

**A Research Report on**  
**Child Labour in Khijidemba Rural Municipality, Okhaldhunga**

**Submitted to: UGC Grant Commission, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur**

**Organized by: Ragani Chandeshwori Campus (Collaborative Research)**

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## **1. Introduction**

Child labour remains one of the pressing issues in rural Nepal, and Khijidemba Rural Municipality of Okhaldhunga district is no exception. Despite legal frameworks and national policies to eliminate child labour, economic hardship, social structure, and lack of awareness continue to force children into various forms of work. This research aims to analyze the condition of child labourers in Khijidemba Rural Municipality (R.M.), their age, gender, religious background, migration status, and sectors of engagement.

## **2. Objectives of the Study**

- To identify the total number of child labourers in Khijidemba R.M.
- To analyze their age, gender, and religious composition.
- To understand if the children are local or migrated from other districts.
- To examine the fields or types of work in which they are engaged.
- To assess the socio-economic condition of child labourers and their families.
- To provide recommendations for addressing the issue effectively.

## **3. Methodology**

This research was conducted through a ward-wise survey across all wards (1 to 9) of Khijidemba Rural Municipality. Data were collected through:

- Structured questionnaires administered to children and employers
- Interviews with parents and community leaders
- Observation and informal talks
- Secondary data from rural municipality records

### **Sample Size:**

A total of 308 child laborers were identified and surveyed across all wards.

## **4. Findings**

### **4.1 Demographic Profile of Child Labourers**

#### **Research Design and Sample Size**

Fish-catch approach and snowball sampling are the guiding principle of the research design. Children of either sex under age 18 if working to support for their own or family's survival at the cost of schooling and education in any sector of work are considered as child labour, as subject of the study. All 9 wards of the Khijidemba R.M. are taken as geographical location of the study. From within the survey domain, the survey initially aimed to capture and interview over 250 working in different sectors. In reality, the field survey successfully identified and interviewed

308 child labourers. Child employing industries, establishment and households also have been observed, interviewed and estimated.

#### **Distribution of interviewed child labourer by of survey and age and sex of children**

Wards	Age		Sex		Total*
	<15 years	15-17 years	Male	Female	
1	28	41	60	9	69
2	30	31	33	28	61
3	36	19	45	10	55
4	7	16	18	5	23
5	16	8	20	4	24
6	6	12	15	3	18
7	4	13	13	4	17
8	20	6	17	9	26
9	11	4	7	8	15
Total	158	150	228	80	308

## **4.2 Sectors of Engagement**

This chapter deals about the major findings of the baseline survey and establishes baseline indicators useful for the programme intervention to eliminate child labour from the Khijidemba R.M. It first estimates the extent and prevalence of different forms of child labour in survey locality. It further discusses about demand and supply nexus for child labour, and then present's demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the child labour and her/his family. It identifies and describes about the working condition, income earning, nature of hazards, working and schooling status, living conditions, harassments and abuses, personal habits and future aims have been discussed.

### 4.3 Prevalence of Child Labours

This section presents facts and figures found from survey about prevalence of child labour by different forms and estimation of child labour by Wards of survey and the sector of employment.

#### Percentage distribution of interviewed child labourers by sex and type of labour

Sector of child labour	Boys		Girls		Both	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	Col. %
Child domestic	44	40.4	65	59.6	109	35.4
Agricultural farm	43	82.7	9	17.3	52	16.9
Transport sector	44	100.0		0.0	44	14.3
Workshops	21	95.5	1	4.5	22	7.1
Hotel/restaurant	19	90.5	2	9.5	21	6.8
Carpet/embroidery and sewing	16	94.1	1	5.9	17	5.5
Work in construction	16	100.0		0.0	16	5.2
Child porter	10	90.9	1	9.1	11	3.6
Poultry and furniture	9	100.0		0.0	9	2.9
Others	6	85.7	1	14.3	7	2.3
Total	228	74.0	80	26.0	308	100.0

### 4.4 Working Conditions

- Majority of children work more than 6 hours a day.
- Only 26% attend school irregularly; most have dropped out.
- Girls were mostly involved in domestic work, while boys were more involved in construction and porter activities.
- Many children work to support their families' income due to poverty, illiteracy, and lack of job opportunities for adults.

## 5. Discussion and Analysis

Child labour in Khijidemba R.M. is intricately linked with poverty, lack of awareness, family size, and low literacy levels among parents. Though some of the work, like helping in

agriculture, is traditional, many children are engaged in hazardous labour or full-time jobs that deprive them of education and childhood.

Migration from surrounding districts contributes to the number of laborers, especially during seasonal harvests or construction periods. Gender roles also influence the type of work assigned to children, with girls bearing a higher domestic workload.

The lack of strict monitoring, absence of support programs, and limited access to education worsen the situation.

## **6. Conclusion**

The issue of child labour in Khijidemba Rural Municipality is widespread and rooted in socio-economic challenges. Many children are trapped in cycles of poverty and exploitation. Their physical, emotional, and educational development is being hampered due to early involvement in laborious tasks.

## **7. Recommendations**

- Establish child protection and monitoring committees at the ward level.
- Awareness programs for parents and employers on the harms of child labour.
- Provide scholarships, mid-day meals, and school materials to poor children to encourage education.
- Implement income-generating programs for families to reduce economic dependence on child labour.
- Strict enforcement of child labour laws with regular inspection by local authorities.
- Encourage non-formal education and vocational training for working children.

## **8. Limitations of the Study**

The survey data is limited to those willing to participate and may not represent all hidden forms of child labour.

Time constraints prevented a deeper qualitative analysis

## **9. References**

Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, Nepal

Khijidemba Rural Municipality Office Records

Interviews and Surveys (2025)

## **10. Appendix**

Appendix A: Survey Questionnaires