

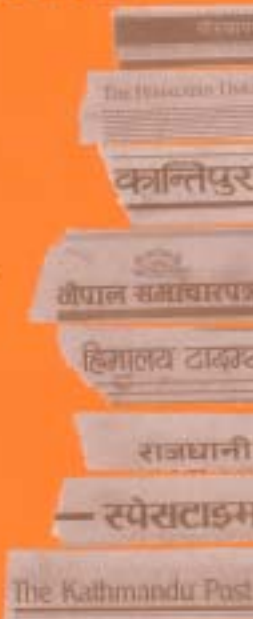
# Print Media Coverage on Children's Issues

A Report  
2002



**Katamalo Sanchar**

Prepared by:  
**Saurav Kiran Shrestha**



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**Saurav Kiran Shrestha**

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## Preface

Media plays a very important role in generating awareness among the general public and in creating pressure on pertinent issues for the development of nation. Media can also be very effective for the overall development of children through advocacy for children' right.

In our context, media has been playing a very positive role to convert the child right issues into one of the major political and social agendas. In this situation, there has been an urgent need to monitor the information and issues on children covered by the media.

Being in the field of communication, Hatemalo Sanchar has initiated a strategic program of media monitoring from 2002 which plans to publish such reports periodically.

This is probably the first comprehensive study of 8 newspapers on the child rights issue. We believe that this monitoring report will be helpful for the media to adopt child right based approach scrupulously rather than the sensational news coverage.

There are certainly many shortcomings in the report and we sincerely welcome your constructive suggestions so that we can improve ourselves in the days to come.

I would like to thank Mr. Saurav Kiran Shrestha, the Program Officer of Hatemalo who has been playing a lead role to develop the monitoring methodology and prepare the report. At the same time I would like to acknowledge the immense support of the St. Xavier's College trainees namely Prabin, Pratee, Pritee, Anuradha, Chayan and Lochana. It won't be fair if I don't acknowledge the continuous dedication of Nina Maharjan who helped a lot in the documentation part.

Lastly, I would like to thank other staff members of Hatemalo namely Kumar Bhattarai, Gopi Krishna Shrestha, Pinky Bijayananda and Parbat Lama for their contribution to make possible such a good outcome.

Ashesh Malla  
President  
Hatemalo Sanchar.

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

Media has turned the world into a global village. Media includes different forms of mass communication ranging from print media, electronic media-audio and visual. It is a prominent tool and a best means of one –way communication. So it is being widely used for everything and for any purpose.

It has been playing a significant role in most of all social, political and development sectors due to its power to influence on attitude and behavior of general public and its outstanding role to design plan and policy on national and international level.

After the re-advent of democracy in Nepal the uses of media are intense in every aspect of social, political and economical development. Similarly, media is also playing a major role in promotion of children development. Its importance is manifested for the advocacy, lobbying and general awareness for the child issues and promotion of child rights on the basis of child rights movement after the re-advent of democracy along with social organization and NGOs movement.

In this context, Hatemalo Sanchar, a social organization working for child rights promotion, is very concerned about the media influence to children as children have inherent nature to seek information for their queries. Hatemalo is very sensitive to possibility of negative impacts of the media in child development and news flow from the print media.

It is appropriate to quote Paulo David in the book Children and Media Violence, Year Book 1999 here:

Children usually request access to appropriate information as a response to their queries, and are increasingly willing to participate in the production and dissemination of information. Obviously they are also a group in need of specific and tailored protection from harmful information. Parent and teachers have the responsibility to provide guidance and protection to children. Non-governmental children rights organizations are using media to promote and protect the rights of the child.

Experience of working with children through communication probes a need of a supervisory body to critically watch and observe all the media coverage and activities to bring positive change in the media and journalism for children.

In this perspective, Child News-Code of Conduct formulated by the Nepal Press Council, Nepal Journalist Federation, Media Line with the support of ILO in 2002 includes following points:

1. Media should not promote the information that hinders and make negative impact on children development.
2. Children should be motivated to speak truth without giving pressure and lure.
3. News of the survivor child should be presented concerning not to further their agony.
4. News supporting the child exploitation should not be published.
5. Advertisement and news should not be published and disseminate that violate the child rights.
6. National and International Laws should be observed while publishing and disseminating children related issues.

However, we believe that just formulating the code of conduct is not sufficient for the media development for children. So being an aware citizen and organization working for children and media we need to be critical about how and where the media is heading toward on children issues in these years. And now it is also made realized to analysis impacts of media on child rights.

Hatemalo Sanchar is taking initiation to implement "Media Monitoring Program for Children" to watch media in more scientific and professional ways with the development of media monitoring method and strategies. It aims to release regular study report in reference to developed and modified media monitoring strategies on the basis of learning experience during the study period.

"Print Media Coverage on Children Issues: A report 2002" is a first effort of the same Program to bring lights on the Media coverage. The report is primarily based on the documented newspaper clippings of the first three months of Nepali Calendar that is Baisakh to Ashar 2059 (April 14- July 13, 2002). Eight national daily newspapers had been taken for the study. They were:

1. Kantipur (Nepali)
2. Samacharpatra (Nepali)
3. Rajdhani Dainik (Nepali)
4. Gorkhapatra (Nepali)
5. The Kathmandu Post (English)
6. The Himalayan Times (English)
7. Space Time (Nepali)
8. Himalaya Times (Nepali)

Objectives:

The general objective of the study is to analyze the coverage of children issue in the print media and to find out the way of the information flow about children. It also aims to contribute in the field of child and media. And specific issues are to:

1. Know the children's issues that are more frequently published in the print media
2. Find out the "Priority given issues on children" by each national daily paper
3. Identify overlooked children issues that should be advocated
4. Make suggestion for the print media

## **Methodology**

This report is based on the collection of the news, news features/analysis, news/articles and the sole opinion of the writers (hereafter news/articles) based on children's issues. The aforementioned eight newspapers would be the primary data. Based on the findings of the issues covered the report has been prepared. Hence the study would be descriptive in nature.

Hatemalo Sanchar commenced The Media Monitoring Program for Children in April 2002. Since there is no specific media monitoring guidelines, in the earlier process study team had several discussions to make for the study procedures. On the basis of discussion the study team, set and observed the following procedure for the study:

1. Collection of the eight newspapers
2. Documentation of children related issues
3. Selection of the news/articles in a specific topics, like, organizational activities
4. Review of news news/articles on children
5. Analysis of the topic wise issues
6. Preparation for report

This report is primarily based on the above-mentioned procedure. However, the study team is in the process of developing more scientific methodology for the media monitoring and guideline for such other studies on the basis of learnt experience.

## CHAPTER II

### NEWSPAPER WISE FINDINGS:

In this section, all eight newspapers are assessed independently on the basis of their coverage on child related issues. The coverage is inclusive of news, news/articles, news features, news analysis or the sole opinion of the writer on the children issues.

The readers should keep in mind that due to the nature of the study, categories on each newspaper are diverse. The newspapers were not studied comparatively, rather assessed individually. The categories were chosen on the basis of number of coverage in a particular newspaper during the study period. So the findings of one newspaper cannot be generalized for others.

