

STUDY ON URBAN ISSUES OF HOME BASED WORKERS IN SELECTED CITIES OF NEPAL

ISSUES BASED STUDY IN TWO CITIES: KATHMANDU VALLEY & HETAUDA

Urban Issues Based Study of Home Based Workers for comprehensive Coverage of the Program of Home Net Nepal

HomeNet Nepal (HNN)

(A Nationwide Network of Home Based Workers in Nepal)

P.O. Box No. 15133, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

May 2011

ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
B. S.	Bikram Sambat (Nepalese Calendar)
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
DUDBC	Department of Urban Development and Building Construction
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GoN	Government of Nepal
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HBWs	Home Based Workers
HNN	Home Net Nepal
ILO	International Labour Organization
KMC	Kathmandu Metropolitan City
LSGA	Local Self Governance Act
MLD	Ministry of Local Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MBO	Membership Based Organization
MPPW	Ministry of Physical Planning and Works

Homenet South Asia Trust

NPC	National Planning Commission
NLSS	Nepal Living Standard Survey
NRN	Non- Resident Nepali
NPR	Nepalese Rupees
NUP	Nepal Urban Policy
NGO	Non Government Organization
PRB	Piece Rate Basis
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SEWA	Self Employed Women's Association
VDC	Village Development Committee
WEIGO	Women in Informal Economy: Globalizing and Organizing
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Home Based Workers (HBWs) are one of the most significant components of Nepal's informal economy; contributing to household national economy and having linkages with the global economy. The development of the country can hardly be expected without realizing their role and contribution although they are excluded from getting access to various assets or resources. The economy of Nepal is a combination of formal and informal economies in general and the share of informal economy is much higher in the national economy compared to formal economy. Informal economy complements the formal economy as they are both interdependent. The general characteristics of informal economy are that it is unregulated, unrecognized, unstructured and also subordinate and dependent feature of capitalist economy and globalization. However, the informal sector has been contributing significantly in economic, social as well as human development of Nepal.

The HBWs within the broader framework of informal sector are often invisible, neglected and ignored sector in Nepal though their number is estimated to be around 2.2 million of which 78 % are women. (According to Nepal Labour Force Survey 2008, the informal sector accounts for 70 to 86 per cent of Nepal's total employment in the non-agricultural sector and it has grown at the rate of around 30 per cent(29.3%) between the first labour force survey conducted in1998/99 and second in 2008.) The official definition of informal economy includes agriculture, family based enterprise, street vendor, and rag picker etc. however HBWs are not included under this definition. Although, the number of HBWs is significant; but they are scattered all over the urban and peri-urban areas of the country for their subsistence livelihood.

Home Based Work has provided a means of livelihood for many workers who are in poor economic condition and who have less employment opportunities in other sectors. As a result, there is a significant growth in the number of HBWs in the major Asian countries including Nepal. In the urban context, the informal sector includes small enterprise operator's work at home or family business or contractual work thereby involving the cash economy and market transactions. The



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

urban informal sector is more diverse than the rural one and includes a variety of economic activities on which most urban families are dependent for their livelihood.

Nepal's urban population is relatively small with hardly 15 percent of the country's population living in the so-called urban areas called municipalities however the pace of urbanization is high mostly due to migration from rural to urban areas in search of livelihood as there is serious and severe lack of opportunities for sheer survival in the rural areas of Nepal. The proportion of urban population is likely to increase in future so also the urban poor as there are many emerging potential towns which will be designated soon as municipalities and this will have direct impact on employment opportunities, housing and urban infrastructures thereby affecting the livelihood of urban poor in general and HBW in particular.

Despite their significant number and contributions to local, national and often global market, HBWs are mostly exploited and work in high risk and vulnerable situation. In addition to this, due to low level of organizing power coupled with low level of awareness, they are neither well paid for their hard labour nor their jobs are secured. The element of 'informalities' covers at every stage of their works as they are not provided with any contract document or any paper assuring the permanency or continuity of their works or any other additional benefits for meeting deadlines.

In fact, there is no act, law and policy which specifically deals with and protects HBWs in Nepal. HBWs are invisible and underrepresented in the country's national economy therefore they are easily camouflaged within the broader context of informal sector of economy. Although the informal sector of the economy accounts for 90 per cent of the total labour force with hardly 10 per cent covered by formal and organized sector yet being highly scattered, unorganized and weak their voices are never heard or hardly heard at the policy level which is well reflected by the fact that government has formulated act, laws and policy to protect and safeguard the interest of 10 per cent labour force working in the formal sector of the economy while ignoring the bulk informal 90 per cent labour force including HBWs.



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

There are few government policies which have direct bearing on the improvement of the lives and livelihood of the HBWs in Nepal such as housing and urban policy, water and sanitation policy, health policy etc. A review of these policies clearly illustrates the fact that none of these policies have explicitly mentioned to cater to the needs of the urban poor let alone the HBWS in Nepal. However, the Interim Constitution of Nepal has acknowledged the right to housing as one of the fundamental rights of the citizens of Nepal which is commendable.

The nature of the works being done by the HBWs in Nepal is so diverse that it encompasses the entire range of works one can think of. Not only are their works diverse and numerous but HBWs also exhibit lots of differences in terms of demographic, ethnic, and religious composition, marital and educational status etc. Most of the HBWs possess skills in one or the other areas for their survival in the urban context and there are high percentage of HBWs involved in weaving, stitching, and embroidery followed by incense roller and knitting. But data is not fully representative for each and every type of HBWs. For instance, the study results have shown that majority of the HBWs are engaged in weaving accounting for 26.92 per cent followed by sewing 16.92 per cent and embroidery and patch works 16.15 per cent. In addition to this, the number of incense rollers, knitters, traditional painters etc. are also substantial. With regard to number of working days the HBWs work, more than 50 per cent (55.28%) of the HBWs work almost seven days a week followed by 38.21 per cent working for 4 to 5 days a week. The percentage of HBWs working for less than three days in a week is insignificant as it is only 6.50 per cent. The HBWs in Nepal have to do the entire range of domestic works which daily consumes sufficient time of the HBWs besides their own income generating. More than 80 percent of the HBWs want to expand their work for which they are in need of different types of skill training.

The study has shown that almost 50 per cent (49.59%) of the HBWs monthly income from home based works is less than NPR 2000 (approx. US\$ 28) and the percentage of HBWs earning more than NPR 5000 (approx. US\$ 70) per months is less than 15 per cent (14.63%).

In most of the developing countries including Nepal, the poor and low income families spend about two-thirds of their monthly income on food. Contrary to this normal trend, the survey results have shown that the HBWs are spending only 44.29 per cent of their family income on

Homenet South Asia Trust

food per month which is encouraging factor keeping in view that they are in much better position to make investment in other important areas such as health, education, housing etc. With regards to savings, majority of the HBWs (69.11%) could hardly save less than 10 per cent of their income therefore around 60 per cent of the HBWs have taken loan for education, business promotion, housing etc.

With regard to housing almost half of the HBWs have more than three rooms in their house as most of the HBWs have their own house (owned either by self or head of the family). Another 27 per cent of the HBWs have two rooms in their house while the percentage of the HBWs with only one room for living, cooking and studying and working is one-quarter or 24 per cent.

The ownership rate is very encouraging as more than 55 per cent (56.91%) of the houses are owned by the HBWs and 30 per cent are living in rented houses. The title of the house ownership certificate called 'lalpurja' mostly lies with the father in laws and mother in laws and this accounts for 40.48 per cent followed by husband (29.76%) and HBW women accounting for 20.24 per cent and 9.76 per cent of the land ownership has been reported as the government land. The percentage of squatters seems to be around 10 percent which is slightly higher than the national average of 7 per cent.

Most of the HBWs in Nepal still prefer to work in isolation in an invisible way on their own where nobody would notice what they are doing rather than organizing themselves into a group as a united force to fight against discrimination and for better wage and security for jobs or employment and other facilities etc in Nepal. This tendency has to do with the socio-cultural and economic factors as well as literacy level in the country. Therefore, this calls for strengthening the networking and affiliation with other like-minded organizations which could play a very significant role in the improvement of the HBWs lives and living conditions in Nepal.

Almost 94 per cent (93.50%) of the HBWs households reported that they do not feel that they have been protected by the law in their works either at the central level or at the local level such as the municipal level. The major reason behind such a large percentage of respondents is due to their ignorance. For instance, 73.85 per cent of the households reported that they do not know about this and another 7.69 per cent mentioned that they do not have knowledge about law.

Homenet South Asia Trust

The municipalities also do not seem to have entertained the issues of HBWs as 91.87 per cent of the HBWs felt that the municipality does not include them in any municipal programmes. When there is a problem to the HBWs they approach to their friends and relatives and this accounts for as high as 68.25 per cent followed by neighbor 27.64 per cent. They hardly seek help from other HBWs.

More than 90 per cent (91.87%) of the HBWs have reported that they have contacts with other HBWs and during their meetings 67.26 per cent of the HBWs discuss about how to increase the level of their earnings followed by getting access to market 32.74 per cent, urban issues 22.12 per cent and social security 15.93 per cent. It is very encouraging to observe that more than 90 per cent (91.87) have reported that this has benefited them. The percentage of the households who have reported that this has very much benefited them is 13.27 per cent.

There is a gap between planning and implementation as well as between planning authorities and the urban poor though in general they are targeting all these plan and programmes for the betterment of the urban poor. There are no direct linkages established between people and authorities for participation as the planning process is not inclusive in its approach. Therefore, access to housing and basic minimum urban services such as drinking water, electricity, transportation etc are becoming more and more inaccessible to the urban poor.

The government of Nepal has declared minimum wages for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour however the HBWs are not getting the fair wages in many cases for their hard work despite the minimum wage set by the government. Most of the women home based workers' monthly earning from their present work is extremely low to support the family therefore it testifies the charge which is often labeled against them by their husbands as their income is supplementary income to the family thereby ignoring their contribution to the family and also ignoring the fact that they are also workers like their husbands. Therefore, the biggest challenge is how to increase the present low level of income so that HBWs could be made independent economically to enable them to stand on their own feet. Economic empowerment is the critical issue which needs to be given due attention.



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

The environment of the working place to a large extent determines the productivity and production capacity of the HBWs in Nepal. When the day to day work place is not conducive and lacks minimum physical facilities such as light, ventilation, air etc. under this condition, one can hardly think of increasing their present low level of income. The survey results have shown that more than seventy per cent of the home based workers have expressed the inadequacy of work space. Further, almost all the HBWs have combined the living space with working space which further indicates the magnitude of the problem.

In spite of working in congested working places the HBWs are managing to meet the deadlines of the orders being placed by their contractors. However, the threat of market always hovers around their heads such as low level of order or the low level of demand and irregularities of works in the market for their products means low level of their earnings and which in turn means further hardships to them in meeting the family expenditures and more so when there are no supplementary earnings in the family. Almost two-thirds of the home based workers have cited the market problem as a bottleneck towards the expansion of their activities or business.

The need for legal protection has been expressed by almost all the HBWs. Fast pace of haphazard urbanization in the country has resulted into several problems and one of them is the security of life of people in general. This is the general problem being faced by all. The HBWs have felt that they have not been protected by law in the country. There is utmost necessity of protecting the HBWs by some law in the country.

In addition to this, there is a need to upgrade the existing technology to reduce the cost and enhance the productivity in order to make the product more competitive in the market. As mentioned above, the strengthening of the networking part is also crucial in order to make them more united and strong to fight against all sorts of discrimination particularly the low wages. In the mean time, there is also a need to increase the proportion of literate women and also to increase the level of their learning, if possible, so that they will be more informed and aware about the market economy. More importantly, their contribution must be recognized at home and by the state, in the national economy like any other sectors of the economy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are very few studies conducted focusing on the status and issues of urban poor in general and Home Based Workers(HBW) in particular in the context of urban areas in Nepal. The studies being done by Home Net Nepal (HNN) dealing with the issues of HBWs in Nepal are not comprehensive in their contents. Therefore, HNN felt the need to carry out a study on HBWs encompassing various aspects of HBWs in selected cities of Nepal and accordingly initiated the process towards this direction and the present study report is the outcome of such initiation. The effort and thought of HNN to initiate this study, being first of its kind, has its own significance and for this HNN, in particular, Mr. Om Thapalaya, Executive Director deserves special appreciation.

The present study is primarily based on the household survey data of HBWs in three cities of Nepal- Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC), Bhaktapur Municipality in Kathmandu Valley and Hetauda City in Hetauda Municipality covering more than hundred HBWs households. Besides, several Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) Key Informant Surveys etc. have also been carried out to supplement and substantiate the data and information that were collected from the household survey. Naturally, during this process several HBWs households and key persons have devoted their valuable time and energy with great zeal and enthusiasm with the study team and for their sincere participation I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of them. Thanks are also due to all other MBOs chiefs who coordinated and made necessary arrangements for the meetings in all localities where surveys have been carried out despite their busy schedules.



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

I would like to thank Hetauda Municipality Chief and Executive Officer Mr. Bharat Bahadur Dhungana and other officials of the municipality for their valuable time and fruitful discussion during the consultation meeting.

I would also like to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all my team members Ms. Sabitra Neupane, Programme Manager, HNN, Ms. Shristi Dhakal, Ms. Rosanne Hoeven, Ms. Wouke Oprel, Master Research students from the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, who have not only worked hard but contributed significantly throughout the entire period of this study to bring the study report to the present stage. Thanks are also due to Mr. Roshan Shrestha and Ms. Pooja Dangi, interns Xavier International College, Kathmandu for their cooperation to this study and to supporting staff of HNN who were always helpful and cooperative to me during this period.

Last but not the least; I am very much grateful to Mr. Om Thapalaya, Executive Director, HNN for entrusting me with this research study and providing me with valuable comments and suggestions throughout this study. It has been a pleasure and rewarding for me working with HNN as it has really broadened my understanding and knowledge about the issues of HBWs in Nepal.

Dibyeswar Prasad Shrestha

Team Leader

FOREWORD

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.1	Reasons for further training
Table No.2	Ownership of equipments and tools
Table No.3	Number of HBWs involved in different occupations
Table No 4	Daily working hours of the HBWs

Homenet South Asia Trust

Table No.5	Composition of HBWs by status of their works
Table No.6	Type of support required to expand the business
Table No.8	Sources of earnings to different family members
Table No.9	Percentage of HBWs household by level of savings
Table No.10	Land ownership
Table No.11	Status of electricity
Table No.12	Alternative sources of energy
Table No.13	Different methods of water purification
Table No.14	Sources of help during crises
Table No.15	Topics for discussion during meetings
Table No.16	Type of support received by HBWs
Table No.17	Major problems of HBWs
Table No. 18	Ladder of power
Table No. 19	Impact of urbanization

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.1	Number of HBWs households by family composition
Figure No.2	Reasons for migration
Figure No.3	Level of literacy
Figure No.4	Sources of skill learning
Figure No. 5	Average working days

Homenet South Asia Trust

Figure No.6	Reasons for working at home
Figure No.7	Domestic responsibilities of the HBWs
Figure No.8	Number of hours consumed by domestic responsibilities
Figure No 9	Level of satisfaction
Figure No.10	Type of markets for products
Figure No.11	Average wage earning of HBWs
Figure No.12	Monthly income of family members of HBWs
Figure No.13	Monthly family expenditure under different headings
Figure No.14	Housing status
Figure No.15	Information facilities used by HBWs
Figure No.16	Affiliation of HBWs to different organizations
Figure No. 17	Major problems of HBWs
Figure No. 18	Value chain analysis
Figure No. 19	Ladder of power

NUMBER OF BOXES

Box No .1

Box No. 2

Box No. 3

Homenet South Asia Trust



Homenet South Asia Trust

FOREWORD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

NUMBER OF BOXES

ACRONYMS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

1.2 RATIONALE OF STUDY

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1.4.1 UNIT OF THE STUDY

1.5 LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

CHAPTER TWO

2. URBANIZATION IN NEPAL

2.1 URBAN AREAS DEFINED

2.2 MAJOR URBAN ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

2.2.1. RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION

2.2.2 INCREASING PRICE OF LAND AND HOUSING

2.2.3 FORMATION OF SLUMS AND SQUATTERS

2.2.4 URBAN POVERTY

2.3 LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

2.4 REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

2.4.1 NATIONAL SHELTER POLICY, 1996

2.4.2 NATIONAL URBAN POLICY, 2007

2.4.3 WATER AND SANITATION POLICY

2.4.4 HEALTH POLICY



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

2.4.5 HOUSING IN THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION OF NEPAL

2.4.6. EDUCATIONAL CONDITION OF NEPAL

CHAPTER THREE

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF HBW

3.1. DEMOGRAPHY OR FAMILY COMPOSITION

3.2 ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION AND MARITAL STATUS

3.3 MIGRATION

3.4 EDUCATIONAL STATUS

3.5 SKILLS LEARNT

3.6 EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS

3.7 GENERAL STATUS OF HEALTH

3.8 HEALTH HAZARDS SITUATION

CHAPTER FOUR

4. NATURE OF HBWS AND WORKING FREQUENCY

4.1 NATURE AND TYPES OF HOME BASED WORKS

Homenet South Asia Trust

4.2 AVERAGE WORKING DAYS & HOURS

4.3. REASON FOR WORKING AT HOME

4.4. DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITIES

4.5. LEVEL OF SATISFACTION ON WORK

**4.6. COMPOSITION OF HOME BASED WORK AND ITS MARKET
RELATION- with pricing, selling of products and raw materials**

4.6.1 COMPOSITION OF PIECE RATE AND SELF-EMPLOYED

4.7. MARKETING STRATEGY

4.8. SEARCHING OPPORTUNITIES

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND SAVINGS

5.1 INCOME LEVEL OF HBWS

5.2 HOUSEHOLDS MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

5.2.1 INCOME

5.2.2 EXPENDITURES

5.3. SAVING AND CREDIT

Homenet South Asia Trust
CHAPTER SIX

6. 1. HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURES

6.1.1 HOUSING STATUS

6.1.2 TYPES AND CONDITION OF HOUSING

6.1.3 LAND OWNERSHIP

6.1.4 CONDITION OF WORKING SPACE

6.2 HOUSING UTILITIES AND FACILITIES

6.2.1 ELECTRICITY/ENERGY

6.2.2 WATER FACILITY

6.2.4 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS

CHAPTER SEVEN

7. NETWORKING AND AFFILIATION TO DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS

7.1 MEMBERSHIP TO DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS

7.2 CONTACTS WITH OTHER HBWS

7.3 BENEFITS OF NETWORKING AND MEMBERSHIP

8. ISSUES AND PROBLEMS OF URBAN POOR HBWS IN RELATION WITH LIVELIHOOD AND URBAN FACILITIES

8.1 Infrastructures & Basic Urban Services/ Facilities:

- a. WATER SUPPLY**
- b. TOILET FACILITIES**
- c. DRAINAGE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**
- d. TRANSPORTATION FACILITY**
- e. HOUSING**
 - a. WORKPLACE**
- f. HEALTH AND SANITATION**
- g. EDUCATION**
- h. SKILLS**
- i. COMMUNICATION**
- j. ELECTRICITY**
- k. SAFETY**
- l. ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS**
- m. ECONOMY**
- n. MARKET**
- o. WAGE RATE**
- p. MACHINE/ EQUIPMENT AND RAW MATERIALS**
- q. INCREASING COMPETITION**

Homenet South Asia Trust

- r. RISING COST OF LIVING**
- s. SHORTAGE OF COMMODITIES & RISE IN PRICE**
- t. POLITICAL ASSET AS POWER RELATION**
- u. SLUM SITUATION**
 - a. CONSEQUENCES OF SLUM**
- v. IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON THE LIVES OF HBW**
- w. MAJOR PROBLEM OF HBWS**
- x. PRODUCTION AND VALUES CHAIN ANALYSIS**
- y. LADDER OF POWER**
- z. GENDER**

CHAPTER NINE

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 1. LOW LEVEL OF INCOME**
- 2. WORK PLACE**
- 3. THREAT OF MARKET (DEMAND AND ORDER)**
- 4. DISCRIMINATED WAGE RATE**
- 5. OVERCROWDING**
- 6. LEGAL PROTECTION**
- 7. OBSOLETE TECHNOLOGY**
- 8. POOR NET WORKING AND ORGANIZATION**

Homenet South Asia Trust

9. POOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

10. LOW PROPORTION OF LITERACY

9.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

ENDNOTES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ANNEXURE

- I. INTERVIEW QUESTIONERS**
- II. GUIDELINE FOR FGDS**
- III. GUIDELINE FOR MUNICIPALITY**
- IV. GUIDELINE FOR CASE STUDY**
- V. PICTURES**
- VI. MAP OF STUDY LOCATION**

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The entire economy of Nepal is a combination of formal and informal economies in general. The share of informal economy compared to formal economy is much higher at the national as well as at global level. According to International Labour Organization (ILO) 2002, the informal economy comprises by informal categories of product and services and it has rapid growth globally which includes agriculture and non agricultural employment categories, non standard or a typical work- self employed, part-time work and casual work. Informal economy is dualistic by nature which is separated from the formal sector and complements the formal economy though they are both interdependent. The general characteristics of informal economy are unregulated, unrecognized, unstructured and also subordinate and dependent feature of capitalist economy and globalization.

“The informal sector may be broadly characterized as consisting of units engaged in the production of goods or services with the primary objective of generating employment and incomes to the persons concerned. These units typically operate at a low level of organization, with little or no division between labour and capital as factors of production and on a small scale personal and social relations rather than contractual arrangements with formal guarantees.” (International Labor Organization, Delhi Group, 2010). As mentioned above the informal sector is largely unrecognized, unrecorded, unregulated and more flexible in nature consisting of small activities including small enterprises, household enterprises, self-employed sectors and piece rated work like Home Based Work which is out of government regulation.



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

The workers in the informal sector are generally paid less and work in very poor and vulnerable condition though their number is growing significantly and they are contributing to the market needs. Due to lack of professional quality, education and skills for quality production, they operate mostly outside the formal economy and are exposed to various serious problems. However, the sector has been contributing significantly in economic, social as well as human development of the countries concerned. Basically, home based workers engage in small production activities and employment relations existing in causal, kinship or personal and social relations rather than contractual arrangements with formal guarantees. The world economy has been shifting from formal to informal and it is more flexible and the current global trend has also been fully affected by liberalization and globalization process of global economy. Therefore, the informal economy is a strong part of the national economy as well as labor market which has been creating significant employment opportunities and reducing the poverty gap and social injustice. The dynamism of the informal economy and its effect on the livelihood of the poor are equally important to create opportunity and upward mobility for the poor and their families.

