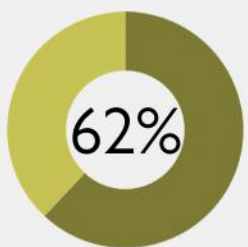




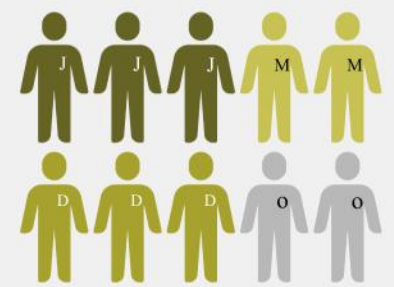
Child Labour in Brick Industry

In Nepal's construction boom, which has lasted over a decade, bricks are a key building block. Brickmaking depends upon thousands of seasonal migrant laborers, including approximately 30,000 children. Working in a brick factory is one of the worst forms of child labor, involving long hours in hazardous polluted working environments.

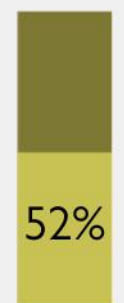
Under the Sakriya Project, 14 of the 15 NGOs identified children working in factories in government jurisdictions. In total they identified 9,496 children working in the brick industry. This information was collected over three brick seasons in 2020, 2021 and 2022 and so reflects the situation in these specific locations during the Covid pandemic. It provides a current snapshot of the situation of children in the brick industry but cannot be generalized to other locations.



62% of the labourers in Brick sector were boys.



33% were Janajatis, 30% were Dalits, 23% were Muslims, and 15% were others.



52% of the labourers were aged 5-13. The remaining 48% were aged 14-17.



87% stated low family income as a major factor for working in the Brick sector



70% reported that they were working to help their parents in their work



12% reported that they were working during their school vacation



- Brick factories surveyed were in 13 districts.
- In total, 332 brick factories were identified.
- 27% were identified at Madhesh Province, 24% were identified at Bagmati Province and 49% were identified at Lumbini Province.
- Excluding source districts, 38% of the child labourers were found to be from India.

Child Labourers Identified in Factories



74% were brought to the job by their parents

9% were helped by their relatives to get the job

7% mentioned that villagers helped them get the job



43% had been working for over a year



Rs 410

The average daily earning of child labourers in destination districts



7.4 hours

The average daily working duration of child labourers in destination districts



86%

of the children were given free accomodation

Child Labourers Identified in Source Districts



39% were brought to the job by their relatives

18% were helped by their parents to get the job

16% mentioned that villagers helped them get the job



About 30% had been working in brick kilns for over two years



Rs 507

The average daily earning of child labourers in source districts



9.5 hours

The average daily working duration of child labourers in source districts.



Over 60%

of the children were given weekly, festival, and sick leave

Data on Child Labourers by Province

Madhesh Province

2,564 child labourers were found in the Brick kilns of Madhesh Province



76% of the factory labourers were Nepali.
23% were from India.



56% were aged 5-13 years.
44% were in the 14-17 age group.



By ethnicity, 57% were Dalits.
10% were Muslims, and 8% were Janajatis.
25% belonged to other ethnic groups.



77% were working to help their parents work

Bagmati Province

2,288 child labourers were found in the Brick kilns of Bagmati Province



97% of the children were identified working in factories.
3% respondents were identified in source districts.
14% were from India.



63% were aged 14-17 years.
37% were in the 5-13 age group.



By ethnicity, 63% were Janajatis.
20% were Dalits, and 6% were Janajatis.
11% belonged to other ethnic groups.



77% were working to overcome poverty

Lumbini Province

4,644 child labourers were found in the Brick kilns of Lumbini Province



97% of the children were identified working in factories.
3% respondents were identified in source districts.
55% were from India.



56% were aged 5-13 years.
44% were in the 14-17 age group.



By ethnicity, 39% were Muslims.
32% were Janajatis, and 19% were Dalits.
10% belonged to other ethnic groups.



90% were working to contribute to their family income



92%

mentioned that they had observed physical injuries in the workplace



86%

reported that they had to work in dusty environments



63%

stated that they had to work in extreme temperatures



43%

mentioned that they had to lift heavy loads



19%

responded that they wanted to continue their work

Recommendations

Community Level

1. Prioritize vulnerable families for livelihood support
2. Prioritize migrant children for educational opportunities in source communities
3. Create educational opportunities for children near brick factories
4. Do more SBCC awareness raising
5. Support Post-Covid Recovery of Learning

Municipal Level

1. Foster Inter-Municipality Co-ordination
2. Strengthen Social Protection System
3. Establish systems to determine "Piece rates"
4. Reduce proliferation of local committees wherever possible
5. Expand use of Worker Data Management System

Provincial and Federal Level

1. Foster more Cross Border Coordination.
2. Expand number of Labor Inspectors.
3. Expand the Certified Brick program.
4. Plug legal gaps on "Cottage Industries".
5. Create coherence in legal mandates.
6. Revise penalties in Child Labor Act.
7. Create common database and reporting mechanisms for Child Labor.