#### 1. KANTIPUR: coverage

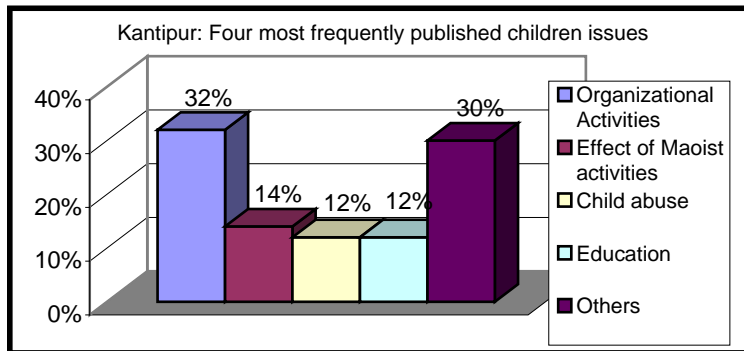


Figure: 1

Media monitoring team collected a total of 123 news/articles related to children and child rights within the time frame of three months (Baisakh-Ashar). Data shows that Kantipur has published 40 news/articles on the different activities of both the government organizations, INGOs and NGOs, 18 news/articles on the effect of Maoist activities on children, 15 news/articles related with both physical and sexual abuse of children, 15 news/articles on the area of education, 9 news/articles related with child rights and development with other news/articles related to the accidental cases of children, disable children, marginalized children, international news related to children, child labor, suicide cases of children, children in prison, poverty and its effect on the development of children, festivals and cultures, child marriage, child club activities.

The major issues published by the Kantipur in relation to children are discussed below:

#### Organizational Activities

The study shows that Kantipur had primarily published different programs and activities organized by various NGOs, INGOs, and government organizations for the welfare as well as development of children. In this relation study team had collected 40 news/articles within the time frame.

The issues included mostly the activities like bicycle rally for the protection of child rights, school admission to the child laborer, seminars and workshop, protection provided by the organization to the vulnerable children, contribution (financial and materials) for organizational infrastructures development and educational institutions, contribution made by different organizations for the children development, scholarship provided to children, publication of visual and written materials, health camps,

It also published organizational activities on competitions and trainings like essay writing competition, story writing, painting and sports for the different section of children which included street children, school going children, institutional children. Trainings like radio announcement, creative writing. Similarly, it published news on awards given to children who scored highest position in the SLC examination and different programs.

Jilla Balkalyan Samiti, ILO, Ashman Nepal, Concern for Children and Nepal, CWIN, Asian Development Bank, British Gorkha Kalyankari Kendra, Unicef, Hashimoto Foundation Scholarship, Jilla Janaswashta Kendra, Hatemalo Sanchar, SOS and others are the organizations whose news were published in the period.

### **Effect of Maoist activities on children**

The study shows that Kantipur has covered 18 news/articles related to the Maoist activities in relation to the adverse effect on children.

The news coverage was on the deaths of children due to Maoist insurgency; from the violence and the unavailability of health services because of 'Bandh' organized by Maoist, attacks on the schools and children institutions. Similarly, critical news on misuse of children by Maoist in war, analysis on the changing playing pattern of children after Maoist insurgency, psychological effect on children from the Maoist violence, situational analysis of the misuse of children in the conflict in the global as well as national context, the seminars / workshop organized to analyze the effect of the Maoist Insurgency on children were also published.

### **Child Abuse**

During the three months 15 news/articles were collected in the issue of child abuse writing about physical and sexual abuse on children like rape cases, physical torture to children in school, runaway cases of the culprit. It also published the arrested news of the culprits.

### **Education**

The study shows that Kantipur account for 15 news/articles on education in relation to children. The news/articles included analysis of the educational system of the country, method of teaching in the private schools (hectic schedule of the school, book centered

education), infrastructure problem of the schools in the rural areas and its adverse effect on schools functioning, various problems facing by the government and private schools.

In the duration, SLC also got a space on the paper with priority on news related to the SLC examination and its result, students who scored highest position in the SLC exam. In addition, effects of the Maoist Rebels on the SLC examination and education were also published.

### **Child Rights and Development**

During the study, 9 news/articles were collected in relation to the issue of child rights and development.

The issues under this heading included the situational analysis of children of Nepal in the year 2001, news/articles related to the UN Special Session for the Children, UN convention of Child Rights, child rights protection and its problems and possibilities, news/articles on the basis of the reports which discuss on the lack of effective implementation of the policies which are concerned with children.

## 2. NEPAL SAMACHARPATRA: coverage

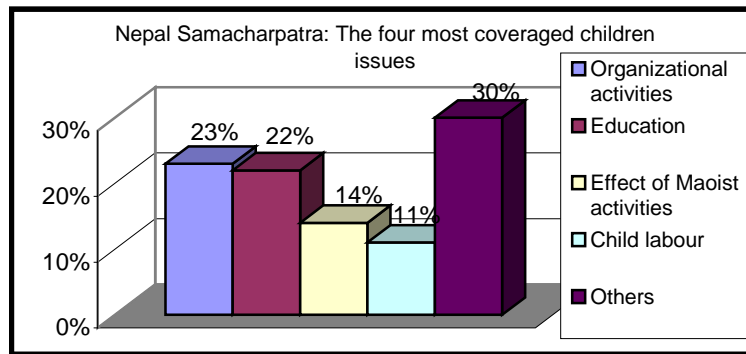


Figure: 2

Within the time frame 90 news/articles related to children and child rights were collected. 21 news/articles are based on the different organizational activities, 20 news/articles on the educational aspects of children, 13 news/articles related with the effect of Maoist activities on children, 10 news/articles related with the problems/issue of child labor, 6 news/articles on the problem of child abuse (physical and sexual) with other children issues like, children's creativity, case of accident, child rights and development, health issues, international news, differentially able children, child club activities, drug abuse among children, children magazine, preservation of wild life by children initiatives and others.

The major issues published by the Samacharpatra in relation to children are discussed below:

### **Organizational Activities**

The data shows that Samacharpatra mostly covered the news/articles (21 news/articles) about different activities conducted by the INGOs, NGOs, and government working in the field of children. The issues include competition like quiz, drawing/painting, sports and others.

It also included training, workshops and seminars organized on children related issues. And it also included the news/articles on the personal experiences of children and staff of SOS, orphanage home, contribution (monetary and materials) made by different organizations to the schools, establishment of trust for the children affected by Maoist insurgency.

Journalist Forum for Children, Maiti Nepal, Nepal Bal Sangthan, SOS Balgram, CIWIN, Concern Nepal, Buddhist Bal Griha, Bal Mandir, Asian Development Bank, ILO, Women Children and Social Welfare Department, Save the Children UK, Nepal Bal Sangathan, Hatemalo Sanchar and others are the organizations whose news were published in the period.