Home based workers (HBWs) within the broader framework of informal sector are often an invisible, neglected and ignored sector in Nepal, though their number is estimated to be around 2.2 million out of which 78 % are women at present. According to Nepal Labour Force Survey 2008, the informal sector accounts for 70 to 86 per cent of Nepal's total employment in the non-agricultural sector and it has grown at the rate of around 30 per cent(29.3%) between the first labour force survey conducted in 1998/99 and second in 2008. The official definition of informal economy includes agriculture, family based enterprise, hotel services, construction, street vendor, rag picker, transportation sectors and so on however Home Work is not included under this definition yet. Although the numbers of HBWs are significant they are scattered all over the urban and peri-urban areas for their subsistence livelihood.

Available data shows that the home based sector often has high risk and vulnerability in terms of their work place which often stay out of mechanism of social security. At the same time, it should be noted that the informal sector is connected to the formal sector through subcontracting networks and production chains; for instance, home based products such as handicrafts, garments, pashmina, textiles; spinning yarn, assembling etc have been taken by other branded



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

companies in the market, which is recognized as outsourcing activities. The informal sector is growing at a faster rate than the formal economy (www.wiego.org, 2010) which consists of self employment and piece rate basis work with varieties of trade and sectoral work. In most of the Asian cities, Home Based Work has provided a means of livelihood for many workers who are in poor economic conditions and who do not have employment opportunities in other sectors. As a result, there is a large increase of HBWs in the major Asian cities (www.wiego.org and www.sewa.org). Due to lack of access to information, skills, and education most of the home based workers have established work in their own home to create their own employment. As mentioned above, informal sector is characterized basically by low-pay, unregulated by prevailing laws, not recognized by the government and is highly invisible.

Box No.1

Home Based workers are:

- (a) own-account workers and contributing family workers helping the own-account workers, involved in the production of goods and services, in their homes, for the market and
- (b) workers carrying out work in their homes for remuneration, resulting in a product or service as specified by the employer(s), irrespective of who provides the equipment, materials or other inputs used; and those contributing family workers helping such workers.

‘Home’, referred to above, is defined as (i) dwelling unit and/or (ii) structure attached to dwelling unit and/or (iii) open area adjacent to the dwelling unit. Independent group in India, 2010.

In urban context, the informal sector includes small enterprise operator's work at home or family business or contractual work thereby involving the cash economy and market transactions. The urban informal sector is more diverse than the rural one and includes a vast variety of economic activities on which most urban families depend for their livelihood. The dimension of urban poverty is ranging from household services to city services where settlement, work place, education and skill and living strategies are the major issues. The number of squatter settlements is increasing due to haphazard urbanization in the country with little accompanying



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

industrialization. The remaining few industries have also been outsourcing their production oriented jobs to the urban poor HBWs leading to the emergence of underclass workers. It is projected that two-thirds of human beings will be in towns and cities by 2050 out of 6 billion people (www.UN-HABITATE.org, 2008). Nepal's urban population is relatively small with just 15 percent of people living in cities out of which 36 percent of urban population is living in Kathmandu Valley (Census report of Government of Nepal). The proportion of urban population is likely to increase in future as there are many emerging potential towns which will soon be designated as municipalities and this will directly affect urban settlement and planning in Nepal. There are several causes for the rapid increment in the urban population in Nepal which includes migration from rural to urban areas, better opportunities for employment and study, better services and facilities, access to market, introduction of capital intensive technology, high flexibility to move from one work and place to another and internal conflict in the past and so on. The contribution of urban economy to national GDP is over 60 % (Lumanti, 2006). Similarly, urban sector is growing rapidly in recent years and informal work has been the main strategy for livelihood for the poor in urban and peri-urban areas.

Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) is the capital of Nepal with all the physical facilities and services to the city dwellers having opportunities, strategies and access to urban facilities even to the poor to some extent. Of many informal segments home based work is a major source of employment to a large number of home based workers in Kathmandu Valley which creates valuable employment opportunities for their livelihood. As reported by National Labor Academy, home based workers alone account for more than 3, 20, 000 in Kathmandu valley (NLA report, polite survey on HW, 2008). Outside the Kathmandu Valley also there is a significant number of HBWs working in different value chain system contributing to the national economy. Multi-dimensional relation of urban poverty in informal sector has brought the issues of the lives of HBWs who are dwelling in squatter and slum communities without proper housing condition, employment with inadequate income, living in state of deprivation, facing discrimination, social exclusion and violence, insecurity of tenure, degraded environmental conditions which threaten their health leading to more complicated life due to rise in the price of basic needs. The contribution of the home based work in national economy is high and creating

Homenet South Asia Trust

employment opportunities, however the sector is still invisible and unrecognized. The living conditions of the urban poor often determine their work condition and there is a need to improve the livelihood of large urban population. In the urban areas, home based workers are basically characterized by irregular works, contractual basis or/ piece rate basis works, low wages and lack of access to resources. The working condition is highly vulnerable in terms of occupational health hazards and safety, social security and legal security. Basically, the HBWs are in need of regular work, fair wage or income to fulfill their family requirements in the cash economy and market transactions. Moreover, HBWs are diverse in nature and they are driven usually towards obtaining more income for survival and for this they often work for very long hours.

At the global level or across the world, the population working in the home based works of informal economy is estimated to be 100 million both in rich and poor countries and vast majority of them are women combining domestic duties with earning works simultaneously (www.wiego.org, 2011). Despite their significant number and contributions to local, national and often global market, home based workers are the one who are mostly exploited and work in high risk and vulnerable situations (Ibid). In addition to this, due to low level of organizing power coupled with low level of awareness, they are neither well paid for their hard labour nor their jobs are secured. The element of 'informalities' involves at every stage of their works as they are not provided with any contract document or any paper assuring the permanency or continuity of their works or any other additional benefits for meeting the deadlines.

1.2 RATIONALE OF STUDY

The home based work is taken as outsourcing, subcontracting and family based work with the linkages of formal and informal market set-up. Many production firms are not recorded particularly those related to survival activities whereas multinational and bi-lateral companies with the highest economic power are recognized in the labor market. Home Based work in urban areas is more fragile and HBWs are engaging in various types of works to maintain and increase their earning sources. For instance, home based workers do marketing through street vending as well as sometime other labor work in the afternoon then, work as a home based worker during night also. Insecure employment forces them to engage in different types of work

Homenet South Asia Trust

simultaneously. Globalization is also a cause for increasing diversified home based works and unorganized and unplanned urbanization.

Since home based work is one of the neglected sectors of informal economy from the national economy and national recognition by the government therefore it is not surprising to observe that there is a severe lack of data and information on this subject with concerned agencies of the government in Nepal. There are sporadic or very few or limited studies being carried out by some NGOs like Home Net Nepal focusing on the problems and issues and the status of HBWs in Nepal however these studies are general in nature and lack comprehensiveness or in-depth in their contents. In this regard, it is a matter of great satisfaction for the people working in this field that for the first time the Census of Nepal commencing in near future has realized the need to collect information about HBWs in Nepal and accordingly incorporates the necessary question/s in the census questionnaire. Undoubtedly, with this inclusion of question on HBWs, the country will have for the first time at least the complete and reliable data on HBWs in Nepal.

It is neither desirable nor possible to formulate appropriate policy and intervention measures by the central government in the absence of basic information pertaining to HBWs in Nepal. It is expected that the present study will furnish necessary information about different aspects of HBWs so as to enable the concerned authorities of government of Nepal (GoN) to initiate the process of the formulation of appropriate policies for the secure livelihood of HBWs including urban working poor HBWs. Moreover, this document will also serve in pressurizing and in lobbying with government to expedite the process of policy formulation and intervention measures in future.

Importantly, the study has given a special focus on urban poor HBWs and their livelihood aspects. So the study has analyzed the relationship and dimension of urban poor HBWs urban in terms of urban poverty, its dynamism keeping home based work in mind as an occupation.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Homenet South Asia Trust

The primary objective of this study is to analyze the effects of urbanization on the livelihood dimension of HBWs. The general objective of the study is to understand the dynamism of urban poor home based workers as part of informal economy and increasing the informal activities in urban context of Nepal. The study seeks to understand how home based work supports the urban poor for their livelihood and more specifically, access to urban services, leadership and decision making capacity on the work. More specifically the study seeks to:

- a. Find out the types of changes caused by urbanization in the standards of living and occupation of HBWs.
- b. Derive the list of schemes implemented by the city governments.
- c. Capture the status of urban HBWs in terms of urban facilities.
- d. Explore the opportunities and threats from urbanization in the lives of HBWs.
- e. Assess the human, natural, financial, physical and political assets of HBWs.
- f. Find out ways for improving the socio-economic status of HBWs.
- g. Find out schemes, provision and planning of Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Kirtipur Bhaktapur) and Hetauda cities.

1.4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The section derives qualitative methodology by adapting different research methods which are major tools for the study. The study is designed to fulfill the requirement of the objectives by identifying the situation of urban poor home based workers specifically focusing on women home based workers in different clusters. The study is based on primary data collected from the questionnaire survey in the field and is supported by the secondary information related to policy and programmes.

For the present study three steps were adopted to get the information from the HBWs. First of all 123 HBWs have been selected for the interview from seven MBOs from Kathmandu valley and Hetauda to analyze the livelihood condition of HBWs. The HBWs were selected randomly from the MBOs in which snowball sampling was also done to categorize HBWs as piece rate basis and self-employed workers. Further, HBWs were divided on the basis of their work and nature of work.



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

To substantiate the information collected from the survey, 5 FGDs were conducted one each in Hetauda and Bhakatapur and three in Kathmandu for the analysis purposes. In addition to this, case studies were conducted two from each cluster as a third step. More importantly, key information was collected, from the leaders of MBOs and some location based visits were made during the study.

1.4.1 UNIT OF THE STUDY

Since the study unit is home based workers who are working in their homes for their livelihood in Kathmandu Valley and Hetauda cities which also include slum and squatter settlements to some extent. The HBWs have been establishing their own organizations called MBOs and HNN is an association for their collective learning, skill enhancement, as well as collective bargaining and production. In this process, seven MBOs from two cities have been chosen as study unit namely: DidiBahini Sewa Samaj at Koteshwor, Radi Weavers at lokanthali, Jyoti Mahila Sansar at Basundhara/KhadiPakha, Naindole HBWs Group at Dhapasi, Panga Coopetive at Panga & EICC at Hetauda. The home based workers have diversified nature of works involving creating self employment from their home. The cluster is also based on squatter and slum which were also selected for the study from Kathmandu and Hetauda. Some of the home based workers are in rental places so attempt was made to examine the relation and effect of the urbanization in their livelihood. The multiplier effect and complex dynamism of urbanization have affected the urban working poor home based workers life.

1.5 LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

As mentioned above, the sample size of the present study is limited to one hundred and twenty three HBWs families encompassing only five locations of four cities namely Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Bhaktapur, Kirtipur and Hetauda Municipalities and the present study realizes the fact that there are HBWs who are scattered beyond the above cities and locations across the country in Nepal. The study team is very much aware of these limitations in the present study and had worked hard to portray the picture of HBWs as real as possible despite this limitations and the study team also feels that it has been able to do so. Therefore, the study team believes that the conclusions and the recommendations that have been made in this study are very much



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

close to the ground realities of the HBWs in Nepal. If the recommendations are followed and seriously taken up by the concerned authorities of the government and local authorities, it will certainly lead to the improvements in the lives of the HBWs in Nepal.

CHAPTER TWO

2. URBANIZATION IN NEPAL

2.1 URBAN AREAS DEFINED

Urbanization is not new for the world but very new with short history in the development process of Nepal. There are some basic and fundamental criteria which emphasize on more population and infrastructure development rather than concern for urban poverty. The criteria for defining urban areas in Nepal have been changing over time and were mostly guided by the size of the population in the past and therefore there was a tendency to include more adjoining village development committees (VDCs) by a smaller emerging town in order to be qualified for a municipality while ignoring the fact that merely upgrading the status artificially does not automatically solve all the problems and ensure all the necessities for better urban life. In fact, declaration of an emerging town is not a panacea for all the urban diseases that needs to be understood by all the concerned emerging towns who are eagerly waiting in the queue rather it

Homenet South Asia Trust

will bring together all the challenges immediately in the form of rising expectation of people for better urban services and facilities to up-lift the livelihood which is not possible to address in the short term by any newly declared municipality due to lack of financial and other resources as well as needful planning process. However, in recent years with the promulgation of Local Self Governance Act(LSGA),1999 the criteria for a municipality went beyond population and included other additional criteria such as sources of income as well as the existing urban infrastructure facilities. Moreover, it also categorized three level of municipality like Municipal Corporation, Sub-municipal Corporation and Municipality again based on the above criteria.

a) Municipal Corporation: Accordingly, in order to be a municipal corporation there is a need of at least three hundred thousand population and annual income source of minimum four hundred million rupees, with the facility of electricity, drinking water and communications, having the main road and accessory roads of the town pitched, availability of highly sophisticated nature of service in respect of health services, having the necessary infrastructure as required for international sports programmes, availability of adequate opportunities for higher education in different subjects and having at least one university established and other similar adequate urban facilities and having already existed as a Sub-municipal corporation.

b) Sub-municipal Corporation: With the population of at least hundred thousand and annual income source of minimum one hundred million rupees, having the facilities of electricity, drinking water and communications, having the main roads of the town already pitched, having the facilities of higher education and health services, ordinary facilities for national as well as international level sports programmes, having the provision of public gardens and the city halls and other similar necessary urban facilities and having already existed as a Municipality.

c) Municipality: A semi-urban area with a population of at least twenty thousand, and annual source of income minimum five million rupees and with electricity, roads, drinking water, communications and similar other minimum urban facilities.

Provided that in the cases of mountainous and hilly areas, a population of at least ten thousand and annual source of income of minimum five hundred thousand rupees shall be sufficient even if there is no road facility (Pokharal, 2006).



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

At present, there is one Metropolitan City viz., Kathmandu Metropolitan City, four Sub-metropolitan Cities namely Lalitpur, Birgunj, Pokhara and Biratnagar and fifty three municipalities totaling altogether fifty eight municipalities in Nepal. There are lot of variations in terms of socio-economic condition, physical, cultural, resources endowments, level of urbanization, infrastructure facilities and services etc. between and among these municipalities. With exception to few major municipalities like Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Biratnagar, Pokhara, Birgunj etc. most of the municipalities are of rural character with a tiny area of the municipality being urbanized with basic facilities and services while the remaining large areas devoted mostly to agriculture and informal economy. The per capita investment of this municipality also shows tremendous differences with Pokhara having a maximum per capita investment of Rs.1068 at one extreme and at the other extreme Tribhuvan Nagar municipality with just Rs.6 per capita investment. The average per capita investment for all the municipalities is Rs.322. This is the investment made by the municipalities for the development of their municipalities under different headings.

There are imbalances in terms of the concentration of urban population among the development regions with central development region(with 20 municipalities) having the highest proportion of urban population such as 49.7 per cent followed by Eastern Development Region(with 14 municipalities) with 19.4 per cent. Moreover, Kathmandu Valley with only five municipalities, alone has almost one-third (30.9%) of the country' total urban population followed by the Terai 39.2 per cent with 25 municipalities. The hills and mountains together with inner Terai have 29.9 per cent of the total population with 28 municipalities. There is also difference in terms of the people involved in the primary, secondary and tertiary sector of the economy among these municipalities. Similarly, the availability of urban basic infrastructure services and facilities are also not similar among these municipalities.

These all indicate the fact that the criteria for defining the municipality in Nepal still needs to be refined so that a particular area truly represents the urban character with required services and facilities once it is declared as a municipality unlike the present approach/method of designating a particular area as a municipality driven more by political reasons rather than based on the urban reality. The main objective of designating any area as a municipality is not for increasing the

Homenet South Asia Trust

number of municipalities and increasing the proportion of population living in the urban areas in the country only but also to develop such area in true sense. Development is not possible with just having desire for development it needs to be backed up by required resources as well as the capacity to mobilize such resources as well. (Shrestha, 2059 B.S.).

2.2 MAJOR URBAN ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

Most of the settlements in Nepal in the past were concentrated or confined to the hills and valleys. The mountains are not suitable for human habitation due to steep slopes or uneven topography and the Terai due to prevalence of malaria. However, this situation has changed dramatically with the control of malaria in the Terai region and with the opening up of Nepal to the outside world after 1950s. These changes in the political and climatic conditions led to the high growth of large scale migration from the hills to the Terai region resulting into massive settlements in the Terai region as the land in the Terai is more fertile than in the hills and mountains as well as there is good networks of infrastructure facilities including road/ transportation. Naturally, as a result of this most of the fast growing towns are in the Terai region such as Biratnagar, Birgunj, Janakpur etc with exception to traditional towns like Kathmandu Valley, Pokhara, and Tansen etc.

The level of urbanization in Nepal is the lowest in South Asian countries like Cambodia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines and this hardly exceeds 15 per cent according to 2001 census of Nepal. However, the growth rate of urbanization is high and it is estimated to be 6.4 per cent which is almost three times higher than the 2.25 annual growth rate of population in the country. Urbanization pattern in Nepal is characterized by unplanned and haphazard urbanization resulting into increasing number of slums and squatter settlements, excessive concentration of urban population in a few major cities particularly in the Kathmandu Valley, high rate of internal migration from rural to urban areas, excessive concentration of urban population on limited infrastructural services and facilities like drinking water, electricity, sewerage and drainage, solid waste management, roads/ transportation, proper housing etc. And unplanned settlement, limited policy provision to address the need of urban cities such as basic employability, education and livelihood concerns. The problem is further compounded due to low priority accorded to urban sector by the national government which is well reflected by the annual

Homenet South Asia Trust

allocation of resources to this sector. It is interesting to observe that the urban sector in Nepal contributes two-thirds to the national gross domestic product (GDP) however the annual allocation of resources hardly exceeds one per cent and this suggests that urban development sector is still not a priority sector in the national development plan of Nepal.

2.2.1. RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION

The high rate of migration from rural to urban areas in search to better education, better opportunity and safe life but which is not accompanied by concomitant growth and development of infrastructures services and facilities has resulted into a chaotic urban environment exhibiting by so many undesirable urban elements like squatter settlements, increasing level of pollution, traffic congestion, environmental problems etc. just to name a few. The decade long insurgency in the country has further fuelled this process leading to an ever increasing influx of migrants in search of livelihood and security. There is already immense pressure of population on existing infrastructures services and facilities in almost all the major cities of Nepal and with these additional migrants the cities are not in a position to cope with the situation. The migrant people are not counted as urban citizen and there is limitation and gap in policy and program to address the needs. This results in a hard and painful life for urban cities as a whole and specifically for working urban poor in the cities who even have no access to the water tap as well as other urban services.

2.2.2 INCREASING PRICE OF LAND AND HOUSING

The price of land and housing in most of the major cities is already high and beyond the affordability level of the urban poor and low income families including HBWs and with the increase in demand for land and housing from the increasing number of population, the price of land and housing has further shot up to an unprecedented scale thereby making land and housing further unaffordable to the majority of the urban poor and low income families including HBWs in Nepal. Therefore the squatters, slum and low level rental settlement in adjoining city areas have been increasing highly. These city settlements have not been covered by proper policy, and programs and this causes high risk and vulnerability in the lives of HBWs.

Homenet South Asia Trust

2.2.3 FORMATION OF SLUMS AND SQUATTERS

As land and housing is becoming more and more expensive and inaccessible to urban poor this has resulted into the formation of increasing number of slums and squatter settlements in urban areas. For example, the squatter settlements in the Kathmandu alone have grown in number from 17 in 1985 to 40 in 2010. For the country as a whole, it has been estimated that 7 per cent of the total urban population lives in squatter settlements (Lumanti, 2008).

These are two terminologies which are often confusing and quite often used interchangeably in most of the discussions, interactions, workshops and reports relating to housing and urban development in Nepal. It is easily said and that is true also for definitional part that all squatters are slum but not all the slums are squatters. The major distinction between the two is again with regard to ownership of land and house. The squatters regardless of the fact wherever they have settled do not own the land or house or simply they do not have land and house in any part of the country so they are land less and homeless in true sense of the term. Naturally, they do not possess the so called land title certificate or '*lalpurja*' with them. On the contrary, the entire slum dwellers generally do possess '*lalpurja*' or the land title certificate of their land and house so they are neither land less nor homeless.

Slum communities are inhabited by socially disadvantaged people generally regarded as lower castes. These communities are defined by poor housing condition, poverty, low income, inadequate living areas or space or overcrowding and sub-standard urban facilities and services.

Squatters or the *sukumbasi* are those communities where people may have settled on the government land for many years and often for decades without legal right to be there. Therefore, they do not have legal land title certificate or '*lalpurja*' with them. However, in the urban context there are few cases where *sukumbasi* are the squatters residing on unauthorized government space while they may still own land or house elsewhere in the country. So, it is very difficult to identify the genuine squatters or the *sukumbasi* in Nepal.

2.2.4 URBAN POVERTY

Homenet South Asia Trust

The issue of urban poverty is slowly gaining ground in Nepal in recent years due to increasing number of poor moving from rural areas to urban areas in search of livelihood opportunity and security and this has necessitated the concerned agencies of the government of Nepal the need to address their problems."In the past, the issue of poverty was considered as the rural phenomena however in recent years the issue of urban poverty is gaining ground vis-à-vis rural poverty in the country" (Lumanti, 2010). Obviously, the entire efforts and resources were devoted to rural areas to alleviate the rural poverty and this tendency is still continuing as is reflected by the several development programmes in the country.

As of today, there is no specific definition of urban poverty with government. The government and the concerned authorities follow the indicators to measure the urban poverty. It means the Government of Nepal seems not willing to spotlight on the agenda of urban poverty. It has shown its very low priority towards the urbanization process and its planned development for healthy and sustainable city.

For the country as a whole the estimated poverty was 31 per cent in 2003/04 according to Nepal Living Standard Survey (NLSS) compared to 42 per cent in 1995/96NLSS. Between 1995/96 and 2003/04, the incidence of poverty declined by 8 percentage points in rural areas (from 43 per cent to 35 per cent) and by 12 percent points in urban areas (from 22 per cent to 10 per cent). During the same period, a healthy progress was seen in Poverty Gap (P1). Poor people have moved closer towards the poverty line. In nominal terms, per capita expenditure increased from Rs.7235 in 1995/96 to Rs.15224 in 2003/04. In 1995/96 rupees (real terms), per capita expenditure in 2003/04 was estimated to be Rs.10318. The factors driving the growth in per capita household expenditure include growth in remittance transfers, agricultural wages, non-farm wages and enterprise incomes, urbanization and economically active population ratio (Shrestha, 2010). According to National Planning Commission (NPC) the population below the poverty level in Nepal is shown as 25.4 per cent at present.

However, there has been some initiation taken very recently by some municipalities to define Urban Poverty at municipal level which is yet to be published.

