted to the tourist, because of the conception that they have a lot of money and also friendship with the tourist is attached with prestige. Once the children approach tourists, it is not difficult for the tourists to get close with children by giving them food and clothes, love and care & support to the family. Sexual abuse of the children is a strong possibility, as they spend a lot of time together away from home and sometimes in the hotel room.

Families also favour the attachment of children with the tourist because they regard them as a good source of money and high prestige. In many tourist areas, tourism is the main economic source. Therefore, tourists are highly valued and regarded as close to “God”.

There is high level of unawareness among people regarding the possibility of sexual use of children by the tourists. Even the people in the tourism industries were found to be unaware of the possibility. There needs to be a lot of awareness regarding the issue; starting from the possibility of its existence.

Even when some tourists are caught, they cannot be punished because of the lack of law. The tourists are penalized under the public law and can get bail on Rs 5000 to 30,000 and there are no serious penalties given to the tourists.

“Child sex tourism” is prevalent in a very indirect manner in Nepal; it has not surfaced up very distinctly as an issue that people take very seriously. There is a general state of unawareness and denial that increases the possibility of its growth in the near future.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the study findings and observations, following recommendations are made.

7.1. For Immediate Action

- The study revealed that although child sex tourism exists, people are completely unaware of it. Even the police officials, teachers and parents reacted to it with surprise. So there needs to be an intense awareness programme where important stakeholders would be made aware of the possibility of these practices and their potential role in combating this problem.
- The lack of law dealing specifically with these issues can be a very fertile ground for flourishing of this problem in the Nepalese society. The necessary steps need to be immediately taken for the formulation of the necessary laws.
- Need for active initiation on the grounded investigation also needs to be done, so that the practices could be brought into the light and necessary actions could be taken against it.

7.2. Tourism Authorities

- There is a need for tourism authorities to develop a “code of conduct” for the tour operators, tourists and other industries related to tourism. The code of conduct should include the commitments to safeguard the rights of the child in their course of operation. The activities that could involve sexual involvement of children need to be carefully watched and prevented as far as possible.
- License to different industries should be given after agreement with the above code of conduct and serious penalties for the violation of the same.
- The authority should also work towards developing National laws and legislations on this issue. The legislations should include serious and unpardonable penalties for its violation. Provisions of visa cancellation and prohibition for any serious conviction should be strictly implemented.
- The tourism authority should also make necessary arrangements to promote publicity of these rules and regulations in different countries. The tourism promotion campaign should compulsorily include these issues also.

7.3. Tour Operators / Service Providers

- Tour operators could be the important group that could effectively take the rules into practice. They could very effectively take steps to make different stakeholders

and especially tourists aware of the laws made and punishment regarding the issue.

- If found any of these practices they could be very crucial in informing the law enforcement agencies for necessary action.
- Tour operators need to commit themselves with the code of conduct.

7.4. NGOs

- **Supportive and rehabilitative:** The NGOs need to work very closely with the children who have been affected by this issue. The children will need different supportive activities like – legal help, health care, counselling, shelter etc. The NGO will need to develop and implement programmes needed for the abused children and protection for the new children: services like hotlines so that they can express their traumas. Education and vocational training to the children who have been affected so that they could get opportunity to develop their potential and get rehabilitated in the normal life
- **Advocacy:** One of the important areas in which the NGOs can work is on advocacy. It can pressure and lobby the government to draw up and implement laws and legislations.
- **Awareness:** There needs to be awareness among parents and community people. The general tendency is to hide or deny these issues, even though aware to some extent. This situation needs to be changed.

There is also a need of making children aware of the dangers and implications of involvement in the sexually exploitative activities of the tourists.

- **Action oriented prevention programme:** The active participation of the programme is also needed in the action oriented investigation programme. The study showed that though the practice of child sex tourism is there; it hasn't come out as a formal complaint. The organization with the help of the law enforcement agencies need to work together to bring these cases into surface for real intervention.
- **Network and Coordination:** The organizations working on similar issues or the organization concerned with children and / or tourism could come together to form a strong network and work in coordination with each other. Coordination between State protection system, law enforcement agencies and media is also equally needed.

7.5. Media:

- Media could play a very important role in raising awareness among people. The effective programmes in the media could be directed towards - hotel owners, taxi drivers, teachers, family, tourists, children and other important groups related with the tourism industry.
- Media could also support the advocacy campaign of the organisations.

7.6. State Protection Services

- Emergency shelter homes with health care and psychosocial counselling facility is the need of the victim children. This could be provided by the state protection services.

7.7. Law Enforcement

- Creation of laws and its effective implementation to combat this issue is a serious need that is crucial for stopping this malpractice.
- Another important function of the law enforcement agencies could be investigation of the issue for necessary action. This can be done together with the NGOs.