### **Education**

In relation to the education Samacharpatra mostly covered the news related with SLC results (5 news/articles) and the students who got highest position in the SLC examination, carelessness from the side of examination control board. It also dealt with the lack of secondary schools and curriculum books on the different parts of the country

and its effect on the students, problem of government schools like infrastructure, human resource and materials problems of different remote parts of the country.

Similarly, Samacharpatra has also published news/articles aiming for changes in the attitude of local people towards girl education, gender discrimination, discrimination based on caste, early child marriage and others through education (adult education classes). And it also included situational analysis of the poverty in relation to the depriving children for getting their right- "Right to education".

#### **Effect of Maoist Activities on Children**

The data shows that Samacharpatra covered 13 news/articles related to the effect of Maoist activities on children. It covered the death/casualty of children from the violence of Maoist insurgency, death of children because of non-availability of health services due to the 'Nepal Bandh' organized by Maoists and the Maoist attacks on different institutional home for children, school bus.

Similarly, it has also published news analysis/features of misuse of children by Maoist in their war along with the relevant data in the last seven years time period, impact/effect of Maoist Insurgency on children (especially the street children), condition of the children caught in the crossfire of the Maoist insurgency and the overall impact on educational system after the insurgency of Maoist war.

In addition, the news/articles also dealt with the lack of government efforts- plans and programs for the rehabilitation of children who are affected by Maoist violence one way or the other.

#### **Child Labor**

Issues of child labor are found in 10 news/articles. It covered situation of children who are involved in different occupations like domestic work, vendor, and newspaper selling and stone quarries.

In addition, the news/articles also dealt with life pattern/style of children surviving through different occupation and reason for child involvement in such occupation like, poverty, large number of family, lack of earning member in the family. It also covered news analysis/features on various risk factors affecting both the physical and psychological development of children who are engaged in dangerous works in the global context as well as in context of Nepal along with relevant figures.

On the occasion of International Child Labor Day, it also covered the issues showing how many organizations working in the field of children are spending huge amount of money for the elimination of child labor but the situation remains still the same in the country. The newspaper also covered the activities of child clubs that are against child labor.

#### **Child Abuse**

The study found 6 news/articles on the physical and sexual abuse of children. It included the issues of child rape cases, runaway cases of the culprit, child physical abuse by biological parents as well as adopted parents. It also covered the arrest news of the culprits.

#### **3 RAJDHANI DAINIK: Coverage**

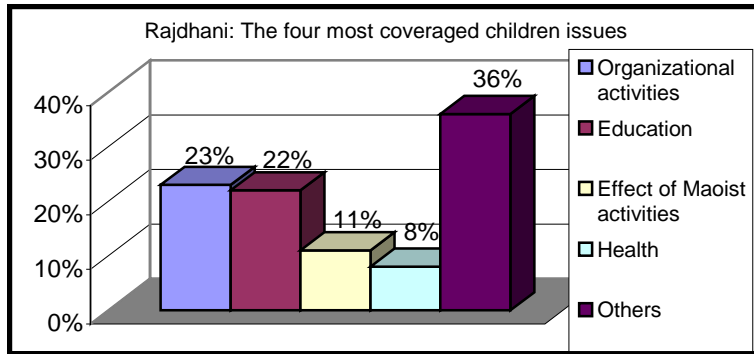


Figure 3

A total of 140 news/issues were found on children and child rights within the time frame of three months (Baisakh-Ashar). Out of total, 33 news/articles are related to the activities of government, NGOs, INGOs and other institutions for the welfare and development of children, 31 news/articles are related to the education issues, 15 news/articles are related to the effect of Maoist insurgency on children, 12 news/articles are on health aspects of children, 11 news/articles are related with both the physical and sexual abuse of children, 9 news/articles are on the issue of child labor, 6 news/articles are on international news, 5 news/articles on disable children, 8 news/articles on the accident cases of children, 3 news/articles on the news of marginalized children, 3 news/articles on the different activities of the child clubs and other issues like suicide cases of children, crime by children, crime against children.

The major issues published by the Rajdhani Dainik in relation to children are discussed below:

### **Organizational Activities:**

The study found 33 news/articles related to the different programs / activities conducted by various INGOs, NGOs, and government organization which are working in the field of children.

The news/articles were reported on competitions like quiz, sports, drawing and painting, poetry, cultural programs and other activities organized for children on the various occasions. It also covered the news of the different programs like training on human rights, interaction program for the children who are victims of Maoist insurgency, programs especially for the children of deprived section and awards ceremony.

CWIN, Maiti Nepal, Lali Gurans, Ama Samuha, Amnesty International, Plan Nepal, Lekali Nepal, Ekikrit Bikas Kendra, Nepal Asian Development Bank, Nepal Swayam Sewak MahaSangh, ILO, IPEC, Ministry of Education and Sports, Save the children alliances, Seto Gurans Balbikas Kendra, Unicef, MTV Asia, Bal Mandir and others are the organizations whose news were published during the study period.

### **Education**

Issues of education are found in 31 news/articles. These comprised of the news analysis on lack of curriculum books and irregular attendance of teachers on the remote areas, its effect on the education system. It also covered the problem of students like long distance to travel for school in the remote parts of the country, children who are deprived from getting admission in the school because of lack of birth registration certificates, news/articles reflecting the situation of the Nepali children who are deprived from 'Rights to Education' even of the primary level education along with relevant data.

Similarly, it also covered the news on the effectiveness of the integrated education programmed especially for the back ward section (economically, socially) who are not able to attend regular school because of various reasons. It also included news on the preparation for transferring government school to the community ownership school.

News on awards given to the topper students of SLC, analysis of the SLC result of the different parts of the country, loopholes in the process of examining the SLC papers were also published.

In addition, it covered news/articles affecting education system due to the Maoist insurgency, like, reopening of different boarding schools in different parts of the country after forcefully closed by Maoist, analysis news which covered how the Maoist insurgency affecting the whole education system.

### **Effect of Maoist Activities on children**

15 news/articles under this heading had coverage on issues like educational institution destruction by Maoist, death of children from the Maoist violence, Vitamin' A 'programs affected by the Maoists. It also covered the news analyze on use of children in Maoist war, the negative attitude of Indian police towards the Nepali students suspecting their involvement in Maoist activities. And, analyzed news/articles on the way children and women are affected mostly from the Maoist violence.

### **Health**

Under the health aspect of children 12 news/articles were found. The National program of feeding Vitamin A capsules, deprivation of girls and women from getting T.T. injection, news covering the problem of HIV/AIDS and its effect on children, cases of the defective birth, polio elimination programs, tumor cases of children, news analysis/features on malnutrition among children and its effect on their development, deprivation of children from HIV test because of poverty were reported during the time frame.

### **Child Abuse**

The 11 news/articles included rape cases, the arrest cases of the culprits and imprisonment, physical abuse of children especially to those who are working as a domestic worker.



