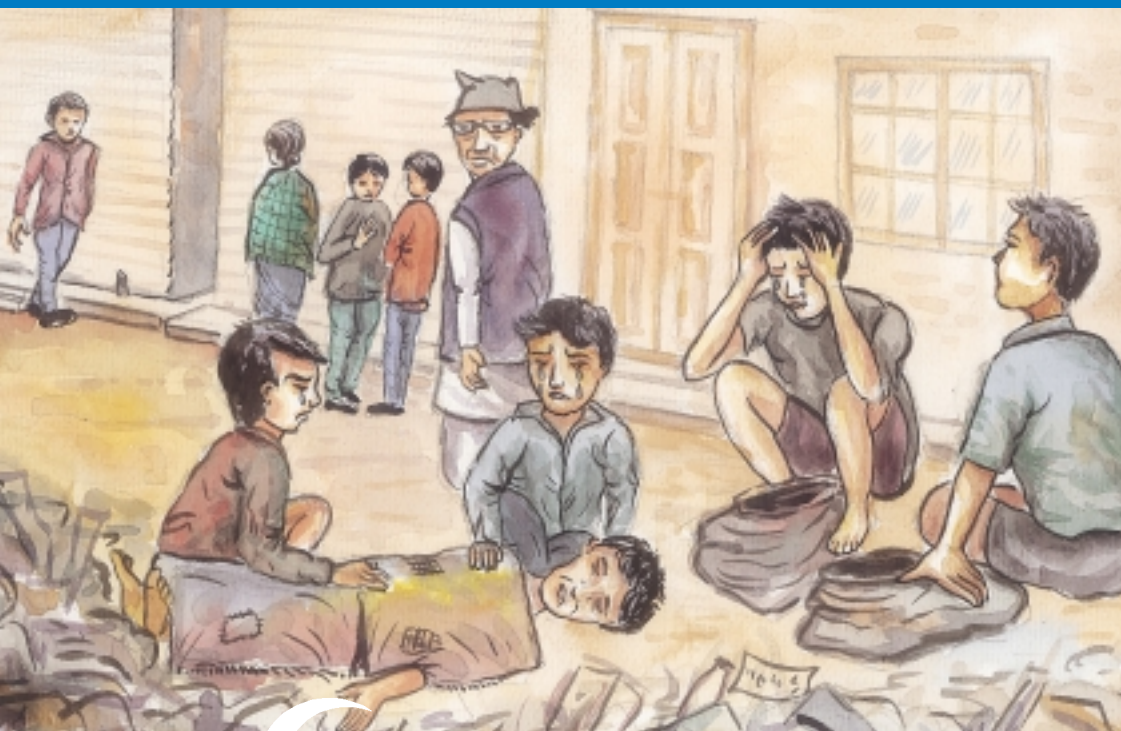


# THE ABUSE OF STREET CHILDREN IN KATHMANDU

A research on children's experiences of psychosocial,  
physical and sexual abuse



CPCS - VOC  
NEPAL 2008



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# THE ABUSE OF STREET CHILDREN IN KATHMANDU

***A research on children's experiences of psychosocial, physical and sexual abuse***

**Research Directors :**

Krishna K. Thapa and Ryckmans Jean-Christophe

**Main Author :** Ryckmans J.

**Data Analysis :** Michael Meehan

**Data and interviews Collectors :**

Ekta Pradhan, Govinda Koirala, Hem Budhathoki, Puran Shakya, Ramesh Shrestha, Sanat Acharya, Shambar Thapa.

**Coordination Committee :**

Arjun Mohan Bhattarai, Bijesh Shrestha, Himmat Maskey, Raj Kumar Treepathi

**Illustrator :** Santosh Rai

**Statistician :** Shiva Pokhrel

**Nepali Translator :** Jawala Prasad Yadav

**Other Facilitators :**

Aitaraj Limbu, Badri Sharma, Bimala Khanal, Badri Narayan Shrestha, Bhawana Shrestha, Bhagat Shivakoti, Ganesh Khadka, Ishwor Nagarkoti, Kailash Rawal, Krishna Dhital, Nawaraj Pokhrel, Nawaraj Lama, Paritra Tamrakar, Rajshree Bista, Rabi Bhandari, Raju Dulal, Rajendra Rawal, Shyam Kumar, Sanu Maiya Shrestha, Sangeeta Pradhan, Santosh Baral, Sharmila Thapa, Surya Prakash Shrestha, Uttam Dhakal, Yashoda Shrestha, Yadav Charmakar.

THE ABUSE OF STREET CHILDREN IN KATHMANDU

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# Social Welfare Council



Ref. No.

Central Office  
Samaj Sewa Bhawan  
Lekhnathang, Lainchaur  
Kathmandu, Nepal

Date: June 5, 2008

## FOREWORD



It gives me immense pleasure to hear that Child Protection Centers and Services (CPCS) and Voice of Children (VOC) is about to publish a book entitled "The abuse of street children in Kathmandu". We hope that this publication will help to explore the existing status of street children in Kathmandu Valley.

Social Welfare Council (SWC) would like to congratulate CPCS and VOC for its remarkable work with the needy children. Especially, street risk reduction, social rehabilitation, medical and emergency services, family reintegration, education support, and social awareness on child rights are some of the highly appreciated activities conducted by CPCS and VOC.

Finally, SWC expects that CPCS and VOC will continue to provide their services to the needy children being more responsible, transparent, and effective as per the need of the Nation.

With best wishes.

Jayandra Shrestha, Ph.D.  
Member Secretary

---

Post Box 2948, Kathmandu, Nepal, Fax : 977-01-4410279, Telephone : 4418111 (8 Lines)  
E-mail : [info@swc.org.np](mailto:info@swc.org.np), Website : [www.swcnepal.org.np/swc.org.np](http://www.swcnepal.org.np/swc.org.np)

THE ABUSE OF STREET CHILDREN IN KATHMANDU



नेपाल सरकार  
महिला, बालबालिका तथा समाज कल्याण मन्त्रालय  
**केन्द्रीय बाल कल्याण समिति**  
**Central Child Welfare Board**  
हरिहरभवन, पुन्बोक, ललितपुर

## FOREWORD

It's our great pleasure to hear that CPCS NGO and VOC have initiated this research about child abuse. Definitely children are the most vulnerable and are at risk of abuse particularly due to their age and maturity. Generally, children especially of a younger age do not know good and bad or right and wrong. Therefore, protection of children from having any sorts of negative experiences is the responsibility of adults. The State being the primary duty-bearer holds accountability to protect children from all forms of abuse, as well as creating a conducive and prosperous environment where children can enjoy their childhood and benefit from opportunities for their growth and development. I/NGOs and civil society have major roles to accomplish for the protection of all children from abuse and the contribution in this regard is worth appreciating.

Child abuse is obviously a gross violation of the human rights of children and cannot be tolerated at all. Children are delicate, kindhearted, enthusiastic, innocent and not defensive by nature and thus are at risk of abusers taking advantage of these behaviours. Sometimes we tend to forget that our behaviour can push them into situations such as leaving their family, living on the street, experiencing depression, trauma or loneliness, or developing arrogant behaviour. These ultimately can push them into criminal acts.

In layman's understanding the term 'abuse' is often limited to only physical and sexual abuse. However psychosocial abuse as well as neglect are equally damaging to a child. There are incidences of children being abused by their own father, mother, siblings, teachers, caregivers or close relatives. In such situations children generally get confused and cannot expose cases of abuse. It is mainly because the child is dependent on these 'close' people and due to the fear of stigma or disgrace. As such there is a need to raise awareness

among children and adults to empower them with the necessary understanding and skills to cope with such situations.

In the same manner children living in institutional care (care homes, hostels and orphanages etc.) are also vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. There are cases of children being abused by hostel and orphanage staff or in-charges.

Our legal systems are fragile in preventing children from being abused and protecting the victimized child and weak in penalizing the wrong-doer.

In many societies there is a strong belief that a child should be strictly controlled. Many adults still understand 'discipline' and 'punishment' as the same which is completely wrong. Disciplining aims to correct certain behaviour of a child while respecting his or her dignity and self-worth where as punishment does not. As such, there is a need to have better understanding about behaviour of the child and his or her psychology to express such behaviour. There are several examples where a child is exposed to abuse as a result of the punishment that is given to him or her.

Children are the present and future of a nation. According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989, every child has the right to basic education, nutritious foods, vaccination, parental love and care, health care and services. Nepal being a state party to the CRC holds the responsibility to ensure the rights of ALL children. This includes ensuring the care and protection of children deprived of parental love and care, providing education, food, and healthcare.

The Government of Nepal is committed towards these obligations and had made several efforts enacting legislation, establishing institutional mechanisms and processes as well as developing and implementing programmatic interventions. However, there is still much to be done to protect and promote rights of all Nepali children. The Government is with the firm understanding that no child should have negative experience in life and thus prevented and protected from being abused and exploited. We, all adults (both in an individual as well as an institutional capacity)



have significant roles to play to create a favorable environment where all children can enjoy their childhood and develop their maximum potential. So, we all citizens and authorities should contribute from our own place to stop abuse.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dharma Raj Shrestha', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Dharma Raj Shrestha  
Executive Director  
Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB)

## *FOREWORD*

**By Danièle Cheyssou**  
**President**  
**Enfants&Développement**



Physical, moral and sexual abuses are a serious challenge for any society. This is rather more serious for Nepal as children are becoming increasingly subject to abuses whereas cases are rarely reported and often kept under cover. But it has long been an overlooked and neglected field and only few people can realise the extent to which these abuses change a child's life and sometimes breaks it down completely. Hence it is high time to change our traditional mind-set in this regard and to give priority to this crucial issue which is still a taboo, surrounded by a culture of silence.

Various researches have found that many street children in Nepal have experienced severe physical, moral and sexual abuse. Evidence also suggests that street children are one of the most vulnerable groups as they lack support from their families and other guardians and are exposed to some of the worst forms of exploitation.

Though child abuse is not a new social problem, there has been an increasing desire to understand its dimension and prevalence and to develop strategies for prevention and intervention. Child rights activists expressed their concern that sexual abuse incidents could increase as the attention given to child protection issues at the national level is still inadequate. Therefore, commitment of the concerned stakeholders is crucial for the proper design

and implementation of strong measures aiming at preventing physical, moral and sexual abuses and helping victims overcome their trauma through children empowerment and rehabilitation. There is also a need for punishing the perpetrators to ensure juvenile justice through legal provisions and meet a fundamental right of children to protection.

This report is the outcome of a close collaboration between two Nepalese NGOs, Voice of Children, and Child Protection Centers and Services, which both contribute significantly to improve the daily lives and situation of street children. Because of the sensitivity of the issue, it was a challenging task to undertake comprehensive research such as this, using qualitative and quantitative data drawn from children. Hence, I would like to warmly thank the research team and all the other people who extended their cooperation to achieve this research and uncover the hidden prevalence of various forms of child abuse. All the street children who took part in the research deserve special mention for expressing their views. I hope that the findings and recommendations outlined in this study will provide foundations for future common strategies and coordinated interventions and will result in improved services and support mechanisms for street children in Kathmandu and beyond.

**Danièle Cheyssou**  
President  
Enfants&Développement

## *FOREWORD*

**By Edwin De Boevé**

**Manager  
Dynamo International**

---

It happened somewhere in Belgium, more than 10 years ago. On the 24th of June 1995, two little girls disappeared. After more than a year, Julie and Melissa were found dead. They had fallen prey to a sexual predator. Nothing daunts this kind of predator when he wants to satisfy his sexual urges.

The Dutroux affair was going to shake the Belgian and international public opinion over a series of years. Still today, the consequences of this collective trauma are manifold, probably with some advantages, but sometimes also entailing disadvantages. On the one hand the taboo is partly lifted on a phenomena which remains even now not enough known. “Yes, the number of abused children in the world is much more than what one had imagined”.

In this connection, present research is right to treat also moral abuses, the consequences of which are largely underestimated.

On the other hand, public opinion will from now on have to face this painful fact : “Our societies do not, or insufficiently, protect our children”. In consequence, the various population levels suffer from a general lack of confidence.

We may of course congratulate ourselves that certain countries, European

amongst others, condemn their nationals for paedophile acts committed abroad. This does not prevent that it is necessary to remain vigilant in order that no country becomes a haven for child abusers, i.e. “sexual tourism” addicts. Here, justice and state authorities have an essential part to play.

But the tree should not hide the forest ...

Abuses committed by “unknown” aggressors, predators and or paedophiles remain a minority. The vast majority of abuses are committed by a close relation, if not by a relative inside the family. Hence cumulating several trauma’s simultaneously.

Prevention remains the best bet for the future. In the field, one is exceedingly aware of this : “Those who are submitted in their early stages and intensively to situations of abuse or violence are very likely to become in turn authors of abuse and violence against themselves (drug addiction, suicide, culpability ...) or against others (violence, aggression, abuse ...). Here in fact resides the drama, where abuse, of whatever nature, has long term destructive consequences both at individual and collective levels.

For professionals the question therefore is to try to check this “law of reproduction” of violence and abuse. With a double preventive approach consisting in fighting against abuse and avoiding moreover that the abuse sustained does not lead to inopportune reactions.

More than the figures and statistics contained in the research, one can only feel repulsed faced with this tremendous suffering borne by too many

children who, in the street, in institutions, but also inside their own family undergo multiple abuses. Abuses which very often risk their chance to fully assume their future family and social responsibilities.

Whereas certain children seem to develop an extraordinary capacity to resist the worst situations, let us not delude ourselves, this is only an appearance.

It is not this resistance which will give them the strength to live standing up.

**Edwin de Boevé**  
Manager  
Dynamo international  
International Network of Field Workers

# THE ABUSE OF STREET CHILDREN IN KATHMANDU

A research on children's experiences of psychosocial,  
physical and sexual abuse



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NEPAL  
2008





*Article 2 (CRC) : Children must be treated "..... without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of ..... race, colour, sex, language, religion,..... or other status."*



## INTRODUCTION

Street children are a reality worldwide. In Kathmandu valley alone, Voice of Children and CPCS estimate the number of street children as approximately 900 to 1200. They are living, sleeping and working under the open sky and surviving without family support. They are living with friends and peers, working as beggars and rag pickers. In spite of their young age they are exposed to some of the worst forms of exploitation and forced to experience social exclusion day after day. The reasons for which they end up in the streets of Kathmandu are numerous and complex. Socio-economic conditions in villages, family violence, attraction towards the city, and political instability, are some of them.

"We all know the fact that the street is not a safe place to live, particularly for the children. Different kinds of risks are prevalent on the street. Traffic accidents, violence, crime, gang fights and demonstrations are very common such incidents. Further, there are increasing numbers of crimes against children, such as sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, and use of children for criminal activities. Likewise, exposure to drug use, alcoholism and unsafe sexual activities have put their survival at risk." Gauri Pradhan (Founder President of CWIN and Human Rights Commission member)

Children on the street are living in groups (small gangs) following their own rules with their own way of thinking and own way of living. Marginalised by society they create their own system with their own power relations, hierarchy and values. As collectors of recyclable materials (rag pickers), beggars, street vendors, tempo conductors they don't have positive experiences or a positive image of the general public. They are what people call "Khate", a word, which once described ragpickers only but which is

now used for calling all those children who work, live and sleep on the street.

They are considered as social parasites, petty criminals, drug abusers and thieves. Their sometimes vulgar language, dirty clothes and refusal of many social constraints makes the public think assume street children to be antisocial beings.

On the other hand the children themselves feel that they have no other choice but to behave differently. Rejection from the society drives them to deny society and its rules. They are trapped in a cycle of exclusion, marginalization and violence.

This study focuses on physical, moral and sexual abuses that children are facing day after day. Victims are made to understand abuse as a part of "normal life" and are discouraged from discussing issues of social violence, sex and sexuality - issues which are taboo in Nepalese society. These issues therefore remain hidden.

The data from this research highlights the frequency of abuse and the main perpetrators. To people who work with street children this may not be surprising. What should however be surprising for all is the fact that little has been done to challenge abuse in a practical and sustainable way.

This research is based on 150 children, 150 lives and is the result of the work of dozens of national and international persons. The data from the research is presented as well as key findings from qualitative information from the children themselves.

Speaking about sexual abuse and presenting results referring to such crimes is not an easy task. We decided to present the facts as they are while trying our best to avoid voyeurism or meaningless commentary.

However, it is important that you, the reader, understand that this is

reality. Street children day after day, night after night are facing psychosocial, physical, and sexual abuse.

We remain convinced that it is through a change in society as a whole that we can bring about an improvement to their drastic conditions.

We hope that at the least this book will enlighten readers about the problem and push NGO`s, GO`s and all social actors to react.

**Krishna K. Thapa & Ryckmans J**

Research Directors

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This book is the result of the relation of respect, trust and support that the CPCS and VOC teams have been able to establish with street children in Kathmandu since many years.

We sincerely thank Mr. Dharma Raj Shrestha, Dr. Jayandra Shrestha & the National and International experts who shared their valuable thoughts, and opinions with us.

Our thanks are also due to following persons and institutions who took part in the conception, writing and finalization of this research:

We are very grateful to the Embassy of Finland who supported the initiation of this research in 2005 and to Michael Meehan for his huge involvement and support.

Last but not least, special thanks must be given to all the street children who collaborate with us. Both VOC and CPCS strongly commit ourselves to extend practical results from this book to improve the daily lives and situation of these children.

CHAPTER ONE

# THE RESEARCH



CPCS - VOC  
NEPAL  
2008





All citizens share the responsibility to ensure that children get basic human respect and enjoy children rights.

## METHODOLOGY

---

This book is based on research that was conducted between 2005 and 2007 by CPCS and Voice of Children. It was motivated and influenced by the years of experience, knowledge and relationships that both organisations have developed with street children in Kathmandu.

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were utilized for the study. A structured questionnaire developed by the research team was utilized for data collection in 2005 and 2006. Informal and semi-structured interviews were used in 2007 to collect qualitative information and case studies for the report. Experts' points of view and analyses were collected subsequently at the end of 2007.

The conceptual definition of street children adopted for this research is similar to that expressed by the European Network on Street Children Worldwide:

[Street children are] those who for the majority of the time sleep on the street and retain limited or no contact with their family of origin. These are in the majority, “abandoning” rather than abandoned children, who have generally left home for the street as a result of family breakdown and violence almost invariably linked to the stresses of extreme poverty.

## **QUESTIONNAIRES**

Two different questionnaires were developed especially for this survey taking into account the sensitivity of the subject and the often limited literacy background of the respondents. First social workers completed a survey consisting of multiple-choice questions on psychosocial and physical abuse together with the respondent.

Respondents were then provided with a self-administered picture questionnaire. The questionnaire was made of pictures depicting situations in which the respondents could recognize children involved in various forms of sexual activity. The focus of the questionnaire was not on perceived understanding of sexual abuse but on the occurrence of different events, together with reasons for the event and the feelings of the child in relation to the event.

The questionnaire was completed anonymously by the respondents.

## **SELECTION OF RESPONDENTS**

During general awareness sessions conducted by social workers and street workers on various subjects on the street or in VOC and CPCS centres children were asked to participate in the survey. All children participated of their own free will, after having understood the purpose and scope of the survey. No compensation was provided for participation in the survey.

Out of 150 respondents, 70% were children who visited CPCS or VOC regularly. This balance reflects the reach of CPCS and VOC among the general population of street-living children based on an estimated 900-1200 'children of the street' in Kathmandu Valley.

## **DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS**

A database was developed in SPSS to enter all the data from the questionnaires. Data entry was conducted by a statistician and thoroughly checked by the survey team leader. Qualitative information from interviews and case studies was analysed manually. Case studies were selected according to their significance in each subject area, as highlighted by the quantitative information.



## IMPORTANT !

Two different methods were used when analyzing the data of chapter two relating to sexual abuses.

For Sexual Habits and Overall Analysis (pg 53 to 76) all the graphs used the same method. The data uses the total number of individual incidences as the denominator in calculating percentages. The result is the addition of all components adds up to 100%.

For example, let's look at the relationship of abuser graph and frequency of kissing episodes. Of a total number of 203 abuses: 66 of cases were by street living adults; 86 by non-street living adults; and 51 cases were by a foreigner. This equates to 33%, 42% and 25% of the total number of incidents respectively.

In the detailed analysis (pg 79 to 98), many tables have the frequencies continually adding up to in excess of 100%. The same raw data and number of incidents have been used but the denominator in calculating percentages is based on the number of children saying yes to that abuse (not the total number of actual incidents).

An example of this the percentage of children kissed in their village. 92 respondents said yes they had been kissed; 12 reported to be kissed in their village; so the percentage recorded is calculated by  $12 \div 92 \times 100\% = 13\%$ . The total number of all kissing incidents when you add up the raw number of episodes is 255. The difference in methodology explains why the percentages in the tables frequently add up to more than 100%.

## ***Constraints and Limitations of the Study***

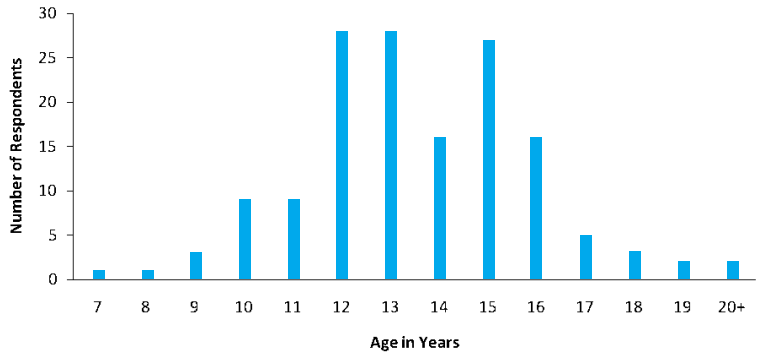
The survey looked at sexual activities experienced by street children and young people. It did not propose a judgement about these activities (whether abuse occurred or not) nor look to understand respondents' perceptions of abuse:

- The picture questionnaire did not collect information on issues of consent or 'voluntary' engagement in sexual activity although what is clear from the survey is that many of the children themselves may have been in the role of the 'initiator';
- Reporting of behaviour seen as socially unacceptable may have been hidden by the children in spite of the fact that the interviews were completed individually and anonymously;
- Although data was collected anonymously the gathering of information may have restricted by the use of social workers/street workers instead of outside enumerators and bias may have occurred due to the fact that many questionnaires were completed within the organisations' projects;
- Respondents were briefed about using the picture questionnaires however there may have been some confusion or misunderstanding resulting in misreporting, especially if children were embarrassed to ask questions for clarification.