2.3 LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Homenet South Asia Trust

In fact, there is no act, law and policy which specifically deals with and protects HBWs in Nepal. As HBWs are invisible and underrepresented in the country's national economy therefore they are easily camouflaged within the broader context of informal sector or economy. Although the informal sector of the economy accounts for 90 per cent of the total labour force with hardly 10 per cent covered by so called formal and organized sector yet being highly scattered, unorganized and weak their voices were never heard or hardly heard at the policy level which is well reflected by the fact that government has formulated act, laws and policy to protect and safeguard the interest of 10 per cent labour force working in the formal sector of the economy while ignoring the bulk informal 90 per cent labour force including HBWs.

There is no reliable data regarding the number of HBWs in Nepal however it is estimated that its number is over 2 million. Of this 67 per cent are women and 33 per cent are men. The ILO Convention No.177 is designed in international perspective with limited relevance in our context therefore there is a need to define the HBW in our own context. The provision in the labour act deals with Piece Rate Basis (PRB) workers and to a large extent the HBWs also fall in this category. However, it does not take into account the interest of 'self employed' or 'independent workers'. In the Labour Act the definition of workers is: *'Workers shall denote a person employed on the basis of salary or wage to work in any building, premises, machinery or any part thereof used for any production process or providing service or any act relating to such work or for any unscheduled work and this work also includes any workers at Piece Rate Basis (PRB) or on contract basis.'* The Trade Union Act included the PRB workers as well as self employed workers in its definition of worker. Similarly, the Labour and Employment Policy 2006 have the following provision:

The labour market shall be gradually protected, made healthy, competent and flexible and also the occupational safety and health shall be ensured and promoted by developing the social security mechanism in the informal labour sector.

An enabling environment shall be created for the workers from informal sectors of work to be organized and collective bargaining approach shall be encouraged and prompted through required legal and institutional provision (CBS/NPC, 2005).

Homenet South Asia Trust

The GON has shown commitment on freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the collective abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupations. Furthermore, GoN also seems to have ratified seven out of eight ILO conventions. To date GoN has framed the National Plan of Action for Decent Work, Approval of HIV/AIDS workplace policy and implementation of National Master Plan on Child Labour. More importantly, the Task Force which was constituted for drafting the National Policy on HBW has long ago submitted policy draft for necessary endorsement and approval from GoN and this is already overdue and therefore needs to be endorsed and approved as soon as possible so that the necessary separate act and regulation on HBWs could be formulated to deal with issues and problems of HBWs in Nepal.

2.4 REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

The policy of government for any sector of the economy indicates the vision, thinking and approach of government for the intended development of certain particular sector in the overall context of country's development. Generally, policies are formulated and implemented to develop, direct, protect, safeguard and guide etc. different sectors of the economy keeping in mind the role and importance of each sector in the country's development process in a planned manner. Naturally, any sector where there is a government policy will have more chances of planned development than other sector which has no policy of its own. Policies in the social development sector like health, housing drinking water and sanitation etc. will ensure many facilities and services to its citizens. Again, there are different level of policies even for a particular sector at the national, district and local level. However, the national level policy generally supersedes all other policies in most of the cases or at least it serves as a broad framework for others to formulate their respective policies. Development takes place regardless of the fact that whether or not there is a policy for that particular sector but to a large extent, such development will be haphazard and unplanned as well as directionless if this is not guided by a policy. Moreover, investment without proper policy guidance may lead to wastage of scarce limited resources and more importantly it may not be sustainable in the long run. One thing that needs to be borne in mind is that just by having a policy will not automatically leads to

Homenet South Asia Trust

development of any sector as it also demands adequate legal framework, strong institutional set up, effective implementation as well as strong political will power and commitment which alone can ensure the translation of any good policy into a reality.

There are various policies of government of Nepal (GoN) which has direct or indirect bearing on the development, upliftment and improvement in the lives of the urban poor in general and HBWs in particular; such as health, housing, drinking water and sanitation, urban development policy etc. Therefore, an attempt has been made below to review and assess these policies against the backdrop of urban poor and HBWs by examining to what extent these policies have been benefitting urban poor in the context of Nepal.

2.4.1 NATIONAL SHELTER POLICY, 1996

The National Shelter Policy of Nepal was developed and implemented for the first time in 1996 after carrying out a comprehensive housing survey in 1991 under the technical support of UN-HABITAT. The policy of GON in the shelter sector has been clearly mentioned as "enabler as well as facilitator for the fulfillment of shelter targets and the private sector should play an important role in formal and informal sectors" (Lamsal, 2008). In other words, the government of Nepal is not a provider of housing but it is a facilitator and enabler only where the role of government will be limited to the formulation of necessary act and regulations together with provision of basic infrastructure services in order to encourage the private sector investment in housing. With regard to provision of housing to the low income people the policy states: "Construction of cost effective shelters for low income people, the shelter-less and the disadvantaged groups, provide smaller plots of land to construct dwelling units, provide the basic services and facilities (Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning, 1996). There is no specific mentioning of urban poor except the low income but the shelter less families indirectly pertains to the squatters and homeless urban poor families.

The major instruments proposed to improve housing situation in the country are provision of serviced land through land development programmes (such as land pooling, site and services and guided land development programme), promotion of housing finance, development of construction materials and technology, increasing the production of dwelling units and repair and

Homenet South Asia Trust

maintenance of the existing stocks etc. The Nation Shelter Policy had identified the need of new total dwellings units of 2.5 million (2549200) for a period from 1996-2006 A.D (433,600 units or 17% in the urban areas) and renovation of 731,900 (59,700 units or 8 per cent in urban areas) dwelling units by the end of 2006 (Ibid).

Before the implementation of this shelter policy, GoN has already implemented three Site and Services programmes such as Keleshwor, Galfutar and Sainbu Bhainsipati, the previous two in Kathmandu Metropolitan City and the third one in Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City. In a Site and Services project, government acquires all the required land from the land owners by paying compensation as per the valuation done by the valuation committee of government and plan on it and construct infrastructures like roads, drains, water supply, electricity etc as per the master plan. The Keleshwor project was designed in order to provide housing facilities to the permanent government employees who do not have house and/or land in the country, the developed plots in Galfutar was sold on 'first come first serve' basis whereas the developed plots in Saibu project were sold in the open market through bidding process (Ibid). In addition to this, government has implemented 11 land pooling projects covering total areas of over 4500 hectares in the Kathmandu Valley which produced more than 11,000 developed plots. In land pooling project, the government does not acquire the land pools the land for certain period of time until planning of the area is completed and the necessary infrastructures are laid down. After finishing this, certain percentage of developed plots is returned to the original land owners and the rest is sold in the open market again through the bidding process to recover the cost of infrastructure development.

The third type of land development programme is Guided Land Development programme where the government improves the existing road networks and drainage facilities so as to improve the vehicular movement in the existing settlements areas.

In line with the National Shelter policy 1996, the government of Nepal enacted the Apartment Act, 1997, Building Act, 1997 and established the National Housing Development Finance Company in 1990 as envisioned by the Seventh Five Year Plan of Nepal (1985-90) for planned housing development in the country and to encourage the private sector investment in the housing sector. In recent years, private sector housing developers and housing companies have



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

emerged and built individual houses as well as apartments in the Kathmandu Valley which is a positive development in an effort towards the planned development of housing in Nepal.

Although the government claims that the housing programmes and projects are meant for the low income families and poor people in the urban areas of Kathmandu valley where the problem of housing is more serious than any part of the country particularly to the urban poor, the existing practices and mode of distribution and selling of the developed plots hardly comply with this claim in the case of the completed land development projects as mentioned above. Therefore the problem of housing of the urban poor and low income people remains to be addressed in the urban areas of Nepal let alone the HBWs.

The cost of the individual houses and apartments built by the private developers and housing companies is beyond the reach of middle income families let alone the urban poor including the HBWs. The transactions of these houses and apartments built by the private housing developers clearly suggest the fact that target of these developers are upper middle groups, high income groups and NRN (Non-Resident Nepali) who can afford the expensive price tag of such houses and apartments in the Kathmandu Valley. The problem is further compounded by the lack of affordable rental accommodation from the government authorities in the major urban areas in particular the Kathmandu Valley. The poor urban families can neither participate in the bidding process to buy the developed plots being produced by the government under land pooling projects nor can they buy plot in the open market as the price of land is beyond their affordability level due to extremely low level of their income. Thus the urban poor including the HBWs are the ones who are hit hard by sky rocketing prices of land and housing as well as ever rising cost of rental accommodation. As the government did not shoulder its responsibilities as the housing provider, at least to the economically weaker section of the communities like urban poor and HBWs, there is no other option for the urban poor than to squat on the government land for housing and this has led to increasing number of squatter settlements in most of the major cities of Nepal in recent years.

All this points to the fact that the present policy and approach to adequate provision of housing to all is unlikely to solve the housing problems of the urban poor and low income families including HBWs in Nepal and the government must play a role of housing provider to cater to



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

the needs of such groups (Shrestha, 2003) if government intends to address the housing problems of the urban poor. The National Shelter Policy of 1996 is now under revision and one can hope that this issue will get proper place in the new revised housing/shelter policy.

2.4.2 NATIONAL URBAN POLICY, 2007

The National Urban Policy, 2007 is expected to serve as a road map to this sector in order to address the challenges posed by the haphazard urbanization in the country. The policy document realizes the need to have an integrated and coordinated approach to urban development as there are many issues involved in this sector. The urban development pattern in the country has remained imbalanced due to excessive investment mostly in favor of Kathmandu Valley thereby resulting into Kathmandu-centric urbanization process and that has become a major cause for the imbalance in national urban structure leading to increasing trend of migration from rural areas and small town to large urban centers in general and the Kathmandu Valley in particular.

Therefore, the major thrust of the urban policy is to achieve balanced urban structure through industrial development and provision of urban infrastructure in a balance manner by prioritizing the backward regions of the country. It emphasizes the construction of north-south highways to link the Himalayan belt (high mountains) and the Terai (southern plains) to every development region, development of regional urban centres for industrial, trade and export promotion along with the construction of north-south and east west highways to establish linkage between urban centres and rural areas so that the rural areas will develop side by side with the urban areas in Nepal (Shrestha, 2002).

As the construction cost of infrastructure development is tremendous and is not possible to be met alone with the investment of the government therefore the policy encourages and tries to attract foreign investment under public private partnership (PPP) model. Similarly, in order to conserve and develop the rich cultural heritage of the Kathmandu Valley and the touristic importance of the valley, the urban policy is planning to relocate those development activities which do not comply with the above vision. In addition to this, the urban policy has envisioned to create more employment opportunities in the urban centres by encouraging various economic development activities based on local potentials and opportunities.

Homenet South Asia Trust

The National Urban Policy does not mention about the participation of people in the urban planning process and more importantly it is not clear how the voices of the urban poor and low income people regarding their housing problem are going to be addressed and heard through this policy. Moreover, the policy is silent about the inclusive urban planning approach so that all categories of people like Dalits, Janajatis, Madhesis, and Muslims etc. could be integrated within the broader framework of urban development umbrella in the country.

2.4.3 WATER AND SANITATION POLICY

Provision of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to all Nepali people has been the priority of the government since the implementation of the country's First Five Year Plan in 1956 up to the present time when the country is implementing Three Year Plan(2010/11-2012/13).The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in its goal No 7 and Target No.10 has clearly mentioned the need to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015.In order to realize this global objective, each country needs to localize this target into their national plans and programmes for their effective implementation only under such a situation the global target could be fulfilled. However, despite series of implementation of periodic development plans and programmes in the country for the last more than fifty years, the proportion of population with access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities is far from adequate. For instance, according to Nepal National Housing Survey 1991, about 28.08 per cent of the households have in house piped water supply, about 30 per cent(29.98%) of the households have electricity and about 6 per cent(5.58%) of the households have toilet facilities at the national level (Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, 2007). The Nepal Living Standard Survey, 2003 /04 (NLSS) however, indicates some improvements in the physical facilities of the households such as water supply, electricity, toilet etc. For instance, the proportion of households with water supply, electricity and toilet is 44 per cent, 37 per cent and 39 per cent respectively. In the case of urban areas, about 38 per cent of the households have indoor toilet, more than 80 per cent of the households have electricity and about 34 per cent of the households have in house piped water supply (Shrestha, 2009). These simple figures clearly illustrate the fact that there is a need for huge investments by the country in water and sanitation sector if the access of water and toilet facilities is to be delivered to all Nepali households in near



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

future. In addition to high investment requirements, the issue of water right conflicts and resource sharing with the surrounding population has also posed a great problem to the concerned agencies in recent years.

The population of Kathmandu Valley has more than doubled within the last two decades and the proportion of urban population is expected to reach 26.7 per cent by the year 2021 thereby increasing the demand for water but the water production in the valley shows a disappointing picture as the production of water during the dry and wet season is estimated to be 97 MLD and 150 MLD with corresponding deficiencies of 65 per cent and 54 per cent respectively. Furthermore, urban water demand is increasing rapidly at between 6 and 7 per cent per annum. With these increasing deficiencies of water it is the urban poor who have to bear the major brunt of such deficiencies as they cannot easily and immediately go for alternatives due to severe lack of income. Traditionally and historically, the public taps were the main source of water supply to the urban poor and in the Kathmandu Valley alone there are over 600 public taps which are in working condition. But unfortunately, in an attempt to control the water losses in the valley the concerned agencies have been trying to close down these taps and instead the water authorities have installed a large number of public taps for which the municipalities have to pay the tariff.

Sanitation was not a priority, neither for the central nor the local government and whatsoever drains were constructed in the municipal areas they are all storm water drains meant for draining out the rain water and most of these storm water drains have been constructed by the municipalities. According to Nepal Water Supply Act, 1989 the management of storm water and waste water is the responsibility of the Nepal Water Supply Corporation in its service areas however, the Local Self Governance Act, 1999 has given this responsibility to the respective municipalities.

The studies indicate that more than 80 per cent of all diseases are attributed to water and sanitation related causes and account for around 13,000 child deaths each year from diarrheal diseases such as dysentery, jaundice, typhoid and cholera. The goal of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Policy is to ensure the socio-economic development and improved health status of urban population, especially the poor and marginalized, through the provision of sustainable water supply and sanitation services and protection of the environment. Further it

Homenet South Asia Trust

states, the basic service needs of poor and marginalized communities are met and that these groups, and especially women, are involved in all decision making that affects their service interests at all levels. The policy has also provision to make available the basic service of water and sanitation even to the squatter families though they do not have land title certificate called 'lalpurja'. It states: Recognizing that the impact of deficient basic services falls most heavily on the poor, policy will ensure that such groups have access to sustainable basic services at affordable prices and a voice in service-related decision-making that will affect them. This is regardless of whether or not such residents have legal citizenship and tenure rights. As such, squatter and slum settlements will be automatically included in service areas.

2.4.4 HEALTH POLICY

The productivity of human beings in any area of works is directly related to the physical and mental fitness or soundness of the health. In other words, only those people with good health can work effectively and productively and in order to be in good health mentally and physically as defined by the WHO, among other things, there is a need of regular health check-ups and proper treatment during illness. This does not, however, mean that there is no role of proper diet, housing, sanitation, water supply etc towards achieving better health. These are also equally important for us to be in healthy condition. Therefore, access to free health and treatment facilities can go a long way in keeping the poor in better health condition regardless of the geographical locations whether they are living in the urban areas or the rural areas. In Nepal, the doctor patients' ratio as well as the number of beds per thousand populations indicates a grim picture as a single doctor has to serve thousands of people so also the number of beds thereby indicating the gross inadequacy of such facilities.

In recent years there have been some improvements in the health sector as indicated by the decreasing rate of child mortality (under five) per thousand live births, infant mortality per thousand live births, longevity, and maternity mortality rate per 100, 000, users of family planning measures etc. However, much remains to be done if the poor people are to be provided with such facilities in both the rural and urban areas. The cost of health services provided by the government hospitals are comparatively cheaper but highly time consuming whereas the same facilities being provided by the private nursing homes and clinics are very expensive but prompt

Homenet South Asia Trust

and more reliable. Thus, there is a dilemma for poor people whether to go for government hospital to save the money or go to the nursing home in order to get prompt service and save time so that he or she could save time which he or she could use for income generating activities.

The national address of then Prime Minister in Fiscal Year 2009/10 with regard to health sector is relevant to quote in this context which mentions: "primary and basic health will be ensured as a fundamental right of the people..." In the context of the urban population it states, "with a view to enhancing the access of poor citizens of the urban areas to health services, arrangements for the establishment of additional health institutions and strengthening of the existing institutions and addition of women health volunteers will be made on the basis of population and geography in coordination with local bodies (Ibid).

2.4.5 HOUSING IN THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION OF NEPAL

Although the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 does not mention specifically about the urban or rural poor however it clearly stipulates the right to safe and affordable housing under the concept of 'Shelter for All'. The specific articles of the constitution dealing with housing and land are the following:

Article 33 Responsibilities of the state;

(h) To pursue a policy of providing economic and social security including lands to economically and socially backward classes including the landless bonded laborers, tillers and shepherds.

Article 35 State Policies:

(10) The state shall pursue a policy which will help to promote the interest of the marginalized communities and the peasants and laborers living below poverty line, including economically and socially backward indigenous tribes, Madhesis, Dalits, by making reservation for certain period of time with regard to education, health, housing, food sovereignty and employment.

(14) The state shall pursue a policy of making special provision based on positive discrimination to the minorities, landless, squatters, bonded laborers, disabled, backward communities and

Homenet South Asia Trust

sections, and the victims of conflict, including women, Dalits, indigenous tribes, Madhesis and Muslims.

(15) The state shall pursue a policy of making provision for providing basic land to the liberated bonded laborers for settlement having determined their exact numbers.

It is clear from the above articles that the constitution has made provision of housing to landless, squatters, economically and socially backward including indigenous tribes, Dalits, Madhesis, etc. which is laudable. However, the most important thing is how the concerned authorities of the government will translate this into a reality by incorporating these statements into their annual plans and programmes; this is yet to be seen.

In the Interim Constitution, there are several provisions such as right to work, right to use health, sanitation and other basic living facilities. Only the need is to implement it properly.

2.4.6. EDUCATIONAL CONDITION OF NEPAL

The institutionalization of educational development in Nepal started relatively late. Though, the rapid growth in schooling and people's interest in schooling has been remarkable. Now about 94% of all primary school age group children are enrolled in school. The National Plan of Action, 2003 with the slogan: 'Education for All' along with its prioritized plan and programs has made some positive changes in the sector. The National education policy 2028 BS 1971 (with amendment 1999) has also focused on education for all whereas the Interim constitution has protected education as Fundamental rights of every Nepalese. It has not mentioned any provision especially for urban working poor. The urban poor have been considered as one of the challenging groups of population in terms of educational development with regard to provision of services as citizens. The sector has become more challenging and problematic by trying to cover the urban working poor.

CHAPTER THREE

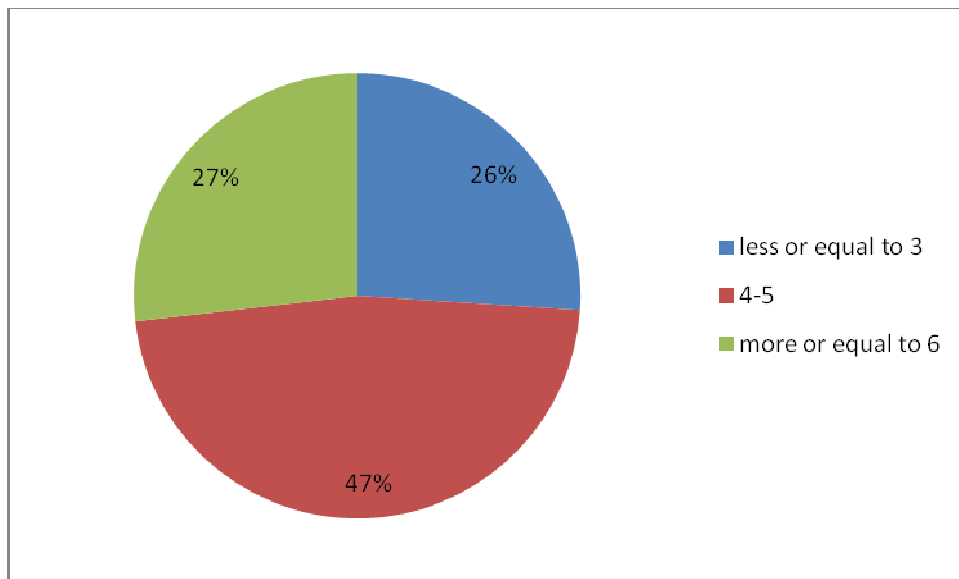
3. CHARACTERISTICS OF HBW

The nature of the works being done by the HBWs in Nepal is so diverse that it encompasses the entire ranges of works one can think of. Not only are the works diverse and numerous but HBWs also exhibit lots of differences in terms of demographic composition, ethnic composition, religious composition and educational status etc.

3.1. DEMOGRAPHY OR FAMILY COMPOSITION

In terms of demographic composition or family composition, around fifty per cent (47.15%) of the households have four to five members in their family followed by more than six in the family of nearly 27% of responding HBWs (Figure No. 1 below). This shows that the household size of HBWs is very much close to the national average which is around six. With regard to age groups in the households, more than 60 per cent (61.79%) of the respondents belong to age group from 31 to 60 which is economically active population group. The long held notion that poor people tend to have more children to support their families does not hold true in this case. The number of children per household is around 2.5 persons where almost all the children seem to have been enrolled in the schools. As the children have to go the schools and have to do their home works naturally they have not assisted much in their parents work at home which is evidenced by the fact that as much as 73.64 per cent of the children reported that they have not assisted in the family works. By size, the urban households are nuclear. This has proved that even in such a small city of the globe, the characteristics of the urbanization are quite similar to other places.

Figure No.1 Number of HBWs households by family composition



3.2 ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION AND MARITAL STATUS

The ethnic composition of population shows that as much as 76.42 per cent of the HBWs belong to the ethnic communities: Janjatis followed by Brahmin/Chhtris at 16.26% and Dalits at 7.32%. It shows that the people belonging to indigenous and dalit communities mostly inherit their traditional and indigenous skills and knowledge. This shows that these people also have a sense of the value of their skills and respect them for their importance on their livelihood.

Homenet South Asia Trust

With regard to religion, more than 70 per cent (78.05%) of the households believe in Hinduism followed by Buddhism by 14.63% and Christianity by 4.07% and Kirat religion by 2.44%. The responding HBWs who follow the Islamic religion were found to be very nominal i.e., less than one percent.

Similarly with regard to marital status, it is interesting to observe that more than 90 percent (91.87%) of the HBWs were found to be married. Very few of them (8.13%) are unmarried but have begun to involve in home based work as an employment.

