



**A STUDY ON
THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF STREET BOYS
IN KATHMANDU
2010**

Research Report



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The research tries to reflect children's perspectives and provides findings and insight that can play an instrumental role in the development of effective intervention strategies.



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Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN-Nepal)

Save the Children

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Table of Contents

1)	Preface	4
2)	Acknowledgment	5
3)	Acronyms	6
4)	Introduction	7-9
5)	Rationale	10
6)	Objectives	11
7)	Methodology	12-14
8)	Limitations of the Research	15-16
9)	Major Findings and Recommendations of the Research	17-19
10)	Analysis	20-53
i)	<i>Chapter 1: Demographics</i>	20-22
ii)	<i>Chapter 2: Nature of Street Living</i>	23-27
iii)	<i>Chapter 3: Patterns of Abuse</i>	28-41
iv)	<i>Chapter 4: Motivations</i>	42-44
v)	<i>Chapter 5: Adult-child Sexual Relations</i>	45-53
11)	References	54-55
12)	Appendix – Questionnaire	56-59

Preface

This research on "Sexual Abuse of Street Boys in the Kathmandu Valley" was carried out by Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) in partnership with Save the Children.

Street children are exposed to various vulnerabilities and hazards and sexual abuse is one of them. This research aims to capture the pervasive paradox that characterises street children. This study drills down into dynamics of the sexual abuse of street children previously overlooked. Furthermore, this study sheds light on the dynamics of sexual abuse experienced by street children. They are vulnerable yet resilient, resourceful, innovative and adaptable.

The research tries to reflect children's perspectives and provides findings and insight that can play an instrumental role in the development of effective intervention strategies. We hope the recommendations prescribed by the study will be followed up by relevant government and non-governmental organisations including the donor community in Nepal.

Sumnima Tuladhar
Executive Coordinator
CWIN-Nepal

Acknowledgement

The research team would like to express their gratitude towards the children who participated in this study, sharing difficult and sensitive information about their situations and experiences. We hope that their participation will not be meaningless and that this small study can contribute to ongoing improvements in their circumstances and the circumstance of others.

Several front-line organisations provided information, resources and support for this study. In particular Raj Kumar Tripathi from CPCS and Sanu Giri from APC assisted with the identification and interviewing of children, the preparation and completion of focus group discussions, and the preparation and presentation of street dramas aimed at increasing the awareness and protective skills of street children. This study would not have been possible without their ongoing support and assistance. Appreciation is also given to those organisations and individuals who provided their insights at stakeholders meetings.

The research team would also like to acknowledge the valuable inputs of the CWIN Field Worker Bishnu Poudel who spent much of his valuable time collecting information and organising interviews.

CWIN would like to thank Save the Children for its support and guidance for the conception and implementation of this study. Likewise CWIN would like to thank Promundo, Brazil for the financial support, which made conducting this study possible.

Samantha Hutt & Archita Pant
Research Coordinators

Acronyms

- I. CWIN - Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre
- II. SC - Save the Children
- III. FGD - Focus Group Discussion
- IV. ILO - International Labour Organisation
- V. NGO - Non-Government Organisation
- VI. WHO - World Health Organisation
- VII. HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- VIII. AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

Introduction

DEFINITIONS

Sexual Abuse

The terms 'sexual abuse' and 'sexual exploitation' require some clarification, as they are often used interchangeably. Child sexual abuse refers to:

- a) Engaging in sexual activity with a child who according to provisions of the prevailing national law has not reached the legal age of consent;
- b) Engaging in sexual activities with a child where: coercion, force or threats are employed; or
- c) Abuse is made of a recognised position of trust, authority or influence over the child, including within the family; or – abuse occurs as a result of the particularly vulnerable situation of the child, notably because of a mental or physical disability or a situation of dependence.

It should be noted that paragraph a) does not intend on referring to *consensual sexual activity between children* under the age legally defined as able to provide consent. (Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) and Save the Children Norway, 2003).