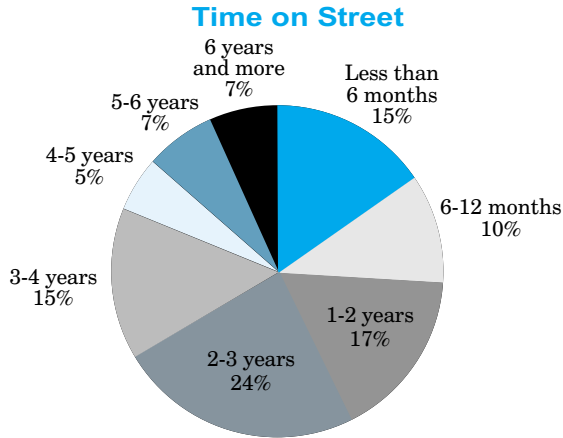
## ***BASIC PROFILE OF THE RESEARCH RESPONDENTS***

Given the focus of the research on abuses faced by children and young people on the street and the need to reassure respondents of the anonymity of the survey, no background information was collected except for the age of respondents and the amount of time they had spent on the street.

A total of 150 street children and young people participated in the survey. In line with the research methodology all respondents were boys. The majority of respondents were between the ages of 12 and 16 (77% of sample), with 15% under 12 years of age and 7% of respondents over 16 years of age.



There was wide range distribution of time spent on the street. 25% had spent less than 1 year on the street, including 15% who had come to the street less than six months prior to the survey. The majority (56 % of respondents) had spent between 1 and 4 years on the street, while 19% of respondents had spent more than 4 years on the street.





CHAPTER TWO

# PSYCHOSOCIAL & PHYSICAL ABUSES



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2008





Many times, street children are insulted and morally abused, scared, and terrorised by persons who are afraid of them or who don't recognise that they are still children despite their way of life.

## INTRODUCTION

Perhaps the greatest risk faced by children living on the street over which they have little or no control is their vulnerability to abuse. In particular street children face daily physical and psychosocial abuse which is so normalised that the children themselves no longer question this situation. Psychosocial abuse encompasses all abuse which affects the child mentally or emotionally.

The data from this research highlights the frequency of abuse and the main perpetrators. To people who work with street children this may not be surprising. What should however be surprising is that fact that little has been done to challenge abuse in a practical way which has an impact. The data from the research is presented as well as key findings from qualitative information from children and recommendations.

Perhaps the most important determining factor for the future of children on the street is the environment in which they spend the majority of their time. While they may visit organisations and have contact with social workers, family or other relatives, the reality is that most of their time is spent with peers and with adults in the street environment. For many children this is from an early age.

On the street children are required to develop their own coping and safety strategies and for most this means forming groups for protection. For many children this is their means of reducing risk to physical, sexual and other abuses. However the reality is that many groups or gangs can become the source of these abuses. Furthermore, in protecting themselves from immediate abuse children expose themselves to long-term risks involved

with gangs: exposure to substance abuse, exposure to criminal activities, and exposure to high-risk sexual behaviour or sexual abuse.

For children and adolescents, groups and gangs often play the most significant role in their socialization and process of identity formation. At this time children are exposed to many risk behaviours which become normalized for them. While society may look at many issues related to drugs and criminality in terms of a legal framework this often has little relevance for street children. On the margins of society, many children's experience of the state and society is through encounters with the police. Arrested for no reason, without recognition of their inherent rights, and abused by a state body children are given little motivation to participate in society.

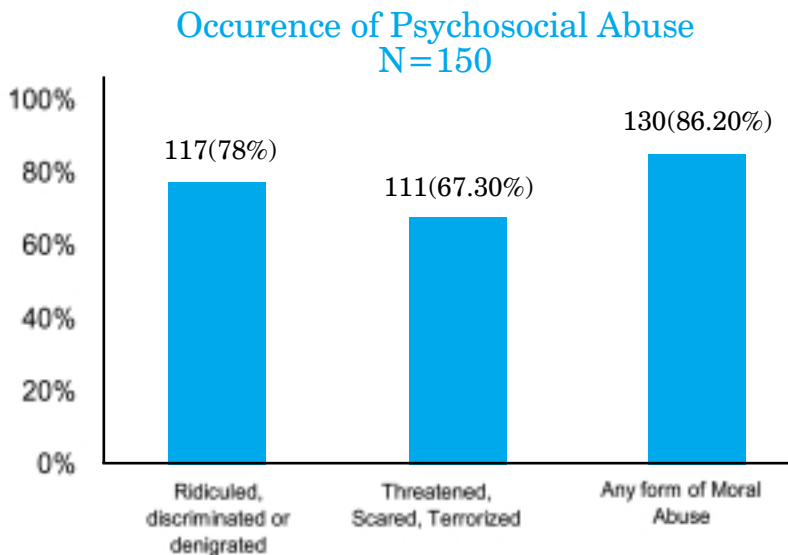
While organisations provide services for street children and work with them in groups, often there is little understanding or appreciation of the importance of the group/gang in the child's life. While working with individuals it is also necessary to work with and target the group, and in particular those individuals that have a significant influence in the child's life - the policeman, the gang leader, or even the drug dealer. Organisations should work with all these actors to improve children's conditions and to protect them from daily physical and moral abuse.

This chapter examines the psychosocial and physical abuses which children face on the street. The findings highlight the normality of psychosocial and physical abuse in children's daily lives on the street, as well as children's reactions to this abuse, and raises the question of how this situation has become so normal and apparently accepted.



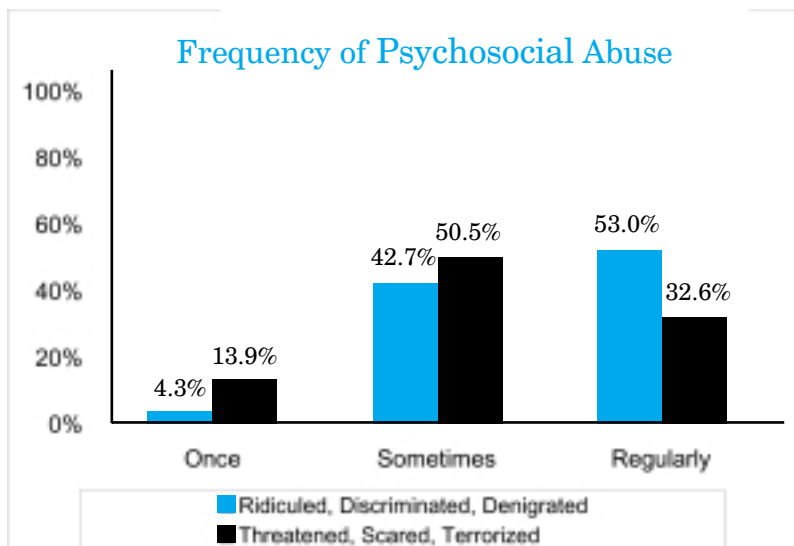
## *Psychosocial Abuse*

86% of respondents reported having been morally abused in some way. 78% of respondents reported being ridiculed, discriminated against or denigrated, while 67% reported being threatened, scared or terrorised.



In the majority of cases children reported this happening 'sometimes' or 'regularly'. Of those who had been ridiculed, discriminated or denigrated more than 95% reported this had happened more than once, with over half (53%) reporting this happened on a regular basis. Of those who had been threatened, scared or terrorised over 85% reported this happening more than once with over 30% reporting this happened on a regular basis.

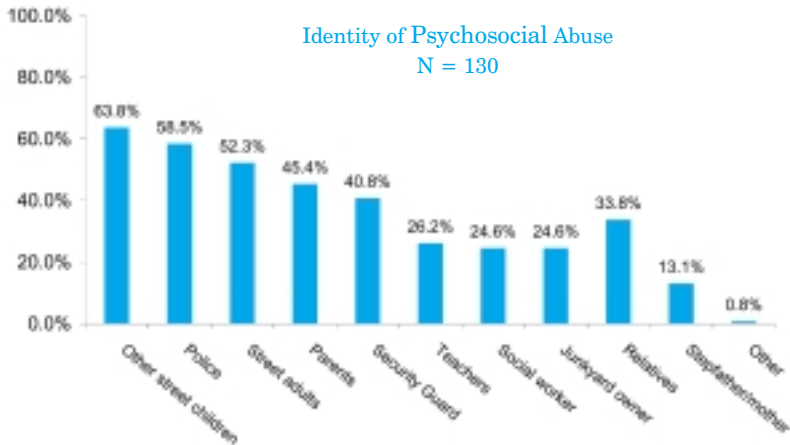
Almost all respondents (96%) reported having being abused morally by a male, while 59% reported having been abused by a female.



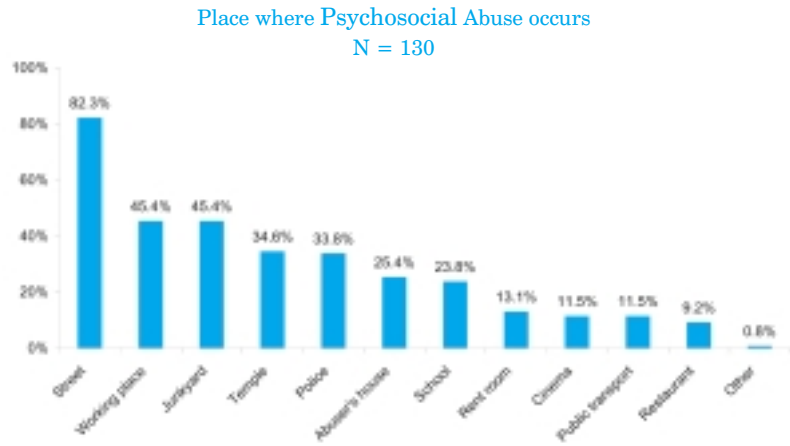
**Anil's Story, Age 14 (name changed)**- Anil's family was not poor, but when he was 11 years old his parents began to quarrel often and one day his mother committed suicide. Within a year his father fell down a well and also died and so Anil became an orphan. Anil's brother worked as a bus conductor and many of his friends lived on or near the street and so he too started to live on the street. Anil began to develop difficult behaviours, including substance abuse, and was arrested by the police many times.

In the street he would be beaten by the public, street adults and others. Anil developed a very negative self-image and although he wanted to return home after some time he looked at himself as 'khate' and was scared to go home to his sister. Anil realises street life is not good for his future but he also realises that he cannot stay for a long-time at home because he has become accustomed to the freedom of street life. He is now staying in CPCS and trying to slowly improve his behaviour so that one day he will be able to stay at home.

The perpetrators of abuse were primarily other street children (64%). Police were identified by 59% of children as abusers before even street adults (52%). Significantly teachers and social workers were identified by 24-26% of respondents as moral abusers.



82% of respondents reported that moral abuse occurred in the street followed by 45% identifying working place or junkyard. 34% identified police custody as a place where moral abuse occurred and 24% school.



**Suman's Story, Age 14 (name changed)** From the age of 8 years Suman worked in Bus Park as a vehicle cleaner because of his family's economic condition and his father had died. He would sometimes stay out and sleep in that area and sometimes sleep at home. In the period he worked in Bus Park he was often physically abused and sexually abused by the bus conductor and other adults.

Suman was also treated badly by the other children because of his appearance, in particular his white skin and brown hair. He would be involved in many fights and eventually ran away. Suman moved between different cities, different organisations and different jobs. After some time he started work as a domestic worker in someone's house. When other workers found out that Suman was from 'untouchable caste' they told him to change his name otherwise he would be removed from his job. He changed his name but the other working children began to joke against him so he ran away.

Later he joined in CPCS and he told his name as 'Magar' to hide his real background. It was only when he enrolled in school that he and many of his friends told the truth about their name and background. They had all lived in fear of being discriminated against.



Article 6 (CRC) : ".....Every child has the inherent right to life.....survival and development..."



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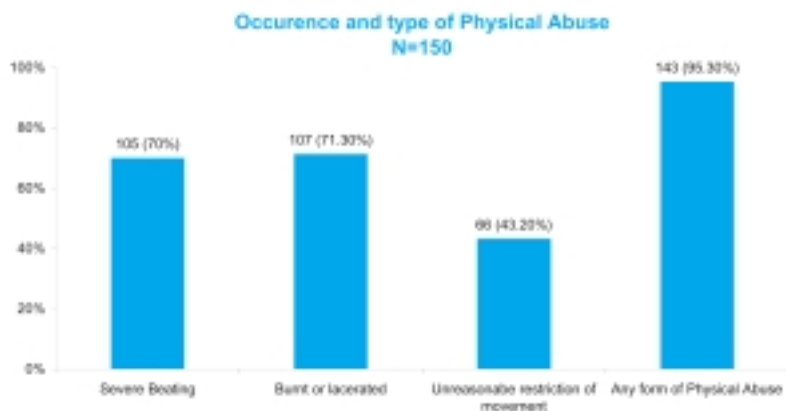




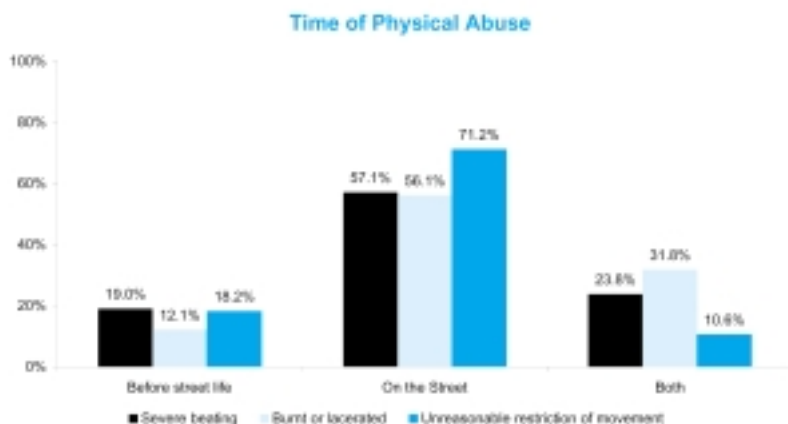
Article 16 (CRC) : "No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy.... nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation."

## Physical abuses

Over 95% of respondents reported having been physically abused in some form. 71% reported having been burnt or lacerated, 70% having been beaten severely, and 43% having their movement restricted.



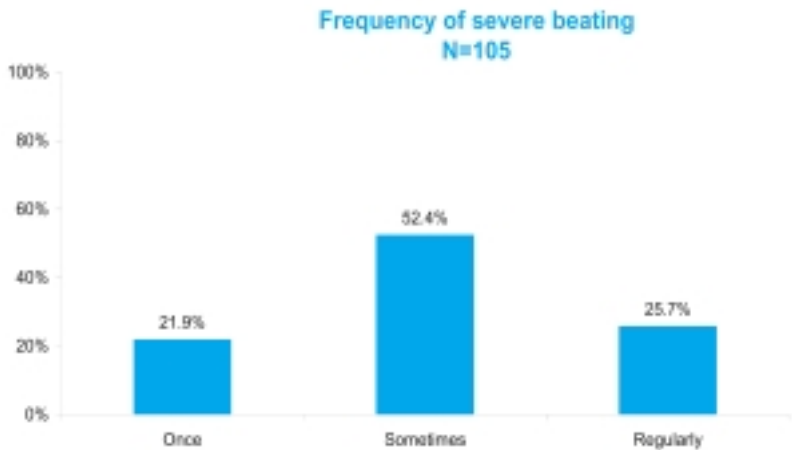
A significant proportion of respondents had faced physical abuse before coming to the street - 43% of children had been severely beaten before coming to the street, 44% had been burnt or lacerated before coming to the street, while 29% had faced unreasonable restriction of movement



before coming to the street. However the majority of respondents were severely beaten (57%), burnt or lacerated (56%), or restricted in movement (71%) for the first time when they were on the street.

### Severe Beatings

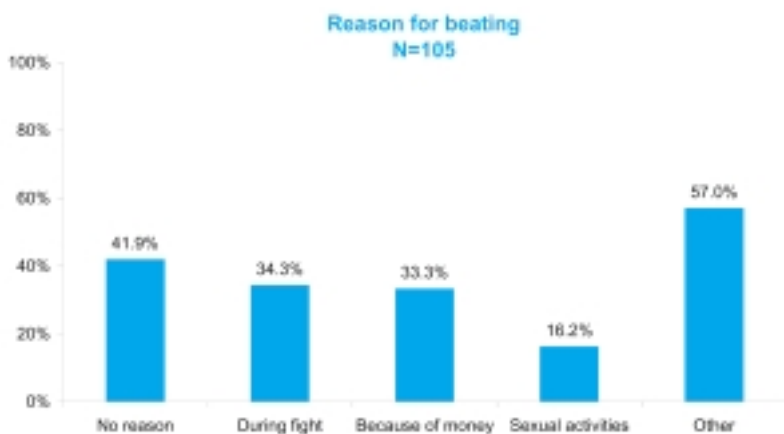
For the 70% of children reporting having been severely beaten, over 80% had experienced this on the street and 57% had experienced this only on the street and not before. For only 22% of children was severe beating a one-off event - over 50% of respondents reported having been severely beaten 'sometimes' while over 25% reporting being severely beaten regularly.



In 96% of these severe beatings an object/weapon was used. Sticks were used in 74% of incidents, a chain/belt or stone/brick in 47% of cases, stinging nettles in 38% of incidents, a rope in 25% of cases, and a knife in 18% of cases.

42% of children reported there was 'no reason' for the beating underlining the normality of violence on the street. Approximately 33-34% reported beating occurred during fight or because of money, while 16% reported beating being related to sexual activities.

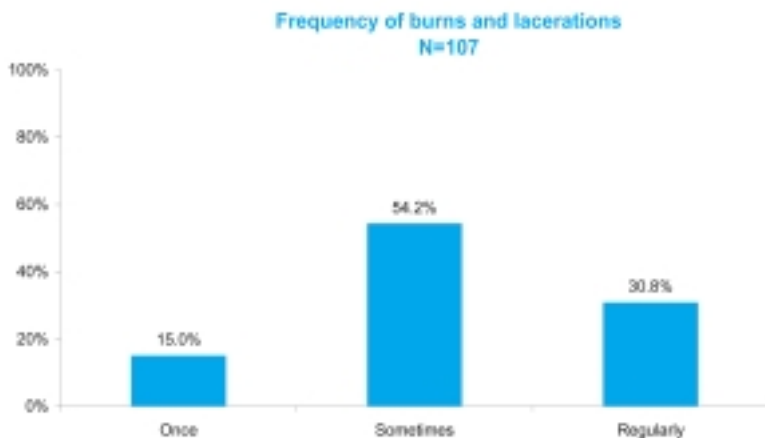




## ***Burns and laceration***

Burns and lacerations are as common as severe beating: 107 children (71%) report to have been burnt or lacerated at least once. 88% of these respondents had experienced this on the street and 56% had only experienced this on the street and not before.

85% of respondents reported being burnt or lacerated more than once and 30% reported this to be a regular occurrence of abuse.



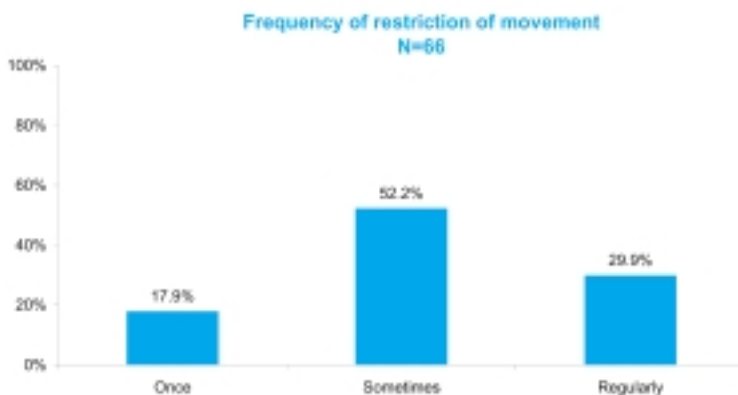
Again over half of respondents (52%) reported there being 'no reason' for being burnt or lacerated, while 64% mentioned fights as circumstance for being burnt or lacerated. 47% of respondents reported burning or laceration resulting from punishment for theft, while 35% reported in relation to money, and 11% relating to sexual activities.



In approximately 23-24% of cases children reported being burnt or lacerated with cigarettes or a knife, while in 6-7% of cases by electricity or a stick. 46% of respondents reported that other objects were used resulting in burning or laceration (for example glass/bottles, lighter etc.).