3.3 MIGRATION

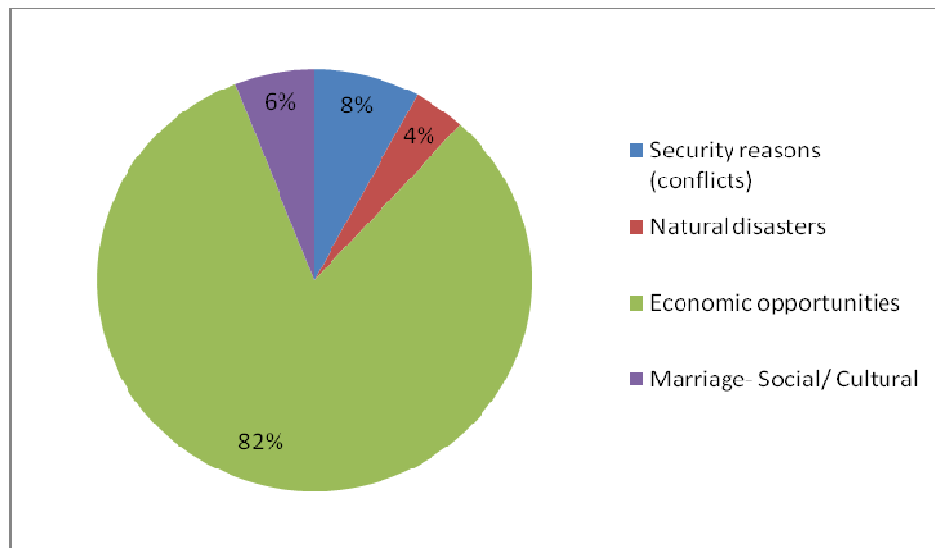
Migration from rural to urban areas has been posing a great problem in almost all the major cities of Nepal in recent years. For instance, according to one study the proportion of internal migrants to the overall population of municipality on the whole is 26 per cent. Furthermore, in the case of Kathmandu, Bharatpur and Butwal municipalities the share of migrant population to the total population is 40 per cent, 41 per cent and 45 per cent respectively (Shrestha, 2010). The pace of internal migration has been accelerated during the decade long internal conflict in the country resulting into huge influx of rural population in major cities in general and Kathmandu valley the capital city in particular.

The present study also substantiates this point as more than 40 per cent (41.46%) of the HBWs have migrated from the other districts. The analysis of the reasons behind their migration shows that more than 80 per cent (82.35%) of the households have migrated to the present location for economic reason or opportunities followed by security reason 7.84 per cent and for marriage or due to marriage as 5.88 per cent in each city. Life in the rural areas is very difficult as the opportunities for employment is very limited and the major source of livelihood in the rural areas is agriculture which is already facing the problem of excess labour force resulting into disguised unemployment. Further, the prospects for other employment are extremely limited due to limited development of industrial sector and construction works.

Homenet South Asia Trust

Of the total 41 % HBWs were found to have migrated from different parts of the country. Of total migrated HBWs, as much as 82% have to say that they have migrated in search of better livelihood opportunities (Figure No.2).

Figure No.2 Reasons for migration



On the other hand, some of the family members of the HBWs have migrated out of the country. Foreign employment is another source for the livelihood of the HBWs family. Around one-fifth of the respondents have reported that their family members have migrated to outside the country. As they have migrated to the foreign countries, naturally those who are abroad support their families by sending money and the percentage of the support money is reported to be 60 per cent of the total family income which seems very much encouraging. Taking this into accounts that

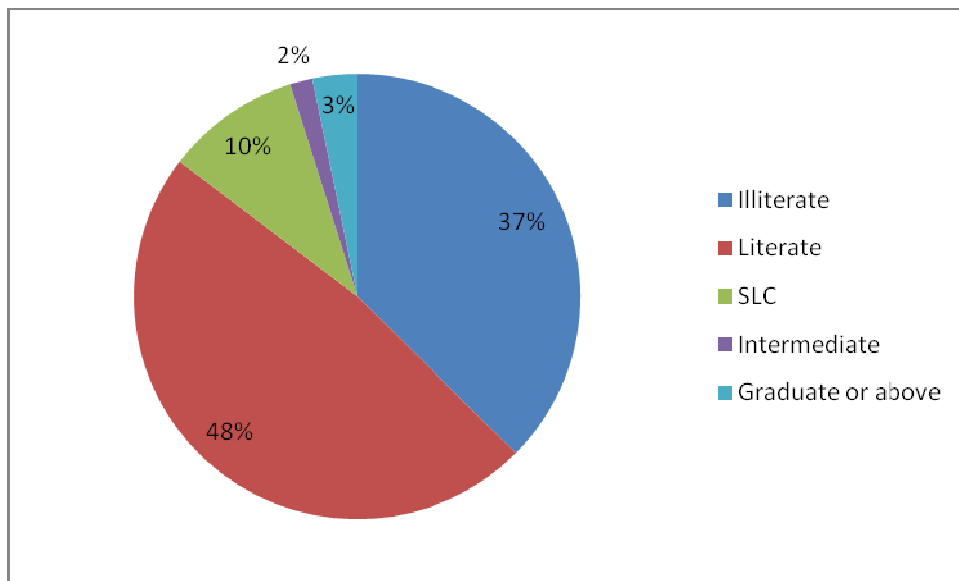
Homenet South Asia Trust

the majority of HBWs' families are poor and this remittance would considerably help to meet their utmost necessities such as cost of education to their children, medical expenses, building of houses besides day to day expenditures. Nepal receives billions of foreign exchange annually from remittances sent by its migrated workers from different parts of the world. On an average a HBW household receives NPR 22,754.

3.4 EDUCATIONAL STATUS

The level of literacy of the HBWs has a direct bearing on their works as those who are literate can have more chances of earning in the present day competitive market more due to their exposure to several networks and access to information relating to their works. It is encouraging to note that around 13% of the total responding HBWs is educated and nearly 50 % are just literate. The percentage of illiterate is around one-third only (Figure No.3).

Figure No.3 Level of literacy



Due to lack of proper education, HBWs are deprived of the privileges to learn about the new designs, market prices. Similarly, most of them have been experiencing discrimination and domination from family, community and even within organizations. Due to lack of education, women HBWs who are engaged in stitching are not able to use tools and instruments like simple

Homenet South Asia Trust

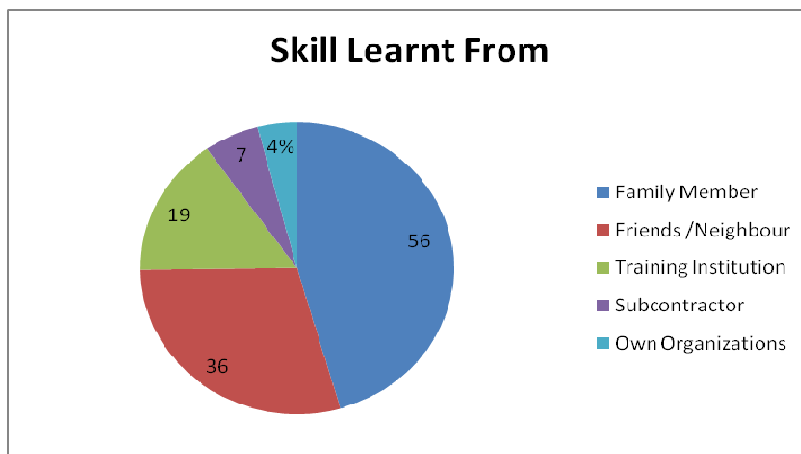
measuring tape while cutting clothes nor are they able to use modern communication technology like mobile phone for their work.

Being illiterate most of the HBWs have been missing opportunities for further training, capacity building and leading the organization with proper leadership capacity. During the field visit it was also observed that they remain behind the screen with the feeling of inferiority complex due to illiteracy. The available information like the catalogues is written only in English language which they cannot understand thereby restricting them from entering into global market and the global market trend directly affects the urban working poor.

3.5 SKILLS LEARNT

According to Figure No.4 below, almost 50 per cent of the responding HBWs have learnt their skills from their family members and another around 30 per cent from their friends and neighbors. The percentage of the HBWs who have learnt their skills from the formal training institutions are only 19 percent. Another 7 percent of the HBWs seem to have been trained by the sub-contractors themselves probably to improve the quality of their products. Again, more than 50 percent (56 %) of the HBWs usually train other family members and friends those who are interested to learn such skills in that way there is continuity of the skills as it is transferred from one generation to another generation.

Figure No.4 Sources of Skill Learning



Homenet South Asia Trust

The majority of the HBWs are trained in sewing/ stitching as the survey results have shown. The percentage of the HBWs having skills in knitting, weaving, flower/doll making, embroidery, candle making, incense rolling, etc are high.

In order to enhance the quality of their products, 25.20 per cent of the respondent HBWs have expressed that their skill not sufficient whereas 56.91 per cent indicated it is sufficient to some extent. As their works demand further skills to improve the quality of their products, obviously, more than 84.55 per cent have shown interest to learn more skills through trainings.

Table No.1 Reasons for further training

Training want learn more on:	Frequency	Percent
Improve quality	69	66.35
Improve managerial ability	10	9.62
Improve marketing ability	9	8.65
All	9	8.65
More skills on sewing	7	6.73
Total	104	100.00

3.6 EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS

Of total responding HBWs, 81 percent own the equipment they use and 8 percent HBWs use equipment of their employers and another 8 percent HBWs use equipment on rental basis (Table No.2). Very few HBWs who work in a group use the equipment owned by the group.

Table No.2 Ownership of Equipments and Tools

Ownership of Tools and Equipments	Frequency	Percent
Workers' Own	100	81.3
Employers	10	8.13
On Rental Basis	10	8.13
Group Basis	3	2.44

Homenet South Asia Trust

The above table shows that most of the HBWs have their own livelihood assets to some extent which is very positive to generate employment on their own. However, 74 percent of HBWs expressed dissatisfaction about the quality of their equipment. It was also found that some of the equipments and tools they are currently using are very old and not in good condition to work properly. Some HBWs have knowledge about market needs and innovative and new advance technology but they are not in a position to afford such technology in their work due to poverty. More than 90 percent of the HBWs have to spend money for the maintenance and repair of their equipments and tools every year. With regard to cost for the maintenance and repair, 60 percent of the HBWs spend less than NPR. 500 (US\$7) followed by another 30 per cent spending NPR.1000 (US\$14) annually.

3.7 GENERAL STATUS OF HEALTH

With regard to the question whether they have suffered from illness during the last two months, almost fifty per cent (46.30%) of the households during the studies reported that they had suffered from illness and the major type of illness are other type of illness-comprised of fever, headache and cold (32.39%), blood pressure (15.49%), respiratory problem (9.86%) and diarrhea (7.04%). Furthermore, they have also reported back pain/ joint pain, depression, thyroid and dysentery etc. The women HBWs specifically reported the problems of miscarriage, uterus and over bleeding during menstruation period etc.

For the treatment, almost sixty per cent (59.34%) of the HBWs go to the public hospitals and public health post as the cost of treatment in government hospital is comparatively cheaper. The numbers of HBWs going to the private nursing homes are 26.02 per cent and some of the HBWs also go to the ayurvedic hospital (10.57%). The opportunity cost of time spent in public hospitals and health centers is very high. Naturally, when they go to the government hospitals, 52.85 per cent of the HBWs have to spend more than two hours followed by 24.39 per cent who spend one to two hours. The percentage of the households spending less than one hour is very small as it is 4.07 per cent only.

However, during FGDs it was reported that mostly children suffer from pneumonia, jaundice, typhoid and diarrhea in their locality and in some cases even 2 /3 times in an year. Moreover,

Homenet South Asia Trust

generally elders also frequently suffered from cold, fever, headaches, environmental and other related diseases. These types of problems are found mostly in slum and squatter clusters.

The HBWs and their family members instead of visiting doctors generally approach first to the pharmaceutical shop in case of illness. They also take medicine directly without prescription and without consulting with doctors. It was also revealed by the FGDs participants that despite knowing the severe side effect of such habit, they are compelled to do so due to low level of their income. It is happening because the health services in government hospital is comparatively cheaper though the quality is poor and highly time consuming and contrary to this quality of the health services in private clinic and nursing homes are better and prompt but beyond the affordability of the majority of the HBWs. These kinds of difficulties are more pronounced and visible in health services particularly in chronic diseases in the case of HBWs from outside of Kathmandu Valley because of the lack of good hospital and services. Generally, people from outside the valley come to Kathmandu Valley when the patient is very serious and in the final stage.

For women HBWs, it is another problem to be dependent on the family members for the serious cases and any health related problems.

Box No.2

In my case, I need ask my family head to get permission to go to the hospital. And I am fully dependent on them due to lack of access to resources and low income of my work. – A HBWs from Hetauda.

3.8 HEALTH HAZARDS SITUATION

It is encouraging to note that 82.93 per cent of the HBWs households reported that there is no direct effect on their family health. However, it was found that 20 percent of the family members have some sort of health related problems. It was also observed that most of HBWs are not aware of this fact. It has been taken as granted and normal like other problems by the HBWs.

Homenet South Asia Trust

However, in the case of the HBWs themselves, almost all suffering and experiencing different types of health problems and in some cases there is more than one problem with them. The percentage of the HBWs who have been suffering from eye sore and back pain is 47.2 per cent followed by headache (20.4%).By chance if there is any injury caused by their works such injuries are mostly in the fingers (90%) and pain in the hand (10%).In the case of family members the type of injuries are different. For instance, 57.14 per cent of the family members have reported that they have respiratory problems followed by injury to the fingers. The number of persons in the family suffering from eye problems is around 10 per cent only.

With regard to the question whether they have been restricted due to health problems, almost two-thirds (60.98%) reported that they have been restricted which is a disturbing factor. However, it is not very clear from the survey results that to what extent this has really hampered in their daily working hours therefore it can be assumed that such restrictions are not very significant. Since the type of injuries are not that serious therefore they do not seem to have worried very much for taking precautionary measures as reflected by the survey results. However, the percentage of households taking the precautionary measures such as using belt(for back pain) , masks, apron, protection glasses are 9.76 per cent,7.32 per cent,4.88 per cent and 2.44 per cent respectively. Moreover, it has been the habit of almost all HBWs to take immediate rest whenever they do not feel comfortable at work.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. NATURE OF HBWS AND WORKING FREQUENCY

As mentioned above that in the context of Nepal there are two distinct types of HBWs-firstly 'self employed' or 'own account' or 'independent' type of HBWs and secondly, 'dependent' or 'sub-contracted' HBWs. In the case of former, production according to demand in the market, pricing, raw materials availability, selling of products etc. have a direct bearing on and impact on their day to day small enterprises. However, in the case of the latter, HBWs are more concerned with the availability of regular demand or work order from their employer or the sub-

Homenet South Asia Trust

contractor, regular payment of wages and more importantly the fair wage rate. The problems of pricing, raw materials availability and marketing of their products are none of their business as they generally even do not know where their products ultimately land and who is their main boss or the employer. More interesting than this is the fact that in most of the cases, they even do not know the name and address of the person from whom they are getting their work consequently written contract and exchange of business documents is a far cry.

4.1 NATURE AND TYPES OF HOME BASED WORKS

The Different types of HBWs have been interviewed during the study to understand their livelihood situation. A high percentage of HBWs are involved in weaving, stitching, and embroidery followed by incense roller and knitting. But data is not fully representative for each and every type of HBWs.

The study results have shown that majority of the HBWs are engaged in weaving accounting for 26.92 per cent followed by sewing 16.92 per cent and embroidery and patch works 16.15 per cent. In addition to this, the number of incense rollers, knitters, traditional painters etc. are also substantial (Table No.3).

Table No.3 Number of HBWs Involved in Different Occupations

Type of work	Responses	Percent
Incense Roller	15	12.31
Weaving	33	26.92
Bamboo work	3	2.31
Paper work	1	0.77
Bead work	6	4.62
Embroidery /patchwork	20	16.15
Traditional painting	1	0.77

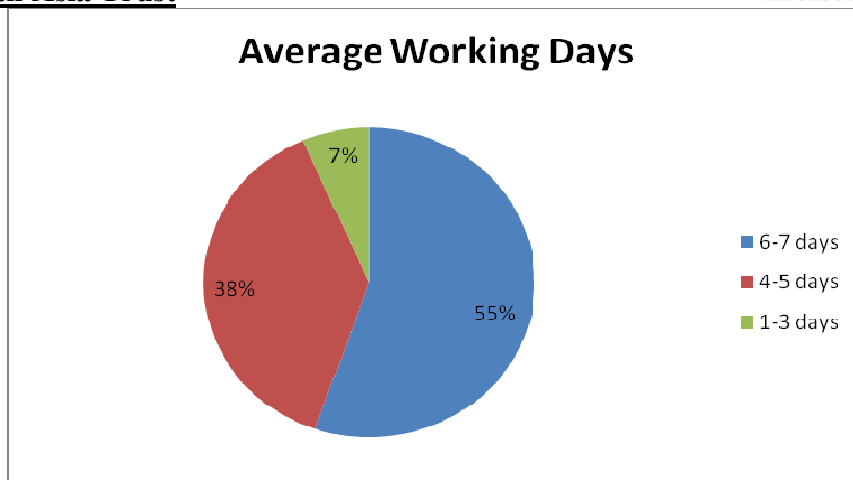
Homenet South Asia Trust

Knitting	13	10.00
Sewing/ Stitching	20	16.92
Candle making	3	2.31
Metal work	2	1.54
Recycling	4	3.08
Felt/Ornaments/ Decorating item	2	1.54
Total	123	100.00

4.2 AVERAGE WORKING DAYS AND HOURS

With regard to number of days the HBWs work, more than 50 per cent (55.28%) of the HBWs work almost seven days a week followed by 38.21 per cent working for 4 to 5 days a week. The percentage of HBWs working for less than three days in a week is insignificant as it is only 6.50 per cent (Figure No.5).

Figure No. 5 Average Working Days



The working time was found to be different for each category of HBWs as they work according to their own convenience. However, on an average a home based worker works more than seven hours a day. Similarly, it is also interesting to note that almost all the HBWs have long work experience extending to a period of almost eight years.

Table No 4 Daily working hours of the HBWs

Total Working hour	Frequency	Percent
Up to 4 hours	20	16.31
5 to 6 hours	36	29.31
7 to 9 hours	41	33.34
10 to 12 hours	16	13.00
More than 13 hours	10	8.14
Total	123	100.00

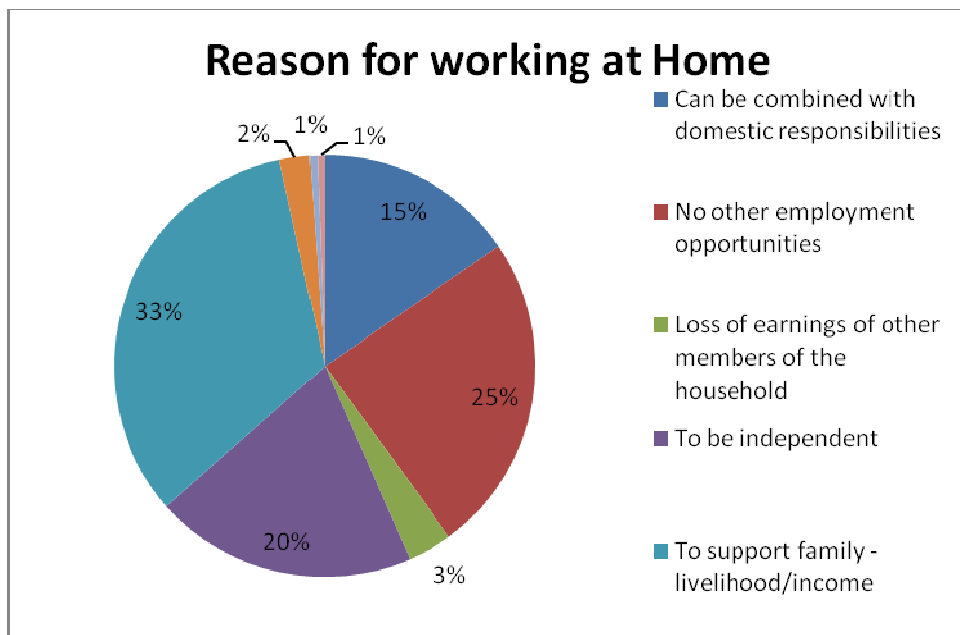
4. 3. REASON FOR WORKING AT HOME

There are several reasons for being Home Based Worker and working in informal economy. There is a huge majority of women in home based work not only in Nepal but also all over the world (Carr, 2001). Due to lack of employment opportunity in the formal sector, having no other option, for own survival and that of their family members, the local as well as migrated poor

Homenet South Asia Trust

people specially women from the various parts of the country, have engaged in home based works. The report shows that less than 40 percent of the total responding hbws has entered into home based works from other sectors of work and occupation. Before starting work at one's own place or house as a HBW, some had worked in agriculture and others had worked in the factories and still others had worked in the shops too. The main reason for working at home is to support the family livelihood support (33.14%) means for economic and employment opportunities followed by lack of other employment opportunities (24.57%) and to be independent (20%). The percentage of the households which have reported that this work can be combined with households' works is 15.43 per cent (Figure No.6).