#### 4 GORKHAPATRA: coverage

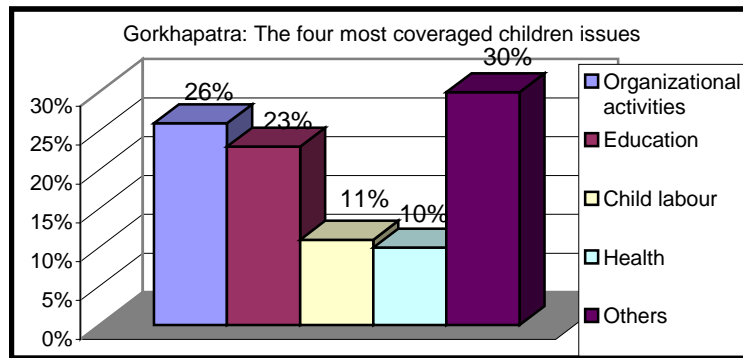


Figure: 4

Altogether 150 news/articles were collected from Gorkhapatra out of which 39 news/articles are on organizational activities of Government, INGOs, NGOs, and other institutions, 34 news/articles on education, 16 news/articles on child labor, 15 news/articles on the health issue, 12 news/articles on International news of children, 11 news/articles on the child rights and development, with other news/articles like, marginalized children, effect of Maoist insurgency on children, child abuse, crime against children, children's creativity, accident cases of children, internet and its effect on children, flood affected children, condition of children whose parents died from AIDS.

The major issues published by the Gorkhapatra in relation to children are discussed below:

##### **Organizational Activities**

Gorkhapatra published 39 news/articles that reported of activities of different government organizations, NGOs, INGOs, and donor agencies for children. The highlighted activities were like football, painting/drawing, quiz and poetry competition etc., which are organized for school children, street children and differentially able children. It also covered the news of awards given to children in different fields.

News on different trainings, seminars, rallies, street play, interaction programs, which were organized for children in various issues/subjects like human rights, child journalism, child literature, child participation and others were also published.

The provision for providing incentives to the parents for sending the girl child to the school and financial problem of the non-governmental organizations were also covered by the publication.

Child Development Society, Patrakarita Vikas Pratisthan, Nepal Bal Sangathan, CWIN, Amnesty International Nepal Branch, Siddhartha Society Development center, Bal Phila, Lions Clubs, Community Service Center, District Children Welfare Committee,

UNICEF, ILO, Save the Children UK, Agriculture Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, and others are the organizations whose news were highlighted.

## **Education**

34 news/articles were written on education and children. The SLC examination and results of 2059 B. S., performance of schools and students of different parts of the country in the SLC, loopholes while examining the S.L.C papers, parents' reaction towards the S.L.C result, the news of the three toppers in the S.L.C. examination were especially highlighted.

It also covered the news on lack of the secondary level education in the twenty VDCs of Gorkha districts, lack of course book to the students of the remote parts of the country and its impact on the students, advantages of informal education class to the teenage girls, low attendance of girl child in the school of Kavrepalanchowk district because of gender discrimination, poverty, costly education and long distance of school from home, problem of charging high fee in the private school, resumption of private school after being forcefully closed by Maoists, introduction of health education program in school of Nuwakot district.

The news analysis/features were focused on the new act/ law and its relation with the new education fiscal year, new programs that should be implemented to bring development in the education sector, increment in the attendance school going children especially the deprived section after introducing different education programs like the Scholarship program, provision of residence for disabled children, and the news reflecting that fifteen thousand school going children of Parsa district are deprived from education.

## **Health**

Data shows that 15 news/articles covered the health issues of children. It included the cases, like triplet birth, HIV positive girl child of aged 5, a child who weighs 4 kg and measures 22" at the age of five, the child who had teeth from its birth, and other defective birth cases.

It had the news coverage on environment pollution and its impact on children's health, role of hospitals, malnutrition among children news related with the national Vitamin 'A' program with the objective of decrease child mortality rate, news which shows that every year more than one crore children died because of diseases like malnutrition, small pox, Malaria, diphtheria, and others with the relevant data.

## **Child Labor**

Gorkhapatra covered 10% of the total news/articles on children, that is, 16 news/articles on child labor. It included the news analysis/features on domestic child labor and state's responsibility, life story of children who work at very early age, physical abuse of children involved in different occupations.

The news were also inclusive of district wise situation/condition of street children and child labor, like street children of Nawalparasi districts, domestic workers at Dhankuta, increasing child labors in the Taplejung and others.

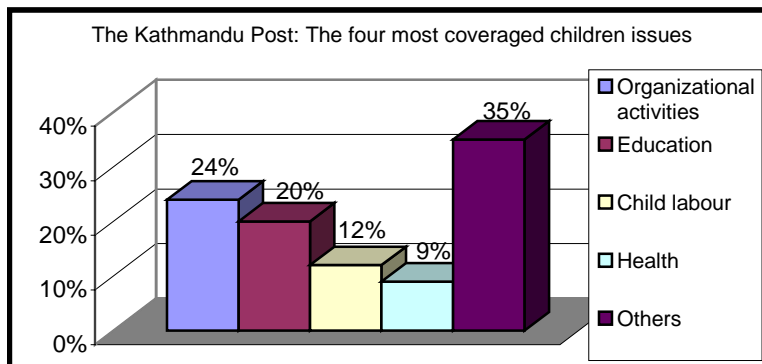
It also covered the news of International aid (funds and resources) for the elimination of child labor and the different organizational activities/programs in relation to the elimination of child labor.

### **Child rights and Development**

Of the 11 news/articles, the news analysis/features of the new budget provisions for the best interest of children, different aspects of the UN special meeting for children and expectation and outcomes from the meeting, the basic need of children for their overall development and the situation /condition of children of different parts of the world was covered. In addition it also covered news analysis/features on how the children are abused (Sexually, physically and emotionally), trafficked and deprived from the opportunities by their own family and relatives.

Gorkhapatra dealt the impact of both environmental and social problems on children, responsibility and challenges to society towards the protection of children's rights and different national and international efforts on this.

## 5 KATHMANDU POST: coverage



**Figure: 5**

Study team was able to collect total 117 news/articles related to children and child rights within the time frame of three months (Baisakh-Ashar). Collected data shows that most published issues by the Kathmandu Post is on organizational activities of government, NGOs and INGOs in 28 news/articles, Education is in 24 news/articles, Child Labor issues in 14 news/articles, Health issues is in 11 news/articles, Effect of Maoist insurgency is in 10 news/articles, International news related to children is in 10 news/articles. And it has also covered other various analytical news/articles related to children, like child abuse, child imprisonment, Marginalized and Dalit children, Hunger and girls trafficking.

Similarly, few news/articles focused on children with disabilities who are demanding their voice to be heard. And the news/articles regarding the issue of child rights and development was also little published which included the news of report on government plans and policies on children being brought to public and analysis of children's participation for child rights were also published.

The major issues published by the Kathmandu Post in relation to children are discussed below:

### **Organizational Activities:**

Kathmandu Post has covered most of its news/articles related to organizational activities for children that included the activities of governmental as well as non-governmental organizational for children's welfare and development. It was also inclusive of general organizational news news/articles like network formation for children, conferences, children with AIDS, trafficking, plans to build child care centre across the country, providing funding, furniture for schools and free meals for the children by schools and clubs, changing lives of young girls of Siraha through Maithili art work, rehabilitation of children, corporal punishment of children and various programs, competitions and contests, award ceremony.