Sexual abuse of children takes many forms such as touching, kissing, fondling in a way that the child feels uncomfortable, voyeurism (getting sexual pleasure from watching children naked), exposing a child

to pornographic materials, using obscene language, exhibitionism (exposing one's sexual parts), oral sex, rape, sodomy, incest etc. Sexual abuse may or may not involve physical contact. (Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre [CWIN] and Save the Children Norway, 2003)

Child sexual abuse is

“any activity with a child before the age of legal consent that is for the sexual gratification of an adult or a substantially older child. These activities include oral-genital, genital-genital, genital-rectal, hand-genital, hand-rectal, hand-breast contact; exposure of sexual anatomy; forced viewing of sexual anatomy; and showing pornography to a child or using a child in the production of pornography” (Tadele, 2009).

Sexual Exploitation

According to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (2007)(articles 18 to 23) the definition of sexual exploitation of children includes child prostitution, child pornography, the participation of a child in pornographic performances (including recruiting, coercing and causing a child to participate in pornographic performances or profiting from or otherwise exploiting a child for such purposes and knowingly attending performances involving the participation of children), intentional causing, for sexual purposes, of a child who has not reached the legal age for sexual activities, to witness sexual abuse or sexual activities, even without having to participate, and the solicitation of children for sexual purposes.

Sexual abuse becomes sexual exploitation when a second party benefits through profit from sexual activity involving a child. This includes child prostitution and child pornography, use of children in sex tourism, and even trafficking of children for those purposes. (CWIN and Save the Children Norway, 2003).

The above definitions are applied throughout this document.

Rationale

Sexual abuse statistics vary between countries and reports, however they are consistently alarming. Research suggests that up to 36% of girls and 29% of boys have suffered child sexual abuse (WHO, 2004). Global research indicates that street children as a population are highly vulnerable to sexual abuse it can be extrapolated that the prevalence of sexual abuse amongst street children is higher than the figures for children globally. The street children of Kathmandu Valley are no exception. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), ratified by Nepal, states that children have a right to live free from abuse. This research sheds light on the dynamics of sexual abuse experienced by street children. Such information will inform decisions and practices intended to minimise sexual abuse of street children and facilitate the realisation of street children's right to live a life free from abuse.

Additionally, we hope this report will shift the perceptions of street children held by mainstream Nepali society. Kathmandu's street children are considered promiscuous. Perceptions of street children as lacking morality further marginalises this population from a society where the topic of sex and sexuality is still a taboo and holds sexual restraint in high regard. Sexualised behaviour is the most consistent indicator of sexual abuse (Cavanagh et. Al., 1995). Understanding the prevalence of sexual abuse amongst street children will provide evidence that the behaviour of Kathmandu's street children is an act of sexual abuse rather than a cause. Such evidence will be vital when educating the general public about the plight of street children and devising remedies for minimising harm and vulnerability.

Objectives

The following research was commissioned to gain insight into the attitudes, behaviours and practices of street boys in the Kathmandu Valley that place them at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation as both perpetrators and victims. A number of studies have been undertaken regarding the sexual activities of street children in Kathmandu. This report builds on such research. Research carried out by Save the Children Norway in 2004 indicates that the majority of street children are male. Due to the common perception of males as perpetrators rather than victims, studies on sexual abuse often minimize the experiences of males. In an effort to address such oversights, all respondents in this research were male. The research findings provide information essential to the design and delivery of effective interventions aimed at raising awareness and mitigating risks.

Research conducted by the Centre for Molecular Dynamics-Nepal in 2009 established that 86% of street children are involved in unprotected sex, 39% of which have anal sex and 36% have sex in groups. While it is accepted that much insight is yet to be gained regarding consensual sexual activity between street children, this research aims to explore non-consensual sex experienced by street boys in Kathmandu.