## *Unreasonable restriction of movement*

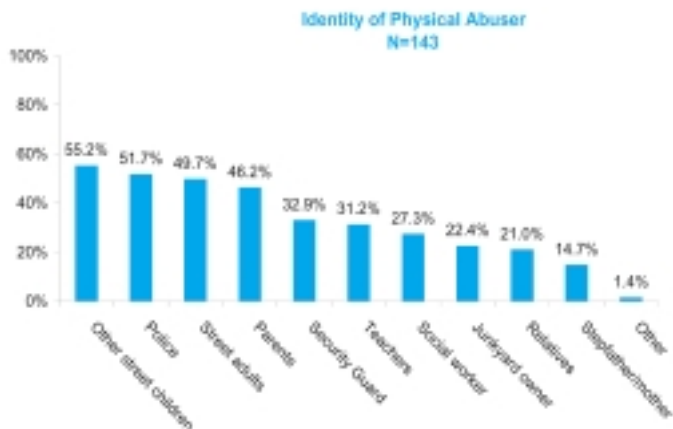
Less frequent than beatings, lacerations or burns but still inflicted at least once upon 43% of the interviewed street children was unreasonable restriction of movement. For 71% of children this had been inflicted on them only once they had come to the street. As for all physical abuses, restriction of movement was experienced more than once by the majority of children - more than 80% reporting it happened 'sometimes' or 'regularly'.



## *Circumstances of physical abuse*

Of those abused over 96% reported having been abused by a male, while 55% reported having been abused by a female.

The identity of physical abusers was listed as other street children (55%), closely followed by police personnel (52%), street adults (50%) and parents (47%). Significantly over one quarter (27%) of physically abused children identified a social worker as the abuser.



Not surprisingly respondents are most at risk on the street, with 72% reporting this as the location of abuse, while 42% identified their working place and 34% the junkyard.

Significantly 31% of children reported physical abuse occurring to them in police custody and 25% in school, both places where children should feel safe from abuse.



**Deepak's Story, Age 14 (name changed)** Deepak's family condition was not good and his parents did not care for him well so he ran away to Kathmandu at the age of 7 years. At first he slept on the street begging money from passerby and from passengers on buses. A social worker from an organisation found him and took him to a shelter. However, Deepak did not want to study or follow the rules of the organisation so he ran away again to the street. This time he started to do ragpicking and made other friends on the street.

After some time Deepak found out from some people from his village that his father had died and then his mother had died from alcohol abuse. He began to feel sadness and loneliness and decided not to return home or meet his brother and sister who were in Kathmandu. Deepak lived on the street in a gang which has an older youth/adult as a leader. Most of the

group were involved in illegal activities, and the gang leader would sometimes physically and sexually abuse the street children to show his power.

One night the group were stealing plastic, silver and iron goods from a private home when someone saw them and called to other community people. All of Deepak's friends ran away but he was caught and beaten by 6-7 people. He was kicked and beaten with a stick resulting in wounds to his head. Deepak pretended to be dead and was finally left alone.

Deepak later found out that one of his younger friends who was 8 years old was hit and killed by a mini truck while running away from the community people. The group left the dead body out of fear.

When Deepak thinks about his situation he feels guilt and loneliness. He feels ashamed to be a 'street child' and unlucky to have ended in this situation.

**Binod's Story, Age 14 (name changed)** Binod comes from a poor family and had in the past gone to India to work with his brother to bring back money for the family. He had a big dream as a child to come to Kathmandu to earn money for his family. When he was about 10 years old Binod came to Kathmandu with his friend. His friend worked in a brick factory so Binod also started to work there. However the work was difficult and the conditions were not nice so Binod left. He had a series of jobs working in people's homes, restaurants and other places but every time he left because of the conditions or how he was treated. He finally came to the street when he met a friend there and since three years has been living on the street. In this time he has had many happy but also many painful experiences.

Binod has been abused many times (physically, emotionally, and sexually) by public, police, street adults and employers. However Binod enjoys being engaged in high-risk situations and has less fear of the consequences than other children. Many times while ragpicking he would be engaged in stealing and would be a leader in this. One time his group stole a large quantity of copper wire and after investigation Binod was arrested by the

police. He was beaten by the police and mentally abused, however when his case was referred to the central police station he was referred to a children's home as he was below 16 years of age.

One day a child escaped from the correction home and Binod was accused of having helped him escape. After this time one of the staff in the home began to torture him using an iron pipe resulting in external and internal injuries. After his injuries healed he was referred to a street children's organisation.

Binod is now saving money and wants to return home. He is still suffering psychologically from his experiences and many nights is not able to sleep from fear.

**Raju's Story, Age 14 (name changed)** Raju comes from a poor family and had come to Kathmandu with a relative to beg for money in Pashupatinath temple when he was 11 years old. Unfortunately he was separated from his relative and found himself lost and alone. Raju made friends with some children on the street and started to become involved in substance abuse such as glue, hashish and alcohol.

Raju faced many problems in the street and so decided to return home a year ago. When he returned he learnt from relatives that his father had married with Raju's uncle's wife and was now staying in Kathmandu and his mother had also remarried. Raju felt upset, ashamed and did not know where to go. He immediately decided to return to Kathmandu and the street.

One evening he was ragpicking alone and suddenly five unknown street youth/adults came and demanded his scrap. Raju refused and they beat him seriously and he could not do anything. He cried out but nobody came to help him. He was bleeding from his mouth and one of his teeth was broken. He was in pain but stayed in the street throughout the night. The next day he was treated in an organisation but he now remains afraid to go out alone.



"Street Children are a part of the society like everyone else. They deserve basic rights."



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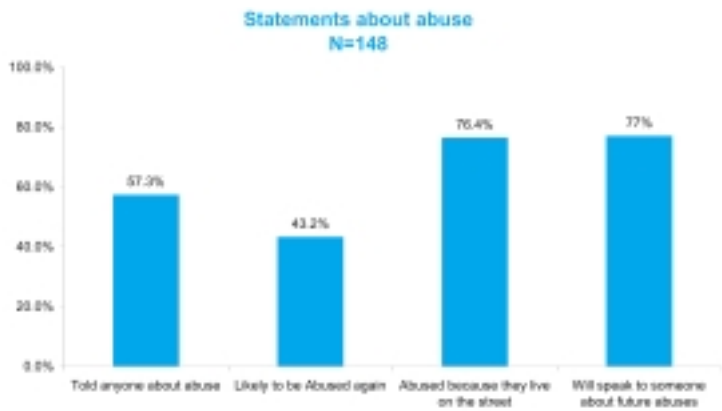


Article 27 (CRC) : Every child has "the right to a standard of living adequate for (his/her) physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development."

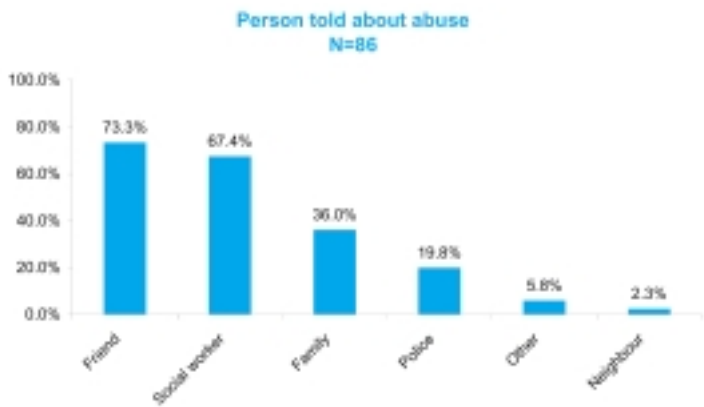


# Reaction towards Abuses

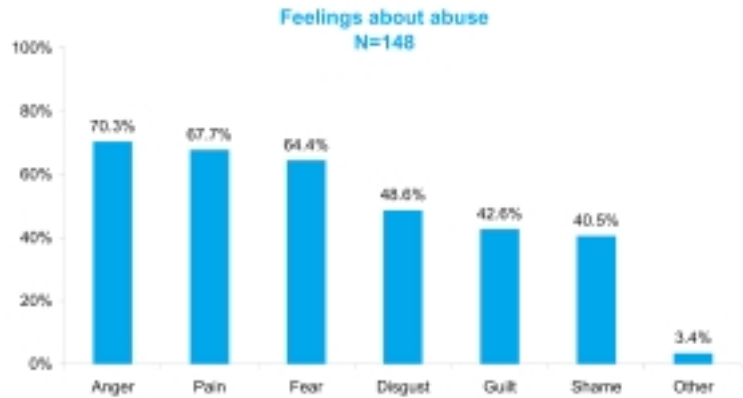
Of 150 street children interviewed in the survey 99% reported having been physically or psychosocially abused. Of these children, 76% felt that they were abused because they lived on the street with 43% also feeling that they were likely to be abused again. Only 57% of respondents had told anyone about the occurrence of abuse.



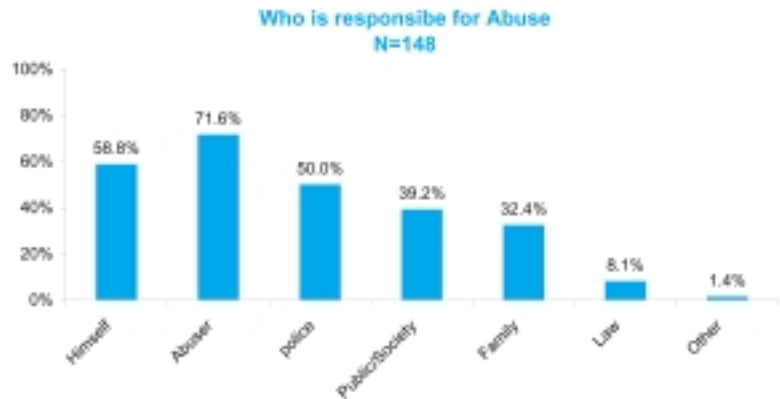
Of 86 children who had told someone about abuse, 73% had told a friend, followed by 67% telling a social worker, 36% telling their family. Notably only 20% of children had told the police about abuse.



Of 148 street children having experienced moral and/or physical abuse most reported feeling anger (70%), pain (68%) and fear (65%) in response to the abuse. Almost half of respondents reported feeling disgust and significantly 40-42% feeling guilt or shame.



While the majority of children (72%) felt the abuser was responsible for the abuse, significantly 59% of children blamed themselves for the abuse. Half of children blamed the police while 40% identified society/public as responsible for the abuse. 32% of children having experienced abuse blamed their family.



# SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

## *PSYCHOSOCIAL ABUSE*

86% of respondents reported having been psychosocially abused. In particular 78% reported being ridiculed, discriminated against or denigrated while 67% reported being threatened, scared or terrorised. The majority reported these as happening regularly or sometimes. 53% of children reported being regularly ridiculed, discriminated against or denigrated and 33% being regularly threatened, scared or terrorised.

While the primary aggressors identified by children were other street children (64%), police were identified by 59% of children and street adults by 52%. In and around the street environment security guards (41%) and junkyard owners (25%) were also identified as abusers. Many children identified their parents (45%) and relatives (34%) as perpetrators. Most disturbing is that 26% and 25% identified teachers and social workers respectively as perpetrators of psychosocial abuse.

## *PHYSICAL ABUSE*

Over 95% of respondents reported having been physically abused in some way. These included 71% reporting having been burnt or lacerated, 70% having been severely beaten and 43% having had their movement restricted. In some cases children had experienced this before coming to the street as well as while being on the street. For example, 44% of children had been burnt or lacerated before coming to the street. For the majority however their experiences of abuse were first experienced on the street.

57% experienced being severely beaten for the first time after they had come to the street. In the case of severe beating, respondents reported this as occurring with significant frequency. 52% reported being severely beaten sometimes while 26% of children on the street reported being severely beaten regularly. 96% of respondents reported that severe beatings involved the use of an object or weapon. In 74% sticks were used, while

stones/bricks or chains/belts were used in 47% of cases. 18% of respondents reported the use of a knife. In many cases (42%) children reported there was no reason for being beaten, while 33% reported beatings happening during fights or over money issues. 16% reported beatings occurring in relation to sexual activities.

Similarly 54% of children reported being burnt or lacerated sometimes, while 31% reported this as a regular occurrence. The reasons varied for burning and laceration from fights (64%), punishment for or during theft (47%), relating to money issues (35%) and in relation to sexual activities (11%). Over half of respondents (52%) mentioned that burning or laceration was often for no reason. 23% of children reported being burnt with cigarettes and a further 24% being lacerated with a knife. In 6% of cases burns resulted from being electrocuted and in 7% of cases lacerations occurred as a result of beatings with a stick.

The perpetrators of physical abuse were generally male (96%), while 55% of respondents reported being physically abused by females. The main perpetrators were street children (55%), followed by police personnel (52%) and street adults (50%). 47% of children identified their parents as having physically abused them. Most disturbing was that 27% of children reported physically abuse being perpetrated by a social worker. Most children were abused on or around the street: street (72%), working place (42%) and junkyard (34%). However, 31% of children reported physical abuse occurring in police custody and 25% in school; places where they should be protected.

73% of children believed they were abused because they lived on the street and 43% believed that they were likely to be abused again.

CHAPTER THREE

# SEXUAL ABUSE



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"Sex" is a social taboo and hence, it is rarely discussed openly in Nepal. But raising awareness is a must... to protect the children...

## INTRODUCTION



Child sexual abuse may include fondling a child's genitals, masturbation, oral-genital contact, digital penetration, and vaginal and anal intercourse. These are ways in which a child can be abused with direct physical contact. Children can also be abused without physical contact, such as by exposure, voyeurism (getting sexual pleasure from watching naked children) and child pornography, use of obscene language; also referred to as non-contact abuse.

Children and adolescents, regardless of their race, culture or economic status appear to be at equal risk for sexual victimization. However, children living in the street and children living in poor conditions are found to be at a higher risk of being sexually exploited. Both boys and girls are vulnerable to sexual abuse. However, boys' tendency not to report their victimization may affect statistics. Experiences have shown that the present conflict situation in the country has made children, more vulnerable to trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation. Many cases of physical and mental abuse, exploitation and torture faced by the children are not reported out of hesitation and are often oppressed due to pressure and power. However, recently there has been a rise in the publishing of cases on child abuse and exploitation. It reflects the increasing concern of the public towards child rights.

Studies on who commits child sexual abuse differ in their findings, but the most common finding is that majority of sexual offenders are family members or are otherwise known to the child. Research shows that men commit most instances of sexual abuse, but there are cases in which women are the offenders. Long-term studies show that children who are victims of child sexual abuse are more likely to be the perpetrators of rape, sexual abuse or to be involved in physically abusive relationships. This trend is

strong especially among street children. In Nepal, some foreign nationals who operated unregistered childcare homes have been found to be the perpetrators of child sexual abuse. Foreign pedophiles take the opportunity of abusing street children in the guise of charity by providing them food or medical assistance while the local street children can directly force themselves on the younger children.

Children who have been sexually abused can suffer from a wide range of psychological and behavioral problems, both in the short and long term. These problems include depression, anxiety, guilt, fear, sexual dysfunction, acting out, etc. However, the strongest indication that a child has been sexually abused is inappropriate sexual knowledge, sexual interest, and sexual acting out by that child. Effects of sexual abuse vary depending upon the circumstances of abuse and the child's development stage. It may also include regressive behaviors such as return to thumb sucking or bed wetting, sleep disturbances, eating problems, behavior and performance problems at school, and non participation in school and social activities.

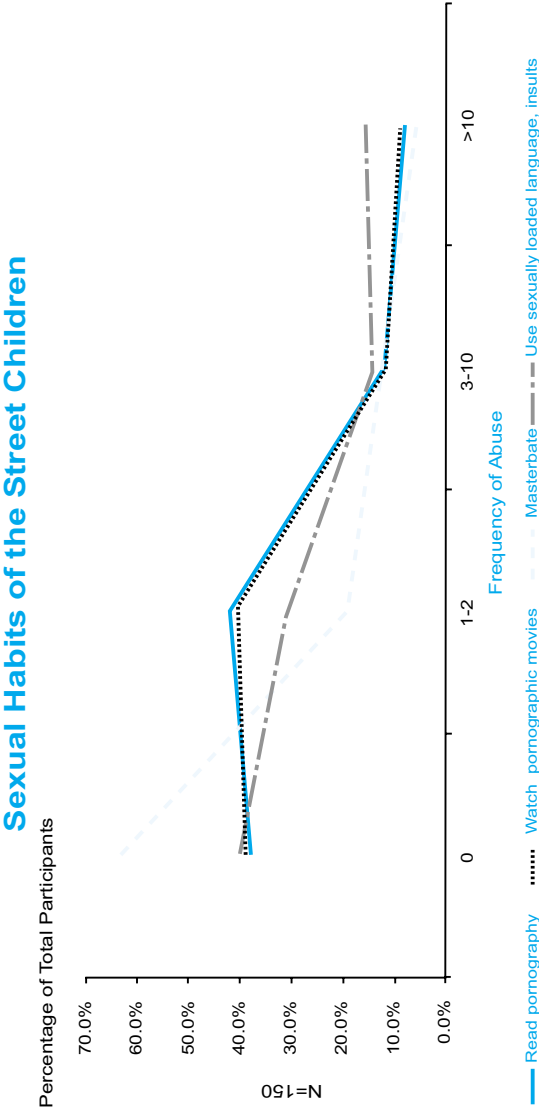
The negative effects of child sexual abuse can affect the victim for many years and into adulthood. Adults who were sexually abused as children commonly experience depression. It can also result in self-destructive behavior such as alcoholism, drug abuse, anxiety attacks, insomnia, etc. Many adults also encounter problems in their adult relationships and in their adult sexual functioning.

Re-victimization is a common phenomenon among people abused as children. Research has shown that victims of child sexual abuse often grow up as abusers themselves.

Sexual abuse and exploitation are grave violations of human rights, affecting a high number of children worldwide. Every child is vulnerable to sexual abuse and it harms the development and health of the child, depriving him/her of access to many spheres of life. Children who have faced sexual abuse are often deprived of family support as well as sufficient protection by the justice system and child protection centers. The vicious cycle of violence and abuse often continues because perpetrators are seldom followed up through the courts or other means. Sexual abuse and exploitation implies a physical and psychological encroachment as well as an abuse of trust, the consequences of which often reverberate throughout the victim's lifetime.



Sexual Habits of Street Children



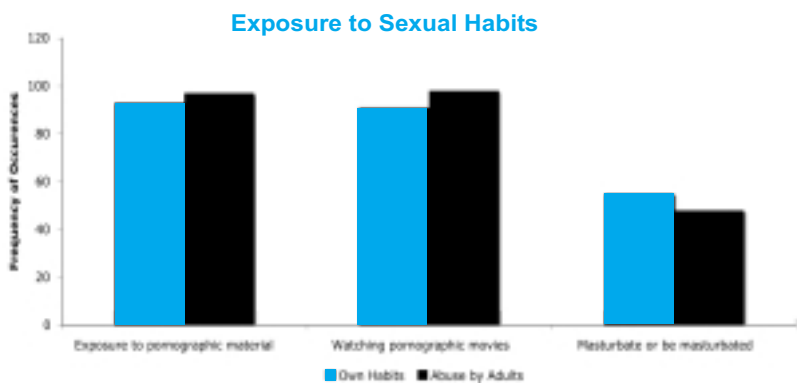
Approximately 40% of the 150 respondents to this research project declared that they do not read or watch pornographic material. Similarly, 40% of the street children said they do not use sexually abusive language. On the other hand, 20% admitted to reading or watching pornography 3 or more times, whilst 30% of the children regularly used sexually loaded language. The table above also highlights the frequency a street child masturbates.

From the findings, there does not seem to be any initial relationship between looking at pornographic material and masturbating. Although nearly 42% of children had viewed the material once or twice, only 19% had masturbated once or twice with 63% declared never masturbating.

**Prem, Age 14,**(name changed) is a rag picker who joins his friends in any activity that is going on - using glue, cigarettes, alcohol, illegal work and looking at naked pictures. One day his street friends asked him to join them to see a pornographic movie. Being curious, he agreed to go and watch the movie. When he saw the naked scenes he was very shy and disgusted by the movie. He quickly left the cinema. A few months later his friends planned to go again. Prem felt no anticipation this time so decided to go again and this time stayed until the end of the movie.

Contrary to this, there are a similar number of cases (20%) of those who frequently watch or read pornographic literature and of those who frequently masturbate. Although this survey did not track if they were the same children, one may speculate that they were.

*Exposure to Sexual Habits:*



When the children's sexual habits data is linked to the abuse by adult's data, some interesting observations appear. For instance, there are a similar number of occurrences of being exposed to various forms of pornographic media. The above table indicates it may well be abusers who actually introduce the pornographic material to the street children in the first instance. If the children were obtaining the material by their own device then you would imagine that the frequency due to their own habits would be a lot higher.

Equally, the cases of a child masturbating or being sexually abused by an adult are comparable. It is not known if a street child masturbated whilst alone or in front of others (child or adult). More studies would be needed to draw any conclusive relationship between the two events.





Street children and Street Youth do have some sexual habits.  
Sexual education and awareness about sex are urgent matters for  
NGOs and concerned social activists.



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Article 34 (CRC) : Children must be "protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse."

