Beyond Shelter: Exploring the roots of homelessness in Nepal through multifaceted Lens of social and Demographic Dynamics

ABSTRACT

Nepalidentifies as the country of diversity and three belts (Mountain, Hills and Terai) all together in same county. Sociological viewsare important to analyze the numerous aspects. Homelessness is a global issuestriking Nepalleft challenges to the policy makers to understand and manage Urban-Rural issues. This study aims to identified thereason of homeless in Nepal. A longitudinal study covering all seven-Provinces were designed to analysis. A Qualitative-Quantitative study design trailed intruded self-structured questionnaires and others research tools to identified the homeless issues in the surveyed area.

Homeless causes due to the onset of floods/ landslides, fire, mega-earthquake of 2015 surge the number in Nepal. The lack of education noticed the prime reason within the homeless peoples. Managing homeless is challenging-district authority through police sent peoples to the respective centers to care. The children less than 16 years are listed high followed by old age and adults respectively. The health and social issues are another vital reason of homelessness.The study concluded as homeless primarily lack of education as well as social, political, cultural and many other domestic cases are concern to it. From the Sociological lens, the policy debate and service providing are the best approach to manage in future. Public and private effort are a must to manage and run the homeless issues.

KEYWORD: - Homeless, diversity, Demographic, Sociological aspects, poverty

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Introduction

Globally, street children are not a new phenomenon, but in Nepal, child advocacy organizations, the media and the public all contend that homeless children are, newcomers to urban centres (Sattour, 1993). In 1990, 500 of the homeless had been identified in Kathmandu (Sattour, 1993), and by 1993 numbers had almost doubled. are many other children on the streets, living with their parents in rapidly expand and squatter settlements, where the urban poor live in particularly difficult circumstances.

Nepal witnessed urban migration in search of work has been a traditional strategy o suffering economic hardship in rural areas (Shrestha, 1979; Gurung, 1987). What recent decades, the rates of population growth (2.1% per annum) and environ deterioration have swelled the tide of rural-to-urban migration (O'Dea, 1993; Sattour, 1993).

The number of internal migrants in Nepal doubled to just over one million 1970's, while the urban population increased seven-fold between 1952 and 1987 1993). In addition, Nepal has become a popular destination for tourists and trekker Kathmandu has rapidly acquired many of the trappings of western cities which see a magnet to adult and child migrants (Baker et al., 1997).

In Kathmandu Valley more homeless people are visible in the street and shelter homes. The cause of the homelessness are stems from housing shortages, acute poverty, physical and emotional disabilities, joblessness, economic structural change, capitalism, changes in family structure, or a niggardly welfare state (Woods, 1987).

Without a place and a family to live with, a people were street homeless and these street homeless people were technically not without housing; they had addresses and places in which to sleep in street and public area(Anne et al., 1992).

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A phenomenology study develops acnes of everyday activity in our surrounding life-world, because the studies find that in order to explore homeless people's intentions and activities of self-care, status, identity, causes need to position these experiences within their life-worlds. Such an approach allows me to examine street homeless people's experiences, know-how, acts, really performances, and engagements with the world and other people by empirical knowledge (Krause, 2017).

According to a review by Chhetri et al (2021) reviewed that Province Policy and Planning Commission are structure under Federal system under which the metro city holds a larger budget structured in urban area, Municipality and sub metro considered to the urban-semi area, whereas Rural Municipalities represent the rural areas with village consideration, administrating posting considering as per the status of LG (PPPC, 2019; Chhetri et al., 2021).

Homeless people not exactly define in the Nepalese society because it deals with various definition but the history analysis since decades this problem is existing in Nepalese society. History reveals the Kathmandu as the capital of city of Nepal. The Kathmandu valley was found by the king Gunakamadev in the year 724 BC (Ghimire, 2014).

The street homeless people history started from ancient period by the term of landless, homeless and identity less. The system of Haliya, Kamaiya, Badhuwa have been eradicated and free in Nepal. Many programs like providing housing arrangement for real landless and homeless has commenced in Nepal. This program reduces the street homelessness. (Wily, 2008).

The history related with the street homeless people who are elder people, from 1938 the government (Ministry of women, children and social welfare) establish the providing shelters to the elderly people who are abandoned, homeless or have no one to look after care them to establish elderly care home(Thapa, 2017).

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This article describes the social conditions in Hungary that have led to mass street homelessness after the change of regimes at the end of the 1980s (Nagy, 2008).

In cities of developing Nries, the numbers of the “street homeless people” have also increased since the end of the 1990s (Aaoki, 2008; Joshi, 2020).