Methodology

The data collection consisted largely of a standardized, open-ended interview to assist in identifying emerging themes and trends. This method was deemed appropriate because quantitative research questions with pre-determined answers would have limited the emergence of new information and understandings about the nature and dynamics of the sexual abuse of street children in Kathmandu. Additionally, due to the sensitive nature of the topic and the socio-cultural taboos attached to sexuality in Nepali society, providing the interviewees with a set of answers to choose from would likely result in responses that reflected where the child wanted to position himself in relation to the topic rather than his actual experience. For example, a child may choose to provide the most shocking answer of the available responses in order to position himself as outside socio-cultural taboos as a way of further demonstrating his outsider street child identity. Conversely, the street child may choose the most socially accepted or expected answer in an attempt to please the interviewers and feel an ongoing connection with mainstream Nepali society. Standardized, open-ended questions encouraged the respondents to contribute detailed information about their own personal experiences (Daniel W. Turner, 2010). Due to the richness of information provided by the respondents cross-referencing and probing was able to occur when inconsistencies in responses were identified. Upon completion of the data collection the responses were coded into themes for statistical analysis.

One hundred and ten children were interviewed from seven specific sites (Gaushala, Chabahil, New Road/Basantapur, New Bus Park, Jamal/Durbar Marg, Thamel, and Kalanki) using convenience and snowball sampling methods. Interviewers were selected on the basis of their familiarity with street children and street life. Engaging Interviewers with such “insider” knowledge reduced the timeframe required for rapport to be built with the respondents. All respondents were male as per the objectives of the study. Three interviews were deemed invalid due to the provision of incomplete responses.

During the pre-testing phase, three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were also held. FGDs were not pursued as a data collection method as it was observed that the participants’ answers were largely provided to construct an image to their peers rather than meaningfully engage with the topic. It was observed that the participants were largely recounting stories about consensual sex that they had experienced with their peers. Additionally, the FGD participants were only willing to discuss heterosexual sex. It was assessed that the FGDs were not fostering a healthy dialogue but rather potentially further entrenching harmful connotations about sex amongst the participants.

The questionnaire was designed bilingual. The research instruments were developed in English and later translated into Nepali. The questionnaire was pre-tested with the target population to check the meaning of the language and the sequence and structure of the questionnaire. Necessary changes were made as required.

After the interviews were completed (prior to the data coding), key themes from the responses were identified. The key themes were

presented to a group of stakeholders consisting of representatives from Women and Children Service Centre's and other relevant service providers. The purpose of the workshop was to glean feedback, views and perspectives from the stakeholders. The participants suggested that the preliminary findings corroborated with their experiences and previous research findings.

Ethical Considerations

Throughout each phase of the research project, efforts were made to ensure the project did not contribute to the further marginalisation of street children. Additionally, the research aimed to foster the self-esteem and self-efficacy of the respondents by emphasising their strengths, resiliency and constituency.

All respondents were assured of their confidentiality. Anonymity was maintained throughout the data processing and analysis.

The research project purposefully avoided exploring questions concerning ***consensual*** sexual activity between children. The research topic concentrates on the sexual abuse of street children rather than consensual sex they may be engaging in with other children of similar age group. Given the taboo nature of the topic of consensual sexual activity in Nepali society, it was deemed that gathering data on the level of consensual sex between children of similar age group would potentially be further stigmatising.

Related Studies

While a number of studies have been undertaken on the sexual abuse of street children in various parts of the globe only two prior studies specifically address the sexual abuse of street children in the Kathmandu Valley.

Limitations of the Research

Due to a number of factors, extensive research over multiple projects will be required to establish an informed understanding of the nature of sexual activity, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation amongst street children in Kathmandu.