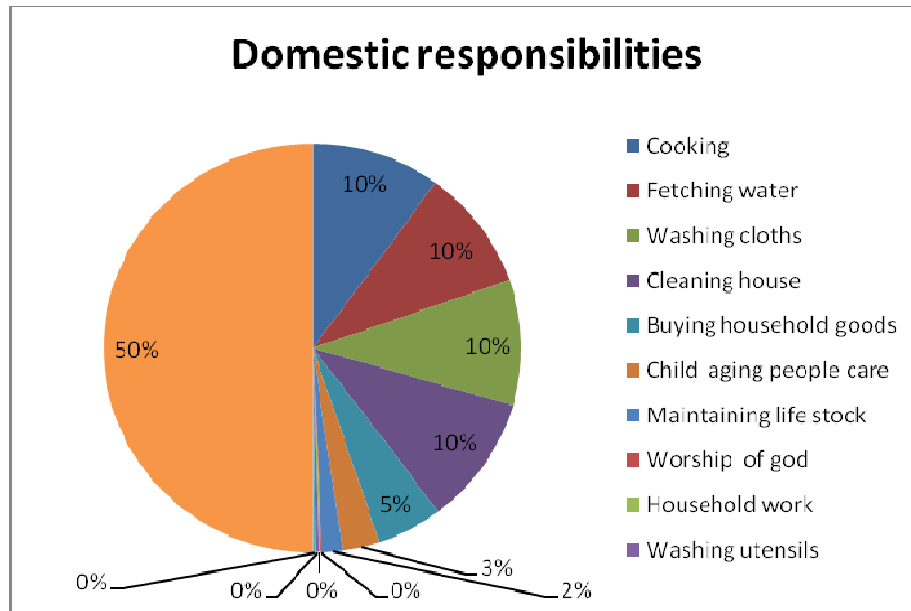
Figure No.6 Reasons for Working at Home



4.4. DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITIES

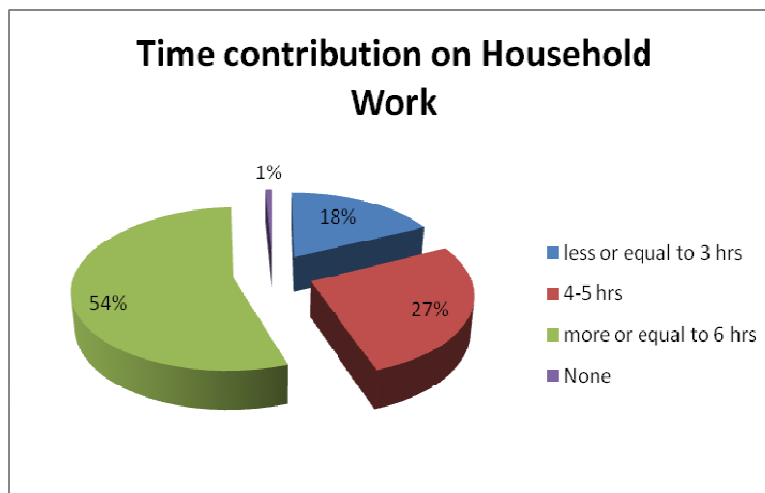
The HBWs in Nepal have to do the entire range of domestic works and as illustrated by Figure No.7 below, 61.13 per cent of the households have reported that they have to fetch water, cook food, wash clothes and clean their houses etc. Another 10.28 per cent have to go for shopping to buy the daily necessities for the house and have also to look after aged people and children (5.75%) besides caring and feeding the domestic livestock (3.14%).

Figure No.7 Domestic Responsibilities of the HBWs



More than 50 per cent (54%) of the HBWs have reported that the domestic responsibilities consume more than 6 hours per day directly affecting on the quantity of production and quality of works, both simultaneously (Figure No.8). The quality of production has a bearing ultimately on earnings as well as on regularity of work.

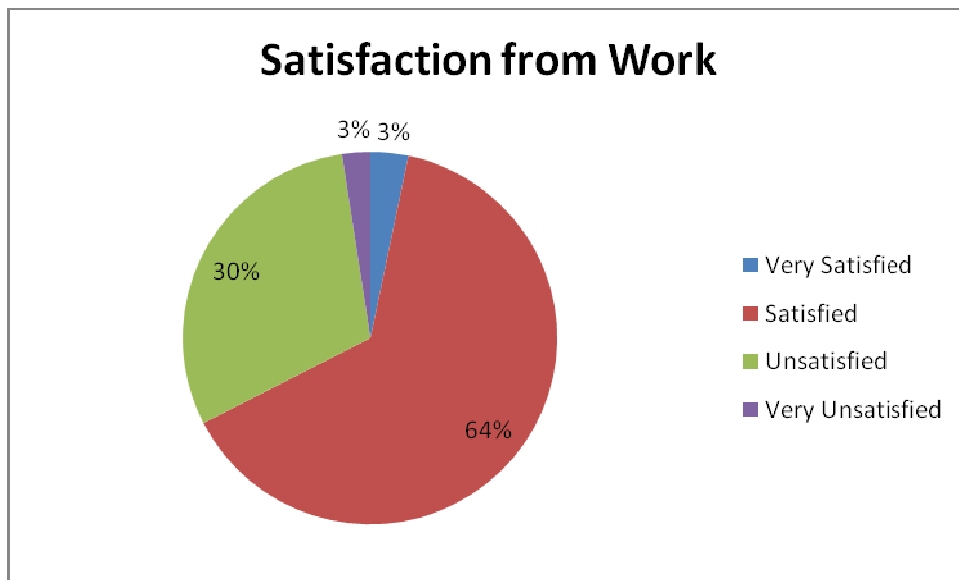
Figure No. 8 Number of Hours Consumed by Domestic Responsibilities



4.5. LEVEL OF SATISFACTION ON WORK

Most of HBWs work on contract basis accounting for 98.48 per cent and with only one contractor accounting for 81.82 per cent. It is also interesting to observe that about two-thirds (64.23%) have reported that they are satisfied with their works and the percentage of HBWS households who have reported that they are not satisfied with their present work is 30.08 per cent (Figure No.9). Yet 62.60 per cent of the HBWs are looking for new trade or business provided they get access to better training and skills (60%), followed by marketing facilities (21.18 %) and technology improvement through better equipment and tools (10.59%). Therefore, this identifies the areas for future intervention by the government or the local authorities in order to bring improvements in the lives of HBWs in Nepal.

Figure No. 9 Level of Satisfaction



4.6. COMPOSITION OF HOME BASED WORK AND ITS MARKET RELATION- with pricing, selling of products and raw materials

4.6.1 COMPOSITION OF PIECE RATE AND SELF-EMPLOYED

In order to assess and analyze the status of different types of HBWs the whole HBWs have been divided into two categories i) self employed (46 %) and ii) piece rate basis workers (54 %). It is important to mention the different types of workers and their status for analysis purpose.

Table No.5 Composition of HBWs by Status of their Works

Composition of HBWs in work	No	Percentage
Self -employed worker	57	46.34
Total no of piece rate worker	66	53.66
Total Respondent	123	100

As 46.34 per cent of the HBWs are self employed with regard to their employment status naturally most of them directly buy raw materials from the market by themselves and the percentage of such HBWs who buy raw materials are 61.79 per cent. However, they do not buy raw materials from the whole seller rather from the retailers as 46.05 per cent of the households have reported that they have been buying raw materials from the retailers and the percentage of the households who buy from the whole sellers is 38.16 per cent only. One reason for not buying the raw materials from the whole sellers could be the low amount of their purchase as whole sellers generally do not entertain small quantity buyers. More than 50 per cent seem to have managed to negotiate the price of raw materials.

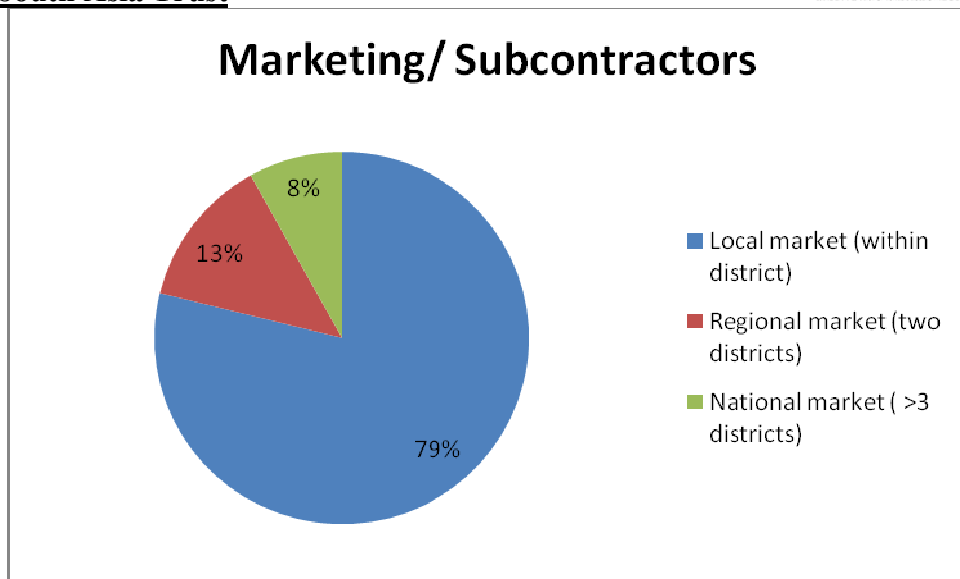
Homenet South Asia Trust

At the same time 53.66 percent of HBWs have been working as piece rate workers i.e., sub-contracted workers of which 81 percent depending with only one sub-contractor. Regarding raw materials for their work, almost all HBWs get raw materials from the employer.

4.7. MARKETING STRATEGY

Some sellers directly collect the products from the door steps of HBWs and their percentage is 34.06 per cent. However, in order to sell their products HBWs usually carry their products by themselves on foot (58.54%) as 78.86 per cent of their products have local market followed by regional market (more than two districts) accounting for 13.01 per cent and the share of the national market is 8 per cent (Figure No.10). The share of the international market is insignificant or nominal as it is only 1.63 per cent. This corresponds to the fact that 59.35 per cent of the households have expressed that their products are not exported abroad. With regard to the finalization of the products, 35.42 per cent reported that it is finalized by factories and companies while another 58.33 have expressed that their products are finalized by other HBWs. Most of the HBWs have no idea about the final price that the consumers pay for their products in the retail market. In fact, it seems that they did not have either time to explore this or they did not bother as far as they get regular wages for their works. Marketing of the products or sale of their products seems as a bottleneck or problem as those who have reported “very difficult” and “difficult” together accounts for 66.66 per cent. Those who have reported “very easy” are less than one per cent and those who have expressed “easy” account for 32.52 per cent.

Figure No.10 Type of Markets for Products



4.8. SEARCHING OPPORTUNITIES

More than 80 percent of the HBWs want to expand their work for which they are in need of the following trainings (Table No.6):

Table No. 6 Type of support required to expand the business

Support require to expand the Home Based Work	Frequency	Valid Percent
Skill training	51	60.00
Technology/ equipment	9	10.59
Marketing	18	21.18
Raw materials	1	1.18
Loan	2	2.35
Good health	2	2.35
None	1	1.18
Help from family	1	1.18
Total	85	100.00



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

Of the total, 51 responding HBWs said that they need skill development training to enhance their home based work followed by 18 per cent mentioning the support for marketing. The Percentage of HBWs needing support for the innovative technology and equipments is 9 per cent while the remaining HBWs are more concerned with provision of easy and affordable loan, family support as well as good health.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND SAVING

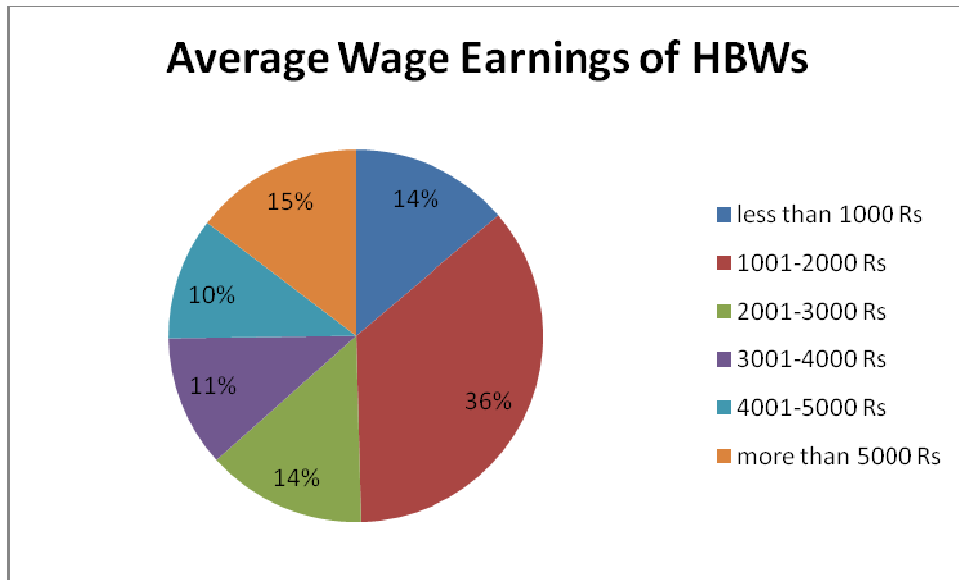
In any kind of household survey getting information on income, expenditure and savings is a hard nut to crack or the most difficult part of the whole exercise. The problem simply originates from the fact that nobody gives the true picture or the actual figure of income properly for several reasons such as they do not want to give the income figure, they have never bothered to keep proper account of the income, or it is something which is very confidential. On the contrary, although the expenditure figure is also not well kept by a majority of the families including HBWs yet they feel slightly comfortable to tell the expenditures of the families and in most of the cases this tends to be on the higher side as compared to the incomes.

5.1 INCOME LEVEL OF HBWS

Homenet South Asia Trust

The HBWs have been working long hours every day either as a self employed or sub- contracted while significantly contributing to the household work. There are two different dimensions for analyzing the average income of HBWs as there are two different status of HBWs namely self-employed workers and sub-contracted .

Figure No.11 Average wage earnings of HBWs



The availability of works or jobs has remained the same or has increased over the last five years. For instance, the percentage of households who have reported that there is an increment of 22.76 per cent while those who have expressed it has stayed at the same level is 46.34 per cent. With regard to discrimination of wages between male and female workers, 45.22 per cent have expressed that they are earning less than male workers. Less than 50 per cent of the HBWs have reported that they are satisfied with their earnings. On an average they are earning about NPR 250 per product and in a week they are producing about 30 products.

5.2 HOUSEHOLD’S MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

5.2.1 INCOME

Homenet South Asia Trust

In the family, HBW is not the only earner as there are in-laws, husband and sometimes the children (above 18 years old) also earn which constitutes the total monthly income of the family. Apart from home based work, there are other sources of earnings from various occupations engaged in and run by the family members such as some type of business, agriculture, rent etc. The share of women HBW to the total family income stands at about 15 per cent. However, the main source of earning of the HBWs family is from husband's earning which accounts for more than one-third (35.52%).

When the households were asked the adequacy of their income to meet the family expenditures for the whole year, almost two-thirds or 65.04 per cent of the households have reported that their income is sufficient to meet the expenditures for the whole year followed by 13.01 per cent households who have reported that their income is adequate for eight months. The percentage of the households whose income is sufficient for six months accounts for 2.44 per cent and the percentage of the households who have expressed their income is sufficient for less than six months is 19.51 per cent.

Table No. 8 Sources of earnings of different family members

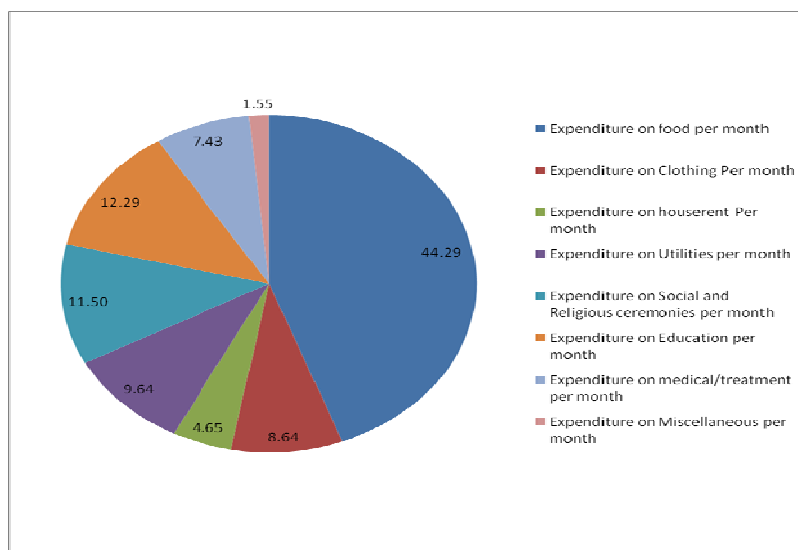
Family Members	Occupation (Number of involvement)				
	HBW	Other Labor	Business	Service	Other
Parents/ In- Laws	7	0	2	3	8
Self	123	2	5	6	18
Husband/ Wife	9	27	10	36	9
Young Children	0	0	2	9	3
Others	5	1	0	3	5

5.2.2 EXPENDITURES

Homenet South Asia Trust

In most of the developing countries including Nepal the poor and low income families spend about two-thirds of their income for food. Contrary to this normal trend of expenditure pattern in developing countries, the survey results have shown that the HBWs are spending only 44.29 per cent of their family income for food per month which is an encouraging factor keeping in view that they are in a much better position to make investment in other important areas such as health, education, housing etc. (Figure No.13).

Figure No.12 Monthly family expenditure under different headings



For instance, the HBWs are spending 12.29 per cent of their monthly income for their children’s education and 7.43 per cent for medical treatment. Since a significant number of HBWs are still living in rented house they are paying about 4.65 per cent of their monthly income for rent. For the utilities such as drinking water supply, electricity, cooking gas, solid waste collection etc. the responding HBWs are spending 9.64 per cent of their monthly income. As it is more convenient and to some extent economical thus majority of the HBWs have used LPG gas (79.67%) for cooking followed by fire-wood (13.82%) and kerosene (3.25%) and bio-gas (3.25%). Similarly, as various festivals fall from time to time they have to spend money for them also and the HBWs are spending about ten per cent of their monthly income to celebrate the social and religious festivals.

Homenet South Asia Trust

5.3. SAVING AND CREDIT

Being very poor, saving is something which everybody desires but very few actually can manage to save for the rainy days due to low level of incomes. Thanks to the Member Based Organization (MBO) and cooperative societies in Nepal which are successful in convincing these poor families to form the habit of saving though it may be a very small amount in the beginning. Once this habit is well cultivated there is every possibility that it will grow over time. Furthermore, many poor families have been benefitted by joining in such cooperatives as they were/are able to tide over their crises for money in day to day lives.

With regard to savings, 69.11 per cent of the HBWs were able to save less than 10 per cent of their income (Table No.9) therefore around 60 per cent of the HBWs have taken loans for education, business promotion, housing etc. The mean amount of loan is NPR75,392 (Approx.US\$1050) which is not a small amount keeping in mind the level of their monthly income as the percentage of the HBWs with monthly income between 1001 and 2000 constitutes the highest percentage in the income category. The HBWs have borrowed money for different purposes as the percentage of the households who have borrowed money for housing; business promotion and education are 26.30 per cent, 20.84 per cent and 15.28 per cent respectively. The major source of loan is Group accounting for 34.72 per cent followed by Micro Finance Institutions (19.44%) and saving and credit cooperatives (13.89%).

Table No. 9 Percentage of HBWs household by level of savings

Saving status of HBWs	Frequency	Percent
50%	1	0.81
25%	20	16.26
Below 10%	85	69.11
None	17	13.82
Total	123	100.00

CHAPTER SIX

6. 1. HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURES

Proper housing and working space with minimum basic infrastructure such as electricity, drinking water, sanitation facilities (toilet) and provision for solid waste collection etc. can go a long way towards increasing the productivity of workers including HBWs. In Nepal, the fetching of water for household needs is still the responsibility of the women and more the distance of water tap from the house, longer the hours one has to spent for fetching water thereby wasting

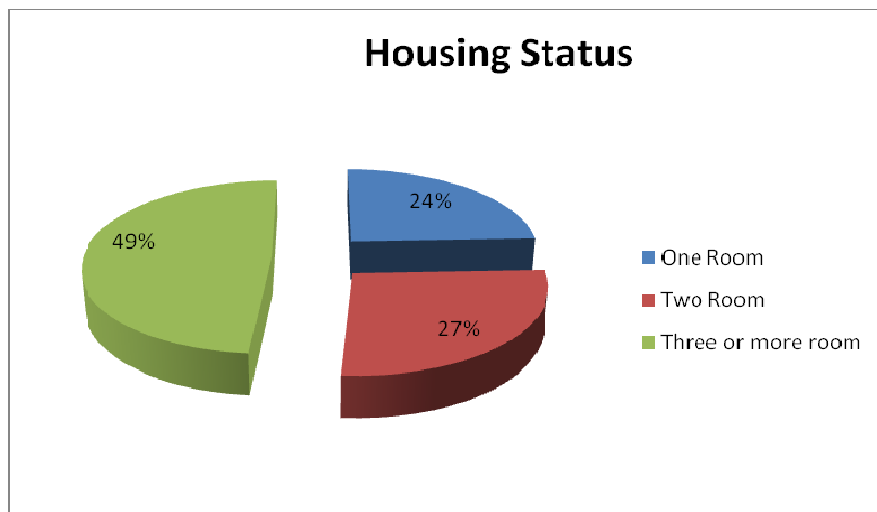
Homenet South Asia Trust

their productive time just for collection of water which otherwise could have been used for income generating activities by the HBWs. Ownership of housing, availability of drinking water and toilet facilities within the house is a luxury and a distant dream for a majority of HBWs in Nepal.

6.1.1 HOUSING STATUS:

The Figure No.14 below clearly indicates that almost half of the HBWs occupy more than three rooms in their own house, owned either by self or head of the family, which is reported at 49 percent. Contrary to this, about 24 percent of HBWs live, work and cook in a single room followed by 27 percent HBWs who occupy two rooms.

Figure No.13 Housing Status



In comparison to 68% responding HBWs having own home, only 30 percent (31.71) found to be dwelling in rental house.

6.1.2 TYPES AND CONDITION OF HOUSING

With regard to types of housing, 48.78 per cent of the houses are of shared type followed by detached house which is 44.72 per cent. More than 70 per cent of the houses are of permanent type (77.24%) followed by 18.70 per cent semi-permanent type and the percentage of temporary

Homenet South Asia Trust

houses is very small such as 4.07 per cent only. Since most of the houses are of permanent type therefore 61.79 per cent of the houses have RCC (Reinforced Cement Concrete) roofs and 27.64 per cent have CGI (Corrugated Galvanized Iron) sheets as roofing and the percentage of the houses using the tiles is 10.57 per cent. A majority of the houses have cement plastering for the flooring and those using mud as the flooring is only 19.51 per cent. In the case of lighting, ventilation, safety in case of fire and cleanliness more than 50 per cent fall in the moderate category. Almost fifty per cent (48.78%) of the houses have three or more than three rooms followed by 26.83 per cent having two rooms and the percentage of house with one room is only 24.39 per cent.

Despite of having large ownership rate of houses, most of the houses of HBWs are found to be unsafe in terms of earth quake and fire. On top of this, only some houses have access to sun light, fresh air and safe working conditions. Few of the HBWs are worried even for the minimal shelter facility.

With regard to ownership, 40 houses are owned by the elder family head (Father in law/ mother in law) and 29 percent respondents reported that the ownership of house is in the name of husband. In other words, the female ownership ratio of housing is more than 20 per cent and this is higher than the national average.

6.1.3 LAND OWNERSHIP

Table No.10 Land Ownership

Land ownership	Frequency	Percent
Government	12	9.76
Trust (community)	2	1.63
Own (including family)	70	56.91
On Rent	38	30.89
Daughters	1	0.81
Total	123	100.00

Homenet South Asia Trust

The ownership rate is very encouraging as more than 55 per cent (56.91%) of the houses are owned by the HBWs and 30 per cent are living in rented houses. The title of the house ownership certificate called 'lalpurja' mostly lies with the Father in laws and mother in laws which accounts for 40.48 per cent followed by husband 29.76%, HBW women 20.24 per cent and 9.76 per cent of the land is reported as government land. The percentage of settlement for squatters seems to be around 10 percent.