Parent's Association, Nepal Redactors Society, Rotary Clubs Nepal Children's Organization, Department of Education, Bhaktapur Municipality, Royal Nepal Friendship Club, British Gorkha Welfare Centre, Maiti Nepal, CWIN, SOS, UNICEF, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Program (WFP), Save the children – USA, Lahan (an INGO) PMTC, ILO and EPOCH-USA are the organization whose news were covered.

### **Education:**

The Kathmandu Post contained 24 news/articles on education. It covered news on various interaction programs being hold for education. And highlight the gender discrimination some news/articles focused on educating girls, scholarship for girls, enrolment of girls in schools in rural areas like Banke and parental discrimination between son and daughter providing education.

It also published the news/articles on high investment for higher studies, examinations procedure and other general news like- free education provided to poor children by various associations, children's novels being launched, lack of infrastructures and teachers in government schools. And wrong delivery of question papers during SLC was also given a news space.

The news/articles also consisted of different training programs organized for teachers, free book distribution, news of private schools turning in district schools in Jiri district and resumption of schools which were closed down due to the threat of Revolutionary Student's Union in Tanahu.

### **Child Labor:**

A total of 14 news/articles were published regarding child labor. The coverage focused on workshop on child labor eradication, World Day against child labor, the statistical estimation of numbers of child laborers in Nepal. It also covered the news/articles on children working in stone quarries, worst forms of labor, rag pickers, declaration of child labor free village while there's also news on widespread of child laborers in Kapilbastu and Nawalparasi due to unemployment.

### **Health:**

Health issues are published in 11 news/articles. It included the scope of test tube baby in Nepal, children in need of financial support for their operation and treatment, deprived children from Vitamin A in various districts of Nepal like Rukum and Jajarkot, death cases because of measles.

AIDS cases and lack of awareness among youths regarding the forms of transmission of AIDS is also covered.

### **Effects of Maoists activities on children:**

Under the heading, 10 news/articles are found. It included statistical information on the number of children hit hard by Maoist insurgency, Maoist attack against refuge home of destitute children like SOS, recruitment of child soldiers in Maoist troop.

The news analysis/features on overall picture of effect of Maoist's activities on children, which emerges to be sad for the children after having lost their relatives and Nepal Bandh called by Maoists and the impact of armed conflict on children were published.

**International news:**

The Kathmandu Post has published 10 different news like, children books being re-launched in India, baby hatch program in German in order to stop the killing of unwanted babies, and a Swiss boy collecting funds for impoverished children. Crime news of an Irate boy killing his mother with TV set, an expelled student carrying out open fire in his school killing 18 people, killing of children in Kashmir Violence were also published.

Similarly, a discovery of new baby killing virus in Taiwan, news of 50 children dying in mid air jet collision in Germany, wrong exam result claiming a life of a student in Calcutta and the discussion on enforced 'one child policy' of China were published.

## 6 The Himalayan Times (English): coverage

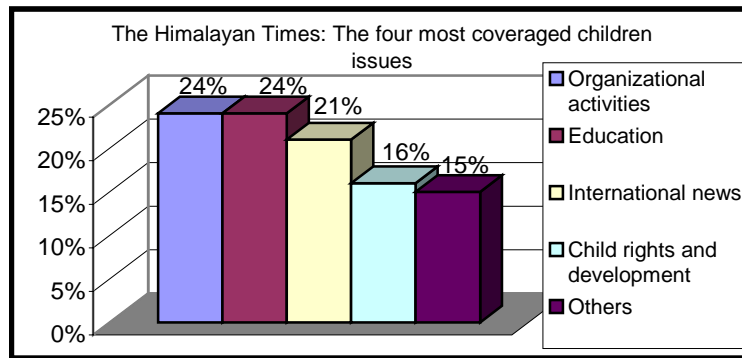


Figure: 6

Study team collected 161 news/articles related to children and child rights within the time frame of three months (Baisakh-Ashar). Of the total, 39 news/articles covered the activities of government, NGOs, INGOs and other institutions for the welfare and development of children, 39 news/articles were related to the education issues, 34 news/articles were the international news, 26 news/articles were related to the child rights and development, 16 news/articles about child labor, 11 news/articles on adolescent problems and 9 news/articles on Health issues. Various analytical news/articles related to children like, marginalized children, Kammaiyas, Dalits, disabled children, child marriages were also published.

The major issues published by the Himalayan Times in relation to children are discussed below:

### Organizational activities

The governmental, NGOs and INGOs activities for children development and their welfare were published in 39 news/articles. It included workshop on adolescent health and development trainers, workshop for child rights educational material distribution, School approach training to upgrade quality education.

The news also contained fund raising program for street children, school construction and primary education development, blood donation, balance diet program in Ramechap, IT set-up centers for unprivileged children, national children drama festival, world book day celebration, Global movement for children (GMC), one-day eye camp, award ceremony for highest scorer on SLC, report release on the state of the rights of children in Nepal 2002. It also reported of competitions like, painting, essay, school oratory, and quiz contest,

ADB (Asian development bank), CWIN, St. Xavier's College, Irish Humanitarian Organization, Glory Foundation, Manab Sahayogi Hatharu, CONCERN, Save the children UK and Bal Chetana Samuha CDS (child development society), The science

club of Budanilkantha School, Optic Nepal, Maiti Nepal, PLAN Nepal are the organizations whose news/news/articles were published during the study period.

### **Education**

The collected data, that is, 39 news news/articles reported the issues on poor ways of teaching, moral education in schools, school enrolments, school management training organized by Bhaktapur district education office, school information for parents, school monitoring, adolescent problems, especially the SLC appeared students, to identify and enjoy the rights to choose appropriate course for further study, free education for disabled children.

The news analysis/features on increasing number of private schools and the higher secondary schools in Kathmandu and their high charging fees burdening middle class people, parental ambition reigning over students were also included.

The difficulties in sanitation i.e., toilet, and drinking water in Bhojpur schools, increment of school-fees, degrading education quality, lack of text-books, importance of civic education for children, financial problem for educational development, issues on welfare and security for teachers from Maoists' violence NNTA (Nepal's National Teacher's Association) and fund for girls' education from rural communities by UNESCO were also featured.

### **International news**

34 news/articles were published with international news mostly with the coverage of crime in relation to children. It included arresting of suspected paedophile, imprisoned parent of London for not stopping her children from skipping school, a teenager's imprisonment for beating another teenager to death; a teacher indicted for raping his student of 6<sup>th</sup> standard; a father who raped his own daughter of 13 years to take revenge against his wife, a youth who killed his sister and parents over credit card debts, a girl arrested for CD piracy in Hong Kong.

It also included other news/news/articles like, 12 children drowned in India while trying to cross a flooded river to fetch grass for cattle, Burma called as the problem child of south east Asian family, child victims of insurgency in Assam, a student held for mailbox bombing, a white couple in London gave birth to black twins in vitro fertilization (IVF), birth of world's tiniest baby in Rome, existing system of slavery, refugee children, Indian schools introduces cricket curriculum for boys for the first time, issue on philosophy for children's course.