Sexual Abuses overview

% of Children Abused N = 150



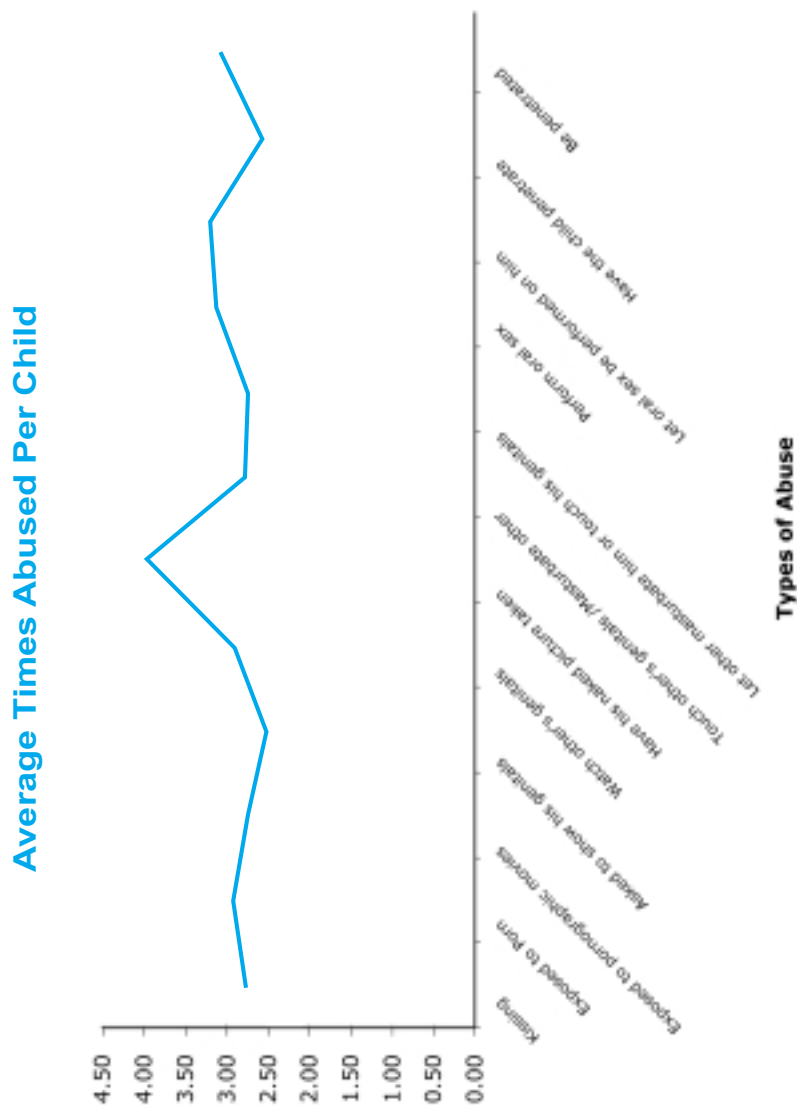
For this research, the types of sexual abuse are grouped together and graded into four clusters or levels. Low level abuse (Level 1) categories are kissing, exposure to pornography and exposure to pornographic movies. Level 2 abuses are being asked to show his genitals, watch other's genitals and have naked pictures taken of them. Level 3 incidents are touching the abusers genitals or masturbating them and letting others masturbate him. Level 4, the worst forms of sexual abuse are performing oral sex, having oral sex performed on them, being made to penetrate in sexual intercourse and being penetrated in sexual intercourse. All 150 children surveyed were males.

Between 60 and 70% of children have been exposed to Level 1 type sexual abuse. This drops to between 15 and 40% of children exposed to Level 2 type abuse. Street children having their naked picture taken seems to be a less common abuse in Kathmandu. Level 3 abuses have been reported by between 29 and 40% of children whilst Level 4 offences have occurred to between 19 and 29% of children surveyed.

The above graph illustrates for those children who said yes to each type of sexual abuse that they are abused an average of three times. The one category that is considerably more is when a child has his naked picture taken.

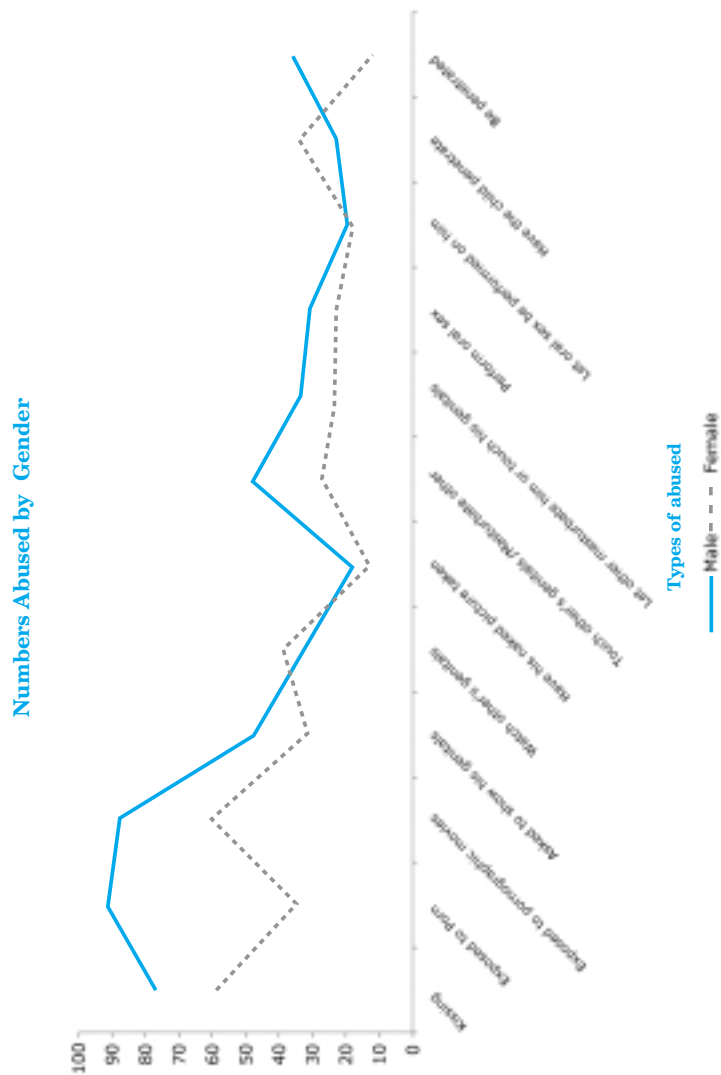


Average Times Abused Per Child



# Who are the Abusers?

Males are the predominant perpetrators of sexual abuse against street children. On average, there are 3 male abusers for every 2 female abusers.



Exceptions are those who expose children to pornography and sexual penetration. In both cases there are twice as many male abusers as females. Going the other way, there are two abuses where female adults outnumber males. More female abusers have the male child penetrate them and the children are more likely to be exposed to female abusers genitals than male abusers.

The patterns above follow for children who have been abused 1-2 times and again for considerable abusive cases (>10 times). For those children who have been occasionally abused (between 3-10 times) the pattern differs.

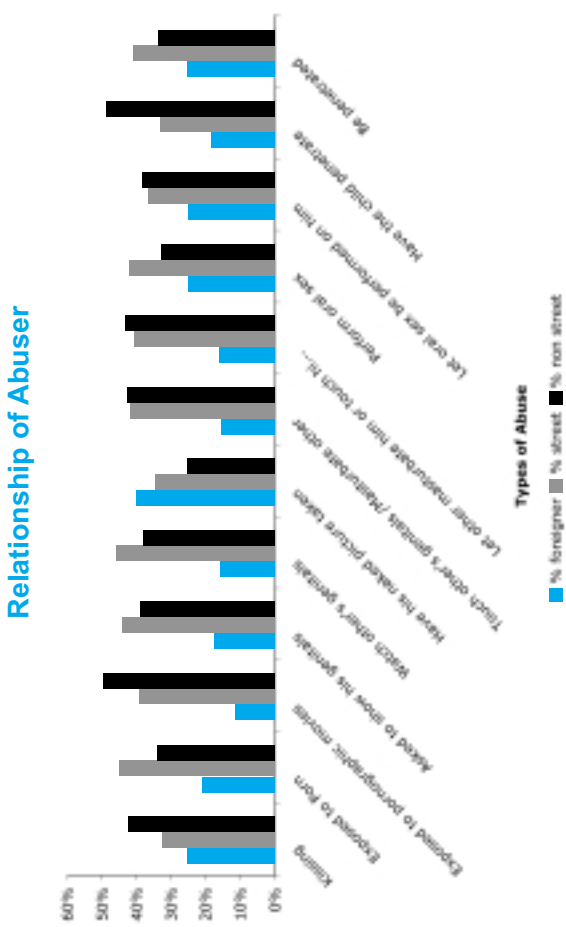
**Suresh (name changed)** ran away from his village due to the Maoists and went to Pokhara. "Henk saw me sleeping in the streets and took me to a child care home in Kathmandu. There were lots of boys from Kathmandu, Pokhara, Chitwan, Lamjung and Gorkha. I was happy that I was able to go to school but sad because of Henk's behaviour towards us. He forces us to do masturbation and oral sex. He becomes very angry if we refuse to do what he tells us inside his bedroom, which is inside our hostel. He takes off his clothes and forces us to do the same. He lets use watch hindi movies inside his bedroom and after some time, turns off the light. He has oral sex with us and uses a cream for anal sex. I was 11 years old when he first did that. What he did to me hurt but he said it was good for my growth so I had to do it.

Once, he took me to a hotel in Pokhara and took photographs when I was taking a bath. He likes boys above 6 years old. I think he is guilty and should be put in jail".

# Street Persons, Nepali adults or foreigners?

On average, 40% of sexually abusive episodes are perpetrated by street-living children and adults as well as 40% by non street-living adults. Non street-living adults can include relatives, shop, hotel or restaurant owners

Relationship to Abuser

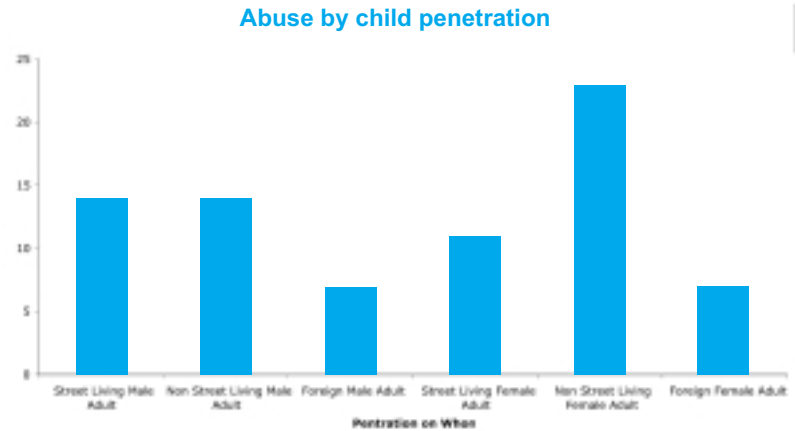


and workers or any Nepali adult not living on the street. Foreigners initiate 20% of cases. Types of abuse by tourists do not seem to differentiate too much between male and female assailants.

The most significant statistics are that those adults living in homes are more likely to expose pornographic movies to children. 49% of cases report that non street-living adults show pornographic movies whereas tourists had shown pornographic materials in only 12% of these cases. Similar exposure to pornographic movies occurs between males or females but for females, half of all cases by female exposure occur by Nepali females living in homes.

Foreigners (40% of the total frequency) are more likely to take pictures of naked street children than the other categories. Exposure to pornography is more likely (61%) to happen by adult males on the street. Exposure to the male genitals is twice as likely to be initiated by street-living children and adults rather than by non street-living males.

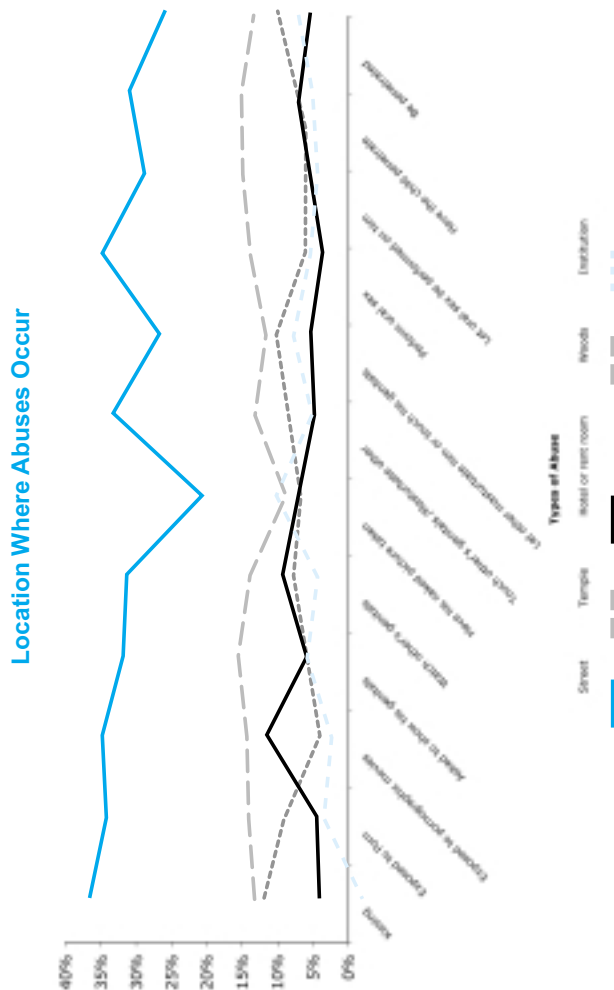
Non-street living females are far more likely to have a male child penetrate them than in any other category (see table above). It is unsure how many of these cases are by family or friends although the child list love as the most common reason why they will penetrate the abuser.



# Where the abuse occurs ?

On the street is clearly the main location for all types of sexual abuse. On average one in every three incidents occur whilst the child is on the street.

Location Where Abuses Occur



The next common location is in the woods or jungle areas (15% of all incidents). Institutions (meaning at NGO's, shelters and refuges) are the next common location with approximately 10% of abuses reported. This is a disturbing statistic because children come to the shelters and refuges to get protected away from the trauma of the streets. They are not expecting to be abused once in these "safe houses". In contrast only 6% of incidents occur at schools and 5% in the child's home village.

Exposure to pornographic movies is unusually high in hotel or rent rooms. One would expect that this is due to foreigners showing the movies in their rooms but the survey seems to indicate that maybe non street-living Nepali adults are the cause. The percentage of people in this category showing pornographic movies is higher than the average (49% instead of 39%) whereas the number of tourists is lower than average (12% instead of 21%). Apart from the street, the next favoured location where a child has his naked picture taken is in temples (12% of all incidents), followed by the woods and in the village (11% each). This study did not investigate whether or not people living and working at the temples perpetrated the abuse.

Junkyards on average account for 8% of the sexual assault incidents, except for the being penetrated category. There is an increase of 50% of cases reported at Junkyards for this Level 4 attack.

## ***Abused by a security guard***

21 year old Raju BK was working as a temporary security guard in CPCS NGO through a security company. According to the organization's observation, his work was quite good. He maintained good relations and activities with the children.

One winter, one the child living in the center woke up at around 4:30 am to go to the toilet. As the child was going back to sleep, the security guard called him saying he had some work. When the child went there, the security guard swiftly took off his clothes. The child was very scared and tried to cry, but he was threatened with a knife. He then forcefully raped the child (had anal sex). Meanwhile, two other children were going to the toilet when they saw what was happening. When the guard saw them, he became afraid and the child was very scared too. The two boys later reported the incident to the Rehabilitation Center In- Charge.

The In-charge took the incident very seriously and counseled the children. The child was very scared but after building good rapport with the child, he revealed that the security guard forcefully assaulted him sexually. The child added that the guard gave him sweets and loved him more than the other children. The counselor focused on the fact that what happened was no fault of the child and that the guard should be punished for his behavior. After collecting all proof, the In-Charge called the police. The organization filed the case in court. The court found the accused guilty of involving in Unnatural sex and even though the case is still going on, he could get 5-9 years in prison. When the offender was being taken to jail, he threatened the Rehabilitation In-Charge. The victim received regular counseling and is now in good psychological counseling. He is now going to school and according to his wish, the organization reintegrated him in his family.



**Shyam (name changed)** was very young when his mother eloped with another man. He used to stay with his mother and step father. They did not send him to school, treated him badly and often beat him. Unable to bear the neglect and physical abuse, he left home and came to Kathmandu when he was just 8 years old. He soon joined other street children in Thamel and survived by collecting garbage. On the streets, he met two foreign girls who arranged for his food and lodging. When the girls returned to their native countries, he joined a children's home in Kathmandu which was being run by a French man.

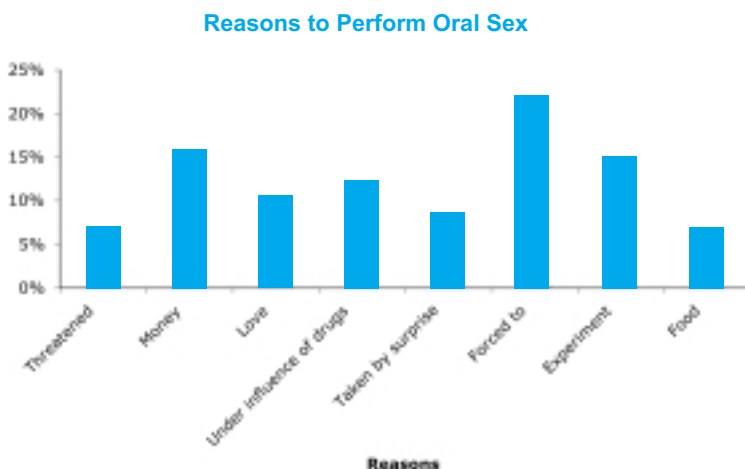
After about one year, he suffered from fever. The director of the home took him to his bedroom. At midnight, the French man took off Shyam's clothes and performed oral sex. Shyam was also forced to have anal sex with the French man and his friend.

After some time, when Shyam refused to be involve in sexual activities, he was threatened and told that he could no longer stay in the children's home. At the age of 16, Shyam escaped from the center. At that time, there were about 55 boys and most of them were also sexually abused. The other boys used to think that what the French man did was not wrong because he provided them with food, shelter and education. They thought that it was how a "Father" loved his children.

## *Reasons for abuse*

Love is the major reason given for each type of abuse with an average of 20% of respondents, except for performing oral sex (11%). Assuming love is the main reason, then one would expect a correlation between love and the child feeling happy (see emotional responses recorded later). For Level 3 and 4 types of abuse this correlation does not exist. Feeling neutral about the experience or abuse seems the far more common response.

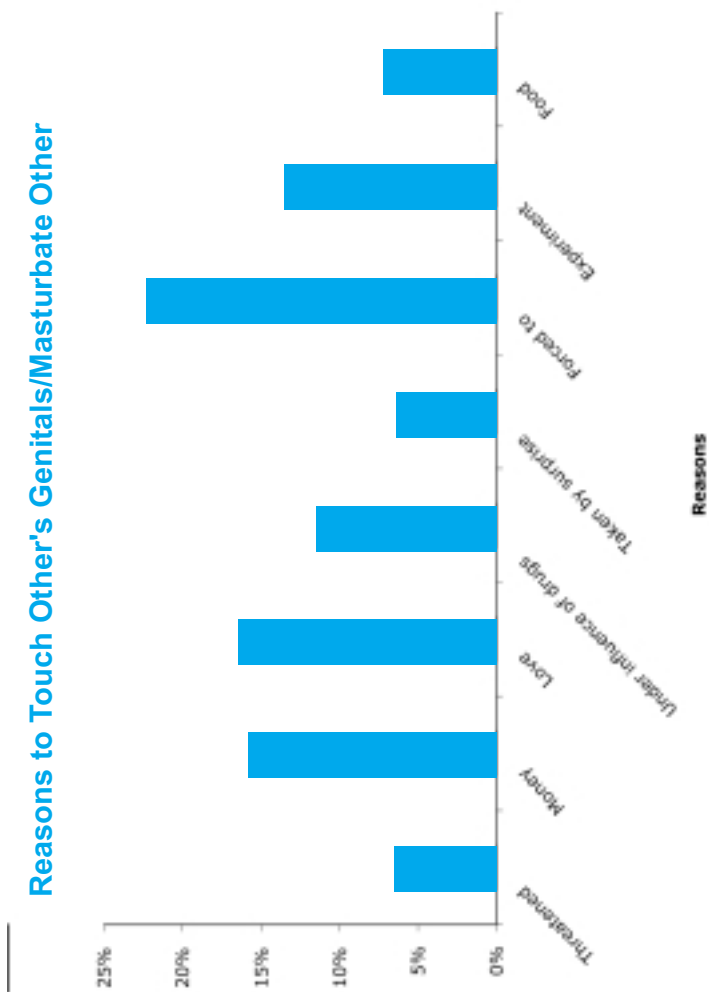
Experimentation is cited quite high as the reason for performing a sexual act with an average of 17% of responses.



Being forced to (or raped) is also very high (15% of incidents) but more so in the categories to touch the abusers genitals/masturbate the other person and perform oral sex (both 22%).

**Amar (name changed)** was always treated badly by his step-mother. One day, he met a foreigner who promised to take care of him and send him to school. One day, the foreigner asked Amar to sleep with him in his bed. Amar thought it was ok, but the foreigner started to have sexual activities.

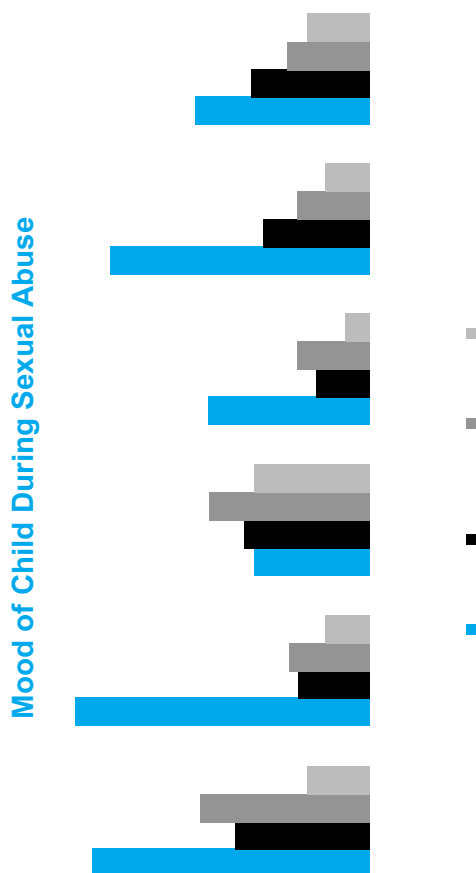
Amar said that he stayed with the foreigner for three and half years. He said that all the facilities provided to him were good but he did not like the foreigner's behavior. He forced Amar to sleep naked and forced him in masturbation, oral and anal sex. Amar saw the foreigner having sexual activities with several other boys.



