Chapter 9

Summary and Conclusion

Unorganized workers are simply known the workers who are not well organized, less protected from socio – legal viewpoint and live an uncertain life in comparison to organized workers.

Unorganized labour system is not new to our society. Its origin can be traced from the caste hierarchy and feudal structure. In the Hindu caste structure, out of four main castes or Varna the Sudras were always treated as the lowest and were subjected to the atrocities by the so called higher classes.

The system of unorganized labour is called by different names in different parts of India. The national commission on labour in India (1969) has incorporated the various types of labourers in unorganized sector that are contract labour, quarry labour, domestic labour, construction labour, agricultural labour, workers from small scale industries handloom and power loom workers beedi and cigar workers, sweepers and scavengers, workers from tanneries, tribal labour, employees in shops and commercial establishments and other unprotected workers. Extending the scope of the unorganized sector, the seventh planning commission of India further included landless labourers, small and marginal farmers, share croppers, rural artisans, forest labours, fisherman and self employed persons.

The unorganized labourers are working in unorganized sectors and they are living in country side. In our society unorganized labour remains
in existence in its various forms and are facing numerous problems. The main problem of unorganized labourers is related to social and economic exploitation of poor people by the rich ones of our society. The major constraints observed in the unorganized sector are low wages, low capital, use of crude tools, lack of access to markets, lack of skills, basic poverty, lack of social legislation, lack of access to basic amenities such as housing, social conditions, indebtedness, poor health conditions and absence of regular wages, exploitation and harassment by middlemen and lack of organization are some of the problems related to the workers in unorganized sector.

In unorganized sector not only the adults and males but the women and children are also compelled to work due to various socio-economic traits. Working women and children constitute a sizeable number in this sector. A large number of children are employed in the hotels, restaurants, canteen, way side shops and establishments or as hawkers, new paper sellers, coolies, shoeshine boys, vendors or helpless in repair shops for loading and unloading or breaking of stones etc. They are employed in artisans and in circuses also a sizeable number of artists and children.

Nepal and India share a unique relationship since the time ancient time. They have the similar culture and tradition and the Hindi language of India is also easy to understand and learn to Nepali citizens. The political tie between both the countries has made the migration easier from either of the countries to the other. The peace and friendship treaty of 1950 between the two countries provides the similar rights to the citizens of the other country in its land as is available to the citizen of that
country, except voting rights. This provision has facilitated the migration of the people to each other’s homeland.

Due to its poor economic conditions, Nepal has been supplying labour to India since Nepalese were recruited as “Gorkhas” in the British Indian armies after the Anglo–Nepal war of 1814–1815. Nepalese have been migrating to other countries as well, but India remains the main destination for job seekers. Most of the people from Nepal who have enough resources, who are literate and skilled are migrating to Europe, America and Far East Asia. Others who are not much skilled and have not enough resources are going to South East Asian countries and India. However the first choice for the large illiterate or lowly literate, unskilled and marginal population of rural Nepal, which consists of the almost 80% of the whole population of Nepal, still remains migrating to India, its bigger and more developed neighbouring country.

Nainital district of Uttarkhand state has been an eminent work place for many Nepali job seekers specially for the people of Mid Western and Far Western Development Regions of Nepal. There are many Nepalis who sell their manual every day for money. Most of those workers belong to poor economic background and are seen working as collies, construction workers, security guards, rickshaw pullers, workers in hotels, shops and establishments, domestic workers, boat men, agricultural workers, helpers in trucks and lorries and so on. The workers are found to be working in varies urban centers and other areas where there are job opportunities. There is hardly seen any manual work which is not performed by Nepali workers.

In the present work the researcher has made an attempt to carry out a sociological study of the workers who are working in the different
urban centers of Nainital district. The urban centers are: Nainital, Bhawali, Bhimtal, Ramgar, Ramnagar, Kathgodam, Haldwani and Lalkuan. Study was conducted among the workers dividing them into seven avocations viz: coolie, construction workers, domestic workers, rickshaw pullers, workers in hotels and establishments, security guard and other workers. The main objective of the study is to know about the socio – economic conditions of the worker.

A part from that, attempt has also been made to analyse the living / working conditions of the workers, identify the pull / push factors and diagnose the problems and challenges faced by the workers. Prior to research work a pilot survey was launched in order to identify the universe of the study. There were enumerated 6490 workers engaged in different seven vocations in the eight various urban centres of Nainital district. Stratified random sampling method ( at regular marking ) was followed by the researcher categorizing all the population into seven avocations and 10 percentage from each avocation was sampled out which makes 650 in number. So as to collect information from the respondents interview schedules were designed and administered. Apart from the interview schedule, observation method was also implemented to derive the facts from the respondents.