6.1.4 CONDITION OF WORKING SPACE

With regard to working place, more than 80 per cent of the HBWs have room for their works and only 18.70 per cent of the HBWs are working in open places. Most of the working places have moderate level of light, ventilation, safety in case of fire and cleanliness. The average size of their work place is 19.04sq.ft. As per discussion with HBWs almost 49 (48.78) percent of HBWs were found unsatisfied with their work place and 51 percent found somewhat satisfied.

For the storage, 62.60 per cent of the households reported that they do not have proper storage facilities.

With regard to level of satisfaction of their work place, more than 40 per cent (43.09%) have expressed dissatisfaction over their working place. Only 7.32 per cent have expressed that they are very much satisfied with their work place. Similarly, the percentage of the households who have expressed very unsatisfied is 5.69 per cent. Most of the tools and equipments are owned by the HBWs themselves which is encouraging. As for the repair and maintenance of tools and equipments, 64.04 per cent have spent less than NPR500 (US\$7) per year followed by 30.70 per cent spending in between NPR 500 to 1000 (US\$7to14).However, the percentage of households who are spending more than NPR1000 per year is nominal as it is only 5.26 per cent.

6.2 HOUSING UTILITIES AND FACILITIES:

6.2.1 ELECTRICITY/ENERGY

About 44 percent of HBWs have their own individual electricity whereas 55 percent have it jointly with family, with house owners or any other kinship. But all the HBWs have access to

Homenet South Asia Trust

electricity and energy. Of the total HBWs, who were surveyed 18 HBWs had borrowed the electricity from neighbor's houses.

Table No.11 Status of Electricity

Status of Electricity	Frequency	Percent
Individual	55	44.72
Joint'	68	55.28
Total	123	100.00

All the HBWs have reported that load shedding has been hampering their work on an average 3.75 hours per day out of which 49 percent HBWs use alternative energy (candles, kerosene light and power back-up/ emergency light) for their works.

Table No.12 Alternative Source of Energy

Alternative Energy Used	Frequency	Valid Percent
Kerosene light	6	9.84
Power back-up	14	22.95
Candle	41	67.21
Total	61	100.00

The alternative source of energy is basically used only for the purpose of lighting. However, HBWs need energy for heating the iron, to operate the electric sewing machine and also for cooking purposes. The longer duration of load shedding to the extent of 18 hours a day naturally affect the working hours of the women who use the electric sewing machine. Sometimes they failed to deliver goods on time to their clients due to load shedding and this causes very bad impression on them which leads to more risk for future orders from the clients. There is already shortage of water and when there is supply of water from the corporation they could not use their water pump due to load shedding thereby further aggravating the water problem. In addition to

Homenet South Asia Trust

this, load shedding has greatly hampered the study of children and substituting electricity with candles for light is not only risky but also expensive too. In this way the HBWs like any city dwellers have to bear the burden of load shedding for not less than six months every year.

Box No. 3

'Yes power cut has negatively affected us and our work especially during the peak seasons in completing the order. In most of the cases we are unable to fulfill the order on time and in some cases the orders get cancelled. The alternatives like candles are not as convenient and useful as electricity. "The candle light is dim and after completing work there is pain in the eyes, also there is deposition of tar or carbon on the inner walls of nostrils"- HBW from Kathmandu.

"I use candle but it costs more. See in a day a candle it costs 20rs which means in a month 600rs. Had there been electricity available, we would have to pay much less for electricity." "Yes, instead of using electric iron we can use coal iron but we are inconvenienced because the coal iron requires coal which is to be brought from market; also the coal iron discharges more of carbon" - HBWs from Hetauda.

Due to lack of electricity there is problem in pumping water to rooftop tanks too.

6.2.2 WATER FACILITY

More than 50 per cent (53.73%) of the households have in house piped drinking water supply followed by 22.39 per cent of the households which have piped supply of drinking water outside their houses. Around 9 (8.96%) per cent of the households are relying on wells and another around 5(4.48%) are dependent on tube wells. The percentage of households using public taps for drinking water is 6.72 per cent. Generally, drinking water is supplied twice a week in most of the surveyed areas whereas in some of the semi-urban survey areas, there is water supply on a daily basis, though it is not sufficient for drinking and other purpose that's why most of the households (38 percent) are compelled to rely upon the wells and tube-wells and around 25 percent go to the public taps. Almost 50 per cent or 49.59 per cent of the households use water

Homenet South Asia Trust

directly for drinking without any treatment whereas 32.52 per cent use filter before drinking it. The percentage of the households who boil water for drinking is 10.57 per cent only. The supply of water is irregular but the survey results indicate that as much as 50.41 per cent of the households have daily water supply with another 31.71 per cent getting water supply twice a week. Similarly, the percentage of the households who are getting water supply once a week is 13.82 per cent only. During shortages of water supply, 35.34 per cent of the households use tube wells and another 22.56 per cent of the households use ‘Dhunge Dhara’ traditional stone spout to meet their water needs. The percentages of the households who buy water from private tankers are around 5 per cent and that using river water is around 10 per cent.

Table No.13 Different Methods of Water Purification

Cleaning process of drinking water	Frequency	Percent
Boil	13	10.57
SODIS (Solar treatment)	8	6.50
Piush (drops to clean)	1	0.81
Filter	40	32.52
Direct use	61	49.59
Total	123	100.00

Almost 10 percent HBWs spend more than 2 hours for fetching water and more than 30 percent spend almost 2 hours while 60 percent HBWs spend almost one hour to fetch the water for their daily needs.

6.2.3 SANITATION AND DRAINAGES

For the sanitation facilities, hardly 2 percent have safety tanks. More than 50 per cent of the HBWs use underground drainage system while more than one-third (38.21%) reported that they have no sanitation facilities. The sanitary system is very much important for healthy living and a healthy city

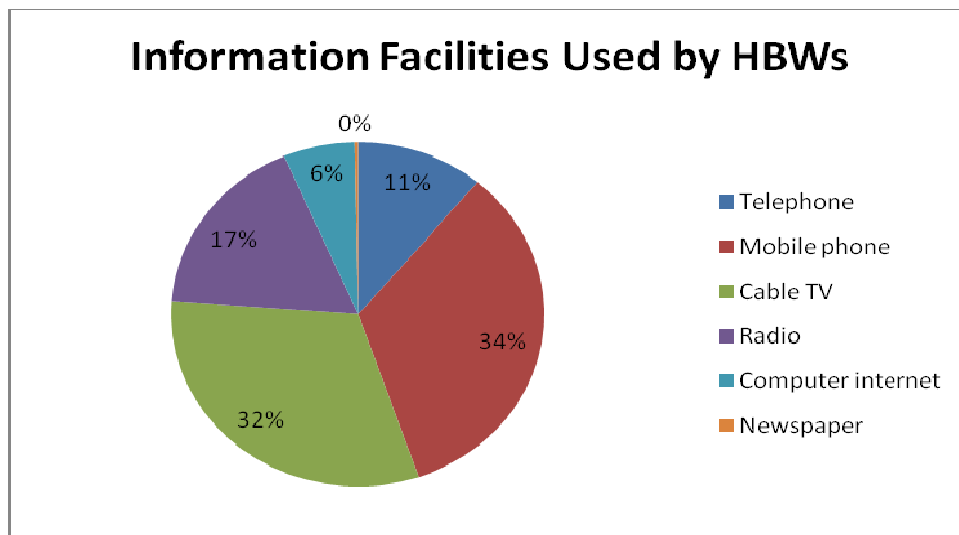
Homenet South Asia Trust

More than 60 per cent of the HBWs have own private toilets inside their premises and 37 percent use shared toilets which is also inside the premises. The percentage of HBWs who use open space for toilet is negligible. Due to lack of space as well as cost required to construct a better quality toilet most of the toilets of the HBWs are of poor quality.

6.2.4 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS:

Almost all the HBWs have some type of communication facilities in their home which they also use for their work. The percentage of the HBWs having mobile and TV is 34 per cent and 32 per cent respectively. In addition to this, some have radio, computer and land line telephone in their houses. It is encouraging to observe that as many as 34 or 91 per cent of the HBWs are using mobile phone for the promotion of their work, such as order taking, delivery of goods and market information etc . Similarly, 6 percent use television to learn new design and skills besides using TV for entertainment and marketing information etc. (Figure No.15).

Figure No.14 Information Facilities Used by HBWs



CHAPTER SEVEN

Homenet South Asia Trust

7. NETWORKING AND AFFILIATION TO DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS

As mentioned elsewhere in this report most of the HBWs in Nepal prefer to work in isolation in an invisible way on their own where nobody would notice what they are doing rather than organizing themselves into a group as a united force to fight for better wages and security for jobs or employment and other facilities etc in Nepal. This tendency has to do with the socio-cultural and economic factors as well as literacy level in the country. Therefore, networking and affiliation with other like-minded organizations could play a very significant role in the improvement of the HBWs lives and living conditions in Nepal.

Almost 94 per cent (93.50%) of the HBWs households reported that they do not feel that they have been protected by the law in their works either at the central level or at the local level such as the municipal level. The major reason behind such a large percentage of respondents is due to their ignorance. For instance, 73.85 per cent of the households reported that they do not know about this and another 7.69 per cent mentioned that they do not have knowledge about law.

The municipalities also do not seem to have entertained the issues of HBWs as 91.87 per cent of the HBWs felt that the municipality does not include them. When there is a problem the HBWs approach their friends and relatives and this accounts for as high as 68.25 per cent followed by neighbor 27.64 per cent. They hardly seek help from other HBWs.

Table No.14 Sources of Help during Crises

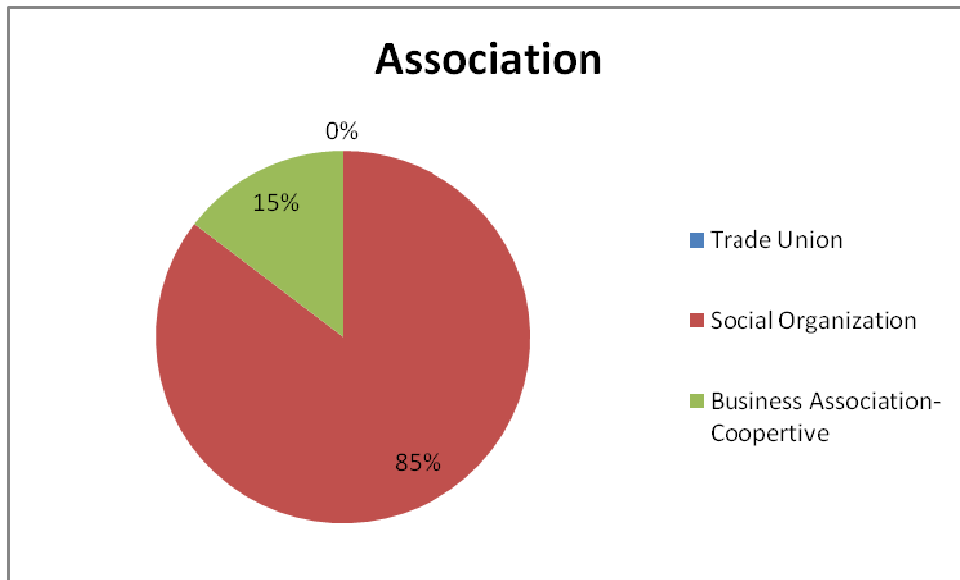
Ask for help when having problems (beside members of household)	Responses	Percent
Neighbors	34	27.78
Relatives	40	32.54
Friends/ Organizations	44	35.71
Other HBWs	2	1.59
Local public police office	1	0.79
None	2	1.59
Total	123	100.00

Homenet South Asia Trust

7.1 MEMBERSHIP TO DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS

More than 85 per cent of the HBWs are members of social organizations followed by 15 per cent of business associations out of which some HBWs are associated with union too but they are not educated properly on this and they have not reported the same. Almost all the reported memberships are at the primary level of the association.

Figure No.15 Affiliation of HBWs to different Organizations



7.2 CONTACTS WITH OTHER HBWS

More than 90 per cent (91.87%) of the HBWs have reported that they have contacts with other HBWs and during their meetings (67.26) per cent of the HBWs talked about how to increase the level of their earnings followed by getting access to market 32.74 per cent, urban issues (22.12) per cent and social security 15.93 per cent. It is very encouraging to observe that more than 90 per cent (91.87) have reported that this has benefited them. The percentage of the households who have reported that this has very much benefited them is 13.27 per cent.

Table No.15 Topics for discussion during Meetings

Discussion topics among HBWs	Responses	Percent	Percent of Cases
Social security	18	8.26	15.93
Work place	32	14.68	28.32
Market access	37	16.97	32.74
Earnings	76	34.86	67.26
Urban issues	25	11.47	22.12
About work	13	5.96	11.50
Politics	1	0.46	0.88
Housework and personal problems	5	2.30	4.42
About group/ institution and saving	11	5.05	9.74
Total	218	100.00	192.92
Note: Percentage may exceed more than 100 per cent due to multiple responses.			

It is important to observe here that most of the HBWs are aware of other HBWs living nearby their locality as well as other HBWs who are getting work from the same contractors. Their relation with their own organization is very strong and they regularly participated in the meeting and other program conducted by the organizations. It is significant to note that the HBWs share different types of experience among themselves.

7.3 BENEFITS OF NETWORKING AND MEMBERSHIP

Most of the HBWs are associated with some types of organizations, viz., mostly Membership Based Organization (MBO) of HBWs. They have regular contacts with other members and during their meetings, they share their work experiences ranging from the available jobs in the market, marketing of their products, wage levels, available skills etc. and such interactions among themselves have benefited them a lot.

Homenet South Asia Trust

It is important to mention here that the respondents are selected from MBOs only. Therefore all the HBWs have been associated with their own organization. And as members of the organizations they have been receiving different kind of benefits. The percentage of HBWs households using MBO for saving and credit/loan accounts for 53.07 per cent followed by the skills training 26.36 per cent and market information 18.18 per cent respectively. More than 10 per cent of the HBWs (12.73%) have also increased their bargaining power and 8.20 per cent have developed leadership ability by being the member of these organizations. There are some social security mechanisms also which support the members as reported by 12 percent of HBWs.

Table No.16 Type of Support Received by HBWs

Important services/ support from the MBO taken by HBWs	Responses	Percent	Percent of Cases
Increasing bargaining position	14	9.46	12.73
Market information	20	13.51	18.18
Skill training	29	19.59	26.36
Improving social security	14	9.46	12.73
Pressuring Municipality for urban facilities	6	4.05	5.45
Loan credit and saving	47	31.77	53.07
Sharing of problem	3	2.03	2.73
Well feeling	4	2.70	3.64
Leadership development/ training	11	7.43	8.20
Total	148	100.00	134.55
Note: Percentage may exceed more than 100 percent due to multiple responses.			

Negotiation:

With regard to negotiation with the employers for the works, responses from the HBWs indicate that it is difficult to get order on regular basis. In this regard, 43 percent never negotiate

Homenet South Asia Trust

with their employer due to high fear of losing the work whereas 56 percent of HBWs have shown some degree of negotiation ability but it was not adequate.

CHAPTER EIGHT

8. ISSUES AND PROBLEMS OF URBAN POOR HBWS IN RELATION WITH LIVELIHOOD AND URBAN FACILITIES

The major issues and problems of urban working poor HBW are insecurity of jobs and employment, low level of wages, discrimination in wages between male and female workers in some cases, lack of raw materials, poor working condition or environment often without proper light and ventilation, lack of storage facilities, limited work order lesser than what one can do, lack of recognition as worker by city government, lack of representation of their works in the national accounting system, lack of housing, no access to the basic services, substantially higher price of food and other daily consumption things and so forth. These major problems and issues have been grouped and discussed in detail under the following headings.

8.1 INFRASTRUCTURES & BASIC URBAN SERVICES/ FACILITIES

The infrastructure heading covers water supply, electricity, sanitation, roads, drainage, wastes management etc.

a) WATER SUPPLY

The majority of the respondents accounting for 37.5 per cent have mentioned lack of infrastructure as their major problem and within the infrastructure the problem of water supply has been reported by almost half of the responding HBWs closely followed by electricity accounting for 12.79 per cent. The percentage of the responding HBWs who have to spend less than one hour to fetch the water is 60.16 per cent. The responding HBWs who spend between one and more than two hours to fetch the water are 39.84 per cent. In the urban context, where it is assumed that there is regular water supply inside the house through piped water supply, under this situation the time spent in fetching water by the urban HBWs is significant and cannot be

Homenet South Asia Trust

justified. As a source of drinking water, 53.73 per cent use piped water supply followed by another 22.39 per cent piped water supply outside the house. Although a significant number of the households are using piped water supply for drinking purposes yet the urban water supply coverage seems low¹.

b) TOILET FACILITIES

Toilet facilities and sanitation has stood as the third accounting for 5.81 per cent. In the case of the toilet facilities, around 60 per cent of the households have toilet inside their premises and another 37.40 per cent of the households have shared toilet facilities².

¹ In Kathmandu valley, it is highly populated cities where citizen including urban working poor- HBWs have been facing major problems for drinking water. We had FGD at Kotheshwor, it was reported that there is supply system/pipeline in almost every household though the water comes only once a week which is also not clean. Therefore, the HBWs have been buying water from the shop and tanker for drinking and almost every house has wells for cleaning, bathing and other purpose. During dry season this also dries further compounding the water problem. The HBWs basically use filter for drinking water.

At slum community at Khadipakha, Kathmandu, drinking water comes in 5/6 days. And in the tole 13 houses are jointly collecting water in one big tank. From there, they have been managing drinking water. Though, it comes sometime at mid-night, sometime early morning and sometime day time which also is adversely affecting the work of HBWs and their health. The leader of the organization reported that 'there is no proper water supply and proper system to manage'. Sometime they borrow water from neighbor and other locality to fulfill the daily requirement. There is scarcity of water every time, though it is little bit easy during monsoon.

It is comparatively better in Panga areas where water comes every day at least for one hour. The HBWs members collect water by spending sometime early in the morning. In the same cluster some of the HBWs have well system.

In Dhapasi Kathmandu, there is no water pipe; it is newly emerging city area where people go to public stone water tap which is also not sufficient. They have to spend 2 hours in line to wait for their turn to get water.

The HBWs in Hetauda Municipality also have been using common water tap from the community where water comes once every day. Though, there is sufficient source of water it is not been managed properly. ² I have small house, there is no toilet at all, no space to make it too. We go to open field, sometime we go to sister's house – Respondent HBW

We have toilet though some of the toilet in the locality are not properly made resulting in some health related problem.

² I have small house, there is no toilet at all, no space to make it too. We go to open field, sometime we go to sister's house- Respondent HBW

We have toilet though some of the toilet in the locality are not properly made. Therefore, there will be some health related problem.

Homenet South Asia Trust

c) DRAINAGE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

More than one-third of the households used to dump their wastes followed by private collectors accounting for 29.27 per cent. Another 20.33 per cent of the HBWs also make compost fertilizers to use in the fields. The problems of waste collection and traffic congestion do not seem to have been accorded high priority by the respondents in the survey³.

Among other things, for HBWs the major infrastructure of urban services related problems are water supply followed by electricity⁴ as the former has a direct bearing high cost and problem in

³ There is drainage facility, but in case of leakage and all in the main drainage we have to repair it ourselves- Koteswor, Kathmandu

Waste is burned or made into compost, some waste is burned, by the people in open place and in some area the private collector comes to collect and there are also some house drainage facilities- Panga.

The waste in our locality is thrown in the river. During the summer season it sticks a lot as there is less water in the river to carry away the waste. There is no drainage facility, all the pipes including toilet directly connect to the river- Khadipakha.

⁴ Load shedding has increased. There is more reduction in lights and obviously it has negative impact on our Home Based Work and our daily work. The light is there for only 2-3 hr. we use candle. We also use emergency light but the charge is not enough. (as light comes only for 2-3hr). Especially in sewing there is lot of problem. While working when there is no electricity machines working with electricity don't function for example iron, sewing machine etc., so it's difficult for us to complete orders on time. This is affecting our efficiency to work and also giving wrong image to client and hampers our work and earning too- Basundhar & Hetauda

It is difficult to work in very dark place; I need light even during the daytime also because of household's structure. I use kerosene lamp (tuki) in Kitchen. I also use candle. Children use the same candle to study. There are some houses which are using emergency lights that also is problematic because due to heavy load shedding, the lights do not charge properly.- Panga

Alternative for electricity is candle, inverter. It would help for household work as well as study for children and some time for working in the light also but there is multiplayer effect on other work like drawing water, fulfilling order in time – Koteswor

During load shedding, we use candle; it costs of Rs. 20 per piece which is more expensive than electricity, in this situation. How can we work- Dhapasi

Homenet South Asia Trust

working as HBWs. The proportion of the households who have reported electricity as their major problems after water supply accounts for 12.79 per cent which is quite a significant number in the urban context.

d) TRANSPORTATION FACILITY

Transportation⁵ and roads are important facilities in the cities for everyone. There are good networks of roads and urban transportation facilities in the city. As reported by HBWs that they use public vehicles for their regular transportation. More than 50 per cent of the HBWs use public transportation and for the remaining HBWs they do not require any vehicle for transportation as their houses are very close to their employers. Despite the availability of public transportation in the city such services are not safe for regular journey as most of the vehicles are old and there is no regular maintenance of such old vehicles by the owners also traffic rules are seldom followed by the service providers.

e) HOUSING

The price of land and housing became very expensive to urban poor in general and HBWs in particular and so also the rental accommodation. Thus, many HBWs are forced or compelled to squat on public land due to absence of any institutional housing provision from the government at an affordable rate. It is not surprising to see that those HBWs who are staying in the rented houses have hardly occupied more than one room as the rent in the major city like Kathmandu is quite expensive and it is not possible for the poor HBWs to have more than two rooms at the most, including their work place. During the focus group discussions (FGDs) also the HBWs

⁵ There is road, though there are no regular public transport services, also there is high transportation cost. It there is in case of emergency, no way to get vehicle in time like ambulances and others for the emergency purpose also the community does not get ambulances. The roads also are not good. In some of the areas there are tampus and Rickshaw available which are also not sufficient and high have a price- Hetauda.