### **Child Rights and Development**

In this heading 26 news/news/articles were found with the publication of UN session for children, children's forum in the eve of UN general assembly special session in New York, adoption of UN children's charter Gender training, implementation of laws related

to Childs rights and lack of effective provisions and acts related to children, national drama festival, issue on online child stalker, poverty, formation of journalist committee for children.

**Child labor**

The collected 16 news/articles on child labor consisted of issues like children in stone quarries, child exploitation, vocational training for child workers, suffering of child labors, child porters in remote areas, domestic labors.

It also reported assessment of child labors in Nepal, study on child labor conducted by ILO, an urge to develop code of conduct to prohibit employers from exploiting domestic child labors and eradication of child labor by 2005.

**Adolescent:**

The 11 news/articles were contained of the adolescent problems, cases of suicide, drug abuse, and pushy parents, role of parent, particularly mother, creativity of young people.

**Health:**

Total 9 news/articles were collected on health issues written about Polio, health treatment for children, child mortality, and malnutrition, free vitamin 'A' capsules for children, HIV/AIDS, effect of drug, epilepsy and defective children birth.

**7 SPACE TIME: coverage**

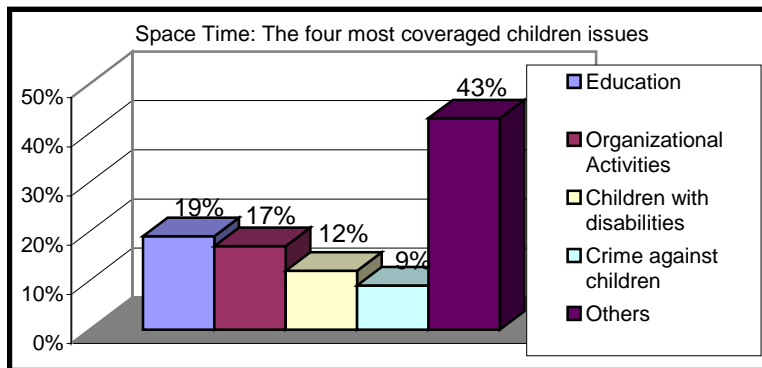


Figure: 7

The Study team collected a total of 138 news/articles related to children and child rights within the time frame of three months (Baisakh-Ashar). 26 news/articles were written about the educational issues, 23 news/articles on activities of government, NGOs, INGOs and other institutions for the welfare and development of children, 16 news/articles were focused on children with disabilities, 13 news/articles on crime and violence against children, 12 news/articles on Health, 12 news/articles on the effect of Maoist insurgency on children and 12 news/articles were in Child rights and development. Some other

news/analytical news/articles were on child labor, accidents, marginalized children, Badi and Sonaha.

The major issues exposed by the Space Time in relation to the children are discussed below:

## **EDUCATION**

Data shows that the published 26 news/news/articles included the construction and inauguration of schools on various districts like Fidim, Sunsari and Sankhuwasabha, fund raising for schools construction, facilities provided in rural schools, reopening of government and non-government schools after Maoist attacks, policies of the education department, admission fee, book distribution, award ceremony.

It also included various educational program organized for the non school going children and working children, lack of educational materials on schools, scholarship for children with disabilities, action taken to schools by Education Ministry for negligence in SLC papers checking, SLC toppers, fraudulence of student for taking SLC exams,

It also reported news analysis/features of improper education policies causing many schools to close down and hard labor work for the parents to send their children to school.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

The data shows that issues of organizational activities are published in 23 news/articles. It mostly consisted of organizational activities conducted both by the government and non-government organizations for the children's development and welfare. It covered activities like conferences, workshop for enhancing children's participation and keeping them away from wrong activities, various prize distribution, training, cultural and honoring programs, and contests like, quiz, poetry, and art

Similarly, it also included distribution of educational materials, publication of children's calendar, effective child education programs, "Say Yes for Children" movement, Global Movement for Children, awareness programs to reduce book and work load for the children. And it also deal with news analysis/features on efficiency of child development organizations and the progress made by the children with the help of various organizations

CWIN, Hatemalo Sanchar, the Everest Child Club, UNICEF and others are the organizations whose news was published.

### **Children with disabilities**

According to the collected data, children with disabilities issues are published in 16 news/articles. It included scholarship provision to handicapped children, establishment of

institutions for children with disabilities, complaints of handicapped children for not providing proper education and distribution of musical instruments for physically impaired.

### **Crime and violence against children**

Under the heading 13 news/articles were reported on crime and violence against children. It mostly dealt with physical and sexual abuse, torture; rape abduction of infants and small children, trafficking of children by various mafia groups, news of rescuing kidnapped children, incidents of sexual exploitation within the family was also published.

### **Health**

Total 12 news/articles were collected on health issues of children having had the coverage on the effect on nutritional level of thousands of children as a result of negligence on the programs of nutritious food, death of children because of 'Kalaajar', story of children suffering from AIDS, children being deprived of proper health facilities and management and child illness. It also included children of under weight and increasing death rate of children because of malnutrition and news on establishment of ICU for infants and more.

### **Effect of Maoist activities on children**

Under the heading 12 news/articles were found, which included deaths of infants and children during the bombing and attacks of Maoists, child surviving as aftermath of Maoist attack and returning home, a national level conference providing the relief to the terrorized children, statistical news on the number of children dead due to the Maoist insurgency. It also published the news of attack of Maoist in orphanage home and analyses of troubled future of Nepali children because of Maoist activities

### **Child rights and development**

The Space Time had the coverage on the issues of child rights and development in its 12 news/articles during the time frame. They were news analysis/features of prevalent child rights condition in Nepal and lack of concern of government towards children, Nepali Prime Minister taking part in international conferences related to children, operation of effective child development program, conferences to child rights, teacher's movement ensure child rights and discussion on state welfare regarding child rights.

## 8 HIMALAYA TIMES: coverage

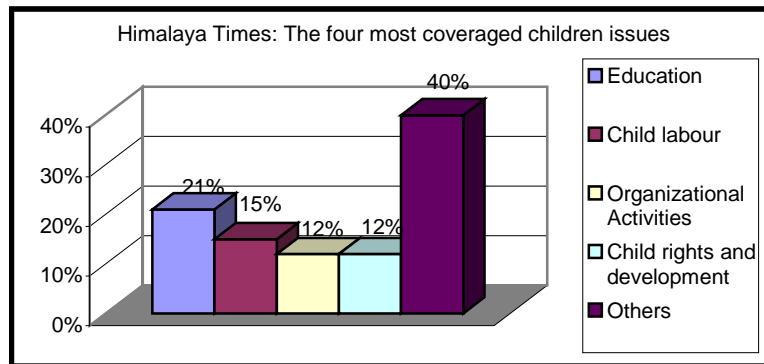


Figure: 8

Media monitoring team were able to collect a total of 81 news/articles related to children within the time frame of three months (Baisakh-Ashar). Out of total, 17 news/articles were related to the educational issues, 12 news/articles were written about the child labor, 10 news/articles about the organizational activities including government organization, NGOs, INGOs and other institutions for the welfare and development of children, 10 news/articles on the child rights and development and 8 news/articles are related to effect of Maoist insurgency on children.