It was found that the majority of the workers ( 40.79% ) belonged to 16 – 30 year age group. A vast majority of the workers were male which comprised 99% and the presence of child labour was also felt. The data collected in the current research presents a picture of the educational status of the workers which shows around 50 percent to be illiterate. Almost all workers ( approximately 99% ) were found Hindus with the higher percentage of dalits. The workers were found to have been engaged in various types of works, however a large number of them ( 483
were coolies. Nepali workers working in Nainital district were found to be belonging to either Mid Western or Far Western Development region of Nepal and the majority of them (27.07%) were from Kalikot, a hilly district of Mid Western Nepal.

Joint type of family was noticed to be existed among most of the respondents which consists of more than 98 percentage and a vast majority of them mentioned monogamy to be in practice regarding forms of marriage. Habits of taking narcotics and alcohol was also observed among the workers during the time of survey. Out of the total respondents only 35 mentioned that they did not take any kind of narcotics women. Regarding status of most of the respondents (96.30) stated that the status of women was lower than men. Very few were directly involved in income generating activities and the role of the majority of women in the family was of a house wife only.

Regarding the occupation of the family members, most of the respondents reported that their family members were engaged in agriculture. 98% of the respondents have got their own dwelling places at the place of origin and 72.47% reported to have been living in Kachcha house. Mostly income of the workers was observed from Rs.2000 – Rs.5000 and above but 64.30 percentage workers admitted that their monthly income was above Rs.5000. Inspite of the heavy physical work, one important fact that was acknowledged by the workers was that majority of them (91.07%) were satisfied with their earning in Nainital. 98% of the respondents were found of that type who did not acquire any kind of skill. Only very few of them (2%) stated that they had the skill of driving, cooking in the hotels and operating machines.
With reference to the schooling of children 77.38 percentage of the respondents stated that they were sending their children to school whereas the causes of not sending children to school were found poverty, lack of workfare at home, children’s unwillingness and others. Regarding accommodation of workers, most of the workers (94.93%) were found to be adjusted in the room on sharing basis and in a small room up to 25 people were seen to have been living together. Some of the workers were found to have been deprived of basic amenities at the work place. More over 47 workers were found of such type who were deprived of even electricity facility also. Several kinds of means of recreation were reported by the workers that were being enjoyed. But majority of them (46.61%) said that they used radio / tape on the mobile set as the means of recreation.

Nainital district seems as the workplace of Nepali workers for the long period of time. Some of the workers, in course of interview informed that their forefather used to work in Nainital, even during the British rule in India. A vast majority of workers (69.53%) stated that they had been staying at Nainital for work for 6 – 10 years. Some of the workers even mentioned they had been working for more than 16 years. Among the workers who had been working for several years, 16.62% only stated that they stayed throughout the year. Among the workers who did not work the whole year, majority workers (56.82%) stated that they used to stay upto 4 months in a year, particularly from the month of April to July.

Naure of job of all the workers was found temporary. None of the workers were benefitted from weekend holiday sick leave and cash payment of leave. Mode of payment of the workers were found daily, monthly and at piece rate. However majority (407) were getting wages and 200 workers were getting payment at piece rate. It proves that most
of the workers working at Nainital are daily wages earners. The workers generally have to go in search of job every day. Sometimes they are in the position to set employed and some days are gone without earning also.

With references to the problems and challenges of Nepali workers 19.07 % workers stated that they had to face language problem at the initial state. Very few had the feeling of being dishonoured at the work place due to different nationality. The workers stated that there were effects of work on their health. Mainly the effects were mentioned as body pain, backache, fatigue, cut fall and accidents. And also the long hour of work was also mentioned as the problem. Mainly workers (34.30%) had the problem of getting accommodation easily and others (32.16%) stated that the work was not available daily and they had to spend the days without any earning as they were day wage earners.

