



(RESEARCH ARTICLE)



Need and struggles of homeless people: A study based on Nepalese context

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Abstract

Homeless are these people who are unable to manage their basic needs and live under the sympathy of others. Nepal experienced an increasing trend of homeless people. This study highlights the daily challenges and necessities of homeless people in Nepal. A cross-sectional study with a Qual-Quan method applied in the Nepalese context, the data were collected Province-wise during 2023.

The study further shows that the basic requirements like regular food are somehow managed from the helping hand but the cloths and shelters are very challenging to manage nowadays. The challenges are the different types of homeless age groups peoples and genders in a same care center. The health issue is a critical to manage of homeless center due to the lack of facilities and services. Government and development priorities are minimal for the homeless and nowadays homeless issue are increasing. The settlement arrangement with basic privileges is very difficult to manage through the local administration and homeless-center as lack of resources and paper documentation are too hectic and prolonged. The study further concluded as the homeless needs are hardly meet and additional supports from the multi-sectoral are in demand but the government priorities are less. However, the local community supports from the self-levels benefiting homeless centers but this is not enough to manage for long time and special care and services are essential and skill-based program and additional budget from the Government sectors to the poorer is the future requirement.

Keywords: Homeless; Need; Struggle; Nepal

1. Introduction

The majority of such people who are away from home, those are known as homeless, and working on the streets apart from adult cares. The UNICEF identified the for home-based) as children on the street, and the latter (the homeless) as children of the (Veal e 'et al 1993; Black 1993), a first step towards recognizing the assortment of life and situations experienced. The factors which have underwritten to the recent a rise in numbers of street children embrace escalating poverty, enhancements in community simplifying rural-to-urban migration, collective instability of family relationships, social disorder. The Globally, street children are not a new case nowadays, but in cases of Nepal, the child advocating organizations, the media and the public all deal with that homeless children are, newcomers to urban centers (Sattour, 1993). In 1990, 500 of the homeless has known in Kathmandu (Sattour, 1993), and by 1993 numbers had almost folded. There are many other children on the streets, living with their parents in rapidly enlarge and squatter reimbursements, where the urban poor live in problematic situations In Nepal, the urban migration in search of work has been a traditional strategy of grief economic hardship in rural areas (Shrestha 1979; Gurung 1987). In the recent decades, the rates of population growth (2.1% per annum) and environmental decline have augmented the tide of rural-to-urban

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migration (O'Dea, 1993). The internal migration rate in Nepal has crumpled to just over one million 1970's, while the urban population increased seven-fold between 1952 and 1987 1993). In accumulation, Nepal has become a popular terminus for tourists and trekker Kathmandu has rapidly learned many of the trappings of western cities which see a lodestone to adult and child migrants. Life on the streets has vital consequences for individual well-being society in universal. Recent study of street children have exposed them to be physical and mental health, involved in a variety of high risk practices, absent in e and ill-equipped to lead a full and creative adult life (Sattour, 1993) (Baker, Panter-Brick, & TODD, 1997).

In towns of developing countries, the facts of the “street homeless people” have also inclined since the end of the 1990s (Aaoki, 2008) (Joshi, 2020). Many review, reports and data highlight that nearly, 200,000 peoples are stated homeless at Nepal. The figure may high in the recent socio-economic situation of Nepal. The Sociology speaks about the study of various social and domestic institutions of life. In a definition, a society is a combination of social institutions such as home, marriage, kinship and etc., The Nepalese society is following a cultural philosophical decoration where each people have the own identity. The Caste, kinship, wealth and many factors are subordinate with it. The review summarized and showing a research trend that homeless is vivacious issue in the present setting, during a speed of development, many issues are yet to be addressed and homeless is prime issue. History of homeless still looking to address many queries and this question can be address from the review of many academic research as well as through development support (Parajuli & Silwal, 2024).

In Nepal, homeless center established for purpose of taking care of people of different age groups who are found outsides and extremely poor in health, food and overall appearances, many people caught on streets with mental health problem. The homeless care center was a challenging for the local policy makers as the people around the street with no identity has certain rights constitutionally provided by the Government but such facilities and services are somehow provided by many agencies working in the field of orphanage management.