Transportation is good in condition but roads are narrow and not properly maintained. In an emergency quick movement is most difficult - Dhapasi & Koteshwor

There is very good facility of transportation. Just by walking few minutes one can reach main road though roads are not good and have heavy traffic. But the street that leads to HBWs place is 8ft or even not that much at some places so at the time of emergency it is quite difficult. - Kahdipakha

Homenet South Asia Trust

have expressed concern over the rising cost of land and housing in the major cities including the Kathmandu Metropolitan City. The existing high rate of urbanization in Nepal has affected positively and negatively the different categories of people, in varying degrees. The real estate developers and housing companies are the ones who seem to have been benefited from such high rate of urbanization particularly in the Kathmandu Valley.

Housing⁶ issue appears in the seventh position in order of priority as expressed by the households accounting for 1.94 per cent. Presently, HBWs are living either in their own house (56.91%) or in rental house (30.89%) paying high monthly rent to the house owner and some HBWs being extremely poor are compelled to squat on the public land though their number is not that significant. In fact, in almost all the major cities of Nepal the number of squatter families is on the rise in recent years and more so in the case of the Kathmandu city. Although, the home ownership rate is encouraging accounting for 68.29 per cent (less than national average of more than 90 per cent), yet the percentage of houses with more than three or more rooms is less than 50 per cent (48.78%). Similarly, the proportion of the households with two rooms is more than 50 per cent (51.22) thereby showing the overcrowding of the HBWS housing.

a. WORKPLACE

Health and work place both have been expressed as the fourth priority of the households accounting for 7.37 per cent. Under the heading of work place, the major problem as expressed by the HBWs is the congested work place accounting for 73.68 per cent, followed by

⁶ Most of the members HBWs have their own house but it was not in good condition and as per the group information it has not been safe from the emergency like earth quake. Out of 22 women HBWs two women HBWs were found with the land ownership certificates in their name.- Hetauda

Our house is not, based on pillar system, so it is safe from earthquake and also from fire. Some of the houses are very dark without proper light or oxygen. Some of the houses have aluminium roof too - Khadipakha

Some houses are made up of mud and clay. Most of the houses are made-up in wall systems which are not safe from earth quakes. The very narrow road is dangerous during emergency. There is little flow of air and sunlight in the working room. – Panga

Some rented houses are with pillar system, wider road and are also safe. HBWs living here feel secured in case of emergency needs. But some of the houses are made with wall system where there is feeling of insecurity to the HBWs Members. Koteswor.

Homenet South Asia Trust

inadequate working place and unsafe work place 15.78 per cent and 10.53 per cent respectively.

This suggests the fact that there is an urgent need for the improvement in their working environment in order to increase their productivity and production. Furthermore, the presently unsafe working condition also needs to be made safe so that unwanted incidents may not happen in their work place. Most of the HBWs have same room for working and kitchen.

f) HEALTH AND SANITATION

As stated elsewhere in this report, the condition of health of HBWs is directly related to their productivity and production and there are so many factors which directly or indirectly affect the health condition of HBWs like safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, secured housing condition, safe working place etc. As much as 7.36 per cent of the households have reported health as their fourth priority problem when they are asked to list out their problem in the order of priority. For instance, when they were asked whether or not there are any health hazards associated with their works, HBWs cited eye sore and back pain as the major health hazards each accounting for 23.6 per cent followed by headache accounting for 20.4 per cent and respiratory problem accounting for 17.6 per cent respectively. Thus, the issue of health cannot be undermined and ignored in an effort towards the economic improvement in the lives of the HBWs in Nepal.

g) EDUCATION

As reported above in the related heading, majority of HBWs were found to be illiterate. They are not able to follow the market trend for their work due to lack of education. HBWs have been losing several opportunities just because of being uneducated. They are not able to gain access to the information and provision in the existing policies and plans for them and their children.

h) SKILLS

With regard to skills, most of the HBWs are trained in one or the other skills as most of them have learnt those skills either from their relatives or friends so skills is not a big issue to them perhaps. However, upgrading the existing skills and learning new skills and technology as demanded by the market has been the major concern. Being women home based workers have learnt their skills informally (72.36%) and therefore they feel that their skills are not sufficient to meet the demand of the market though some how they are currently managing (82.11%). Thus, it

Homenet South Asia Trust

is not surprising that more than 80 per cent (84.55%) have shown their interest to learn more skills.

i) COMMUNICATION

Like in other sector, communication plays a significant role in the lives of HBWs to perform their home based work. As reported by the responding HBWs, it is noted that the majority of HBWs use mobile phone and have access to the television.

j) ELECTRICITY

In Nepal there is currently a gap between demand for and supply of electricity and this demand for electricity in Nepal is increasing at the rate of around 10 per cent per annum and supply has not been able to match with this increasing demand for various reasons and the result is the prolonged hours of load shedding to the extent of 16 hours a day during dry season. Being economically poor HBWs cannot afford to install inverter or similar alternative solution to overcome the problems of load shedding which hampers their day to day works thereby significantly affecting their daily production and productivity as well as income. In order to overcome the problem of load shedding, two-thirds (67.21%) of the households use candles followed by 22.95 per cent who use power back-up and another 9.84 per cent use kerosene as an alternative to the electricity to get rid of load shedding problem.

k) SAFETY

With the increasing level of urbanization there is an increase in the threats to life of the urban dwellers in terms of different types of crimes like theft, burglary, abduction, girls trafficking, hijacking etc. In the FGD, the HBWs have shown a serious concern over the lack of security to their life in the cities.

l) ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

The unplanned urbanization in the country has resulted into different types of environmental problems such as loss of green spaces, increasing level of pollution like air, sound, noise, water etc., and decreasing levels of ground water table, thereby affecting the lives of the urban dwellers directly or indirectly particularly the urban poor. It is said and proved by several air pollution

Homenet South Asia Trust

studies that the air pollution level in certain locations of Kathmandu Metropolitan City is very high and comparable to the world's most polluted cities.

m) ECONOMY

The household income and expenditure together with unemployment and loan etc have been covered under this heading. In the order of priority, the households have indicated the problems related to economic factors as the second most important problem in their daily lives accounting for 17.45 per cent. Again under this sub-heading of economy, it is interesting to observe that majority of the households have shown low income as their major problem (13.57%) followed by unemployment and households expenditures 1.55 per cent and 1.55 per cent respectively. For instance, almost 50 per cent (49.59%) of the HBWs monthly income from home based works is less than NPR 2000 .The percentage of HBWs earning more than NPR 5000 per months from the home based works in less than 15 per cent (14.63%). Only a negligible proportion of the households have indicated loan as their problem. Therefore there is a need to urgently increase the level of their income in order to uplift HBWs from present economic condition.

n) MARKET

The problem of market comes third in the priority order accounting for 8.91 per cent. Undoubtedly, in the case of self employed or independent workers the demand for their products in the market makes a lot of significance compared to dependent or piece rate workers or sub-contract workers who usually do not have to worry much for the market as their products are not directly sold in the market rather collected by their contractors. However, demand in the market directly or indirectly affects both types of HBWs. As the survey results have shown more than 60 per cent (66.66%) of the households have reported market for their product as a problem.

o) WAGE RATE

The prevailing wage rate and mode of payment has a direct relationship towards HBWs motivation and livelihood as low level of wage leads to low level of family income which in turn results into poor diet, housing, education, health and so many other factors in the families. Equally important is the regular payment of wage without any discrimination between male and

Homenet South Asia Trust

female workers in a just manner. Almost 50 per cent (45.22%) of the women home based workers think that they are earning less than male home based workers though the value of their products is not less than male home based workers (39.13%).

p) MACHINE/ EQUIPMENT AND RAW MATERIALS

Although these problems appeared on the bottom in the priority order but it does not mean that they are of no importance in the case of HBWs in Nepal. Normally the machine or more specifically the tools they are currently using are not that expensive and sophisticated so they can afford them and in most of the cases they can even repair and maintain if there is any breakdown. Raw material occasionally does pose a problem particularly in the case of independent workers.

q) INCREASING COMPETITION

As rapid and unplanned urbanization in Nepal is attracting or pulling many rural people to urban areas the HBWs have to compete with a high influx of rural migrants. In their need for basic survival in the urban areas these rural migrants often work at low wage rate which not only distorts the labour market but also further weakens the bargaining power of existing HBWs.

r) RISING COST OF LIVING

When there is great demand for any goods and services compared to the supply it naturally pushes the price up which is the simple law of economics. With ever growing number of population in the urban areas due to natural growth of population and high rate of internal migration, the demand for goods and services has gone up thereby leading to the increase in price and this has made the day to day life of HBWs more costly and difficult as their income has not followed accordingly.

s) SHORTAGE OF COMMODITIES & RISE IN PRICE

Quite often residents of the major cities have to face scarcity of different types of daily necessity goods more true in the case of cooking gas and therefore one has to buy either paying extra money or go for the alternatives like kerosene or fire wood instead. The urban poor including HBWs are the ones who are hit hard by such occasional shortages of essential goods and furthermore since they do not usually possess extra money or large savings they are not in a

Homenet South Asia Trust

position to keep such items in stock taking into consideration the likely price hike and shortages in the future.

t) POLITICAL ASSET AS POWER RELATION:

Despite of having awareness campaign in several levels, the responding were HBWs found having very less knowledge on the power in the family, society, organization and in the nation as a whole. However, it was revealed by the respondents that as an impact of MBO the structure of HBWs, has seen significant changes in the degree of political and power knowledge.

u) SLUM SITUATION

The rapid growth of the urban population is one of the most important demographic shifting in the country. By 2030 almost 5 billion people will live in the urban areas and the greater part of this growth is taking places in cities of the developing countries (United Nations Habitat, 2004/05). This increasing pressure on the urban infrastructure and services has contributed to shortages of affordable accommodation in the cities. In combination with poverty this furthers contributes to the growth of slums and squatters. It was estimated by UN that out of 1 billion people, a sixth of the world's population lives in slums. In the case of Nepal, the slums have also been growing day by day. There are some organizations working in the area for the rights of housing, shelter and in fact the right to live. Out of 58 Municipalities, there are slum issues in almost all the cities. HNN has taken two cities (Kathmandu Valley and Hetauda) with high density of slum communities. In Kathmnadu there are 66 clusters of slum/ squatters and in Hetauda, there are two clusters as reported by Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj. The community is largely involved in informal work including home based work. As per estimation of Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj there are 30 to 40 % home based workers in each cluster. During the study, HNN has selected one slum cluster in Kathmandu and one poor cluster (as per Hetauda Municipality report) in Hetauda which comprises slums dwellers also.

a) CONSEQUENCES OF SLUM

The slum clusters lack minimum urban facilities such as water, toilet, drainages and sanitation which are causing harmful effects on quality of life. During study it was found that people wake up at midnight to fetch the water. There is no proper toilet system also. Obviously, the houses are made of low quality construction materials. The rooms are very small and there is darkness

Homenet South Asia Trust

even during day time because of lack of proper windows. There is no provision of wide road for emergency vehicles like ambulance and fire brigade.

As observed by HNN, in one case one home based workers’ family remained sick for almost 6 months thereby causing loss of money to the family. It was found that once in a month a family member falls sick and gets admitted to the hospital. There is a strong linkage between water supply, sanitation facilities and poor health. Most of the time the HBWs families suffer from different types of diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities.

There are changes that were noticed this year compared to the previous years. In few cases, there is some investment for housing, schooling of the children and there were collective efforts made for water collection and voices were raised through organizing efforts of the stakeholders. Efforts to get some services and benefits have been increasing through MBOs and the HBWs have been organizing collectively to raise their voices and enhanced their capacity at individual and institutional levels.

v) IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON THE LIVES OF HBWs

Although urbanization is often termed and considered as the engine of growth however it is not always true that urbanization is not without any negative effects. The rapid rate of urbanization in the country has affected the poor in their day to day lives and in their socio-economic conditions. The high level of urbanization in the country has brought along with it several opportunities, challenges and problems. The effects of urbanization on the lives of HBWs have been analyzed under the following headings.

Table No. 19 Impact of Urbanization

Positive Impact of Urbanization	Negative Impact of Urbanization
Transportation: The transportation services have increased to some extent with well constructed road network and numbers of vehicles are also increasing.	Transportation: Vehicles are not in good condition, roads are not wide enough and not well maintained which causes traffic congestion and accidents and the transportation fare is also relatively high.

Homenet South Asia Trust

<p>Health Facilities: Numbers of hospitals and private nursing homes have been increased during the last decade and private clinics are also increasing.</p>	<p>Health Facilities: These services and provisions are accessible but are not affordable to working poor in the city though they have diversified health problems. .</p>
<p>Education: After the privatization of education policy was adopted, there has been a vast growth in the number of private schools; levels of awareness of parents for the education of their children have been raised thereby investing without any hesitation for the children’s education.</p>	<p>Education: The education in private school is too expensive for the urban working poor including HBWs. They are compelled either to pay a high fee for education or to let their children go to public schools.</p>
<p>Market facilities: There are good market outlets in different locations of the cities. One can get the commodities easily from these markets.</p>	<p>Market facilities: Though there are many market places in the city, the urban poor are not able to afford the prices of goods and services.</p>
<p>Employment: Opportunities to work in the city are high in comparison to rural areas. Through education and trainings the opportunities for employment in different sectors also expanded.</p>	<p>Employment opportunities: The wage level is very low and there is lack of access to different levels. The urban poor have very low level of education and skill to compete in the market.</p>
<p>Communication: The communication facilities have been increasing significantly and the HBWs can get access to telephone and mobile services easily.</p>	<p>Communication: Since the communication services are very expensive, the majority of HBWs are not able to use them even being in the cities. .</p>
<p>Housing Facility: There has been tremendous increase in the number of beautiful houses in the cities.</p>	<p>Housing Facility: These good and beautiful houses with better facilities are only for those people who can afford them not for the HBWs as they cannot afford them.</p>
<p>Other changes: Some other changes occurred such as knowledge about the access to different type of services.</p>	<p>Environment: Environment has been deteriorating day by day which ultimately harms the lives and livelihood of the urban poor.</p>
	<p>Water and electricity: There is no systematic arrangement which can support the urban working poor</p>
	<p>Low income, no recognition and weak social and family relations.</p>

Homenet South Asia Trust

	Security problems, there is no security of human life. Criminal activities have been increasing.
Drainage: As city is expanding, the drainages facility also needs to be expanded accordingly.	Drainage: The proper drainage system is limited only to core city areas. The services have not been managed properly. The garbage is also not systematically managed.

w) MAJOR PROBLEMS OF HBWS

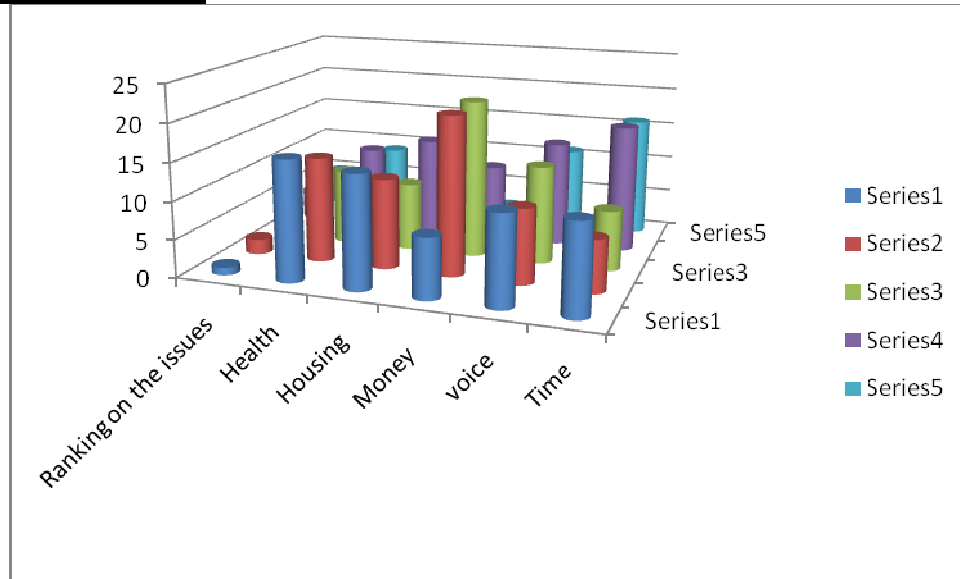
Table No. 17 Major Problems of HBWs

Ranking on the issues	Health	Housing	Money	voice	Time
1	16	15	8	12	12
2	14	12	21	10	7
3	10	9	21	13	8
4	11	13	10	14	17
5	9	11	2	11	16
	60	60	62	60	60

During the FGDs, to make the discussion more interactive, a card game was played, the participating HBWs through the game revealed that the HEALTH is their NUMBER ONE problem followed by EARNING /MONEY and HOUSING. It shows that there is a close relationship between health and earning.

Figure No. 16 Major Problems of HBWs

Homenet South Asia Trust

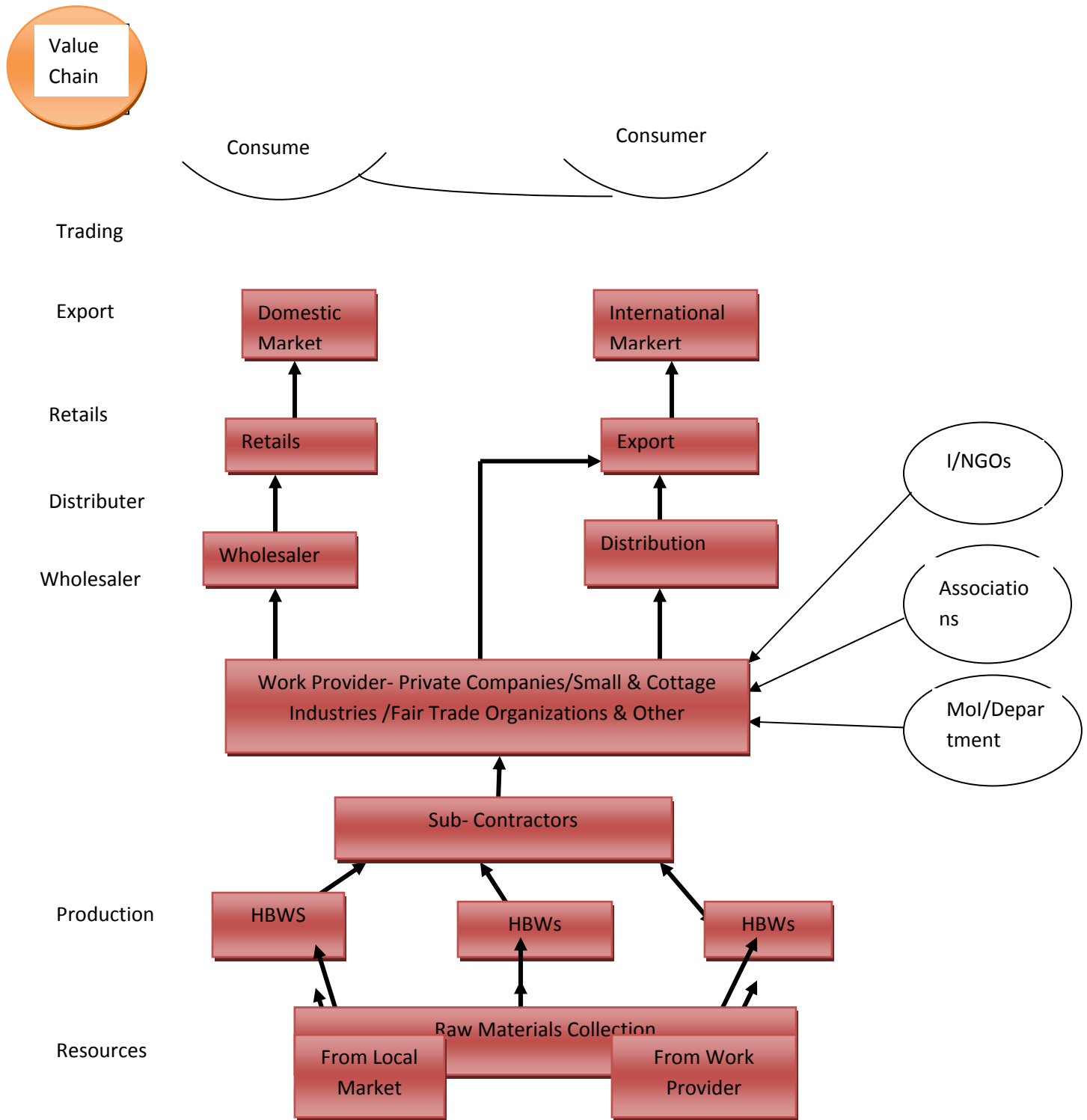


x) PRODUCTION AND VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS

The value chain process has been analyzed in the groups of HBWs of different clusters. The HBWs positioned themselves at different level as HBWs, contractor, sellers/company and consumer. The process helped to understand the knowledge of market and value chain and status of HBWs themselves. The whole process, 2/3 HBWs made a product, one played role of middleperson while another performed as factory owner and one played the role of consumer. In all the process, the HBWs analyzed wage, final pricing of product and value of adding work as well as relationship with employer and bargaining power. The HBWs also discussed among themselves about alternative ways for more income and increased livelihood and empowerment.

It found that the HBWs have a clear ideas and understanding about different processes and they know other HBWs in other different locations doing the same work with some other additional work. Finally, in some clusters, HBWs were found having no understanding about market process.

Figure No. 17 Value Chain Analysis



Homenet South Asia Trust

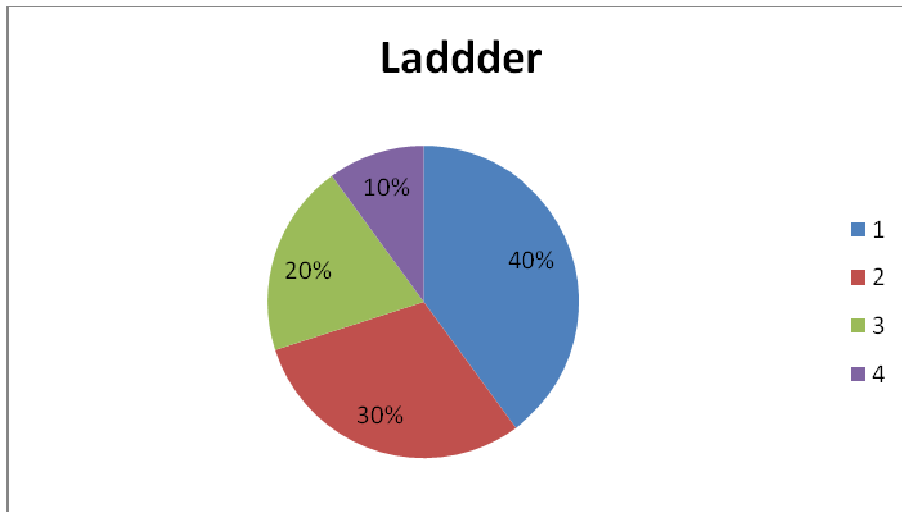
y) LADDER OF POWER

Table No. 18 Ladder of Power

Ladder	Hetauda	Khadipakha	Panga	Dhapasi	Koteshwor	Total	Percentage
4	2	0	1	1	2	6	10
3	9	2	3	3	2	19	31.67
2	2	5	4	10	3	24	40
1	5	3	0	2	1	11	18.33
Total	18	10	8	16	8	60	100

Ladder of power presented above has been analyzed by the home based workers themselves. The HBWs examined it in 4 steps. If the HBWs have total control over their work, can decide themselves to whom they sell the product/or from whom get orders and are fully satisfied with work and feel free and powerful, in such a case HBWs gave position on top of the ladder (Step 4). As per the discussions, there are only 10 percent HBWs who felt that they are on the 4th step of ladder. Similarly, if the HBWs have control over most of the work but have to depend on employer for work, had very good relationship with employer and could have enough influence on the price of products/work and feels secure from the work and are quite confident on the same; HBWs positioned them on third ladder (step 3). As per the discussion there are 31.67 percent HBWs on the 3rd step of ladder. If the HBWs have little control over own work, And are fully dependent on employer and have little influence on the wages/price then they are worried about work and feel quite insecure on the work as they are positioned on 2nd step of ladder (step 2). As per the discussion there are 40 percent HBWs on this step of ladder. The HBWs who have no control over own work and are totally dependent on employer; have no influence on the wages/price and/or product, they felt trapped and powerless. Such HBWs (18.33 percent) are on the step 1 (bottom) of the last ladder of the power.