There are mainly pull and push factors behind the migration of Nepali workers. Poverty and unemployment are the prominent causes whey many Nepalese are compelled to leave their place of origin. Political instability and insecurity were also among the various causes behind leaving the home. Particularly, the Maoist insurgency that triggered in 2001 has pushed out many people from the remote areas of Mid Western and Far Western Development regions. Few labourers, specially children and teenagers were found of such type who came to Nainital for making pocket money and tour purpose. Behind the selection of Nainital as their destination, 38 percentage of the workers gave the reason that they had their villagers and relatives who had already been working at Nainital. 29.38% had the logic of shorter distance for selecting the present destination and rest of the workers had the hope of the better prospect of employment at Nainital. The role of villagers and relatives was found eminent in course of getting the information about the work
and initial help in securing present job. Regarding the willingness of migration in search of other job a high majority (85.07%) of the workers denied it among whom were mainly the aged, unskilled and illiterate workers and rest had a desire to migrate from Nainital in care of getting better job opportunities.

Man is a social creature and he interacts and established interrelationship with other in a family and society. A person comes to the contact of other people through the means of interaction.

Interaction leads to the development of interrelationship. A group is a collection of people but every collection of people is not a group. A social groups consists of a number of individuals who share a sense of relationship to each other which is a consequences of their interaction.

With reference to the interaction and interaction pattern of Nepali workers work in Nainital district, many of them (60.47%) mentioned that they had an acquaintance with the local fair and festivals. However very few (5.25%) accepted that they had their participation in them. Among those who used to participate in the rituals and festivals had a close relationship with the local people and had been staying at the work place for a long period of time. Nepali workers have a transaction with the local people also. Generally they deposit their money with the locals whom they know well and trust and borrow money from the local people in need who trust them. Informal relationship of the workers was also recorded with the locals during the time of interviews. Those workers who have got close and informal relationship spend the spare time with local people. The meeting spot of the labourers were tea shop, market place and Sabjimandi.
Eventually, findings of the entire research work can be summarized in the following terms:

- Nainital district was found as a prominent work place for many Nepali workers mostly for the people with their origin in Mid - Western and Far-Western part of Nepal.
- Involvement of illiterate and uneducated worker was noticed in higher degree during the time of study.
- Magnitude of downtrodden and poor Dalit workers was found larger than those of other caste workers.
- Though most of the workers had not any certain type of work, however a large percentage of them had adopted the job of carrying load from one place to another place as a coolie.
- Agriculture was found as the main traditional occupation of the families of almost all the workers which would not provide them high crop yield for their survival so they were seen utilizing the spare time of their farming.
- Most of the workers were found to have been managing their accommodation on sharing basis with 6 to 10 villagers or relatives.
- A higher number ( 88 % ) of workers was found as irregular and seasonal workers who had been working for several years but would not stay throughout the year in the work place.
- Mostly the workers were found as daily wage earners and were engaged in the works as unskilled manual workers.
- A vast majority of workers did not report any inconveniences in the foreign land owing to nationality. However the work was mentioned by them as tough and tiresome.
- Problems of body pain, backache and fatigue were found common among the workers as an impact of hard manual work on their health.
• Unemployment, poverty and political instability were discovered as the main reasons for living the place of origin by the workers. However the principle cause was found unemployment.

• It was found during the time of survey that the workers were supported by their relatives and villagers to get information about the work place and securing job there.

• Almost all the workers were not found having a desire to migrate from the current work place.

• It was found at the time of study that most of Nepali workers had an acquaintance with the local feast and festival at the work place (Nainital).

• Teashop, vegetable shop (sabjimandi) and work site were found as the main spots of the workers for meetings and interactions.
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Appendix 1

Some Case Studies

Case Study – 1

Birendra, a twelve years old boy, hailed to Nainital from Jambukant village Development Committee of Dailekh district which lies in Middle Western Region. He left school when he was in class six and reached Nainital where his parents were already engaged in work. His father works as porter and mother is a housewife, however sometimes she also joins the work for earning. Birendra has not a fix job and regular earning. He works for 1 – 2 hours a day in a wholesale bread shop regularly. He utilizes his rest time by washing utensils at hotels and restaurants, working in others houses and serving others by carrying necessary things for them from the market. By doing such types of petty works he earns Rs. 1000 – 1500 in a month altogether. This is the first time for him to be in Nainital and he has been working for a year. Though his parents have not compelled him to work, he discontinued his study, came to Nainital with his relatives and started to work. His parents wanted him to go back to home and rejoin school but he is ignoring them and turning a deaf ear to them. All efforts of the illiterate parents have been futile to motivate Birendra toward education.