After Federal act 2015, Government service modality divided into the three tiers such as Federal, Provincial and Local Government have a common goal of service delivery from the places. The Local Government role played a topmost role for the people seeking service from the ground levels. Homeless priority was limited and closely associated with the local government followed by higher level for the policy (Chhetri et al., 2021).

A study by Parajuli and Silwal (2024) highlights that homeless management are challenging and from the health perspectives this is critical to manage because mental health and many consequences are cases that required a special care to look after the homeless peoples (Parajuli & Silwal, 2024).

Thus, various studies clearly indicating that the homeless issue is critical in Nepal and the basic needs and responsibilities are not defined or elaborated in the present context, Thus the study is designed to find out the needs of people living in the homeless centers that could be a part of struggle for the management and individuals itself.

2. Methodology

This is purely a cross-sectional study designed for the people living in homeless centers across Nepal. A total of three Provinces namely Koshi (Ilam district), Bagamati (Makwanpur) and Sudur-Pascim (Kailali) has been taken as a representative sample reflecting Hill/ Mountain and Terai belt.

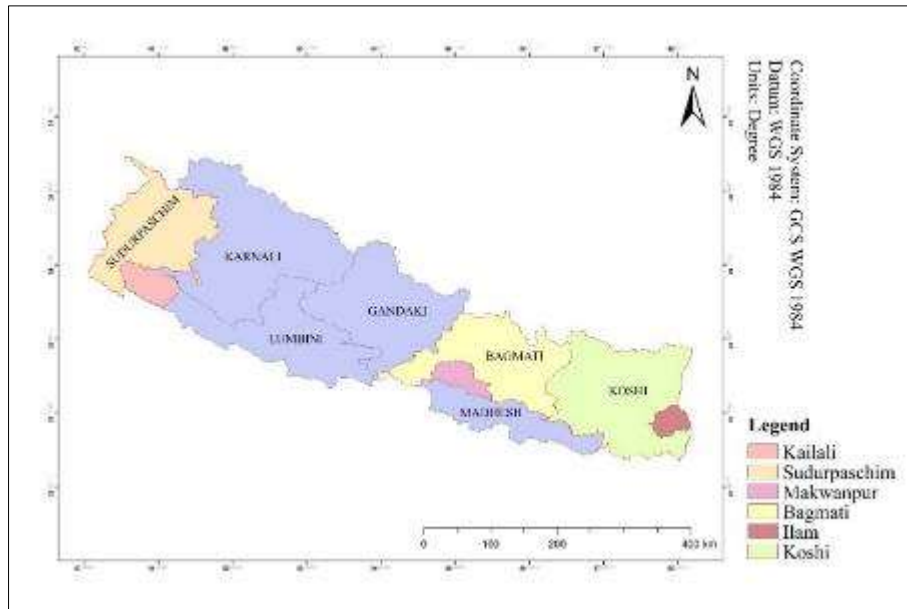


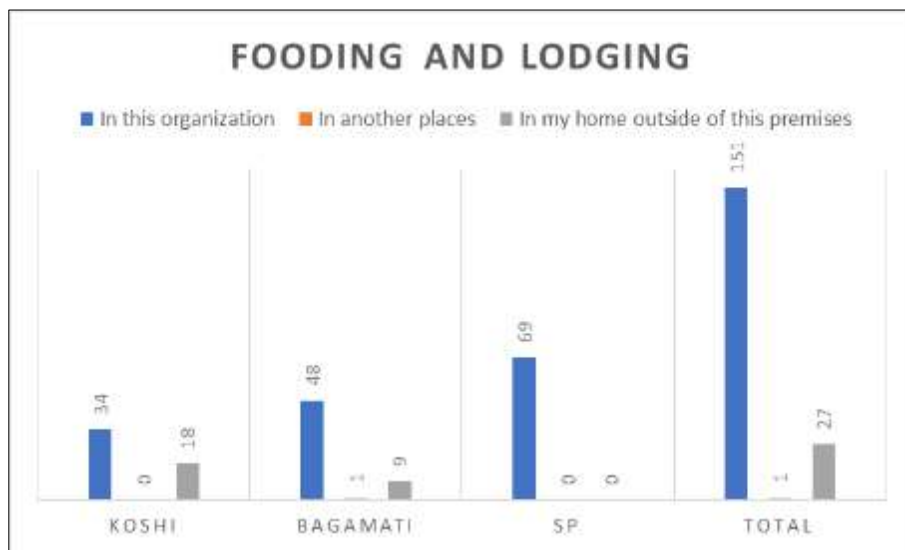
Figure 1 Study area map of Ilam, Makwanpur and Kailali in three different Province of Koshi, Bagamati and Sudur Paschim provinces

