

**CHILD ADVOCACY: AN APPROACH TO ADDRESS THE “WORST FORM” OF
STREET CHILD LABOUR AND IT’S ADVERSE AFFECTS
IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

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**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Masters of Public Health
Health System Development Programme
College of Public Health
Chulalongkorn University
Academic Year 1999
ISBN 974-334-329-6
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Bangkok, Thailand**


Thesis Title : Child Advocacy : An Approach to Address the
“Worst Form” of Street Child Labour and it’s
Adverse Affects in Kathmandu, Nepal

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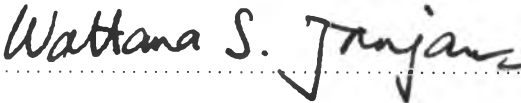
Program : Master of Public Health (Health Systems Development)
College of Public Health

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Accepted by the College of Public Health, Chulalongkorn University,
Bangkok Thailand in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Master's Degree

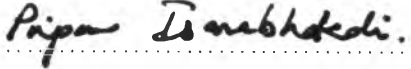

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ABSTRACT

This thesis portfolio deals with the concept of advocacy in relation to the problems faced by street child workers Kathmandu, Nepal. The thesis portfolio consists out of: (1) an essay on the problems related to the “worst form” of street child work, (2) a proposal for a street child advocacy project, (3) a report on an exploratory inquiry of the target group under study, (4) a bibliography on street child labour and the concept of advocacy as a strategy, and (5) a portfolio presentation outline.

The literature reports that there are 30,000 street children working in the various urban areas of Nepal. In Kathmandu only there are more than 5,000 children working on the streets. Many problems are faced by street child workers such as lack of education, food, shelter, health, and frequent arrests by police. In Nepal it is illegal to employ children below the age of 14 for more than 6 hours a day. However children are compelled to work 9 to 14 hours a day. Therefore many children are facing the adverse affects of street work in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The exploratory inquiry was designed to answer questions on the characteristics of street child workers in Kathmandu, and the relative readiness of street child workers for advocacy approaches. The findings confirm the problems described in the literature related to street child labour. Most of the respondents expressed their eagerness to involve in advocacy activities aiming at awareness

raising within the community on the worst form of child labour and its adverse effects as well as improvement of their situation.

One advocate will initiate the advocacy project for a period of 24 months. The general objective of the proposal is to contribute in long term to the reduction of the “worst form” of street child labour. The specific objectives are: (1) improve access to health centres, shelter houses and vocational training centres for street child workers, (2) develop a mechanism for establishing representative groups of street child workers and immediate community which will function to make advocacy efforts eventual sustainable, (3) raise awareness on the rights of street child workers among the target groups including immediate community and employers, (4) document the problems associated with child abuse and prostitution. The street child advocacy programme is designed to enhance the capacity of children to come up for child rights and access existing social and health services. The project will be gradually handed over to the participating street child workers and community representatives and there are indications that the proposed program eventually will be sustainable.

The exploratory inquiry indicates that an advocacy approach is viable within the street child worker community in Kathmandu, Nepal. Working with the worst form of street child work could be an entry point in aiming at respect for child rights, their access to basic social and health services, and improvement on child labour conditions in Nepal.

Acknowledgement

I express my gratitude to Professor Chitr Sitthi-amorn Dean of the College, who encouraged and advised me to shape this thesis portfolio academically.

My professional interest in the issue of street child labour has kindled because of the academic feedback of Ajarn Marc Van der Putten my thesis advisor. Thus my special thanks goes to him for his advice, patience, support and appreciation.

I would also like to thank assistant professor Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan and assistant professor Sathirakorn Pongpanich for their regular encouragement throughout the MPH programme that helped me to develop this thesis portfolio successfully. Moreover I am grateful with Ajarns Ratana Samrourngthong, Tanawat Likitkeleeratt and Wacharin Tanynont for positive support. I am thankful to the college administration for their cooperation from 'A to Z' of my MPH course period.

Lastly, I would like to pay my deepest thanks to my father Professor Edgar J. Love for his advice, encouragement and appreciation in every nooks and corners of MPH course.

Contents

	Page
Abstract	iii
Acknowledgement	v
List of Abbreviation and Acronyms	xiii
List of Figures	xv
List of Tables	xvi
1. Chapter I: Introduction	
1.1. Introduction	1
References	6
2. Chapter II: Essay	
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Who is a child.....	10
2.3 Who are the street child workers.....	11
2.4 The "worst form" of child labour.....	12
2.5 Adverse effects.....	13
2.6 Situation of street child workers in Nepal	14
2.6.1 Children in Nepal.....	14
2.6.2 Working children in Nepal	16
2.6.3 Street child workers in Nepal	18
2.6.4 Kinds of street child workers	20

2.6.5	What street child workers do and where.....	21
2.6.6	Gender distribution	22
2.6.7	Caste and class distribution	23
2.6.8	Positive impact of street child work	23
2.6.9	Health of street child workers	25
2.6.9.1	Factors associated with causes of their street existence.....	26
2.6.9.2	Factors associated with physical condition of street child workers.....	26
2.6.9.3	Factors associated with survival behavior of street child workers.....	26
2.6.9.4	Factors associated with inaccessibility to services and resources.....	27
2.6.10	Efforts undertaken	29
2.6.11	Social cost of street child labour	30
2.7	Why street child labour is a public health concern.....	31
2.8	Causes and consequences of street child labour	34
2.8.1	Deception and victimization	35
2.8.2	Socio- economic factors	35
2.8.3	Legal enforcement	37
2.8.4	Family and personal factors	37