Case Study – 2

Khagendra Shahi is a 35 years old young man who has been working as boatman in Nainital for more than 15 years. His monthly income is Rs. Six thousands. He drives car also at his spare time in order to make extra income. He has been working in Nainital continuously since he came first. His place of origin is Chamunda village Development Committee of Dailekh district in hilly region area of Nepal where his parents are still living. But Khagendra is living with his
wife, four sons and four daughters in Nainital. He sometimes manages time to visit his parents in Dailekh. He is planning to purchase a piece of land in the terai region of Nepal to make his settlement there. Many of his relatives and neighbours have already migrated to plain viz: Bardiya, Banke and Kailali. He has made up his mind to get back his homeland after he materializes his plan to make his settlement in the terai. But he can not think of going back right now as his children are studying in school and he is also able to spill his sweat for earning money.

**Case Study – 3**

22 years old Lal Bahadur Chauhdary has recently arrived in Nainital along with his five friends and relatives. He left his home three months back and headed to Nainital. He had never been to Nainital before but had heard a lot from his friends and relatives. He belongs to Kailali district of Terai in the Far West Development Region. He currently works as rickshaw puller and earns Rs.200-400 everyday. The earning generally depends on physical strength and number of trips. He thinks his work to be tiresome and can make maximum thirty trips a day. He says he has come to Nainital to work for few months only. He has got farming land at his home and has to leave the work place during the time of growing crops and their harvest.

**Case Study – 4**

Bal Bahadur Nepali is a forty five years old Nepali worker working in Nainital since 1980. He was only 14 years old boy when he started first to work in Nainital. He often works as coolie and carries loads and luggages from one place to another place. But he sometimes gets engaged in construction works also. There is no certainty of his income in a month. He earns Rs.2000 – 10,000 per month. His stay at work place is also uncertain. When he finds works,
specially in summer seasons, he stays longer for 6 – 8 months in a year and in case of finding no work and less income he makes money for his tickets and returns back home. He makes upto five trips of Nainital in a year from his home. He says he has added some property and land from his income. His sons have also started to join work as they discontinued their study after passing primary classes.

**Case Study – 5**

Sete Adhikari, 32 is originally from Mawai Patarkhola village Development of Jumla District, which lies in Himalayan region of Mid Western Development Region of Nepal. He works in a vegetable and Namkin shop at Nainital. His monthly salary is Rs. Six thousands at present and there is an increment of Rs. Five hundred every year. He is working in the shop for past four years. Before he joined the work he worked in Mumbai and many other cities of India but was not satisfied. But with his current job he seems satisfied. His wife and children are staying at Thakur dwara V.D.C of Bardiya district where he has built up a house and parents are still in Jumla, his place of origin. As the road construction work is in progress in his himalaya district he is thinking of a professional apple farming where he owns many acres of land which is quite suitable for growing apple. He is well known about the high demand of Jumli apple in the market . He is also planning to establish a small cottage industry after the completion of road construction work. He also believes that the flow of the people coming to Nainital and other cities of India will slow down after his district receives transportation and electricity facilities.

**Case Study – 6**

Bharat Bahadur Bist is a 28 years young man who has been working in Nainital for past six years. He is a night guard (durwan) at a local Dharmashala
at Nainital city. He gets Rs.2500 salary monthly and is provided a quarter with fooding facility. He stays in the Dharmashala with his wife and a small daughter. He is originally from Datula village Development Committee ward no. 5 of Bajhang district of Far Western Development Region. Apart from his monthly salary he makes extra income by selling hot water to the clint of Dharmashala. He has purchased some acres of land after he started working at Dharmashala. He is sending his daughter to a nearby English Medium Boarding School. He has a desire to work for some more years until he adds some property and purchase a piece of land in the plain area of Nepal.

Case Study – 7

Kishan Nepali belongs to Daha Village Development Committee, Kalikot of Mid Western Development Region. He is 32 years old now and has been working for past 18 years. He is married and has got two children. He carries loads and laguages from one place to another place and earns Rs.200 – 1000 in a day. During the summer season when there is the high mobility of tourists his earning sometimes becomes upto Rs.1000 also. Sometimes he stays with his wife and children at the work place and alone at the other time. He manages frequent trips to his house and meets his parents and other family members.

He has constructed new house from his earning and purchased a piece of land in the hill. He is also sending his children to English medium boarding schools. He says he is ready to pay any cost and do any sort of work for educating his children in the school that provides quality education charging high fees. He wishes that his children would not make heavy struggle as he does. And looks very much conscious regarding the education of his children. He had passed only class two himself.