Various review and reports highlight that nearly, 200,000 Peoples are reported homeless at Nepal. The figure may increase in the recent socio-economic situation of Nepal. Sociology speaks about the study of various social and domestic institutions of life. A society is a combination of social institutions such as home, marriage, kinship and etc., Nepalese society is following a cultural philosophical pattern where each people have the own identity. Caste, kinship, wealth and many factors are associate with it.

Review summarized and showing a research trend that homeless is vibrant issue in the present context, during a speed of development, many issues are yet to addressed and homeless is one of the major issues recorded. History of homeless still looking to address many questions and this question can address from the review of academic research as well as through development support.

Homeless and Sociological relationship is extremely important in this regard and thus this study is aim to analysis the cause of homeless and its various aspects in the Nepalese context.

Methods

A longitudinal study with mixed method research design is prepared to conduct this research. As a representative sample, all seven Provinces have been chosen as per strata set herewith. Some 7 representative district have been chosen where the homeless centres are present and the centre is established based on the accessibility and facilities available for the health, markets, local support and many more, Thus Ilam district from Koshi Province, Parsa from

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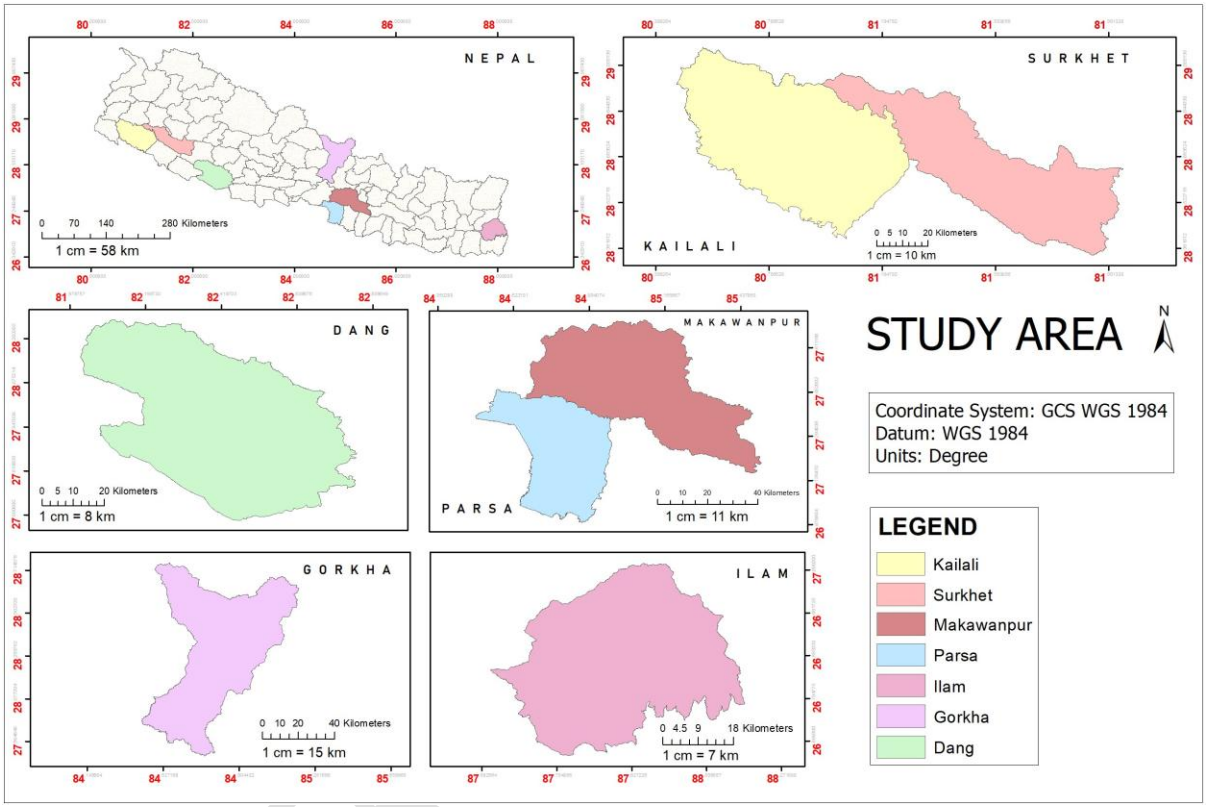
Madesha Province, Makwanpur from Bagamati, Gorkha from Gandaki representing hills/ mountain, Surkhet from Karnali and Kailali from Sudur Paschim District were chosen meeting all 3 geography of Nepal (Terai, Hill and Mountain respectively)

Map of the study area: -



(*Figure-1, Map of study area showing the location of study area across the Nepal, Source: - GIS made*)

Some 399 data from the respective homeless centres were chosen to meet this requirement. A self-structured questionnaires were provided to the staff membersof the Homeless centres.Later, Focus Group Discussion-FGD and Key Informant Interview-KII with various homeless peoples and Local authorities were conducted to obtained the information under this research.