2.9 A search for change..	40
2.9.1 Education	41
2.9.2 Health	42
2.9.3 Income generating program.....	43
2.9.4 Child advocacy.....	43
2.10 Which intervention is most feasible and appropriate.....	44
2.11 Conclusion.....	45
References.....	47

3. Chapter III: Proposal

3.1 Introduction.....	51
3.2 Definitions	52
3.2.1 What is advocacy.....	52
3.2.1.1 Advocacy as a value.....	53
3.2.1.2 Advocacy as a categorization.....	53
3.2.2 What is child advocacy.....	53
3.2.3 On behalf of children versus in behalf of children.....	54
3.2.4 From case to class.....	54
3.2.5 Child advocate.....	55
3.2.6 Health.....	56
3.2.7 Safety.....	56
3.2.8 Moral.....	56
3.3 Rational.....	57
3.4 Objective.....	60
3.4.1 General objective.....	60

3.4.2	Specific objective.....	60
3.5	Project description.....	61
3.5.1	Approaches.....	63
3.5.1.1	Health action model.....	64
3.5.1.2	Participatory planning and implementation.....	66
3.5.1.3	Need assessment.....	67
3.5.1.4	Social defense club.....	69
3.5.1.5	Child advocacy group.....	69
3.5.1.6	Local monitoring committee.....	70
3.5.1.7	Conceptual frame work.....	71
3.5.2	Activities.....	72
3.5.2.1	How the advocacy programme should be implemented.....	72
3.5.2.2	Training components.....	74
3.5.2.3	Activities plan.....	75
3.5.2.4	Transformation of rights and responsibilities.....	79
3.5.2.5	Programme time frame.....	81
3.5.3	Expected output.....	83
3.5.4	Required resources.....	84
3.5.4.1	Human resources.....	85
3.5.4.2	Financial resources.....	86
3.5.5	Monitoring and evaluation plan.....	87
3.5.5.1	Indicators.....	87
3.5.5.2	Sources of information for indicators.....	88

3.5.6	Anticipated risks.....	88
3.5.7	Possible solutions.....	89
3.5.8	Sustainability plan.....	89
	References.....	91

4. Chapter IV: Data Collection Exercise

4.1	Introduction	95
4.2	Literature review	96
4.3	Methodology.....	98
4.3.1	Objectives.....	98
4.3.2	Study venue.....	99
4.3.3	Field preparation.....	99
4.3.4	Sampling.....	100
4.3.5	Selection criteria.....	101
4.3.6	Data collection tools.....	101
4.3.6.1	Observation.....	102
4.3.6.2	Focus group discussion.....	102
4.3.6.3	In depth interview.....	103
4.3.7	Data analysis.....	104
4.3.8	Reliability and validity of data.....	104
4.4	Limitations of the study.....	104
4.5	Results.....	105
4.5.1	Results of the observation.....	105
4.5.1.1	Health and personal hygiene.....	105
4.5.1.2	Work and work places.....	106

4.5.1.3 Entertainment.....	106
4.5.1.4 Group work.....	106
4.5.2 Results of focus group discussion.....	107
4.5.3 Results of in depth interview.....	107
4.5.4 Results of focus group discussion and in depth interview.....	108
4.5.4.1 Quantitative description.....	108
4.5.4.2 Qualitative description	110
4.6 Discussion	111
4.7 Lessons learned	113
4.8 Conclusion.....	114
References.....	115
Chapter VI: Presentation.....	117
Chapter V: Annotated bibliography.....	144
Appendices.....	150
Appendix A.....	150
Appendix B.....	151
Appendix C.....	152
Appendix D.....	153
Appendix E.....	155
Appendix F	158
Appendix G.....	159
Appendix H.....	161

Appendix I.....	163
Appendix J.....	167
Appendix K.....	281
Appendix L.....	187
Curriculum Vitae.....	188

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CAG	Child Advocacy Group
CAR	Child at Risk
CAS	Child Advocacy System
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CWIN	Child Workers in Nepal concerned center
DCI	Defense for Children International
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HDR	Human Development Report
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HMGN	His Majesty Government of Nepal
ILO	International Labour Organization
IDI	In Depth Interview
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IPEC	International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour
LMC	Local Monitoring Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHDR	Nepal Human Development Report
NYBO	National Youth Bureau Office
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional cooperation
SAC	Social Awareness Center

SCL	Street Child Labour
SCW	Street Child Workers
SDC	Social Defense Club
SWC	State of World Children
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
USD	United States Dollar
VDC	Village Development Committee
WHO	World Health Organization

List of Figures

Child workers in Nepal.....	17
Causes and consequences street child labour.....	39
Health action model.....	65
Force field analysis.....	68
Conceptual frame work.....	71
Child advocacy program activity flow chart.....	73
Works of street child workers.....	109

List of Tables

Health complaints.....	28
Causes of street child labour.....	34
Change in habits	59
Transformation of skills.....	80
Time frame, year I.....	82
Time frame, year II.....	83
Budget.....	86
Age distribution.....	110