Food is not a major reason given in this survey with an average of 7% of responses. Being penetrated had four reasons of similar frequency - love and experimentation (19%), then money and forced to (raped) (15%).

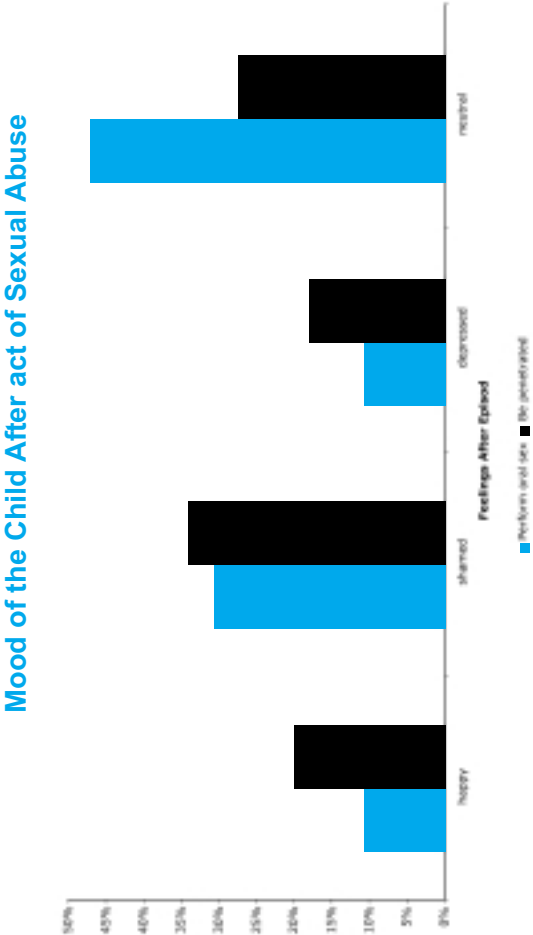
## *Mood of the Child*

Feeling neutral was the most common emotion reported in all categories of abuse but one (perform oral sex). This may be explained by the child



being too inexperienced to explain how they were feeling or that positive feelings of happiness and the like were not options given on the survey.

In more forceful types of abuse like having the child perform oral sex or masturbating the assailant, the street children reported a higher frequency of feeling violent.



Changes are evident from feeling happy in Level 1 cases to shamed, neutral or depressed at Level 2 stage incidents. Emotional numbness takes charge as the Level and severity of the type of sexual abuse increases. Having neutral feelings is cited as the most common response for Level 3 or 4 incidents then followed feeling shamed. Shame is the major emotion felt when being penetrated.

As one may expect, higher than normal responses for feeling happy when others masturbated them or performed oral sex on them was reported.

**Bijaya, Age 10** (name changed) - His parents are uneducated and often would drink alcohol and become verbally abusive. After making friends with local street children, Bijaya decided that living on the streets was better than being at home. After some time, street youths and local junkies forcefully used him for their sexual satisfaction. Often they used oral and anal sex and threatened him to keep the sexual abuses secret. In the beginning Bijaya would feel negative and developed many psychological problems such as depression, insecurity and an inferiority complex. He dared not express these to others. After a while, the sexual abuse episodes became habitual and he just experienced a neutral feeling. He did not think anymore about it. According to Bijaya, now he would also abuse other friends, but they take it as a fun game.

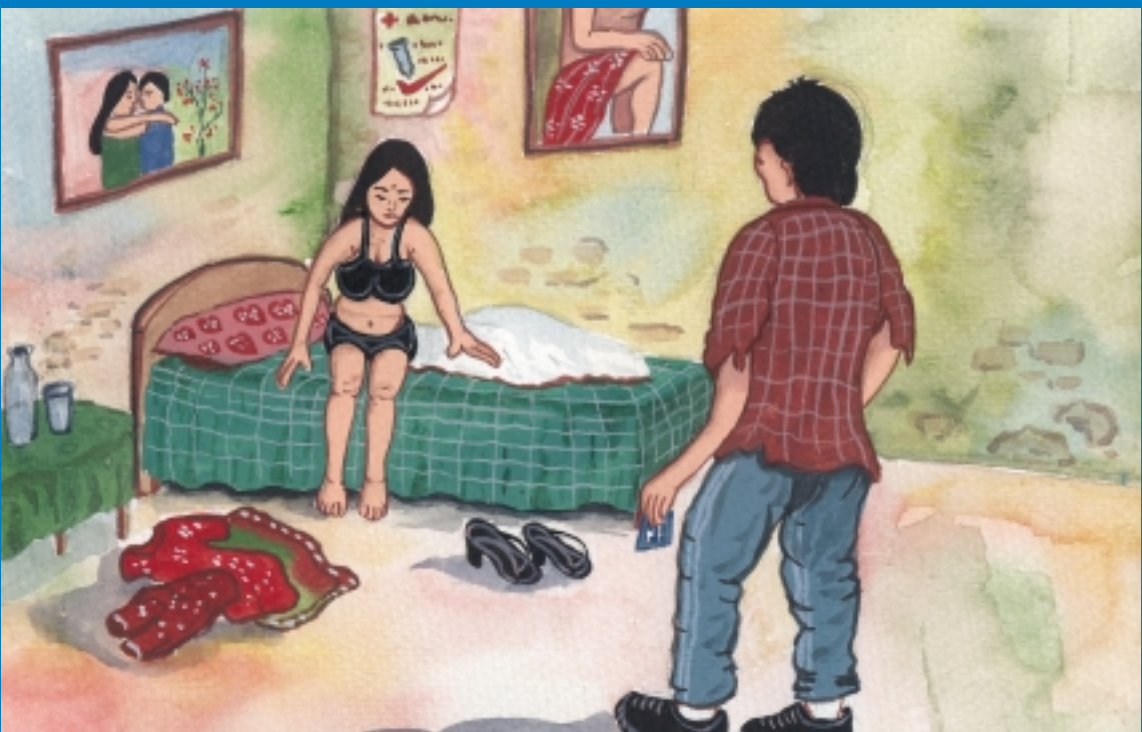


Street Children are frequently used and misused by foreign and local predators who believe they are easy prey for the sexual needs.



CPCS - VOC  
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2008





Help the street children by reporting rights abuses to NGOs and concerned authorities.



## DETAILED ANALYSIS BY TYPE OF ABUSE

### SEXUAL ABUSES - PART 1

#### Key Findings

##### Trends between the 3 categories of Level 1 Abuses:

On the whole each abuse category follows a similar pattern. Therefore, one can deduct that the profile of the chief offender for Level 1 types of sexual abuse seems to be non street-living Nepali male adults; abusing the male children 1-2 times normally on the street. The main reasons for the abuse seem to be for love or experimentation. During the abuse a child displays no emotion but afterwards feels happy or otherwise shows little emotion.

Ever been abused	Kissing on the mouth		Exposed to Porn		Showed sexual activities	
Yes	61,3%	92	64,7%	97	65,3%	98
No	38,7%	58	35,3%	53	34,7%	52
Total	100,0%	150	100,0%	150	100,0%	150

##### Kissing on the mouth:

92 (61%) of respondents said they have been kissed on the mouth for an average of 2.8 times each for a total of 255 incidents (based on total number of "Where" reported incidents).

The most common abuse was by males kissing the children 1-2 times, then by females kissing 1-2 times. Kissing by non street-living adults of both genders is equally high. This category includes relatives, family acquaintances and strangers. Being kissed whilst the child is on the street far outweighs other locations (37% of all kissing incidents) then in the woods and institutional centres are the other significant places.

Love is reported to be the main reason for kissing an adult on the mouth - considerably more than other categories - although feeling neutral during kissing is the strongest emotion and feeling neutral or happy is reported in equal strengths after the kissing episode. Feeling neutral could be construed as the children having little emotion during an act of sexual abuse, not quite knowing how to describe their feelings or use of the category as an "other" option.

<b>By a male abuser</b>	<b>Kissing on the mouth</b>		<b>Exposed to Porn</b>		<b>Showed sexual activities</b>	
Total	83,7%	77	93,8%	91	89,8%	88
1-2 times	57,6%	53	73,2%	71	67,3%	66
3-10 times	12,0%	11	8,2%	8	14,3%	14
> 10 times	14,1%	13	12,4%	12	8,2%	8
<b>By a female abuser</b>						
Total	64,1%	59	36,1%	35	61,2%	60
1-2 times	39,1%	36	21,6%	21	45,9%	45
3-10 times	14,1%	13	9,3%	9	8,2%	8
> 10 times	10,9%	10	5,2%	5	7,1%	7

*\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child*

### **Exposed to pornography:**

97 (65%) of respondents said they have been exposed to pornography for an average of 2.9 times each for a total of 283 incidents.

	<b>Kissing on the mouth</b>		<b>Exposed to Porn</b>		<b>Showed sexual activities</b>	
<b>Table Male</b>						
Street-living Adult (nep)	40,2%	37	62,9%	61	51,0%	50
Non street-living Adult (nep)	46,7%	43	41,2%	40	52,0%	51
Foreign Adult	29,3%	27	21,6%	21	14,3%	14
<b>Table Female</b>						
Street-living Adult (nep)	31,5%	29	18,6%	18	27,6%	27
Non street-living Adult (nep)	46,7%	43	19,6%	19	48,0%	47
Foreign Adult	26,1%	24	16,5%	16	9,2%	9

*\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child*

Chief offenders were male adults who showed pornography 1-2 times to male children. There were twice as many cases from this category than all female groupings. Street living Nepali males accounted for 45% of all recorded incidents and it is no surprise that most offences occurred on the street. The next preferred location was in the woods or jungle. Of 283 cited exposures, only 9 were recorded in the child's village. This equates to only 3% of all cases in contrast to 35% on the streets. This seems to suggest that children are far more likely to be introduced and exposed to pornographic materials once they hit the streets.

<b>Cause(s)</b>	<b>Kissing on the mouth</b>		<b>Exposed to Porn</b>		<b>Showed sexual activities</b>	
Threatened	10,9%	10	17,5%	17	15,3%	15
Money	11,7%	11	17,5%	17	17,3%	17
Love	65,2%	60	53,6%	52	57,1%	56
Under influence of drugs	8,7%	8	21,6%	21	13,3%	13
Taken by surprise	23,9%	22	23,7%	23	12,0%	12
Forced to	12,0%	11	26,8%	26	14,3%	14
Experiment	33,7%	31	45,4%	44	58,2%	57
Food	13,0%	12	13,4%	13	7,1%	7

\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child

Love and experimentation are listed as the major reasons for exposure with the child having neutral feelings during the experience but felt happy after being exposed to pornography.

**Exposed to pornographic movies:**

98 (65%) of male street children said they have been exposed to pornographic movies for an average of 2.8 times each for a total of 270 incidents.

The statistics for this category mirrors those about pornographic exposure except for a few striking variations: exposure by females, 1-2 times, is very high and by non street-living Nepalis (male and female) is just as strong as males adults living on the streets. Hotel rooms have recorded very strong numbers indicating it as one of the preferred locations to watch pornographic movies.

<b>Place</b>	<b>Kissing on the mouth</b>		<b>Exposed to Porn</b>		<b>Exposed to sexual activities</b>	
Village	13,0%	12	9,3%	9	15,3%	15
Street	75,0%	69	62,9%	61	71,4%	70
Tempo	8,7%	8	9,3%	9	10,2%	10
Bus	15,2%	14	14,4%	14	13,3%	13
School	26,1%	24	17,5%	17	9,2%	9
Temple	1,7%	2	16,5%	16	13,3%	13
Hotel or rent room	17,4%	16	19,6%	19	36,7%	36
Woods	41,3%	38	45,4%	44	43,9%	43
Junkyard	13,0%	12	25,8%	25	18,4%	18
Picking area	28,3%	26	39,2%	38	26,5%	26
Institution-centre	38,0%	35	32,0%	31	17,3%	17

\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child

<b>Mood of the child</b>	<b>Kissing on the mouth</b>		<b>Exposed to Porn</b>		<b>Showed sexual activities</b>	
Neutral	45,7%	42	34,0%	33	34,7%	34
Shamed	11,7%	11	21,6%	21	25,5%	25
Depressed	29,3%	27	23,7%	23	28,6%	28
Happy	45,7%	42	60,8%	59	43,9%	43

\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child

<b>Mood of the abuser</b>	<b>Kissing on the mouth</b>		<b>Exposed to Porn</b>		<b>Showed sexual activities</b>	
Neutral	84,8%	78	76,3%	74	69,4%	68
Depressed	16,3%	15	14,4%	14	15,3%	15
Violent	8,7%	8	13,4%	13	17,3%	17
Angered	7,6%	7	9,3%	9	17,3%	17

\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child

## SEXUAL ABUSES - PART 2

### Key Findings

#### Overall report between the three Level Two abuses:

The types of sexual abuses investigated are: children asked to expose their genitals to adults; watch their adult abusers touch their own genitals; and the adult abuser take a naked picture of the child. Similar patterns are seen between the categories children showing their genitals and watching the adult's genitals. The pattern of having their naked pictures taken is very random.

An interesting observation is that children cited being threatened as a far more common reason to show his genitals than threats to watch the adult show their genitals.

Ever been abused	Asked to show his genitals		Watch other's genitals		Have his naked picture taken	
Yes	42,7%	64	34,7%	52	15,3%	23
No	57,3%	86	65,3%	98	84,7%	127
Total	100,0%	150	100,0%	150	100,0%	150

#### Children asked to show his genitals:

64 (43%) of respondents said they have been asked to show their genitals to the adult abuser for an average of 2.5 times each for a total of 162 incidents.

Males abusing children 1-2 times is greater than female abusers by a ratio of almost 2:1. In particular, street living adult males and then non street-living males were the main perpetrators. The number of non street-living female adults was also fairly high. On the streets was predominantly the main location for the incident to occur then in the woods. Reasons cited for the abuse were forced to and then love - these reasons may be split on gender issues although it is not conclusive from this survey.

By a male abuser	Asked to show his genitals		Watch other's genitals		Have his naked picture taken	
Total	75,0%	48	63,5%	33	78,3%	18
1-2 times	64,1%	41	42,3%	22	60,9%	14
3-10 times	3,1%	2	7,7%	4	4,3%	1
> 10 times	7,8%	5	13,5%	7	13,0%	3
By a female abuser	Asked to show his genitals		Watch other's genitals		Have his naked picture taken	
Total	50,0%	32	75,0%	39	60,9%	14
1-2 times	34,4%	22	55,8%	29	30,4%	7
3-10 times	6,3%	4	11,5%	6	17,4%	4
> 10 times	9,4%	6	7,7%	4	13,0%	3

\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child

Again the child recorded feeling neutral or emotionless during the incidents but shame was the main feeling after the abuse. As the severity of the sexual exploitation increases, it can be expected that the street child feels more hostile and shamed about the incident, especially were the abuse is directed at them having to perform the act.

### The child watching the adult abusers genitals:

Table Male	Asked to show his genitals		Watch other's genitals		Have his naked picture taken	
Street-living Adult (nep)	42,2%	27	50,0%	26	47,8%	11
Non street-living Adult (nep)	31,2%	20	30,8%	16	34,8%	8
Foreign Adult	14,1%	9	7,7%	4	47,8%	11
Table Female	Asked to show his genitals		Watch other's genitals		Have his naked picture taken	
Street-living Adult (nep)	25,0%	16	38,5%	20	30,4%	7
Non street-living Adult (nep)	28,1%	18	42,3%	22	21,7%	5
Foreign Adult	12,5%	8	23,1%	12	43,5%	10

\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child

52 (35%) of respondents said they have been asked to watch the genitals of his attacker for an average of 2.9 times each for a total of 152 incidents.

The greatest offenders for this category are females abusing 1-2 times and then males 1-2 times. Males living on the street record the highest result but closely followed by female non street-living adults and then female street dwellers. It is possible that male adults did expose themselves more than females but the children surveyed may remember watching females exposing themselves far more often.

The most vulnerable areas for children to experience abuse were on the street and then woods or jungle. Experimentation, love and being forced to were the three main reasons given. The child felt depressed during the abusive incident and then shamed or neutral afterwards.

<b>Table Male</b>	<b>Asked to show his genitals</b>		<b>Watch other's genitals</b>		<b>Have his naked picture taken</b>	
Street-living Adult (nep)	42,2%	27	50,0%	26	47,8%	11
Non street-living Adult (nep)	31,2%	20	30,8%	16	34,8%	8
Foreign Adult	14,1%	9	7,7%	4	47,8%	11
<b>Table Female</b>	<b>Asked to show his genitals</b>		<b>Watch other's genitals</b>		<b>Have his naked picture taken</b>	
Street-living Adult (nep)	25,0%	16	38,5%	20	30,4%	7
Non street-living Adult (nep)	28,1%	18	42,3%	22	21,7%	5
Foreign Adult	12,5%	8	23,1%	12	43,5%	10
*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child						

### Having his naked picture taken:

23 (15%) of respondents said they have been asked to have his naked picture taken for an average of 4 times each for a total of 91 incidents. Although the number of children abused is lower than the other categories the number of incidents per child is 35% higher than the average. These numbers may indicate that the assailant prefers to use the same child repeatedly.

Cause(s)	Asked to show his genitals		Watch other's genitals		Have his naked picture taken	
Threatened	25,0%	16	15,4%	8	21,7%	5
Money	25,0%	16	19,2%	10	52,2%	12
Love	39,1%	25	38,5%	20	47,8%	11
Under influence of drugs	28,1%	18	23,1%	12	43,5%	10
Taken by surprise	17,2%	11	23,1%	12	39,1%	9
Forced to	40,6%	26	35,5%	18	43,5%	10
Experiment	25,9%	17	40,4%	21	43,5%	10
Food	20,3%	13	11,5%	6	34,8%	8

\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child

Male adults were most often the abusers with incidents occurring 1-2 times. This category was twice as much as females (1-2 times) but far more than all other groupings. Foreigners were most likely to take the photos (40% of all incidents). Male street dwellers also reported significant numbers. On the street was the most common place for the abuse but other locations of note are temples, the woods and in the child's village. Money seems to be the main motivator then love. The mood of the child changes from being violent during the exposure to feeling depressed afterwards.

Mood of the abuser	Asked to show his genitals		Watch other's genitals		Have his naked picture taken	
Neutral	54,7%	35	63,5%	33	39,1%	9
Depressed	29,7%	19	40,8%	21	43,5%	10
Violent	17,2%	11	17,3%	9	56,5%	13
Angered	15,6%	10	25,0%	13	30,4%	7

\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child

Mood of the child	Asked to show his genitals		Watch other's genitals		Have his naked picture taken	
Neutral	31,2%	20	36,5%	19	34,8%	8
Shamed	39,1%	25	38,5%	20	34,8%	8
Depressed	31,2%	20	32,7%	17	65,2%	15
Happy	29,7%	19	32,7%	17	39,1%	9

\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child



**Amrit, Age 12** (name changed), lived on the streets of Thamel where he and his friends begged tourists for money and food. One day a foreign female came by car and played with them, fed them and promised to come back the next day. When she came she asked Amrit and his friends to go to a guesthouse so she could feed him and give him new clothes. They agreed. She fed them food of their choice that was very tasty. Next she requested they have a bath with her. Although initially dubious and ashamed, she eventually convinced them. They all took off their clothes together. She bathed with them and then took naked photos of the boys. As they only cared about the food, new clothes and "motherly" love, the boys did not give the pictures a second thought. The liaisons and pictures continued for some time. She ordered them to keep the visits secret, which Amrit readily complied with.

## ***SEXUAL ABUSES - PART 3***

### ***Key Findings***

Less than 40% of the street children surveyed claimed to be victims of a Level Three type of sexual abuse. These incidents are: to touch the adult abuser's genitals/masturbate them and let the adult assailants masturbate him or touch his genitals.

Being forced to and money have recorded higher than average figures as the reason for touching or masturbating the exploiter. On the other hand, they are not main reasons to let an abuser masturbate them.

As anticipated, the mood of the child was feeling neutral and violent when they had to touch or masturbate the abuser and feeling depressed afterwards.

When they were masturbated or touched they felt neutral during the abuse and then neutral and happy after the incident.

Ever been abused	Touch other's genitals		Let other touch his genitals	
Yes	40,0%	60	32,0%	48
No	60,0%	90	68,0%	102
Total	100,0%	150	100,0%	150

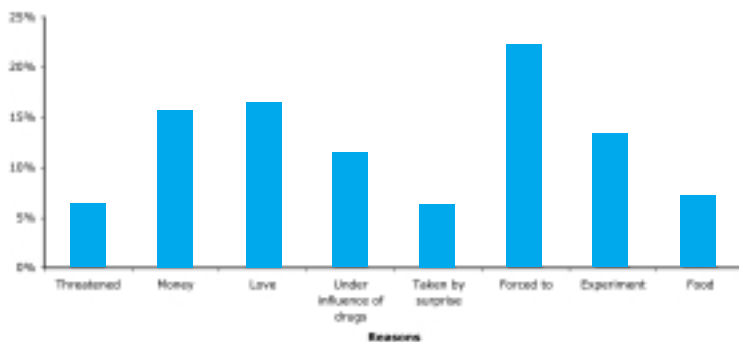
### **Touch the adult abuser's genitals/masturbate them:**

60 (40%) of respondents said they have been asked to touch their abuser's genitals or masturbate them for an average of 2.8 times each for a total of 167 incidents.