Various analytical news/articles like, children creativities, accidents, child abuse, marginalized children and Kamaiyas, street children, parental care and responsibility for children were also published in Himalaya Times.

The major issues published by Himalaya Times in relation to children are discussed below:

### Education

The most highlighted issue was education, that is, 17 news/articles which reported the various educational activities in the country. It contained the results of the SLC examination and its impact on various areas. The achievement of disabled students passing the examination, communication problem due to the terrorist attacks that created obstacle to children of Rolpa in getting their SLC results on time were brought to light.

There were news/articles emphasizing children' needs to bring about an educational movement, deteriorating plight of schools in rural areas and the closing down dozens of schools that aren't registered, problem faced by rural schools and lack of books and other educational resources on time were also put forth.

The news/articles also covered the issues on deprived children from basic preliminary education, new educational policies introduced in different schools, private schools and colleges turning into community education, and Maoist threat on educational development.

## **Child labor**

Under the heading 11 news/articles were found which published various programs and workshop organized against child labor and exploitation. The statistics, causes of child labor and exploitation and need of public awareness and support to fight against these causes of child laborers, the stories of child workers struggling for lives and their interest to study, and vocational training to child workers were the news that were included in Himalayan Times in the study period.

## **Organizational Activities**

Under the heading 10 news/articles were found covering different programs and activities organized by various NGOs, INGOs, and government organizations for the welfare as well and development of children. It included conference, trainings, and competitions like quiz, essay, inter school competitions etc, all funded by certain organizations working for children.

It also included the issues of disabled children and the organizations working for their welfare, grant given to uplift the status of girl children, setting up children organization in rural areas

UNICEF/Nepal, Hatemalo Sanchar, Ministry of Education, Save the Children Alliance and Seto Gurans Bal Bikash Sangathan are the organizations whose news were published.

## **Child rights and development**

A total of around 10 news/articles written about the topic were published in this period. The focus was mainly in the promotion of the rights of a girl child and the amendments made by the law to safeguard it. Various issues in context to the developmental programs for children were highlighted and the need to continue such programs was emphasized. The fight for child rights carried out by various organizations was mentioned.

News/articles article dealing with the need of peace-loving children in context to Nepal's present situation was also published. An important message of including the participation of children in the fight for child rights was also published. Other new like the grants for the development of children and their welfare were also mentioned. An article dealing with how to make children development centers self-reliant was also published by the publication.

## **Effect of Maoist activities on children**

Data shows that effects of Maoist activities were published in 8 news/articles. It included threats, destruction caused to life and property and attacks in various schools, colleges and other centers in and outside the valley, closing down of schools frequently due to the

alarming Maoists threats, effect on education due to the Maoist activities, child victims from Maoist activities, killing and death, children in Maoist cadet.

## CHAPTER III

### DISCUSSIONS

This section includes the discussion and analysis of some major findings of the news coverage on children's issues in the eight newspapers.

#### News/articles coverage by 8 newspapers during 3 months period:

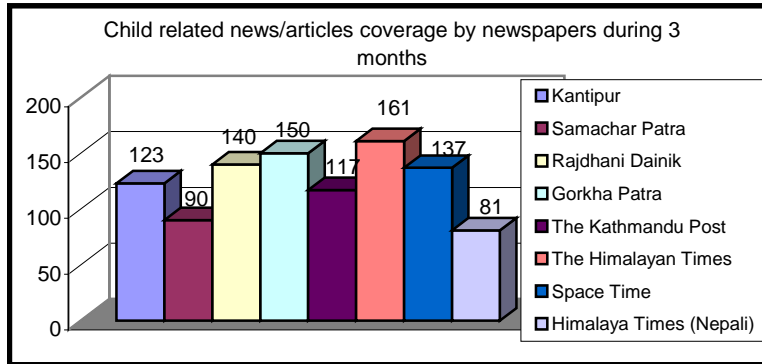


Figure: 9

During the three months of study period, the team collected a total of 999 news news/articles from the eight national newspapers. The above figure reveals that children issues have higher coverage on The Himalayan Times in compare to others followed by Gorkhapatra and Rajdhani Dainik respectively.

The Himalayan Times had a major coverage on organizational activities and education. The international news and the child rights issues were also the highlighted features of the children issue.

#### Five most covered issues on newspapers

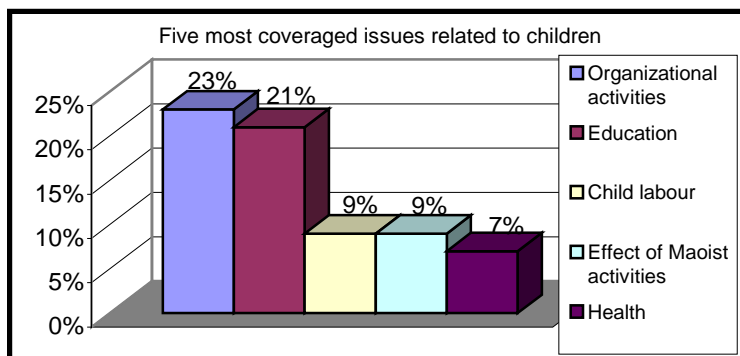


Figure: 10

The above figure reveals the assessment of the covered issues based on the frequency of the publication on each issue. The major categories were thus defined by assessing the frequency of the articles published in them and the discussion is also based on the individual coverage of the issue.

Top among the categories were the organizational activities, education, child labor, effect of Maoist activities and health followed by the issues of child rights respectively. The news which fell on the category of 'others' though have exceeded the percentage may not be taken as the most covered issues because it is the collection of those issues which frequency is less than the four most frequently published issues.

The figure reveals that 23 % of total 999 news/news/articles were published on organizational activities children, 21 % on education, 9% on effect of Maoist activities, 9% on child labor and 7% on health.

The study found that both the organizational activities and the education issues were covered by all newspapers. "Organizational Activities" was the first coverage on all newspapers except Space Time and Himalayan Times. The issue of education is first coverage of these two newspapers (See figure: 7 and 8). In reference to the frequency of all newspapers, Education' followed the second most covered issue. Five newspapers gave it the second coverage whereas it was on the fourth category.

The issue of 'Child Labor' stood in third position in reference to the frequency of news/articles publication in Samacharpatra, Gorkhapatra, The Kathmandu Post and Himalaya Times (See figure: 2, 4, 5 and 8).

The study shows that the issue on "Effect of Maoist Activities on children" stands in third position in reference to the frequency of the news/articles published in all the papers. It was a second coverage of Kantipur and a third coverage in Samacharpatra and Rajdhani Dainik. Similarly, the issue stands on fifth position due to its frequency calculated from all eight newspapers.