A total of 179 responses (Koshi Province -52, Bagamati Province-58 and Sudur Paschim Province-SP-69) respondent were interviewed that randomly selected from the listed homeless centers who are serving to the people of the respective Provinces, as a part of cross-checking interview with homeless people who are above than 16 years/ mentally well was also interviewed through FGD format. The KII and FGD interview was taken at the district levels with Municipality authority, NGOs, Local Administration, Social workers and with Ward/ Municipal chairpersons.

The data was processed in SPSS and converted into MS Excel and all graphs and table drag out accordingly.

3. Results

Based on the data collected from field further processed and analyze through various tables and graphs are explained herewith:

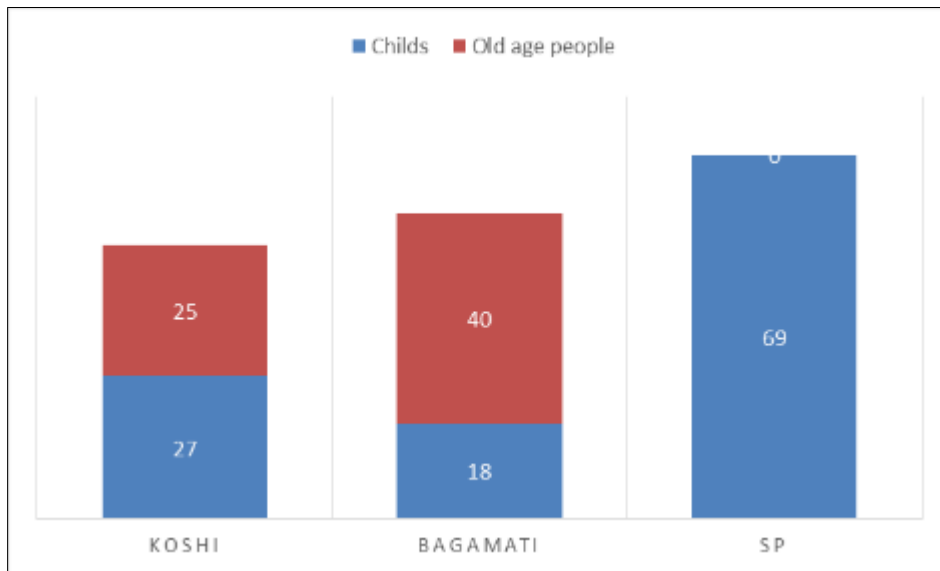


(Source: - Survey, 2023)

Figure 2 Fooding and lodging status of the study area

From the survey of 179 responses (Koshi-52, Bagamati-58 and Sudur Paschim-SP-69), the fooding and lodging arrangements are managed with the organization (homeless center) and very insignificant figure (27) have said that in arranged in home that observed in Koshi and Bagamati Province areas where the homeless center have limited facilities, hence it is managing from outside sometime.

KII added that in Makwanpur and Ilam added that sometime some foods are cooked outside and owner bring from the home and support some 3-4 days meals accordingly. This trend shows an example of community support towards homeless people when food and cloth are scarce and local provided.



(Source: - Survey, 2023)

Figure 3 Types of homeless people

In a question of types of Homeless people, the number of children recorded higher in the areas compared to the old age people. The children are higher because children are very emotional and leave home either due to wrong motivation, negative friend circles and many domestic violences cases victimized child and they escape home and became homeless. In addition, at the early ages, they became a victim of family quarrel when parents have a dispute in a family and leave alone and child became homeless and leave under relative’s mercy and finally reached to the street. As a result of serious issues, they are later sent to the child home centers called homeless. In study area of Makawanpur, Ilam and Kailali the children have said that they were separated from the families as their families either died, separated or forced to go away as no one will take the responsibility.