By a male abuser	Touch other's genitals		Let other touch his genitals	
Male	80,0%	48	70,8%	34
1-2 times	53,3%	32	47,9%	23
3-10 times	18,3%	11	12,5%	6
>10 times	8,3%	5	10,4%	5
By a female abuser	Touch other's genitals		Let other touch his genitals	
Female	45,0%	27	50,0%	24
1-2 times	26,7%	16	27,1%	13
3-10 times	13,3%	8	16,7%	8
>10 times	5,0%	3	6,3%	3
*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child				

Predominantly males (1-2 times) offend twice as much as females (1-2 times). Other categories are considerably lower. Male non street-living adults are touched or masturbated the most followed by street dwelling males. Being abused on the street is recorded considerably more than other locations; the next area of some substance is the woods or jungle. Apart from being forced and for money, equally valid reasons given by the children include for love and experimentation.

### Reasons to Touch the Abuser's Genitals/Masturbate Them



Money normally averages 11% of all incident cases but here it records 16%. The being forced to category averages 15% of the given reasons but here it reached 22%.

**Kedar Age 12** (name changed), when he came to Kathmandu he had not eaten for two days. He saw other street children beg for money so he did the same thing. One day whilst begging for money in Ratnapark, a middle-aged woman talked to him and then bought him clothes and sweets. Kedar was very happy. The lady suggested that he come back to her house. Being alone, he thought twice but then accepted the offer. When they reached her home, it was very beautiful but no one was there except for a servant. There were lots of toys and other things that they played with. After a while she suggested that they take a bath so to clean themselves. She took off all his clothes and then her own. Kedar felt unease about seeing her naked but she convinced him that it was normal. The lady then took pictures of Kedar. At that point the woman had Kedar touch her genitals and masturbate her. Kedar was confused about what was happening. Afterwards, she gave him new clothes and some money and dropped him back in the Thamel area. This happened on numerous occasions and Kedar, thinking this as an easy way to make money, did not tell any of his friends about the episodes.

### **Let adults masturbate the child or touch his genitals:**

48 (32%) of respondents said they have been asked to let the adult abusers masturbate him or touch his genitals for an average of 2.8 times each for a total of 133 incidents. Males (1-2 times) dominate as the main perpetrators then females (1-2 times). Street dwelling and non street-living male adults both record very high statistics followed by female non street-living adults.

Place	Touch other's genitals		Let other touch his genitals	
Village	8,3%	5	12,5%	6
Street	68,3%	41	45,8%	22
Tempo	15,0%	9	10,4%	5
Bus	8,3%	5	16,7%	8
School	13,3%	8	16,7%	8
Temple	20,0%	12	27,1%	13
Hotel or rent room	20,0%	12	20,8%	10
Woods	41,7%	25	37,5%	18
Junkyard	26,7%	16	25,0%	12
Picking area	26,7%	16	31,2%	15
Institution-centre	30,0%	18	33,3%	16
*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child				

The streets are the most common area then woods but both these categories are down a little from their average number of incidents. Being abused in institutional centres like refuges or shelters has higher than normal figures.

This is a concern as the street children turn to these centres to get away from the abuses on the streets not to have them continue in so called "safe houses".

<b>Cause(s)</b>	<b>Touch other's genitals</b>		<b>Let other touch his genitals</b>	
Threatened	15,0%	9	20,8%	10
Money	36,7%	22	25,0%	12
Love	38,3%	23	50,0%	24
Under influence of drugs	26,7%	16	18,7%	9
Taken by surprise	15,0%	9	29,2%	14
Forced to	51,7%	31	33,3%	16
Experiment	31,3%	19	35,4%	17
Food	16,7%	10	22,9%	11
*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child				

Love is the main reason for letting adults masturbate them or touch their genitals. Experimentation and being forced to were other common reasons. Abuser feeling neutral during the event and the child neutral and happy was claimed.

<b>Mood of the abuser</b>	<b>Touch other's genitals</b>		<b>Let other touch his genitals</b>	
Neutral	51,7%	31	68,7%	33
Depressed	25,0%	15	16,7%	8
Violent	31,7%	19	18,7%	9
Angered	11,7%	7	10,4%	5
*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child				

<b>Mood of the child</b>	<b>Touch other's genitals</b>		<b>Let other touch his genitals</b>	
Neutral	45,0%	27	50,0%	24
Shamed	26,7%	16	25,0%	12
Depressed	28,3%	17	20,8%	10
Happy	26,7%	16	35,4%	17
*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple response/abuse suffered by the child				

## CHAPTER THREE : SEXUAL ABUSE

## ***SEXUAL ABUSES - WORST FORMS***

### ***Key Findings***

Level Four types of sexual abuses are the worst forms of assault that can happen to children. For this research document, the abuses are: a child performing oral sex on an adult; an adult performs oral sex on the child; the child sexually penetrates the adult abuser; and an adult penetrates the child. Approximately one in three children surveyed has experienced a sexual abuse episode in each four categories.

Overall patterns for these groupings are less obvious than seen in other Levels except for abuses by adults 1-2 times. These statistics are high for both males and females. Foreigners account approximately 25% of the incidents.

The location of offences follow the consistent pattern set throughout this report: 33% of cases occur on the street; 15% happen in the woods or jungle; 8% of assaults take place in institutional shelters or junkyards; and 7% at temples. Only 6% of incidents occur at a child's village.

These numbers highlight just how dangerous being on the streets and away from their home can be. On the streets, a child may have a tenfold chance of being made to perform oral sex on an adult and a fivefold chance of being raped by an adult compared to staying in their village.

#### **Perform oral sex on an adult:**

43 (29%) of the children surveyed said they have been asked to perform oral sex on an adult for an average of 3.1 times each for a total of 135 incidents.

Ever been abused	Perform oral sex		Let oral sex be performed on him		Have the child penetrate		Be penetrated	
Yes	28,7%	43	18,7%	28	28,7%	43	26,7%	40
No	71,3%	107	81,3%	122	71,3%	107	73,3%	110
Total	100,0%	150	100,0%	150	100,0%	150	100,0%	150

The main group of offenders has been male adults (1-2 times) but females (1-2 times) also figure prominently. Males living on the street are the most frequent assailants and then non street-living adult males and female street dwellers. Adult living on the street have instigated 42% of all reported incidents. 25% of all incidents are by foreigners.

The main location where the offence happens is on the street. The number of cases at junkyards is higher than other types of abuse. Being forced to perform oral sex on an adult is greatest reason followed by for money. In both these categories, they are well above their normal averages. These factors may suggest that junkyard owners favour this type of abuse in exchange for extra payments or "an advance" on payments for scraps. It is non unexpected to read that the abuser feels violent during the assault and the child neutral and shamed after the event.

**Kamal Age 13** (name changed), and another street child, 8 years old, followed a youth out of the shelter one night hoping to get a cigarette. After visiting several locations and constantly pestering the youth for a smoke, the youth finally agreed but made it conditional - that the boys masturbate in front of him. At first they refused but then Hari agreed and commenced masturbating - laughing out loud at the same time. The 8-year-old boy also decided to masturbate as well. Not satisfied, the youth then directed Hari to give him oral sex. Hari did. Once finished, the youth gave the boys one cigarette to share.

### Oral sex performed on the child:

28 (19%) of respondents said they have been asked to let oral sex be performed on him for an average of 3.2 times each for a total of 90 incidents.

Again the most common abusers are males (1-2 times) but next the highest categories are females 1-2 times and females 3-10 times. When combined equally, the two female groupings are as high as the men category (1-2 times). In total, there are as many females violators as males.

Male assailants are mainly non street-living adults or street dwellers, whereas female offenders are non street-living Nepali adults. This category includes female relatives, friends, shop owners and strangers. Female street dwellers and foreigners are also prominent in the statistics.

<u>By a male abuser</u>	Perform oral sex		Let oral sex be performed on him		Have the child penetrate		Be penetrated	
Total	72,1%	31	71,4%	20	53,5%	23	90,0%	36
1-2 times	48,8%	21	50,0%	14	34,9%	15	57,5%	23
3-10 times	16,3%	7	10,7%	3	7,0%	3	17,5%	7
> 10 times	7,0%	3	10,7%	3	11,6%	5	15,0%	6
<u>By a female abuser</u>	Perform oral sex		Let oral sex be performed on him		Have the child penetrate		Be penetrated	
Total	53,5%	23	67,9%	19	79,1%	34	32,5%	13
1-2 times	27,9%	12	25,0%	7	51,2%	22	15,0%	6
3-10 times	18,6%	8	25,0%	7	18,6%	8	7,5%	3
> 10 times	7,0%	3	17,9%	5	9,3%	4	10,0%	4
*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple responses/abuses suffered by the child								



<b>Male</b>	<b>Perform oral sex</b>		<b>Let oral sex be performed on him</b>		<b>Have the child penetrate</b>		<b>Be penetrated</b>	
Street-living Adult (nep)	44.2%	19	42.9%	12	32.8%	14	55.0%	22
Non street-living Adult (nep)	32.5%	14	42.9%	12	32.8%	14	43.6%	17
Foreign Adult	25.6%	11	25.0%	7	16.3%	7	28.2%	11
<b>Female</b>	<b>Perform oral sex</b>		<b>Let oral sex be performed on him</b>		<b>Have the child penetrate</b>		<b>Be penetrated</b>	
Street-living Adult (nep)	30.7%	13	35.7%	10	25.6%	11	20.0%	8
Non street-living Adult (nep)	25.6%	11	39.3%	11	53.5%	23	17.9%	7
Foreign Adult	18.6%	8	28.6%	8	16.3%	7	17.9%	7
*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple responses/abuses suffered by the child								

On the streets and in the woods are the most common areas where the assault occurs. Reasons given by the children are for love and experimentation. Being forced to commit the act is only a minor reason for this type of abuse. One may infer that the child abused knew the adult involved.

Neutral feelings of the abuser were common during the incident and then child feeling happy afterwards. It is interesting to note that feeling shamed after the event was also regularly recorded.

### **Penetration trends:**

Similar patterns are seen for last two types of sexual abuse, although some main differences are noticeable. Female non street-living relatives and female offenders (1-2 times) are recognized as the main assailants in having the child penetrate the abuser.

Love is cited as the predominant motivation but the victim feels neutral during and after the abuse. Feeling violent or angered during penetration are rated low, but the child feeling happy afterwards is also low.

### **Have the child penetrate:**

43 (29%) of respondents said they have been asked to have the child penetrate for an average of 2.6 times each for a total of 112 incidents. 60% of all incidents have the child penetrating a female adult.

The most common profile of the sex offender is a non street-living female adult who is known by the child. The abuser could have between 1 to 10 liaisons with that child. Love is the common reason for the incident. This category is twice as high as the next reasons - experimentation or money. The main location is again the street and the woods or jungle.

Cause(s)	Perform oral sex		Let oral sex be performed on him		Have the child penetrate		Be penetrated	
Threatened	18,6%	8	28,6%	8	11,6%	5	15,4%	6
Money	41,9%	18	25,0%	7	34,9%	15	35,9%	14
Love	27,9%	12	39,3%	11	65,1%	28	43,6%	17
Under influence of drugs	32,6%	14	21,4%	6	17,9%	8	23,1%	9
Taken by surprise	23,3%	10	25,0%	7	23,3%	10	17,9%	7
Forced to	58,1%	25	28,6%	8	32,6%	14	35,9%	14
Experiment	39,5%	17	39,3%	11	37,2%	16	43,6%	17
Food	18,6%	8	17,9%	5	16,3%	7	17,9%	7
*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple responses/abuses suffered by the child								

Often the child feels neutral before and after the incident. Feeling confused or mixed up were not options on the survey. Feeling happy after penetrating the adult received minimal responses.

**Sanjib(name changed)** first joined the streets when he was 8 years old. He moved out after his mother remarried although had spent a lot of his life before then between the home and street life. He joined a gang and was involved in a lot of illegal activities. Being arrested was not uncommon. He saw many sexual activities done by adults to street children but was fortunate not to be a victim. Sanjib was 11 years old when he first had intercourse with a female. Use of protection was something he did not know about. Sanjib is now 17 and has always suspected that he has HIV because of unsafe sex.

**The child be penetrated by an adult:**

40 (27%) of respondents said they have been penetrated or raped for an average of 3.1 times each for a total of 123 incidents. Male adults performed approximately 70% of all raping incidents.

Adult male Nepali street dwellers committing penetration of a child, on 1-2 occasions, are clearly the main perpetrators. Also non street-living male adults have recorded high incidence levels.

**Krishna**, Age 13 (name changed), had gone to collect rags with friends along Putalisadak Road opposite the market. Around 10pm Krishna and his friends decided to sleep there. He was in a deep sleep. Around 2am that night an adult offender woke them up, dropped his pants and started to threaten the children with a knife whilst demanding sex. The offender performed oral sex on Krishna's friend and then turned on Krishna and forced him to have anal sex. As the boys were so afraid they remained silent throughout the ordeal. After the rape, the adult threatened Krishna not to tell anyone

Although the numbers of cases occurring on the street (27% of all cases) are high, other locations such as the woods (15%), at junkyards (9%) and in institutions (NGO's, shelters and refuges)(11%) have a substantial number of incidents.

Place	Perform oral sex		Let oral sex be performed on him		Have the child penetrate		Be penetrated	
Village	11,6%	5	14,3%	4	18,6%	8	15,4%	6
Street	79,1%	34	67,9%	19	67,4%	29	67,7%	27
Tempo	7,0%	3	25,0%	7	9,3%	4	10,3%	4
Bus	14,0%	6	25,0%	7	4,7%	2	10,3%	4
School	20,9%	9	10,7%	3	14,0%	6	17,9%	7
Temple	23,3%	10	21,4%	6	18,6%	8	28,2%	11
Hotel or rent room	18,6%	8	25,0%	7	23,3%	10	23,1%	9
Woods	48,8%	21	53,6%	15	43,5%	19	46,2%	18
Junkyard	32,6%	14	25,0%	7	22,6%	10	35,9%	14
Picking area	32,6%	14	28,6%	8	16,3%	7	15,4%	6
Institution-centre	25,6%	11	25,0%	7	23,3%	10	35,9%	14

\*Percentage total may exceed 100 due to multiple responses/abuses suffered by the child

Love and experimentation are the top two reasons then followed by money and being forced to.

Abuser feeling neutral during the event was the common response as was the victim feeling shamed after being violated.

<b>Mood of the abuser</b>	<b>Perform oral sex</b>		<b>Let oral sex be performed on him</b>		<b>Have the child penetrate</b>		<b>Be penetrated</b>	
Neutral	30.2%	13	64.3%	18	67.4%	29	48.7%	19
Depressed	32.6%	14	21.4%	6	27.9%	12	33.3%	13
Violent	41.0%	18	28.6%	8	18.6%	8	23.1%	9
Angered	30.2%	13	10.7%	3	11.6%	5	17.9%	7

\*Percentage total may exceed 180 due to multiple responses/abuses suffered by the child

<b>Mood of the child</b>	<b>Perform oral sex</b>		<b>Let oral sex be performed on him</b>		<b>Have the child penetrate</b>		<b>Be penetrated</b>	
Neutral	60.5%	26	32.1%	9	65.1%	28	35.1%	14
Shamed	39.5%	17	35.7%	10	25.6%	11	43.6%	17
Depressed	14.9%	6	28.6%	8	18.6%	8	23.1%	9
Happy	14.6%	6	48.4%	13	25.6%	11	25.6%	10

\*Percentage total may exceed 180 due to multiple responses/abuses suffered by the child

# SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

## PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

**This research highlights disturbing levels of sexual abuse in all forms:**

- 60-70% of children had been kissed, exposed to pornographic photos or pornographic films;
- 15-40% of children reported being asked to show their genitals, being exposed to another person's genitals, or having naked pictures taken of them;
- 29-40% of children reported touching another's genital, masturbating them, or the abuser masturbating the child;
- 19-29% had been victims of the worst forms of sexual abuse, including performing oral sex, having oral sex performed on them, being made to penetrate the abuser in sexual intercourse, or being penetrated in sexual intercourse by the abuser.

## PERPETRATORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- Perpetrators are predominantly male - on average there are 3 male abusers for every 2 female abusers;
- 40% of sexually abusive episodes are perpetrated by street-living children and adults, 40% by non-street living adults (relatives, shop/hotel owners and staff, and other Nepali adults), and 20% by foreigners;
- In particular, non-street living adults are more likely to expose children to pornographic films; street living children and adults are more likely to expose children to pornographic photos, while foreigners are more likely to take naked photos of children;

- In cases of the child being made to penetrate the abuser in sexual intercourse, the majority of abusers were non-street living adult females.

## LOCATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- The street is the main location for all types of sexual abuse, accounting for 1 in 3 incidents occurring;
- 15% of incidents occur in woods or jungle areas;
- 10% of incidents occur within institutions, i.e. NGOs and shelters;
- 8% of incidents occur within junkyards, in particular sexual penetration by the abuser;
- 6% of incidents occurred in schools and 5% in the child's home village.

## REASONS FOR VULNERABILITY TO ABUSE

- 20% of children reported that 'love' was the major reason for the abuse occurring, except in the case of performing oral sex which only 11% referred to 'love';
- 17% of respondents reported experimentation;
- On average 15% of incidents were forced, but this increased for incidents involving touching the abuser's genitals or masturbating the abuser, and performing oral sex;
- In 7% of cases need for food was the reason for becoming involved in sexual abuse;
- In particular, in cases of being penetrated in sexual intercourse - love and experimentation were each given as reasons by 19% of respondents, followed by money (15%) and force (15%).

## FEELINGS OF CHILDREN

- Feeling 'neutral' was the most common reaction reported during sexual abuse. The exception was performing oral sex where more children felt anger and violent;
- Although many children also reported feeling 'neutral' after the incident more felt shamed;
- In cases of being a victim of sexual penetration, 20% of respondents reported feeling 'happy' after the incident;
- The number of children reporting feeling 'happy' increased in incidents where they were masturbated or had oral sex performed on them.

Upon completion of this research piece about sexual abuse, several thoughts resonated through the mind of the analyzers. First, it was commonplace to read the stories of boys who had witnessed or been the victim of ongoing physical and/or emotional abuse in their family life before taking to the streets. Little or no money at home, alcohol, underdeveloped parenting skills and lack of support were consistent issues within families.

Once the child hit the streets the chances of being sexual abused dramatically increased. After the first assault, the child suffers deep emotional scars. Common reactions were to become very serious and negative at first. This was then replaced by a feeling of nothingness or numbness - one of different mechanisms used to forget. Substance abuse is another method. At this point in time, counseling is imperative but their withdrawal and the threats to remain silent ensure that any support is not given. The majority of victims believe that it is their fault - that they actually had a say in the rape or other type of abuse! Mental health issues that are predominant for these children are: depression; inferiority complexes; feeling guilty; loneliness; fear; low self-esteem; feeling unsafe; and suicide.

Once a child gets off the street, into a shelter and sees a counselor, then dramatic changes occur. Counseling time and again proves that it helps

the child rebuild - psychologically. They now have someone to talk to and soon find out that they are not alone. Their feelings are natural. There is a realization that it is not their fault and they no longer have to fear the offender(s). The child gains enough empowerment to take legal action. Best of all, the child becomes the best advocate to spread the word about sexual abuse being a crime to others.

Unfortunately, many a child returns to the street without receiving the full effects and benefits of counseling and end up getting abused again. Repeated assaults then turn into habits. This is when the child starts to believe that incidents are just a normal part of life - they have experienced or know of nothing else. The event is not extraordinary. All feelings disappear as the child is desensitized against the (internal) pain. And as this is normal, the child then continues the cycle by becoming the abuser to other younger street children. As the order changes, the child is filled with power; they see themselves as superior, even a hero.

With the routineness comes the depreciation of self-worth and self-value. If one makes only 100NRS from ragpicking but can make 1000NRS or more just to have their picture taken in the nude, then why not? One reported incident was that a boy gave oral sex to an adult for a half of a cigarette. The cost of sexual favours becomes extremely low.

As one would expect for children, they are not of the risks that are involved in sexual abuse incidents. Where having one's photo taken whilst in the nude seems harmless enough for the child, but then this may be the new pin up image on illicit web pages. Medical issues such as HIV-AIDS is a great concern, not to mention the increase likelihood of being bashed or cut.



## Child Sexual Abuse

“So long as little children are allowed to suffer,  
there is no true love in this world.”

- Isodore Duncan

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but  
because of those who look on and do nothing.”

- Albert Einstein

That children continue to fall prey to the violence of malevolent adults is testimony to the fact that despite millennia of our evolution, our societies continue to fail the most vulnerable among us. Despite the economic, scientific and cultural progress of modern societies, children remain easy targets of exploitation and violence.

The Western world has made progress, unprecedented even a century ago, in increasing the level of protection, care, access to information for children and heightening awareness of their own rights. Sadly, this cannot to be said of the millions of children unfortunate enough to be born in the “other” world.

One of the unintended consequences of globalisation has been that the “hunting area” for paedophiles and other sex offenders has increased tremendously. As child protection has increased in the West, the problem has simply been exported elsewhere. Asia, for example, was openly promoted as a sex destination in the 1970’s and 80’s. Certain countries like Thailand and the Philippines came to be associated with easy “access” to all forms of sexual exploitation, including pedophilia. Recent years have seen strong efforts from governmental and non-governmental agencies to combat this problem. As a result, a sharp decline in all forms of sexual exploitation, including that of children, witnessed there have been relocated to newer areas like South Asian countries of Sri Lanka, India and Nepal – making them the new easy “heavens” for paedophiles from around the world.

Back in 1996, when we escorted the very first children in Kathmandu to testify about their sexual abuse by foreign paedophiles to the local police station, the police officers refused to believe them: not because they thought the children were lying but because they could not imagine that a man, an educated foreigner, could sexually abuse a small boy. The reason was pretty simple: everyone understands that a girl can be raped but it never crossed their mind that men could abuse small boys, especially “white” men, foreigners who are considered “good”, “educated” and from “developed” countries. But once they realised what was really happening, the police officers and government officials took the matter extremely seriously and did everything they could to help apprehend offenders. Interestingly, it was the expatriate community in Nepal that continued to be in denial, disbelieving the abused street children and supporting their friends accused of child abuse. Some of the apprehended foreigners were living in KTM and were running street children “Homes”.