7.8. Children's Recommendations

- Children, family, and civil society should be aware about issue on sexual abuse from foreign tourists.
- There should be coordination between police, organization and civil society to fight against such illegal acts.
- Government and country laws must be made strong to stop such things against children.
- Children should stay away and they should avoid such foreigners
- Support from family, organization, police and their peer groups.
- Social organization can play a vital role in protecting and rehabilitating children with their families

APPENDICES

i. Reported Cases

Three children who were rescued from the clutches of a paedophile from one of the children's home in Pokhara were brought to Kathmandu. After the rescue, these children were sheltered (put) in a transit home of CWIN. They were interviewed by the staff members of CWIN. Below are the details taken from the video tape of those rescued children. This is translated version in English Language from Nepali language.

They said that these tourists used to drink and take drugs. When asked how did the foreigners loved them. They explained that they were given chocolates and called one by one inside the bathroom. Whom ever he liked, were called inside the bathroom naked.

Even female tourists used to come. Christopher used to drug them and he himself used to take alcohol and marijuana. They used to get naked and go inside their rooms. They hugged each other; kissed even at times they tongue kissed each other. Children said only friends of such tourists do bad things to them i.e. abuse them sexually. If they didn't agree or show willingness for sexual activity then Christopher used to say, "I will beat you". Christopher used to hit the children with bowls, iron rod and shoes on their head in outrage quite often, where as he even used abusive language like "mother fucker". The children were given 5 rupees for indulging with the tourists in sexual activity. Christopher used to say, "Whoever eats my vomited food, I will send them to school". The children were given 2/5 rupees as temp fare. There were 10-12 boys in his shelter home.

One day, while they were sleeping in Bir Hospital area. Christopher offered one packet noodles to all of them and took them with him. He brought to those children by promising them that they will be given food and send to school. The children were taken by Christopher in his hotel room. He said "go and take bath then I will take you to my home", when they were naked inside the bathroom, even Christopher entered, he was not wearing any clothes totally naked. One of the children was taken to Sundhara. Similarly boys were often taken to lodges for one or two weeks time period. They were staying at Baluwatar's shelter home. It had been two weeks. They keep most of the boys but the children don't like staying at Christopher's shelter home. Some of the boys were given 50 rupees. One of the children said, "I escaped and told my friends that they had earned the money by doing third grade activity". Once another child was abused by Christopher sexually, he was involved in unnatural sexual intercourse with that child and was given 20 rupees. He also suggested his friends to go. Christopher's friends also used to come. They also took them to bathroom and took their naked pictures. One old man even brought a box full of money. Once one of the foreigners took four of them and took their naked picture. They were also given 20 rupees. The children said that now a day such activity is less and they haven't been to others except at Christopher's place.

CASE 2:

Ravi Chettri (Name changed), 14 years old boy lives in Basantapur area along with his friends. From the small age he has been working as a street guide for tourists. So he has a frequent contact with tourists, as the location itself is a popular tourist's destination.

Tourists give him money, food and they often buy him clothes in exchange for his service as being their guide. Very often he meets good tourists with generous behaviour and attitude but once he had to face bad experience. He was nearly trapped in the hands of foreign paedophile.

As part of his daily work, he was roaming around looking for tourists in Basantapur area, when he met this American tourist. Ravi took his guest to different places for sight seeing. And during evening time he was given money as his incentive for his service and was invited for dinner. So Ravi took one of his friends along with him for dinner. In the restaurant tourist started to take alcohol. After a while when he was drunk, he offered both of them to stay and spend a night with him. He even told Ravi that he wanted to suck his penis. Knowing his bad intention, they returned back to their place. Ravi even thought to complain in police but he thought police officials won't believe him, so he let it go and tried to forget about that incident. So with his cleverness, Ravi along with his friend was saved from being abused from the hand of a sex offender.

CASE 3:

Police nabbed (a female) foreigner allegedly involved in sexually abusing minors. The accused French girl. 19 year old Anne was arrested at Souvenir Guest House in Thamel.

During the interview the children, Bipin KC a 14 years old boy said "She took us to her hotel room. We were three of us. She bathed us with shampoo and wiped our bodies. Then she gave us tongue kisses – kiss with the rub of eyelashes. She made me fondle her breasts and also played with my penis.

Bipin who speaks English fluently, said that it is the second time he is sexually abused by a foreigner two years ago a foreign girl called Ucky exploited me in the similar fashion. We kissed and had massage. The girl paid two thousand rupees to keep the matter secret. "As Raju was older than me she made him have sex with her" said Bipin who dropped out of an English boarding school and bumbled in to the street, cutting off contact with family members.

ii. List of relevant NGOs

- Child Workers in Nepal Concerned center
- Saathi – Baal Bishram
- Voice of children
- Bisuani

iii. List of relevant Tourism Bodies

- Nepal Tourism Board
- Ministry of tourism and civil aviation
- National Association of Travel Agents

iv. List of Relevant State Services

- Nepal police, women and children's cell
- Community police
- Tourist police

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