FGD with homeless people added the same that no food, no support and empty stomach for many days kept them in street and later they reached to the homeless center. Some added that property abundant also causes homeless, as the parent were living in open land and Government forced them to away and they became homeless.

Table 1 Educational status of the homeless peoples

Education status	Illiterate	Literate	Primary Level	Lower secondary level	Secondary level	Higher secondary level
Koshi	18	6	4	24	0	0
Bagamati	40	0	0	11	1	6
Sudur Paschim	57	3	3	2	3	1
Total	115	9	7	37	4	7

(Source: -Field Survey, 2023)

The education levels of homeless people found illiterate on a majority (115) followed by Lower Secondary level of education (37) as a second largest education. The literate means can sign of informal study and higher secondary study

are limited, this also indicate that the education level of entire surveyed homeless peoples is challenging and quite fact because the lack of education is one of the basic indications of the people who live on others mercy.

The local educational officer of Municipality said that for homeless people we have provided free education in both Private and Government centers and all kinds of privilege like logistic and other supports are free and afforded by local Government and private organizations.

Table 2 Age status of the homeless peoples

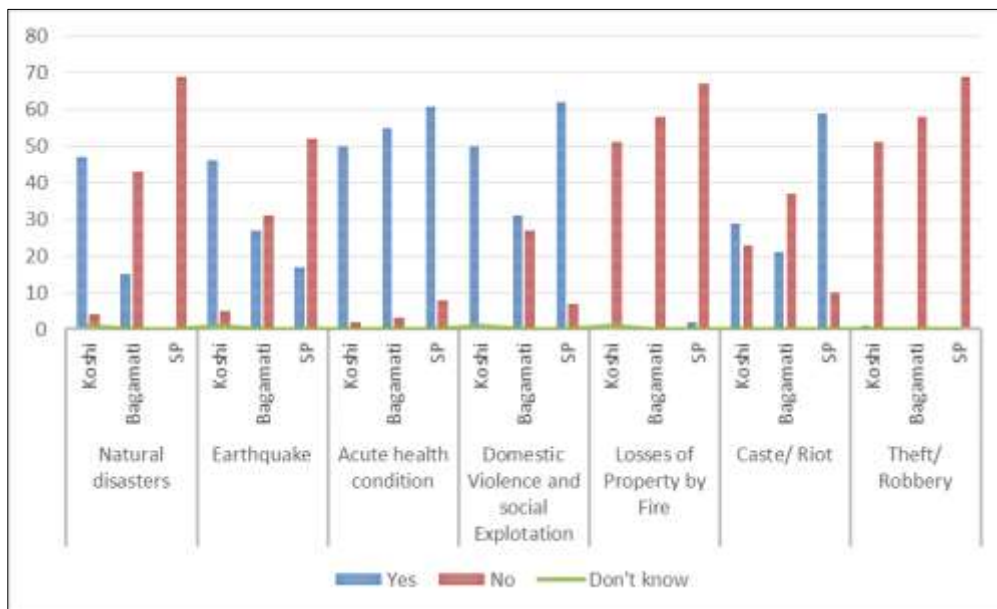
Age groups	less than 5	6 to 15	16 to 29	45 to 59	60 and above
Koshi	24	3	0	23	0
Bagamati	0	18	0	0	40
Sudur Paschim	45	23	1	0	0
Total	69	44	1	23	40

(Source: - field Survey, 2023)

The majority of surveyed people have seen that the people less than 5 years of old are high (69) followed by 6 to 15 years (44) and some 40 people are from the 60 years of age and above. The figure clearly shows that the challenges are high because fooding clothing and privilege of such age groups managing cloth to all necessarily is very critical for the children. The health challenges are considered the most challenging in the city because the level of severity may not address the local levels and managing such cases had some cost and efforts for the homeless center people.

Even for the old age people, many diseases and regular medical checkup is essential. To deal this, effort and continue treatment is required and medical treatment all time is challenging.

KII added that the age status figure of homeless Centre silently elaborating that the fooding, sleeping and medication are very much challenging for the homeless center as this is too critical for the children’s at least less than 15 years because they became sicker and providing food/ nutritious food is essential at the early stage.