Figure No. 18 Ladder of Power



In conclusion, the data and chart show clearly that there are 90 % respondents who have to depend on sub-contractors, factory and other middleperson for their work fully out of which some have little bargaining power and capacity to raise their voices though it is not sufficient for sustaining livelihood and empowerment.

z) GENDER

In the group discussion, the participating women HBWs strongly spell out that the concerned authorities have not recognized them as workers. They have not been treated equally as worker by the employer, as earning family member by the male members in the family. They said that the provisions and legal documents for equity are silent on their concerns.

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 CONCLUSIONS

Background Setting: The Home Based Workers are one of the most significant forces in the informal economy of Nepal. HBWs have greater contribution not only to the household and national economy but also to global trade and economy. The development of the country cannot be accomplished without recognizing their contribution but in the light of the objectives of this study, home based work is part of informal sector activities and has been found increasing within a close/chain relationship between work, income, livelihood and urbanization in Nepal. In terms of education, health services, transportation facilities, employment opportunities etc, the HBWs in the urban areas are comparatively better off compared to rural population in general. However, living in the urban areas is not without a cost as the high rate of urbanization leading to high growth rate of urban population has resulted into irregularity of works and exploitation, lack of access to basic minimum urban services and facilities, high cost of living and environmental pollution, directly affecting health of the HBWs.

This situation has also been found linked to the internal migration and urbanization process. The home based work has been contributing to the national economy through employment generation and by providing livelihoods to the urban poor and generating human, financial, and physical assets to some extent. In the urban context, formal and informal sectors are found co-existing side by side in the whole process of economic system through activities such as trade and business. But urban authorities have neglected and underestimated the informal sector by considering this sector as vulnerable sector of the urban economy by ignoring its contribution.

The increasing number of home based workers has been creating pressure at the community and national level despite disparities between poor and rich, increasing unemployment, unequal level of education and participation. It has been said in the previous chapter that due to home based work, the urban poor are getting opportunity in the urban areas in terms of work, employment



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

and livelihoods and have little bit better access to information and education even if they are working in the informal sector for their living.

There is a gap in planning programming and implementation level between urban planning authorities and the urban poor though they are targeting all these plan and programmes for the betterment of the urban poor. There are no direct linkages between people and authorities for participation. In the case of Hetauda Municipality, it was found that there is some participation of the people and urban planning (authority) at least in the implementation level though they were not consulted during programming phase and this is true even in the case of HBWs.

The access to basic minimum urban services such as drinking water, electricity, transportation and so forth has been reduced day by day. For instance, just to fetch the water HBWs are required to spend at least one to two hours every day thereby directly affecting their income generating works. As there are prolonged hours of load shedding almost six to nine months in an year this has significantly affected the working hours of the HBWs which is around three hours per day for one HBW. During load shedding the HBWs have been resorting to candles, kerosene oil lamps, emergency lights etc. as an alternative source of light and these are more expensive than electricity. As there is prolonged hours of load shedding therefore HBWs try to avoid big order though it may be attractive and profitable to them from monetary point of view. The city public transportation systems are also not very efficient and effective as most of the vehicles are old and in many areas the services are not very regular causing problems to the urban poor in general and HBWs in particular. The congested roads resulting into traffic jam, poor road condition without proper maintenance, sound and air pollution from vehicles etc are the common feature of urban life.

The production of HBWs enters national and international market through different layers of production chain. In the same manner there are several layers of production where different HBWs complete a part of the whole chain of production process before it finally takes the shape of finished product. The HBWs know about some of the layers of this production chain, however due to lack of proper skill, investment, management capability and access to the market they have not been able to get real benefit from this value chain and they are compelled to be at disadvantageous position at the primary or ground level of production chain. For instance, as



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

reported by them they are paid just NPR 8 per metre as a wage for weaving cotton cloth and for the same cotton cloth if they want to buy it from the retail market they have to pay NPR.150 (US\$2). If they raise voice against this unfair wage to increase their wages there is every possibility that they might be fired by the employer immediately. This is the main reason behind the decreasing level of wage rate in the market day by day. The government of Nepal has declared minimum wage for skilled and unskilled labour however the HBWs are not getting fair wages for their hard works despite the minimum wage set by the government.

Livelihood sustainability of the people depends on the activities that people are engaged in for making a living. It can be determined by the use and access to various assets on a priority basis to see whether home based workers in urban areas have improved or not. It was also found that the HBWs have started to build institution by themselves where they have been enhancing their skills, capacity, and leadership as well as developing linkages for the work. Besides the HBWs have been benefited on other different types of issue based education and knowledge through organization. Most of the home based workers have been investing for the future generation by providing education and skills to their children too. It can be concluded that livelihood of the urban poor who have been involved in the informal sector and 'struggling for living' and 'living in the present, investing for the future,' indicates livelihood sustainability in the future.

The accumulation and possession of assets and enhancement of capabilities reduces the degree of vulnerabilities and risks to the HBWs to a considerable extent. Even then, there is a necessity to extend the support on every step of their lives. Due to limited time and low level of awareness they are not able to raise their voices. The government's national policy and priority are still in the development and construction of infrastructures; however this is not yet sufficient to address the needs of HBWs. The policy makers should think and act from the ground realities of the HBW if they are really concerned and accountable for the adequate living and favourable and safe work conditions of the HBWs in Nepal.

There are some other significant issues related to urban poor HBWs which have been affecting the HBWs life very much and they are mentioned below.

Homenet South Asia Trust

1) LOW LEVEL OF INCOME

Most of the women home based worker's monthly earning from their present work is extremely low to support the family therefore it supports the charge which is often leveled against them by their husbands as their income is supplementary income to the family thereby ignoring their contribution to the family and also ignoring the fact that they too are workers like their husbands. There is not a single home based working woman whose family is entirely dependent upon her income to meet the family expenditures. Since there are other members in the family who are also earning from different occupations in reality 'collective earnings' manage and meet the family expenditures. Therefore the biggest challenge is how to increase the present low level of incomes so that HBWs could be made economically independent enabling them to stand on their own feet. Economic empowerment is the critical issue which needs to be given due attention.

2) WORK PLACE

The environment of the working place to a large extent determines the productivity and production capacity of the HBWs in Nepal. When the day to day work place is not conducive and lacks minimum physical facilities such as light, ventilation, air etc. under such conditions, one can hardly think of increasing their present low level of income. The survey results have shown that more than seventy per cent of the home based workers have expressed the inadequacy of work space. Further, almost all the HBWs have combined the living space with the working space which further indicates the magnitude of the space problem. In other words, being very poor most of the HBWs are living in one or at most two rented rooms which serve as their living room, kitchen and study room for the children etc.

3) THREAT OF MARKET (DEMAND AND ORDER)

In spite of working in congested working places the HBWs are managing to meet the deadlines of the orders being placed by their contractors. However, the threat of market always hovers around their heads such as low level of order or the low level of demand in the market for their products, means low level of their earnings and which in turn means further hardships to them in meeting the family expenditures particularly when there are no supplementary earnings in the family. Almost two-thirds of the home based workers have cited the market problem as the main bottleneck towards the expansion of their activities.

Homenet South Asia Trust

4) DISCRIMINATED WAGE RATE

It is the non-discriminatory and fair wage rate which alone can ensure the sustained participation of women in home based works in the long run. If the prevailing wage rate is in favor of male workers for the same amount of work and if this were to continue even in future without intervention from the government through some act and laws, then under such circumstances women home based workers will be highly exploited thereby making them further economically weak. It is discouraging to observe that almost fifty per cent of the HBWs have expressed that they have been paid less wage for the same amount and value of goods.

5) OVERCROWDING

With regard to land and housing, most of the HBWs are living in their own house while almost one-third of the HBWs are living in rented houses in cramped condition. For example, those who have rented accommodation it is often one room and at the most two rooms as the cost of rooms in the city is very high and they cannot afford to have more than one or two even if it is extremely crowded and congested to work and live. Therefore, overcrowding and increasing proportion of HBWs in the rental accommodation together with some in squatter settlements are the biggest issues with respect to housing.

6) LEGAL PROTECTION

Fast pace of haphazard urbanization in the country has resulted into several problems and one of them is the security of life. This is the general problems being faced by all. A majority of the HBWs have felt that they have not been protected by law in the country. There is utmost necessity of protecting the HBWs by some law in the country which is still lacking.

7) OBSOLETE TECHNOLOGY

In the present day world there is more competition in the business regardless of their size and scale and it is true in the case of the HBWs as well. And in order to exist in the competitive market, one needs to update in terms of information and upgrade in terms of technology to survive in the market to reduce the cost and to increase the size of profit. Majority of the HBWs have realized the technology they are adopting is obsolete though some-how they are managing it. This calls for improvement in the existing technology being used by them and replacing it by

Homenet South Asia Trust

the modern technology. In addition to technology upgrading, there is also a need to improve and upgrade their prevailing skills through further formal trainings as per market demand.

8) POOR NET WORKING AND ORGANIZATION

The HBWs tendency and to some extent preference for working has made them weak, vulnerable and unorganized to fight against the contractors, raw materials dealers etc. This shows that they need to be more organized and united to fight against discriminatory wage rates and to make their voice heard properly at different levels starting right from their own home to local government and to the policy making body of the government as well as to employers and sub-contractors from whom they get works. This shows that the organization and networking part needs to be further strengthened.

9) POOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Safe drinking water is necessary in order to minimize the water-borne diseases particularly to the poor urban dwellers including HBWs. However, the problem lies in situations like there is tap but there is hardly any supply of water, and similarly there is electricity connection but there are longer hours of load shedding. Those who can afford to buy water are buying water in jar from the market as well as from private tankers while those who are not in this position are compelled to depend on wells and tube wells, boring water etc. though they are not very much suitable for drinking there is no choice in the absence of other better alternatives. The issue of severe lack of drinking water and prolonged hours of load shedding are the major problems directly affecting lives of the urban poor including the HBWs.

10) LOW PROPORTION OF LITERACY

As mentioned above in order to be well informed and be aware of the new technology and demand in market for different types of products, it requires certain level of education beyond mere literacy. Majority of the HBWs are at least literate with few having completed even graduate level of education. And the number of HBWs with SLC is relatively not small. Therefore, what is needed is not only to increase the proportion of literates but also their education level.

Homenet South Asia Trust

9.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

There are several areas for the intervention of government and local authorities to improve the lives and livelihood conditions of the home based workers in Nepal. An attempt has been made below to identify those areas of interventions so that the present economic conditions of HBWs could be substantially changed and improved in near future.

- **Global development scenario:** The study has found that home based workers are linked with the global production chain of development and linked with the livelihood approaches which are not sufficiently strong to secure the living of the uneducated and poor HBWs. The global development scenario is more supportive of stronger entrepreneurs and not of the weak and vulnerable. HBWs must increase their abilities. Therefore, there is a need to create an environment by the concerned authorities of government whereby the poor, illiterate and vulnerable. HBWs could benefit equally from the global development scenario as the stronger ones, in future.
- **Formal and informal set-up:** There is a very close relationship between formal and informal works which implies the development of more secure and sustain mechanism to ensure the quality of life of the home based workers.
- **Urbanization and migration:** Urbanization is an inevitable process of development which is growing at a rapid pace. Many people including HBWs are migrating from different rural areas of the country to cities resulting into imbalance in the demographic or population distribution on the one hand and on the other hand the geographical territories of the cities have been expanding significantly. Thus, the study recommends the formulation of appropriate policies and plans to accommodate and protect the HBWs own resources and knowledge.
- **Co-operatives and learning centres:** There are differences and inequalities among home based workers and between other workers. With the low level of education, skill and knowledge, home based workers are hardly able to manage their life and fulfill their family requirements. Therefore, the study recommends developing co-operative modality

Homenet South Asia Trust

and grouping based learning centres where they can come together for learning and share their experience in interactive ways to develop their capabilities.

- **Exploitation and irregular works:** There are irregularities of work and exploitation of poor urban workers in general and HBWs in particular as HBWs are exploited at different levels. Therefore, study recommends developing appropriate policy and guidelines to safeguard the HBWs from such exploitation and to ensure the regularity of works as this directly affects their livelihood.
- **Contribution:** There is high domestic violence and discrimination among the male and female members at home and in society however such practice is not negating the work and contribution of HBWs. Thus, the national accounting system should include the contribution of HBWs as one of the significant components of the national economy and accordingly policy should be developed and effectively implemented to recognize and to provide due respect to the women HBWs of the country.
- **Promotion of livelihood:** Home based workers themselves are capable to ensure the education, food, health, nutrition and other requirement for self and for the family members to some extent, however the study recommends to create and establish strong links with the policy and planning of the local and central government so that their efforts will be strengthened further enabling them to manage their family requirements effectively and properly and in a sustainable manner.
- **Holistic approach to livelihood:** The livelihood strategy adopted by home based workers can be seen as a humanitarian perspective to create equal, justifiable and competitive society having self responsibility along with decent work and life.
- **Accumulation of assets:** The study has found enhancement of some assets of HBWs through their own livelihood strategy which has been useful to them in reducing vulnerability to some extent. Therefore efforts should be made by concerned agencies whereby they will be in a position to enhance their assets to further lessen the degree of vulnerabilities in their lives.

Homenet South Asia Trust

- **Recognition:** The first and foremost issue is to get recognition of the role of HBWs at the local, national and even international level, highlighting their contribution to the economy from the concerned authorities of the central government and local governments in the country. For this the strong, committed and continued lobbying and advocacy of the issue of HBWs by the local NGOs in particular by HNN, with the technical, financial and moral support from national and international partners needs to be pursued more vigorously.
- **Policy formulation:** The government of Nepal (GoN) without further delay must initiate the process of giving necessary approval to the draft policy already submitted by the Ministry of Labour, GoN. If there is any need of revisit on this policy in the changed context, the task force members could be again consulted for necessary revision and improvement in order to reflect the concerns of the government. Furthermore, once this policy is enacted by the government, for the implementation of this policy there may be need of Act and Regulations including the directives therefore such regulatory works also needs to be carried out by the government as soon as possible to facilitate the implementation of the approved policy by the government. Once the Act and Regulations are in place, certainly it will help to address several pertinent issues like the discriminatory wage rate, protection for the HBWs, social security issue etc. in the country.
- **Land and Housing:** Keeping in mind the increasing number of squatter settlements in the major cities of Nepal as a result of sky rocketing prices of land and housing, the role of government as mentioned in the shelter policy needs to be reviewed and revisited in the light of the fact that just by being a 'facilitator and enabler' the low income families and urban poor including HBWs are unlikely to get access to adequate housing unless the government of Nepal plays the role of 'housing supplier' in order to make housing available to them at affordable prices.
- **Loan and credit:** The availability of affordable loan at low interest rates can easily go a long way in addressing many problems being faced by the urban poor including the HBWs. At present there are many institutions including cooperatives providing loans at

Homenet South Asia Trust

affordable rates to the poor but some of these institutions demand collateral for the loan which the poor cannot provide. Thus, the HBWs have been indirectly excluded from such facilities. The 'Deprived Sector Lending' policy of Nepal Rashtra Bank, the Central Bank of Nepal, could be a better option in this regard to explore as this policy directs the commercial banks, development banks and finance companies to invest certain percentage of their total lending in this sector at lower interest rate and in easy manner. HBWs could be made eligible for this sector provided necessary processes are completed as per Central Bank regulations in order to qualify HBWs for loans.

- **Technology Upgrading and Skills Trainings:** As this is the age of competition so only the quality products with competitive prices can stand in the free market and a significant number of HBWs have shown their interest to improve the quality of their products if they can get proper skill trainings and technology upgrading from the concerned authorities. Moreover, some of the HBWs have also shown their interest to initiate new business and enterprises if they can get further skills and trainings. Therefore, necessary skills need to be provided to the HBWs so that they will be in a better position to enhance the quality of their present products and markets which will ultimately leads to increase in their earning and this will certainly improve the livelihood and living condition of the HBWs.

ENDNOTES

1. ILO (n.a). Informal Economy, ILO Geneva retrieved from www.ilo.org
2. Women Informal Economy: Globalizing and Organizing (2008), WIGEO Home Page- Women Informal Economy: Globalizing and Organizing retrieved from www.wiego.org.
3. CBS (2001). Population Censuses Results in gender perception. CBS & UNIFEM Nepal
4. National Labor Force Survey (2008) Report of Center Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Kathmandu, Nepal
5. WEIGO. (2011). We are Workers Too: Organizing Home-based Workers in the Global Economy, Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WEIGO), United Kingdom, p.5.

Homenet South Asia Trust

6. Ibid
7. Pokharel, Dr. Jib Raj. (2006). A study on Urban Housing in Nepal, Economic Policy Network, Policy Paper No.6, Ministry of Finance, and Asian Development Bank, Nepal.
8. Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad. ((2059). Criteria for Designating the Municipalities, Gorkha Patra daily (In Nepali).
9. Lumanti: Support Group for Shelter. (2008). Persistence for Progress: A Follow Report on the Communities Affected by the Vishnumati Link Road Project, Lumanti, Kathmandu.
10. Lumanti: Support Group for Shelter. (2010). Initiating People's Process: ACCA Programme Bharatpur, Lumanti, Kathmandu.
11. Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad. (2010). Challenges towards the creation of Better City, Better Life, Sahari Bikas, World Habitat Day Special Bulletin, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, GoN, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal, p.39.
12. Central Bureau of Statistics, National Planning Commission. (2005). Summary Results on Poverty Analysis from Nepal Living standard Survey (2003-04).
13. Lamsal, Bishnu Prasad. (2008). Government of Nepal's Policy on Home Based W, Workshop on Policy advocacy on Home Based Works: A South Asian Perspective, Kathmandu.
14. Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning, HMG. (1996). National Shelter Policy 1996, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, p.4.
15. Ibid, p.6.
16. Ibid, p.22.
17. Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad. (2003). Land Development Programme for the Planned Urbanization in the Kathmandu Valley (In Nepali), Sahari Bikas, World Habitat Day Special Bulletin, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, GoN, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal, p.7.
18. Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad. (2002). Our Efforts towards the Fulfillment of Housing (In Nepali), Sahari Bikas, World Habitat Day Special Bulletin, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, GoN, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal, p.15.

Homenet South Asia Trust

19. Ministry of Physical Planning and Works.(2007).National Urban Policy,2007,Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu ,Nepal.
20. Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad.(2009).Planning Our Urban Future, Sahari Bikas, World Habitat Day Special Bulletin, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, GoN, Babar Mahal,Kathmandu,Nepal,p.20.
21. Ibid.
22. Rana, Pinky Singh. (2010).Review of Existing Policies in Relation to Urban Poor of Nepal: A Brief Picture, HomeNet Nepal, Kathmandu Nepal, p.10.
23. Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad. (2006). Cities: Magnet of Hope (In Nepali), Sahari Bikas, World Habitat Day Special Bulletin, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, GoN, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal,p.18.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Central Bureau of Statistics/National Planning Commission. (2005). Summary Results on Poverty Analysis from Nepal Living standard Survey (2003-04).

Lamsal,Bishnu Prasad.(2008).Government of Nepal's Policy on Home Based Workers' Workshop on Policy advocacy on Home Based Works: A South Asian Perspective, Kathmandu.

Lumanti: Support Group for Shelter. (2010).Initiating People's Process: ACCA Programme Bharatpur, Lumanti, Kathmandu.

Lumanti: Support Group for Shelter. (2008).Persistence for Progress: A Follow Report on the Communities Affected by the Vishnumati Link Road Project, Lumanti, Kathmandu.

Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning, HMG.(1996).National Shelter Policy 19996,Department of Housing and Urban Development, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu.

Ministry of Physical Planning and Works.(2007).National Urban Policy,2007,Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu ,Nepal.



Network of Homebased workers in South Asia

Homenet South Asia Trust

Pokharel, Dr.Jib Raj.(2006).A study on Urban Housing in Nepal, Economic Policy Network, Policy Paper No.6, Ministry of Finance, on and Asian Development Bank, Nepal.

Rana, Pinky Singh. (2010).Review of Existing Policies in Relation to Urban Poor of Nepal: A Brief Picture, Home Net Nepal, Kathmandu Nepal.

Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad. ((2002).Criteria for Designating the Municipalities, Gorkha Patra daily (In Nepali).

Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad.(2010).Challenges towards the creation of Better City ,Better Life,Sahari Bikas,World Habitat Day Special Bulletin, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction,GoN,Babar Mahal,Kathmandu,Nepal.

Shrestha,Dibyeswar Prasad.(2003).Land Development Programme for the Planned Urbanization in the Kathmandu Valley(In Nepali),Sahari Bikas, World Habitat Day Special Bulletin, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, GoN, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad.(2002).Our Efforts towards the Fulfillment of Housing(In Nepali), Sahari Bikas,World Habitat Day Special Bulletin, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, GoN, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad. (2006). Cities: Magnet of Hope (In Nepali), Sahari Bikas, World Habitat Day Special Bulletin, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, GoN, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Shrestha, Dibyeswar Prasad.(2009).Planning Our Urban Future, Sahari Bikas, World Habitat Day Special Bulletin, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, GoN, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

WEIGO. (2011).We are Workers Too: Organizing Home-based Workers in the Global Economy, Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WEIGO), United Kingdom.

Homenet South Asia Trust