FGD participants were the homeless people as well as the staff members of the homeless centre.

KII participants were the head of District authorities such as Chief District Officer-CDO, Head of Local Governments, Local Teachers, NGO, Police Officials and Nepal Red Cross Societies Members.

Results and Discussion

Following tables and interpretation have drawn here to explain the fact of cause of homeless peoples.

(***Table-1, Types of homeless residing in a centre***)

Different types of respondents such as children's, adults and old age people types will be draw here through this table.

Types of Homeless people in the centre		Childs	Adults	Old age people	Total
Survey area	N	268	2	129	399
	% of Total	67.2	0.5	32.3	100

(Source: - Field Visit, 2022)(p-.00, DF-12)

From the field survey table-1 showing that out of visited Homeless centers, 268 homeless are child (67.2 per cent with high majority, 2 peoples are adults (0.5 per cent) and some 129 are old age people (32.3 per cent). The case is similar to the district wise cases also as child who are less than 16 years are homeless and higher in the most of the enters. P value is also significant 0.00 (Less than 0.05) and Degree of Freedom stands 12.

The Local Government-LG and Police officialsaid that number of child's are higher as the parents have some complex n relations and child became orphans or as a case of some domestic reasons where child escape the houses and became homeless in future.

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(***Table-2, Literacy situation of homeless peoples***)

The level of education will be captured and illustrate here to find out the status of the homeless peoples.

Literacy among homeless people	Illiterate	Literate	Primary Level	Lower secondary level	Secondary level	Higher secondary level	Total
N	173	83	48	50	38	7	399
% of Total	43.40	20.80	12.00	12.50	9.50	1.80	100.00

(P-.00, DF-30)

(Source: - Field visit-2022)

Within the surveyed homeless agencies, the number of illiterate people is higher in summary as well in district wise. 43. 40 per cent are reported illiterate, whereas few school going support from the homeless center have been provided with coordination with local government and public partnership-based schools. This facility also helps people to provide opportunity for future education. Chi-Square value is significant 0.00 (Less than 0.05) with a value of Degree of Freedom-30.

(***Table-3, Status of homeless people in center, came and living alone or came with family and living together***)

The homeless people status considering living with family members will be drawn here this trend will show that the homeless people stay single or with whole family.

Homeless origination/ living		Living alone	All live with family	Total
Parsa	N	56	1	57
	% of Total	14.0	.3	14.3
Ilam	N	52	0	52
	% of Total	13.0	0.0	13.0
Dang	N	59	0	59
	% of	14.8	0.0	14.8

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	Total			
Gorkha	N	50	0	50
	% of Total	12.5	0.0	12.5
Surkhet	N	51	3	54
	% of Total	12.8	.8	13.5
Kailali	N	66	3	69
	% of Total	16.5	.8	17.3
Makwanpur	N	58	0	58
	% of Total	14.5	0.0	14.5
	N	392	7	399
	% of Total	98.2	1.8	100.0

(Source: - Field visit-2022)

In a question of the trend, Table-3 highlights that the individual cases of homeless are high, some 392 (98.2 per cent) are reported staying alone means arrive alone in the center, whereas 7 cases of all family members came jointly-means a whole family have been homeless and staying jointly. Such peoples are reported became homeless due to epidemic and disaster have destroyed economy and physical property and hardship life bound to homeless. Surkhet and Kailali district are from the western part of Nepal where poverty rate is high, some cases are witnessing people from the hills who are victim of disaster and migrated down area and became homeless due to no other way out.

(***Table-4, Causes of disaster due to flood/ landslides and Fire***)

There is various reason of being homeless in the study area this table will analyze and illustrate the causes due to floods and landslides which are common occurrences in Nepalese context.

Flood/ Landslides/ Fire	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
N	143	255	1	399
% of Total	35.8	63.9	.3	100.0

(Source: - Field visit-2022)

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Table-4 clarifying that some 35. 8per cent (143) cases of homeless reported due to the causes of flood/ landslides and fire cases. Flood and such disaster are a national problem in Nepal and during rainy season flood damages settlement and houses and after this reason people who have a better life can restore life but some became homes in Nepal, this also reported in such area where giant rivers such as Koshi, Narayani, Rapti, Mahakaali and Karnali river are such cases where thousands of houses reported displaced due to the cases of floods yearly reported by Provincial disaster and National disaster agencies.