(Source: - Survey, 2023)

Figure 4 Causes of homelessness

In a question of cause of homelessness, the trend (Figure-4) shows that acute health condition, domestic violence, and social exploitation, case/ riot and natural disaster like Natural disasters like flood, landslides, wind-blown damaged houses property and sometime tend to death and people has no alternative of Homelessness. Caste/ Riot are another factor in Nepal. The domination of higher caste to Lower caste many times displaced and became homelessness. It has

been seen many time that lower caste people victim and left the area if he staying in the higher caste people. The acute health conditions like if a people identify with cancer, or chronic cardiac, acute disease patient that required huge amount to treatment and high chances of collapse are more victimized in a home as the family members unable to look after. Such people socially exploited and reached homeless Centre. The old age people above 60 years have a common problem of such diseases.

KII and FGD both added that after dragonized diseases the family members mainly for the old age people the young people of the families displaced old people from the home to old age care center or to certain places where they have homelessness at the end.

Table 3 Summary of source of live in daily lives of homeless peoples

Legend	Province	Private	Government	NGOs	Donors
Source of Food and Clothes	Koshi	51	0	0	1
	Bagamati	57	1	0	0
	Sudur Paschim	60	0	9	0
Source of materials like, table, chairs, sleeping beds	Koshi	52	0	0	0
	Bagamati	57	1	0	0
	Sudur Paschim	66	0	3	0
Medical treatment	Koshi	52	0	0	0
	Bagamati	57	1	0	0
	Sudur Paschim	65	1	3	0

(Source: - Field Survey, 2023)

The major source of food and clothes are from the private sectors like Chamber of commerce and industries, local traders, cloth centers, vegetables farm sellers and many other private industries are the first largest source for food and cloths. The governments priorities are less in the areas as NGOs who are working in the similar sectors are supporting like in Sudur Paschim public sectors like Dhangadhi jayces, Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Kailali provided food to the local homeless center.

Source of Materials and other essential things are found through the same private agencies. Like furniture, table, chairs and many essential gazettes are supporting by local traders and those are having a factory of such items donate for the homeless Centre.

For Medical treatment also due to lack of Proper medical facilities with the Government set up, local private clinics and medical shops are supporting peoples for the minor cases and for the severe cases also private clinics and hospital do medical checkup based on the consideration of homeless center. Whereas in Government medial system also free medical services are provided for the homeless peoples.

Based on the discussion with many homeless Centre it was found that the survival of the center is gradually progressing based on the support of locals, agencies, individual and donors who spent their auspicious events like birth day, anniversary and other celebrations and that contribution amount helps people to sustain the center for some weeks and months. this gradual process sometime supported by Government, Social servicemen who closely monitored and provided support of cash, educational materials, devices, food procurement, medicine procurement and daily essential things.

After discussion and observation, it was found that for children, only 2 pairs of cloths at simmer are available and for women 2 to 3 pairs of cloths are available. The Center are connected to electricity and significant sitting arrangements are available. In each center the local schools provided free education and homeless people getting such privileges.

In terms of adequacy, it was found that the required and diverse foods are not available and nutritional factor is challenging for all age groups. Medical facilities and therapeutic system and human resources are very challenging as

homeless center is non-profitable organization and running through charity and volunteerism so the proper human resources are lacks.

4. Conclusion

The study further concluded as homeless people are facing the problems of enough support from the Government. The basic needs of clothing, food and shelters are not sufficient throughout the years and need a special care. The health facilities at the earliest, diversity of food from the nutritional point of view are demands of people residing in the homeless centers. The lack of educational system, low priorities from the Government sectors and only a support of Individuals and private sectors the homeless centers are running. The diversity of age groups within the care centers are challenging to address the issues of people suffering from acute diseases. The lack of human resources in the distinct surveyed Provinces is a case. Hence, homeless priorities from the Government sectors are essential and must allocate funding for the people who are unable to survive and needed intensive care. The integrated program to manage and run the homeless center are looking for technical and modern skilled-based training that can be an assets and quality for the people mainly children in future to make a homeless free world.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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