Unfortunately, to our utter horror, due to a total lack of an effective legal prosecutorial framework, the offenders were temporarily detained and quickly released - there simply were no laws to protect boys against sexual abuse.

A lot has changed in the decade or so since then. In that period, we have continued to work on those issues and some progress has been made. Cases of sexual abuse of street children are being heard, and awareness among target groups and the society at large continues to grow. On the legal front, an amendment to the law, albeit limited in its scope and effectiveness, has been legislated. Finally, programs aimed at protecting and supporting street children are being implemented by a number of NGOs. A lot of work remains, but it is a start.

The credit for setting us all on the track to improved protection of all children in Nepal should in fact go to the brave street children who, for the first time ever in Nepal, had the courage to talk about the abuse they suffered. It is never easy to talk about such painfully private matters even for adults. This pain was further exacerbated by the shame, distress, and the very real risk they were facing by speaking out, of losing the food and

shelter that they were forced to “trade” for their physical and emotional abuse. Their pain, courage and need were the inspiration for our initial and subsequent projects for abused street children. We simply had to have an answer, when they turned to us after their ordeal was over and asked us: “So, what now? We are not abused anymore, but what about food, shelter and school? Where do we go now?”

In the end, every society is rightly judged by how it treats its meekest and the most vulnerable members. I congratulate the authors of this research for their contribution to making sure that ours is judged well.

***Annick Pérot-Karki***

Child Rights Activist

Founder, “Project for the Protection of Street Children against sexual abuse in Nepal”

## *Street Children 2008*

The population of street children in Nepal has been estimated to be around 5000, with around 1000 based in Kathmandu alone. They are orphans, homeless, abused exploited, neglected and victims of the conflict with no one to care for them. Most of these children are originally from rural areas forced to the streets of Kathmandu and other urban areas due to several socio-economic reasons. Some belong to poor families settled in slum and squatter settlements in the urban areas but the children themselves are invariably based on streets. For a living, most of them collect rags such as garbage, discarded plastics, bottles, metals and papers found in garbage heaps in residential areas, around market centers and along river banks and other dumping sites. They sell their rags to local junkyards to make their day to day living. Some beg to survive while others have no set work taking occasional jobs as porters or sweepers or drawn into criminal activities such as shoplifting and pick-pocketing.

The majority of street children share a background of family poverty, lack of education opportunities, and broken families. Without family love and guidance, street children face a very hard life in the streets. They are vulnerable to all kinds of abuse, exploitation and exposure to criminal activities that are the hazards of the urban street life.

Since 1990 Nepal's street kids began to develop their own language, the vocabulary of which expresses their own unique situation. Khate is one such word. The word Khate means the one born to eat. Originally used in reference to rag-pickers, it has now come to mean all street children, and the word has now slipped into the vocabulary of Nepalese throughout the country. It is now used by mainstream society to refer to children in families who have developed bad habits, who are irresponsible, or antisocial. Street children remain one of the most neglected groups of children in our society and are strongly denied their rights as children and in particular their right to a childhood.

Now the situation has changed somewhat. Although all their problems have not been solved, at least positive efforts have been made for the basic and overall development of children living on the streets. These efforts are an inspiration and the experiences should be shared in order to introduce programs for street children in other urban centers of the country.

Street children are an integral part of the urban problem, which is directly linked with the growing issues of migration and poverty. As we have observed over the last 10 years, the problem of street children has increased with growth of the urbanization. Therefore, if this problem is to be properly overcome, no urban development program or child development program should forget to cover these children. In addition promoting a better atmosphere in the villages may reduce the urban migration trend and contribute for balanced development in Nepal.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have taken initiatives in highlighting the issues faced by and advocating for the rights of street children. However, there has been a lack of cooperation and inspiration from the government. Recognizing that such problem is beyond the capacity of the state alone to solve, the government should extend its support to such NGOs work and create an atmosphere of goodwill where they can operate their activities without any harassment and obstruction. The government should co-ordinate the activities of NGOs and support them in carrying out their activities for the benefit of these children. Otherwise, it will be too late to respond.

**Madhav Pradhan**

President CWIN NEPAL

## Fighting Against Suffering



Sexual Abuse is a hidden but widely prevalent suffering among children in Nepal and globally. The problem is further deepened with the social taboos about sex and ignoring children's voices. The problem is rooted on the social power structures, thus children living in difficult circumstances are more susceptible to this suffering. Domestic child workers, children in street, orphans, neglected children are always found highly vulnerable and highest among the survivors. Not necessarily the abuser must be from their community. In spite of the fact the children knew the abusers, they are mostly their seniors in terms of social status, financial status, power hierarchy and age, gender and ethnicity.

There is need of strong unified (with children, civil societies, NGOs and government agencies) blow against this suffering of children that can ensure them easy availability of quality protection and care services, legal support and justice and to break the roots of sexual abuse based on social taboos and power hierarchy.

Let's be together with children on this fight against suffering.

**Milan Dharel**

Executive Director, CWISH

## Making Children's Rights Reality



*We all believe that the children are the future of the nation; we should not forget that until their present is secure, the nation has no bright future.*

*National Human Rights Commission*

The Government of Nepal, a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child is under the obligation to protect deprived children against any violation of their fundamental rights as defined in the treaty. It must guarantee access to food, lodging and education and develop mechanisms to stop their use in illegal work, and reduce the incidence of sexual, physical and emotional abuse of these children by adults as well as government agencies. The upcoming government must give priority to enforce this treaty otherwise it will fail in its most important responsibility towards its new generation like in the past.

So far the Government of Nepal has only satisfied itself by paying lip service and has done very little in the developing of a monitoring mechanism to enforce the treaty. One needs no effort to find children living on the street, working in restaurants, working as child domestics or as garbage collectors. Most of these jobs are menial, detrimental to their health and provide no opportunity for their education.

CPCS is doing a commendable job for these underprivileged children. Its research publication is an eye-opener and extremely valuable. It can be used as a secondary data source by concerned agencies and ministries. CPCS is actively engaged in providing child protection services like collecting these children, providing food, lodging, psychological counseling, schooling and rehabilitation. It is greatly contributing towards building future leaders of Nepal.

### **Mukti Pradhan**

Chairman,  
National Human Rights Center  
Nepal

## Sexual Abuse



Sexual abuse is a heinous crime against children. It is rising day by day in the context of our country. People are not aware of this crime and it is a hidden crime in our society. The offender can be anyone and abuse will happen in any places. There is no specific place for abuse so this crime is invisible. Victims rarely walk to the police station to report a case because of social stigma and fear of the abuser.

To reduce this crime, Nepal Police Women and Children Service Center is jointly working with different GOs, NGOs, and INGOs working in this related field. The lack of specific law means that offenders can easily escape punishment. The law should be revised to minimize this crime.

The Women and Children Service Center is committed to stop all forms of sexual abuse against children with the help of different organizations working in this field

**Inspector Liza Khand**  
**Nepal Police Women and Children Centers**



## What is abuse?

Abuse happens intentionally and unintentionally. It happens as a result of undue influence, pressure, fear, threat, persuade, rudeness and power. Children suffer psychologically, physically and sexually abuses at the hands of their own family members, siblings, teachers, caregivers and relatives. Child sexual abuse is not limited to any particular caste, ethnicity, region, community, or gender.

In the Nepalese context sexual abuse is considered more serious than other type of abuses. However physical and psycho-social abuses are equally harmful to the child and his/her development. Child sexual abuse happen through the activities such as kissing, fondling, oral sex, obscene language, touching, harassment, anal/vaginal penetration, and exposure to pornography. Children are abused by neighbors, teachers, relatives, strangers, tourists, friends or peers, caregivers and others. Abuse may happen in a child home, an orphanage, the class-room, working places, school, open spaces, public areas, playgrounds, gardens, public transport, movie halls, and public toilets.

A child victim of abuse often cannot disclose the occurrence of abuse because of feelings of shame or the fear of intimidation by the abuser. Sexual abuse is a crime but it is not well defined in the law. The law needs to be stronger and more strictly implemented.

Research has shown that children who are living in the street and slum areas, domestic workers and ragpickers are particularly vulnerable. Outside of family supervision they can be abused by their employers, peers, tourists and strangers. Their grief, voice, trauma and problems are not heard by anyone.

Lack of parental (or guardian) love and care severely affect the psyche of a child. Most parents do not realise that they play an important role in a child's development. Appreciations for little things, sincerely expressed,

can give children happiness and confidence and support them to develop. The "I do not care what anybody thinks" expression from any child is the symptom of a lack of love, guidance and support.

Children should be protected by their families but also by the state. Children should have access to all their rights for nutrition, health, parental love and care, and a good environment in which to develop. Although cases of sexual and physical abuse may come in the media, psychosocial abuses are often hidden but they also have serious consequences for the child and his/her development.

Street children in particular are vulnerable to all forms of abuse. They are not protected by their families or by society. As responsible citizens of new Nepal, our responsibility is to support them to access their families, homes, counseling, and appropriate support for those who are not able to return to a home.

*Arjun Mohan Bhattarai*

CPCS International

## Child abuse

Child abuse includes any actions which intentionally or unintentionally harm a child physically, emotionally or sexually or any action which deprives the child of his/her rights. Abuse encompasses many forms of exploitation such as child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, child kidnapping and child sex abuse.

In particular it is children who are economically, socially or culturally marginalized who are likely to suffer from exploitation. Researches by different organisations highlight that illiteracy and poverty are factors, especially in rural areas, which result in lack of awareness. Families give birth to many children and are unable to fulfill their basic needs such as food, clothing, home and education. These issues often force the children to suffer from exploitation. For these reasons they are bound to roam in the streets to survive. In return, society has given them a nickname and discriminated against them.

These children and orphan children are left free to roam in society. They are exploited by corrupted people who involve them in activities such as theft, robbery and smuggling. In turn capitalists exploit their labour. All these people use the children for their own benefit. These activities are destroying society and the nation.

Children are exploited as slaves in the houses of rich people due to weak labour policies laws to protect the rights of children in developing countries. These children have the right to education and happiness as well as fair wages for the work they are engaged in - but for these children these rights are denied. In addition they do not receive a balanced diet and suffer from health problems as a result of their exploitation.

Child abuse is increasing day by day in different ways in the modern world. There is no universally accepted definition of child sexual exploitation but generally it is defined as sexual exploitation of children through different means such as love, threat, persuasion, kidnap etc. Child sexual exploitation is not only a physical issue but also a mental one. Children can be sexually exploited anywhere: as child domestics, in factories, on the street, as well as in orphanages, schools, colleges and even their own homes. Many children

who are abused develop mental problems and become involved in negative social behaviours.

Governmental and non-governmental organisations have established different orphanages, child development centres and child correction centres for abused and exploited children. However, among them only a few organisations have performed these undertakings in the proper manner. Many organisations treat children as prisoners, providing only food for these children. Many are not familiar with the wishes and dreams of these children and take little interest in the overall development of the child.

A strict legal framework plays a vital role to stop the exploitation of children in society. In addition there must be suitable budget allocated and central policy making for the realization of children's rights. Without these children will not get their access their education, health and nutrition rights. Child helplines should be managed to protect and rescue children, while forums should be established for children to share their sufferings. Separate children's courts must be established which can deal appropriately with children and there should regular investigation groups to address the problems faced by children. Children's exploitation must be discussed widely and children themselves must be involved in these discussions. From primary level children should be informed and made aware of exploitation and risks.

Family, society and the nation are not stopping exploitation for the future generations of the country. There are many activities established to promote children's rights and prevent child exploitation but they have not been fully successful in increasing awareness and improving the situation of children. NGOs and INGOs should play an important role to improve society. The state should improve policies and implementation for children. Only we can create a safe and non-abusive society for children.

*Shiromani Ghimire*

APCA Nepal

# THE WAY FORWARD



Eleventh Amendment of the Civil Act has made the following provisions :

Involving a minor in any kind of unnatural sex is regarded as forced copulation/rape;

The law stipulates up to 16 years of jail to the perpetrator depending upon the age of the victim.



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Perhaps the most striking outcome of this research is not that abuse is happening - this has been documented in many studies - but that more children who are victims of physical abuse feel anger, pain or disgust (65%-70%) than those children who are victims of sexual abuse feel anger, shamed or depressed (17%-34%). It appears to be more painful and humiliating for a child to be the victim of a beating than of forced sex (whether by direct force, for protection or for money).

Sexual abuse, a hidden and taboo issue, seems to be so normalised on the street that it is accepted or at least unchallengeable - the primary reaction of many children to sexual abuse was 'neutral'. The normalisation of sexual abuse encourages more and more abuse. While children may have left home or school understanding physical abuse as a punishment (many of the respondents had been victims of physical abuse before coming to the street) only a minority of children had been victims of sexual abuse before coming to the street (6% reporting sexual abuse in school and 5% in their home villages). On the street, and in particular at night, out of spheres of mainstream society and organisations (very few organization engage in night street work) it appears that children are conditioned into accepting their use for sexual gratification as a normalised occurrence.

While organisations highlight the dangers of life on the street and encourage children to come to their centres and shelters, a lot less is achieved for those children who for a number of reasons are unable to live in these centres and shelters. While all organisations should aim to support children to move away from the street and its inherent risks, more needs to be done to protect those who stay on the street. This cannot be understood as encouraging children to stay on the street. In fact, these children who have become repeated victims of physical and sexual abuse are less likely to be able to adapt to the relatively formal environments of organisations and are more likely to become abusers themselves. And so the cycle repeats itself.

It is beyond the scope of this study, but perhaps it is now difficult for a child on the street to challenge sexual abuse. Whether from the older tempo conductor asserting his 'right' to rape the younger conductor, the 'right' of

gang leaders to beat and sexually abuse their junior members, the 'right' of a foreign tourist to use his money to 'buy' sexual gratification, the policeman's 'right' to beat a child for a real or perceived offence, the 'right' of social worker to beat a child for breaking the rules, or the 'right' of a member of the public to treat the child as a social parasite. All these are abuses of power whether exerted in relation to authority, money or other resources.

With power comes responsibility and these individuals and institutions should be held accountable for their actions and prevented from repeating these abuses. Children understand the reality. Power results in impunity. It is only by challenging this that social organisations and other agencies can challenge the normalisation and more disturbingly the acceptance of abuse in the street.

## **CHALLENGE NORMALISATION OF ABUSE IN THE STREET AND PROMOTE CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SKILLS**

Working with both individuals and groups, street workers should continually strive to challenge the normalisation and often acceptance of abuse in the street. This should be done in a sensitive manner ensuring that victims are not traumatised. A holistic approach is necessary to address the many factors making street children potential victims of abuse - a lack of love, a need for food or money, drug addiction, lack of guidance on their sexuality etc. In particular street workers need to engage with and work with the dynamics of groups of children living on the street identifying high risk groups and working to promote their protective skills to avoid abusive situations.

## **ENCOURAGE REPORTING OF ABUSE AND HOLD ABUSERS ACCOUNTABLE**

Social workers should work to challenge the acceptance of all types of abuse in the street and encourage that incidents of abuse are reported



whether to social organisations or the police. Organisations and Nepal Police should take action against abusers and in particular in case of street children and youth this should be balanced and appropriate focusing as much as possible on enabling these young abusers to become accountable for their actions and change their behaviour. Care should always be to ensure that victims are protected and are not placed at further risk.

## **SUPPORT A PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT IN THE STREET AND CHILDREN'S WORKPLACES**

Organisations and other agencies including the police should work together to reduce abuse in the street. This involves both challenging the normalisation and acceptance of all types of abuse against street children, whether by the children or others, and striving to provide a safe environment. In particular, police should be sensitised to the particular vulnerability of street children and their responsibility to provide protection. Emergency support and night social work should be engaged by organisations whether individually or as a coalition in high-risk areas to prevent and react to abuse. Organisations should engage with the owners of junkyards and other areas where children stay (e.g. transport entrepreneurs or drivers unions) to ensure that children's workplaces are places of safety and not abuse.

## **MAKE ORGANISATIONS SAFE FOR CHILDREN**

Organisations should make it a priority that their organisations are as safe as possible and do not place children at greater risk. All organisations should have Child Protection Policies and have systems in place to minimise the risk of abuse. This can be as simple as ensuring that night staff are not 'sleeping' staff so that they are aware of and can prevent peer abuse occurring or that more than one member of staff is on duty at one time. This not only protects children but the organisation and its staff from allegations of abuse.

## ***DEVELOP TARGETED INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT ABUSE***

Targeted interventions should be developed to prevent different types of abuse, whether abuse by commercial sex tourists, commercial sex clients (male or female), street youth and adults, workplace colleagues, and organisations. Challenging abuse in each of these areas can become a deterrent for others to become involved in abuse. Given the variety of groups of perpetrators it may be more effective for the organisations to work small alliances to specialise and address each of these issues.



Article 37 (CRC) : "No child should be subjected to torture....  
degrading treatment (nor be) deprived of his/her liberty unlawfully.



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Working on the street means begging, picking plastics, collecting money in public transportations and washing plates in restaurants. For few rupees, without work regulations, they are misused. The environment for them means violence, abuse, dirtiness, garbage...

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# **PRESS ABSTRACTS ABOUT ABUSE**

## **1. Kantipur (27 Magh 2063)**

Hendric Otto Mulhoysen, a Dutch national was taken on custody on charge of sexually abusing young Nepali boys. The 59 year old Hendrick Otto Mulhoysen had been running a child care home named "Hamro Jeevan". At the time of arrest, he was found in bed with a boy. It has been revealed that at the time of arrest, there were 48 children, out of which 42 were boys.

## **2. People's Review (January 29-February 4, 2004)**

### **"Child Sexual Abuse on the rise" by Yubaraj Bidrohi**

"I was eating a cake at the New Road Gate. A foreigner came and took me to Bhrikuti Mandap. He bought me clothes of my choice. Then he took me to a hotel in Thamel and asked me to take a bath in hot water. I felt very happy. Then he made me naked and also took off his clothes. Then he sexually abused me in different ways and position. This took place for nearly one hour."

This is the story of a boy who is living in Voice of Children, a children's home at Bhainsepati. Child sexual abuse is on the rise all over the world. Earlier, this was a sporadic incident, but now this has become a challenge.

In Nepal, many cases have been reported about foreigners using especially street children for sexual purpose. But as there is no specific law to punish, the paedophiles have largely gone scot-free and unpunished. A British teacher Nicholas Hayward, a notorious paedophile, had rented a house and kept about 3 dozen orphans and street children. He used to sexually abuse them in different places like Swayambhu, Chobar, etc. He was charged in court but got away with a bail of Rs. 28,000. He could not be punished due to lack of punitive law.

Another paedophile Dr. Lucas, a Danish national was running a children home at Bhatbhateni. Children say he used torture children physically and mentally. It is even said that the police used to help him. Dr. Lucas was caught and sent to jail but after 3 months, the court released him on Rs. 10,00 bail. He was also involved in a foreign currency scam.

Most paedophiles are found to be men above 35 years and they are financially very well off. In 1995, Thailand formed strong laws against paedophiles and hence, the paedophiles shifted their attention to countries like Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

President of Voice of Children, Krishna Kumar Thapa said that there must be very strong laws against paedophiles. He said that some countries have laws sentencing paedophiles upto 15 years in jail and this has deterred them to a large extent in some countries. He also said that street children are the most vulnerable lot.

### 3.Nepali Times (13-19 June 2003)

#### **"In the shadows: Paedophilia is hidden, elusive and it is spreading" by Thomas Bell and Maarten Post**

Standing on a Thamel rooftop Sudhir, a 19 year old street sleeper, points to a middle aged white man walking with a child on the road below. "He used to take me to his room and ask me to shower and would say if you do nice things I will give you clothes, food and money. I needed those things," Sudhir says. He counts on his fingers, and says he personally knows seven men who pick up boys in Thamel.

Until recently, there was no law in Nepal against child sexual abuse. In September 2002, an amendment to the Country Code created a new offence of "unnatural sexual relations with a minor." Depending on the age of the victim, either a boy or a girl, an offender can be sentenced up to 16 years in jail. However, nobody has been convicted. Usually, the children don't dare speak out. The police say it is not aware of paedophiles currently active in Nepal. NGOs working with street children have stopped filing cases. The result is that the issue doesn't get coverage in the Nepali press.



In the late 1990s, the issue briefly flared up in the media. Five men and a woman, all from Europe, were arrested between 1996 and 1999. Some were expatriates, others tourists. All were accused of running unregistered children's homes, where street children were allegedly exploited for sex. Others were accused of bringing children back to Thamel hotel rooms.

Representatives from Voice of children and Planete Enfants say that it is extremely difficult to track the paedophiles down. "The children are afraid that the abusers will hurt them and there is a lot of social pressure amongst the children," says Krishna Thapa from Voice of Children. He further adds, "Almost all suspects were released soon after their arrest. Children sometimes changed their testimonies and even accused the charities themselves of forcing them to testify, and that has disheartened the activists."

Olivier Bertin, a French national living in Nepal says, "It is very difficult here in Nepal to target a foreigner. They can afford the best lawyers, pay lots of baksheesh and the Minister of Justice in 1996 told me in one case that there was a lot of pressure from an embassy. They have very good networks."

Jean Jacques Haye, a French suspect arrested twice in Nepal has his case currently pending in France. He is being prosecuted under the French law that allows prosecution for crimes committed outside the country. Planete Enfants and Voice of Children cooperated with the French enquiry, even sending street children to France to testify. It is understood that the Nepali police never attempted to share information with foreign prosecutors. Most other released suspects are still free to visit or live in Nepal.