(***Table-5, Does earthquake cause homeless?)***

In Nepal, Mega earthquake noticed during 2015 and many people became homeless and this table will find of the number of people in the study being homeless due to earthquake.

District		Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Parsa	N	33	24	0	57
	% of Total	8.3	6.0	0.0	14.3
Ilam	N	46	5	1	52
	% of Total	11.5	1.3	.3	13.0
Dang	N	0	59	0	59
	% of Total	0.0	14.8	0.0	14.8
Gorkha	N	38	12	0	50
	% of Total	9.5	3.0	0.0	12.5
Surkhet	N	5	49	0	54
	% of Total	1.3	12.3	0.0	13.5
Kailali	N	17	52	0	69
	% of Total	4.3	13.0	0.0	17.3
Makwanpur	N	27	31	0	58
	% of Total	6.8	7.8	0.0	14.5
Districts	N	166	232	1	399
	% of Total	41.6	58.1	.3	100.0

(Source: - Field visit-2022)

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Nepal witnesses mega-earthquake with 7.8 Magnitude hit and several life sans settlement were damaged in 2015. Table-5 also stated that 166 cases of homeless cases done due to the effect of earthquake in Nepal. In district levels, Gorkha reported some 10per cent cases within district analysis as Gorkha is the epicenter for this 2015 mega-earthquake and many peoples were displaced and nearly 10,000 people recorded death.

It was minutely discussed with Local government and Police Officials that Some 329 cases (82.5 per cent) ofhomeless caused due to health reason as family keep away such person as medical emergencies not possible to handle from the domestic capacity. 70 cases mean 17.5 per cent no such cases faced

KII and Some 232 cases mean 58.1 per cent of reported caused by cases of social caste and social differences/ violences-humanitarian (Yes), whereas 167 cases said No (41.9 per cent).

FGD with Homeless peoples also highlighted that 1 case in Ilam and 1 case in Surkhet district, a case of homeless reported due to robbery and crime by his family forced too homeless.

(***Table-6, Source of joining homeless center***)

In this table, the primary sources of coming to homeless will be deeply analyze and interpreted accordingly**.**

How does a homeless person come to this institution		Self	Through the Police	Through the organization	Municipality recommendation	Total
Parsa	N	1	55	0	1	57
	%	.3	13.8	0.0	.3	14.3
Ilam	N	6	46	0	0	52
	%	1.5	11.5	0.0	0.0	13.0
Dang	N	0	59	0	0	59
	%	0.0	14.8	0.0	0.0	14.8
Gorkha	N	0	13	0	37	50

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	%	0.0	3.3	0.0	9.3	12.5
Surkhet	N	0	54	0	0	54
	%	0.0	13.5	0.0	0.0	13.5
Kailali	N	1	68	0	0	69
	%	.3	17.0	0.0	0.0	17.3
Makwanpur	N	37	18	3	0	58
	%	9.3	4.5	.8	0.0	14.5
	N	45	313	3	38	399
	% of Total	11.3	78.4	.8	9.5	100.0

(Source: - Field visit-2022)

313 cases of homeless recorded entering through a channel of Police Office, some 45 cases himself opted to entered in the centers, 3 cases from the local development organizations and some Local Government also provided support of 38 people to get in the nearby homeless centers.

During a discussion with local Homeless center strongly added that this issue is too critical and challenging to allow peoples, Hence, a local committee isestablished under the chairman of Chief District Officer-CDO, who coordinate and manage the cases of people who are verified as a homeless people and under coordination with local agencies, government they are verified with local police and then sent to the local Homeless center. Hence,these figures are well and caring is given through many peoples. Monitoring mechanism also often recorded by the local government authority; hence this management is challenging and risky too.

Conclusion

The child majority has found higher in a homeless center are less than 16 years, number of literacies recorded less, lack of education found within homeless. Lack of educations and various disastrous cases such as flood, social discriminations, earthquake are the prime cases of homeless in the study area.

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Homelessness is the most challenging and emerging cases for all, some health disaster in a family also forcing peoples to went out from home and became homeless, such health care also critical in center to manage. The local administration and polices are leading role and responsibilities to allotment of verified homeless peoples into the centers, Caring and maintaining of such people is too critical in the present situation. Individual living and entering cases are high in the centers. Homeless is the silent future-troubles for the policy makes which is one of the challenges in the days ahead in a disastrous country like Nepal where floods and other epidemics are yearly seen.

A policy level review suggesting at present as three tiers of Government are an opportunity to address the issues related to the homeless, hence all critical grass root problem to extreme problem must resolved through multi sectoral support.

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