The study shows that the issue on "Health" stands in fourth position in reference to the frequency of the news/articles published in all the papers. The study found health issues in fourth coverage of 3 out of 8 newspapers. They are Rajdhani Dainik, Gorkhapatra and The Kathmandu Post.

### **Issue wise discussion:**

This section includes the discussion and a brief analysis on the five most coverage issues by the eight newspapers.

#### Organizational Activities

The study shows that all the newspapers had published this issue in a large scale. However, the news seemed mostly to be descriptive of activities such as trainings, workshops and seminars. If the follow up report of such programs and its impact on the target group could have been reflected, the coverage on this issue would have been called a real one in true sense. Even minor activities of established organizations are presented as news. Reporting seems to be done the way these organizations want them to be. The right to information seems to be thus limited to only what is shown rather what is hidden behind. The civic society would have benefited a lot with information plus in-depth analysis based on studies, researches.

### Education

The study reveals that education is widely published issue in all the newspapers. News related to construction of schools, books distribution, scholarship etc. were widely published. But, the need to publish more news/articles on important aspect such as policies and strategies of education is felt. The news/articles in this issue do not seem to address the education problems generally except than the certain situation. For example: during SLC, various gaps of education system such as improper curriculum, lacks of book, etc. were widely discussed. But with the end of SLC session, these issues also disappeared. Thus, focus should always be given to those gaps regardless of time.

### Effect of Maoists in Children

Study found that, children's sphere is also severely affected by Maoist's activities. In this case, the news published under this issue was presented in mostly statistical way providing number of children being affected. Very less emphasis has been given to the impact of such activities on children, which is adversely affecting the physical and psychological well being of children. And also there are inadequate news/articles addressing peace and development for children.

### Child labor

The study found most issues were written about domestic workers, petty shopkeepers, newspaper sellers and child workers in stone quarries. Some other aspects of child labor like, child trafficking, child prostitution, pornography and other worst form of child labor need to be published in frequent number as these aspects are also emerging as problematic situation in our society.

### Health

Study found Vitamin A capsules, Polio and HIV/AIDS, as the frequently published issues. And it also found news news/articles primarily dealing with cases, like defective birth of children, tumor cases of children, and personal health problems. The issues like dysentery, diarrhea, maternal mortality, child mortality, early childhood development, problem of malnutrition, communicable diseases and others aspects are major health problem in the context of our country, but these aspects are ignored.

**Some overlooked issues :**

This section includes some of the issues that were published in the eight newspapers but comparatively in less frequency. Based on such low frequency of news/articles the study team made these issues as overlooked issues. Here the range of 1-4 numbers of publication in the period of three months would describe the issue to be overlooked one and 5-8 would be regarded as the less reported issues.

In this section-overlooked issues related to children is discussed.

	Ht	T.H. T	Kt p	TK P	Rjd	Gk p	Sm p	Spt
Drug abuse	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV
Birth registration	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV
Child Creativity	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV
Trafficking	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV
Disability	OV	Less	OV	OV	Less	OV	OV	--
International news	OV	--	OV	--	Less	--	OV	OV
Child abuse Violence and crime	OV	OV	--	OV	--	OV	Less	--
Health	OV	--	OV	--	--	--	OV	--
Maoist effect	--	Less	--	--	--	OV	--	--

Note: 8-5 news/articles = less and 4-1 = overlooked

H.T.: Himalaya Time, T.H.T: The Himalayan Times, Ktp: Kantipur, TKP: The Kanpandu Post, Rjd: Rajdhani Dainik, Gkp: Gorkhapatra, Smp: Samacharpatra, Spt: Space Time

Table No: 1

The above table reveals that issues like drug abuse; birth registration, children creativity and child trafficking are overlooked issue of all the eight newspapers. Five newspapers overlooked the issue of disability. Four newspapers have not covered the issues of International news and child abuse (violence and crime).

Contradictorily, issues on Health and effect of Maoist activities are also found as overlooked issues on three and one newspapers respectively. The study found the "effect of Maoist activities" issues in third position on the basis of its coverage, while study also found that Gorkhapatra overlooked the issue. Similarly study found the health issues in fourth position on its coverage in newspaper, while three newspapers also overlook it. They are Himalayan Times, Kantipur and Samacharpatra

## CHAPTER IV

### SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Newspapers have always played a fundamental role in disseminating news, information and in creating a public awareness. In this respect, we do not believe that newspapers would be irresponsible on what they are publishing and the sort of impact on the reader. Therefore, the study team came up with the following recommendations:

1. Overlooked children issues should be given more priority and there might be many other children issues and problem that should be identified and acknowledged.
2. The media covers issues of children massively on the occasions like Children' Day, Polio, Vitamin 'A', Education Day, SLC. Rather than focusing on such occasional news, the regular flow of news/analysis on children related issues should be given importance.
3. Children related news/articles and news should be more analytical and solution oriented. It is also observed that the news/articles are mostly informative in nature for adult and less attention has been given to analytical aspect of concerned issue.
4. During the study on the issue of international news, it is found that most of the news coverage is of crime/violent activities for and against children. So international news coverage should be more oriented to international developmental and creative activities that serve as good examples to inspire the readers.
5. News coverage is mostly found to be descriptive of the organizational activities. Rather than highlighting the organizational activities more of the analytical study would have been more relevant providing information about the impact on children' lives from the organizational programs, fund and aids coming for children.
6. Disabled children and underprivileged children are also part of our society. The study found very less coverage on such issues for the development of disabled and underprivileged children. So newspapers need to pay special attention on such issues.
7. Children issues should be given more priority in newspapers coverage to bring issues on public eyes. It is found that only in the exceptional cases newspapers cover the news related with the children in the front page. And mostly children issues are published in inside pages.
8. Last but not least, newspapers should cover much more news/news/articles on child rights issues. They need to cover child rights issues like, child rights to participation and decision-making, children as citizen of civic society, child rights to expression, child rights to recreation, Global movement for children, CRC, UNGASS, peace for children and gender equality.

## **LIMITATION:**

Our best effort was to make a comprehensive study report but due to some limitations, this report may not be fully applicable in all time and space. Some of those limitations were:

- Limited numbers of newspapers were taken for study, that is only 8 daily newspapers were used as source of data.
- Study is strictly based on the coverage of the collected data during the three months (Baisakh – Ashar, 2059), which may not be totally conclusive and relevant to compare in the context of current situation.
- Constraint of time, human and monetary resources.
- Methodological limitation.
- Chances of any news/articles being missed or misplaced while documentation of news/articles
- Photos captions were not taken as data for the study.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Findings shows that the newspapers have a good coverage on children's issues. However, there is a contradiction in the study. The discussion on the findings proves the fact that the driving force for the coverage of most of the issues on children is due to the different organizational activities. The data are mostly quoted and the activities reported from those organizations that work with/for children. The overlooked issues may be the reciprocal result of this lack of investigative journalism in the publication. The other reason may be the lack of enough organizational activities for the children and exposure.

Besides some overlooked issues of children the study shows the positive and fundamental importance of children and development in the print media. Overall the newspapers are doing good work in publishing and disseminating news/articles related to children issues increasing the civic knowledge.