Ganesh, a tourist guide in his early 20s says he was induced to give oral sex to a foreigner when he was 16 years old. He says many street children are tempted by gifts and money. "Everybody knows who they are," he says. Children who were willing to talk gave several names and identified four houses that they say are used by foreigners to house children whom they use for sex.

At the Durbar Square Police station, the officer in charge, KS Rana, says

he hasn't received reports of any recent paedophile activity in Kathmandu. If any reports came to him, he would be willing to investigate. "But basically we are not very interested in looking into what expats are doing unless they are involved in some heinous crimes," he added.

#### 4. People's Review (May 27- June 2, 1999)

##### **"Pedophilia alive and well in Kathmandu"**

The police arrested French national, Jeans Jacques Have, project manager of the Association of Children, Chauni, on the basis of information provided by a 12 year old boy who charged that he was sexually abused by Have four years ago. But ironically, the young boys sheltered in the Association for the Children, Chauni denied the allegation of sex abuse by the project manager. Furthermore, a 7 year old boy said that the police had tortured him to make a confession of victimization by the project manager.

Another pedophile namely Christopher Fraser was arrested after he was discovered in bed with a young naked boy about 10 years old at a Thamel guest house.

#### 5.The Rising Nepal (May 27, 1999)

##### **"Two abducted boys found"**

Police have found two of the three boys missing from a transit camp at the CWIN Center where they were kept for investigation following their sexual assault by a Briton, one Christopher R Fraser Jenkins, and have taken into custody an Australian and a Nepali national involved in their abduction Saturday.

Jenkins, who ran Starlite Home in Pokhara, was caught red handed while he was sexually abusing three children of the so called home at a hotel in Kathmandu a week ago.

Those arrested yesterday are Holy Rebecca, bearing an Australian passport 0620605, and Raj Kumar KC, a Nepali, both of whom worked for the Starlite Home. What legal actions to take against the culprits would be finalized tomorrow, said Gita Uprety, a Police Inspector at Hanumandhoka of Kathmandu.

Police arrested the two from the children's home in Pokhara. Jenkins last came to Kathmandu in late January this year and opened the home for orphaned children in the capital valley and moved the home to Pokhara later.

Police said the search for the third boy was on and the names of the boys traced in Pokhara were yet to be known.

#### **6. The Kathmandu Post, (October 26, 1997)**

##### **"Minors victimized in most sexual abuse cases"**

The 165 cases of sexual abuse recorded in the past 32 months at the maternity hospital had a big number related to child sexual abuse. These are only the recorded cases", says Dr Saraswati Pandey. She also mentioned that many of the incidences of abuse go unnoticed and unrecorded as most of the parents don't file a case at the police station which is even higher when the offender is the victim's relatives.

Dr. Hari Krishna Banskota, paediatrician, narrated a real incident which was a typical example of why cases of abuse go unreported. The doctor said that about a month back, a woman from Mulpani VDC had come to him with her six year old daughter. Her complaint was that the girl was not eating well and was showing abnormal behaviours. The doctor checked the girl but could not diagnose anything. It was only when the mother, out of sheer frustration muttered, "I don't know what that mora (rascal) did" did realization hit him. Then he realized that the girl was the victim of child abuse. It was then revealed that the little girl was abused by a 27 years old man for two months.

#### **7. The Kathmandu Post, (August 16, 1996)**

##### **"Paedophile accused was freed on Rs. 28,000 bail"**

Nicholas Hayward was arrested and detained on June 24 after Basanta Rijal of Destitute children's home filed a report accusing him and Dr. Lukas of child abuse. But Kathmandu district administration office soon released Nicolas on bail of Rs. 28,000. However, Lukas was still on custody facing other criminal charges including the public offense charge. Nicholas Hayward and Dr. Lukas had reportedly been living in Nepal for the past 15 years.

## 8. The Rising Nepal, (June 4, 1999)

### **"This time it's a French girl abusing kids**

She seduced young boys: Police

She made us fondle her breasts, give butterfly kiss: Boys"

The police arrested a 19 year old Anne Charlotte Laura alias "Sapana" at Souvenir Guest house in Thamel on charge of being involved in street children sexual abuse. According to a 14 year old victim, the pedophile took four of the boys to a hotel room and made them bath with shampoo and wiped their bodies. Then she made them tongue kisses and butterfly kisses, also she made them fondle her breasts and played with their penis. The boy said that it was the second time that he was abused by the foreign pedophile. He said that two years back, he was sexually abused by a foreign girl called Ucky in a similar manner. He again told that the lady had a sex with another boy who was older than the boy.

## 9. The Kathmandu Post (April 18, 2004)

### **Kathmandu's Oliver Twists under Fagins**

By Tejasuee Rajbhandari & Shristi Shrestha

KATHMANDU, Apr 16 - Kathmandu's street children and the tragic stories behind these melancholic young actors are not new to Kathmanduites. Yet every time people come across these fragile souls, they have been looked down upon as social culprits, not supposing that each of their activities could be enacted under the shadows of some external forces controlling them.

On the other side, many people have encountered misdeeds of these children, or at least heard from other sources. All these are true. Pick-pocketing and burglary are the means of daily earnings for many of these kids. But the irony here is that the handsome money they plunder through the above mentioned tricks, and thus earning them bad name, go to the pockets of some older gangsters, leaving their accomplices with meager amounts for their risks.

It might sound like a story out of some movies or novels. But it is indeed everyday reality for these Oliver Twists of Kathmandu. Everyday, under

threats of life on failure of submitting money by local hooligans, these minors are compelled to commit crimes when others of their age enjoy the naive pleasures of life.

People in general may not believe this unseen fact while vandalism by street children is in front of their eyes. And it was tough for organizations working with them to verify the facts as the same castigated street children refused to disclose the details. They have reasons to be covered.

The arrest of Sunil Thapa along with his partner Pradeep Khadka has thrown some lights on this unexplored reality of the external pressures exerted by them on street kids to commit petty crimes and at times even bigger ones.

Ram Lama (names are changed in this story for obvious reasons), 14, did pick-pocketing for a certain don called Thapa and his gang. Lama's fear turned into reality when he failed one day to deliver money to the gang, as the purse he filched was empty. Thapa, assuming Ram was lying, brutally hacked his small hand with a khukuri knife.

Like Ram, there are many street children housed at the CPCS (former Chandrodaya) Shelter Home who have faced similar kinds of problems. All these kids confessed their involvement in petty crimes apart from their daily work of selling mineral water and junk food to travelers at Kalanki Bus Park.

So strong is their fear that they would not divulge any information even when the warden at their shelter encouraged them. Even Ram, having sustained a major cut in his hand, hid the injury inside a scarf, saying it was minor scratch.

Being tortured or threatened by the roadside dada (gang leader) is just a simple fact of life for them. They are terrorized that they might be beaten by the dada if they are not able to offer them their hapta.

Similarly, Roshan Rai and Prakash Chhetri of CPCS (former Chandrodaya) said as much that don Thapa and his gang not only abused them when they were unable to bring them the daily loots but they also forced them into drugs.

Prakash says that Thapa also took away his new watch, finger ring and a belt. Agreeing with him, Nirmal Niraula also said that his new clothes were taken away by Thapa and his cohorts.

They had also made 12-years-old kid Gagan Gurung to steal Rs 52,000 from CPCS (Former Chandrodaya) itself, baiting the innocent by giving him hope of better life outside Kathmandu.

Similarly, Sanjog Shrestha and Mahila Lama said that they were forced to burgle, saying the gang leaders had police contacts and they would not harm them. And Mahila adds that for doing nothing criminal, he was imprisoned for three months anyway.

Now that Thapa is finally under custody at the Kalimati Police Station, all these scared kids hope that Thapa and his accomplices be imprisoned for life, or at least from five to six years, as the Dons have threatened to teach them a lesson.

"We would be big enough by then and can take their challenge by that time," said the youngsters. Constable Hari Thapa of the police station says that the police are busy with the required investigations and the culprits would be dealt with accordingly.

Ryckmans J, executive chairman of CPCS International, said that they have a huge challenge of giving protection to these children. "Street freedom is their way of living but we can do nothing unless the society lends its hand."

## 10. Nepali Times (15 February 08 - 21 February 08)

### **Mushrooming orphanages**

#### **The use(lessness) of children's homes in Nepal**

**WILKO VERBAKEL and SUSAN VAN KLAVEREN**

#### **From business to criminal activities**

For some Nepalis, running an orphanage is a type of business. Some children are bought from their families for a few thousand rupees and then sold at higher rates to an orphanage. Illegal adoption is another profitable form of trade, and some foreigners have been found paying thousands of euros to children's homes to adopt an 'orphan'. Financial abuse by the management of children's homes is widespread. For instance, last year a Dutch family lost thousands of euros when the director of Ganjala Children Home ran away with their donation money. Despite complaints lodged with the Social Welfare Council and Children's Welfare Board, the home was reregistered as 'Peace and Beautiful' and continues to exploit well-meaning sponsors.

Some orphanages serve as cover-ups for even worse practices. Last year, a Dutch orphanage director was jailed after it was found that he sexually abused almost all children in his home. Paedophilia is a very serious issue that the Nepali government needs to address by implementing strict rules and improved monitoring.

## 11. Nepali Times (13 June 03 - 19 June 03)

### **In the shadows**

#### **Paedophilia is hidden, elusive and it is spreading.**

**By THOMAS BELL and MAARTEN POST**

Standing on a Thamel rooftop Sudhir, a 19-year-old street sleeper, points to a middle-aged white man walking with a child on the road below.

"He used to take me to his room and ask me to shower and he would say if you do nice things I will give you clothes, food and money. I needed those things," Sudhir says. He counts on his fingers, and says he personally knows seven men who pick up boys in Thamel.

Until recently there was no law in Nepal against child sexual abuse. In September 2002, an amendment to the Country Code created a new offence of "unnatural sexual relations with a minor". Depending on the age of the victim, either a boy or a girl, an offender can be sentenced up to 16 years in jail. Nobody has been convicted.

Paedophilia everywhere is hidden and elusive. It is even more so in Nepal. Neither the perpetrator nor the victim want to talk about it. Usually, the children don't dare speak out. The police say it is not aware of paedophiles currently active in Nepal. NGOs working with street children have stopped filing cases. The result is that the issue doesn't get coverage in the Nepali press. But that does not mean it doesn't exist, and our investigation shows paedophilia is out there and it is growing.

In the late 1990s the issue briefly flared up in the media. Five men and a woman, all from Europe, were arrested between 1996 and 1999. Some were expatriates, others tourists. All were accused of running unregistered childrens' homes, where street children were allegedly exploited for sex. Others were accused of bringing children back to Thamel hotel rooms. A 1999 UN report stated, "Sex tourism is on the rise in Nepal, including increasing incidences of paedophilia, as the business appears to be shifting to Nepal from other countries in South and Southeast Asia." Countries such as Thailand had been adopting harsher legislation, and several high-profile cases on Sri Lanka's west coast resorts involving European sex tourists had increased vigilance there.

Nepal is still a safe haven, but things may be changing. Krishna K. Thapa, the director of the charity Voice of Children, estimates that nine out of every ten Thamel street children have had sexual encounters of one kind or another with a foreigner. Sunil Sainju, mission manager of another group, Planète Enfants, agrees. "It is not isolated, it happens to a lot of children."



But both groups say it is extremely difficult to track the paedophiles down. "It's hard work. The children are very afraid the abusers will hurt them and there is also a lot of social pressure amongst the children," Thapa told us.

Voice of Children is currently collecting testimonies against a German national running a childcare centre, but in the last three years this group and others have not been as active as they could be in investigating child sexual abuse. In fact, none of the child protection groups we spoke to knew about the September amendment of the Country Code. "We are fed up with the fact that nothing happened after we filed cases in the past," Thapa says. "Almost all suspects were released soon after their arrest. Children sometimes changed their testimonies." In fact, some of the children even accused the charities themselves of forcing them to testify, and that has disheartened the activists.

The driving force behind the earlier prosecutions was Olivier Bertin, a French national living in Nepal. He told us: "I was appalled by the stories I heard from the street children, but it was difficult to do anything against it. It took a long time to win their confidence. I quit because the pressure became very big-lots of people were against me and I received threats. It is very difficult here in Nepal to target a foreigner. They can afford the best lawyers, pay lots of *baksheesh*, and the Minister of Justice in 1996 told me in one case there was a lot of pressure from an embassy. They have very good networks."

Jean-Jacques Haye, a French suspect who was released twice in Nepal, is presently in jail in France with his paedophile-case pending. He is being prosecuted under a French law that allows prosecution for crimes committed outside the country. Planète Enfants and Voice of Children cooperated with the French enquiry, even sending a street child to France to testify. It is understood that the Nepali police have never attempted to share information with foreign prosecutors. Twenty-three countries now have laws that allow the prosecution of their citizens for sex offences committed abroad.

Most other released suspects are still free to visit or live in Nepal. "Some former street children came to my house two weeks ago," Bertin says. "They told me this English guy who some street children testified against, is back in town." Some street children who gather at night between Thamel and Durbar Square talk about foreigners who let them play computer games, give them clothes and shelter. The children are not eager to talk about sexual abuse.

Often, they will say that their friends have experienced it, but deny that they have been involved themselves. Ganesh, now in his early 20s, has been living on the streets of Kathmandu for more than a decade. He works as a tourist guide in Kathmandu Darbar Square. If even a part of what he says is accurate, sex tourism is rife in Kathmandu.

When he was 16, Ganesh says he was induced to give oral sex to a foreigner. He didn't like it and never went back, but he says many other street children are tempted by gifts and money. "Everybody knows who they are," he says. "You can recognise them on the streets." Children who were willing to talk gave us several names and identified four houses that they say are used by foreigners to house children whom they use for sex.

At the Darbar Square police station the officer in charge, KS Rana, says he hasn't received reports of any recent paedophile activity in Kathmandu. If any reports came to him, he would be willing to investigate. "But basically we are not very interested in looking into what expats are doing unless they are involved in some heinous crimes," he added.

The main problem seems to be that even though paedophilia is now a crime, there are still legal loopholes. "We still need a definition of paedophilia and the various forms that sexual abuse can take...what is 'unnatural' is yet to be subject to interpretation," says lawyer, Sapna Pradhan Malla. For instance, paedophilia is attached to the Country Code chapter on rape, and as with rape, an allegation must be made within 35 days of the incident.

There is also a danger that this will only be seen as a crime perpetrated by foreigners. Malla says many cases of child rape and incest perpetrated by Nepalis, often within families or in schools, go unreported. "These crimes exist in our society, and we should create an environment to address them not only by legal mechanisms, but by enabling weak people to take action and by informing children what sexual abuse is," she says.

Activist groups and the police trade accusations about not being serious in controlling the problem. Gita Upreti, who heads the Nepal Police's Women and Childrens' Cell says, "According to the law, the victim should come to us to file a complaint, but we can also go out and investigate." However, she admits that this is very difficult when there is no hard information. "We don't have a mechanism to investigate," she told us, "and children are hesitant to go through the police's normal procedures." The Women's Cell is now starting out by first making its own officers understand what child abuse is, and the prevalence of the crime.

Better regulation of childcare centres is also needed. Inge Bracke runs a registered orphanage near Boudha, but says no one has come to inspect her centre in its seven years of operation. Krishna Thapa agrees, and says that a regular German visitor, who many children have implicated in abuse, has recently been given a licence to run a child welfare centre. Hari says he is a victim of this person and has recently given a video testimony to Voice of Children. He is now 23, but like many victims of child sexual abuse, is still traumatised by his experience. "When I was a child it felt normal, but nowadays I feel bad, ashamed and uneasy. I still have nightmares about it," he says.

Hari is convinced the man is still abusing children, but he is torn between reporting the case or letting it go. "He could do bad things to me again," Hari says, "and I think because of him at least some children are getting food, and maybe if I report him maybe they will be deprived of even that support."

(The names of the street children and former street children quoted in this article have been changed to protect their identities.)

## 12. Rajdhani, 24 April 05

### **Vampires**

Some drug addicts in the Boudha area are sucking human blood from child victims, according to street children who have been victimised. Nil Kantha Sedai (name changed) is one of them. He says, "When they are overdosed and have nothing to eat, they suck blood from our bodies." Showing his cheek that has been pierced with a blade, Sedai said the addicts sucked from his wound for 10 minutes.

Sedai named addict 'Naran' and others as the culprits. A narcotics control official thinks the addicts turn to being vampires to get a high when they can't find drugs. Addicts extort money from street children who earn from selling plastic and glass for recycling.

## ACTIVE NGO's and GO's in the Kathmandu Valley

### **CENTRAL CHILD WELFARE BOARD (CCWB)**

Harihara Bhawan, Lalitpur

Tel: 5010045, 5010046, 5539211

Fax: +977-1-5527591

Email: [ccwb@wlink.com.np](mailto:ccwb@wlink.com.np)

Website: [www.ccwb.gov.np](http://www.ccwb.gov.np)

### **CONCERN for Children and Environment - Nepal**

Chauni, Museum Marg H.no. 1581

G.P.O. Box: 4543, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Tel: 4284642, 4279231

Fax: +977-1-4277033

E-mail: [concern@mos.com.np](mailto:concern@mos.com.np)

Website: [www.concern.com.np](http://www.concern.com.np)

### **CPCS NGO**

Dillibazar Pipalbot, Kathmandu, Nepal

Post Box No: 8975, EPC 5173

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel. 4414394

Fax: +977-14429897

E-mail: [contact@cpcs-nepal.org](mailto:contact@cpcs-nepal.org)

Website: <http://www.cpcs-nepal.org>

Emergency line: 4411000

### **CWCN (Child Watabaran Center, Nepal)**

Mandikhatar, Kathmandu

Post Box No: 8975, EPC 4194

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 4370598

Email: [watabaran@mos.com.np](mailto:watabaran@mos.com.np)

Website: [www.watabaran.com](http://www.watabaran.com)

**CWIN**

Ravi Bhawan, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel. 4282255, 4278064

E-mail: [info@cwin.org.np](mailto:info@cwin.org.np)

Website: <http://www.cwin.org.np>

Help Line: 4271000

**Jagaran Forum Nepal (JAFON)**

Bangalamukhi, Lalitpur

P.O. Box: 15142, KPC 615, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 9851074587

Email: [youthforstreet@yahoo.com](mailto:youthforstreet@yahoo.com)

**Juvenile Offender Correction Home**

Address: Sanothimi, GPO Box: 1286, Ktm  
Kathmandu

NEPAL

Phone: 6635135, 6630388

Fax: +977-1-6663129

**Kids Shangrila Home**

Boudha, Aarubari, Kathmandu

Tel: 4478157

Fax:

Email: [shangrila.home@oabdira.be](mailto:shangrila.home@oabdira.be)

Website: [www.users.pandora.be/shangrila/](http://www.users.pandora.be/shangrila/)

**National Center For Children at Risk**

(Khoj Talas)

Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu

Tel: 4226006

**Nawa Asha Ghriha (NAG)**

Bansbari, Kathmandu

Tel: 4372975, 5521238

Email: nag@mos.com.np

Website: [www.englishwebservices.ch/NAG/Nag.htm](http://www.englishwebservices.ch/NAG/Nag.htm)

**Saathi**

Address: Ekantakun, GPO Box: 7770, Ltp

Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone: 5538344, 5554560

Email: [contact@saathi.org.np](mailto:contact@saathi.org.np)

Website: [saathi.org.np](http://saathi.org.np)

**SAHARA Group**

Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 4437885

Fax: +977-1-4443112

GPO Box: 13853

Email: [saharagroup@mos.com.np](mailto:saharagroup@mos.com.np)

Website: [www.saharagroup.org.np](http://www.saharagroup.org.np)

**Sarifa-Nepal (Association for Protection of Children)**

Basantapur, Kathmandu

PO Box 13439

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 2011007, 9803186965

Email: [info@apc-nepal.org](mailto:info@apc-nepal.org)

Website: [www.apc-nepal.org](http://www.apc-nepal.org)

**Sath Sath**

New Baneshwor, Kathmandu

Tel: 4472349

Email: [sathsath@wlink.com.np](mailto:sathsath@wlink.com.np), [info@sathsath.org](mailto:info@sathsath.org)

Website: [www.sathsath.org](http://www.sathsath.org)

**Voice of Children (VOC)**

G.P.O Box: 8975 EPC 1936

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 4215426, 4252094

Fax: +977-1-4263116

Email: [info@voiceofchildren.org.np](mailto:info@voiceofchildren.org.np)

Website: [www.voiceofchildren.org.np](http://www.voiceofchildren.org.np)

**Women and Children Service Centers**

Control nbr: 100

Email: [info@nepalpolice.gov.np](mailto:info@nepalpolice.gov.np)

Website: [nepalpolice.gov.np](http://nepalpolice.gov.np)





## **The Abuse of Street Children in Kathmandu :**

They are called Raju, Dinesh, Sunita, Bikram, or Akash. In the company of many others, they spend their childhood and adolescence living on the streets of Kathmandu. In turn, they warm their frozen hands on the hot coals of a furnace, in turn they sing alone in the dark deserted streets scavenging for any profitable waste, in turn they hassle a passer-by to beg a couple of rupees, in turn they are happy when they fill their empty stomachs with a hot meal, in turn they are sad for having lost a precious trinket, in turn they laugh at the new pleasures city life has to offer them, in turn they cry remembering the villages they left behind, in turn protector, in turn raped, in turn a player, in turn beaten, in turn a good prince, in turn hunted, in turn living and in turn dead... but in each step, each dream, they remain children and free.

### **The book :**

Journey through scientific analysis, essays, witness accounts, and documents. this book is based on a survey of 150 street children, 150 lives. In particular, it is the result of an unfinished common working platform between more than 40 people and more than a dozen Nepalese and international experts.

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