Sexual activity is considered a sensitive, personal topic globally. Nepali society is particularly conservative regarding sexual activity. Those who openly discuss their sexual activity or whose sexual activity becomes known to the community are often considered deviant in nature (CWIN & Save the Children Norway, 2003). Therefore establishing trust and rapport with the respondents was crucial. This was further complicated as street children have learnt to withhold trust due to previous abuse, persistent risks due to their vulnerable position and past unethical behaviour of researchers and those that are generally involved in their welfare (Save the Children Norway, 2004). Additionally both mainstream perceptions of Kathmandu street children and their perceptions of themselves need to be considered when ascribing meaning to responses. Street children are often seen by mainstream society as a deviant sub population. However, street children often present themselves as resilient people surviving in the face of adversity rather than victims of circumstances (Cockburn, 2005). Therefore answers provided by the respondents needed to be rigorously probed and contextualized to ensure that street children were not “producing an identity” compatible with or in contrast to the mainstream perception of them.

The research hoped to seek feedback from the families of street children. The research revealed that only 7 of 107 children came from the Kathmandu Valley and therefore interviews with families of street children were unfeasible.

In addition, the research attempted to interview adults closely associated with street children. These stakeholders have a unique perspective of the habits and experiences of street children that place them at risk of sexual abuse. Four interviews were conducted with proprietors of shops frequented by the respondents. Responses provided focused on stereotypical perceptions of street children as deviant. The interviewees were unable or unwilling to provide detailed information about the characteristics of street life and street children that placed them at risk of sexual abuse. Interviewees repeatedly suggested removing the children and placing them in mandatory detention centres to learn pro-social behaviours. Due to the lack of meaningful data provided by the respondents, further interviews were not conducted. Research conducted over a longer period of time would allow interviewers to further probe this stakeholder group and gather more authentic responses.

Major Findings & Recommendations

- Only 5.6% of respondents reportedly accessed shelters for accommodation at night. Children are at greatest risk of sexual abuse in the evenings and at night. Further research needs to be conducted to determine what factors deter street children from sleeping at shelters.
- Whilst adverse family situation (family violence and poor socio-economic circumstances) still ranks as the highest cause for migration to the street, and peer influence plays an irrefutable role. More research needs to be carried out to explore the relationship between peer influence and a young persons' transition to the street. Interventions need to be targeted at developing healthy and supportive relationships amongst young people within their community of origin and informing children about the risks associated with moving to Kathmandu without family support.
- Homosexual sex is prevalent amongst street children. Interventions aimed at addressing the sexual abuse and habits of street boys need to respond to such tendencies.
- 20.6% of respondents reported that their first sexual experience was with another street boy. Previous research confirmed the use of "initiation sex" in return for protection and the provision of the child's basic needs. Harm minimisation programmes need to target a child's first several months on the street.
- Street children are at greatest risk of sexual abuse from other street children. 46% of interviewees reported that their peers or

friends from the street used force, bribery or violence to coerce others to partake in sexual activity. Respondents reported that they alternate between victim and offender. Therefore the research does not report the statistical representation of street children belonging to victim **or** perpetrator categories, as they are likely to belong to both. Intervention strategies need to address the sexual risks street children pose to each other.

- 32.7% of respondents reported that they have had sex with an adult. Further research needs to be commissioned to determine how many children under the age of 16 (the age at which a child is legally able to provide consent for sexual activity in Nepal) are engaging in sexual interactions with adults.
- Approximately 20% of street children are engaged in ongoing sexual relations with adults. Further research needs to be undertaken to understand the dynamics and nature of these relationships. Additionally, legal frameworks (including the *Civil Code (11th Amendment) 1999* and *The Nepali Children's Act (1992)*) need to be strengthened to ensure that **male** children are equally protected from sexual abuse perpetrated by adults.
- 17.1% of respondents reported that they remain friends with the adults after sexual interactions cease. Additional research needs to be undertaken to establish the ongoing nature of these relationships and future risk of harm.
- Street children need information about their right to say no and what constitutes consensual sexual activity.
- Street children are attracted to providing sexual activities for cash or in kind gifts due to the efficiency with which they can earn money in contrast to other income generating methods. In

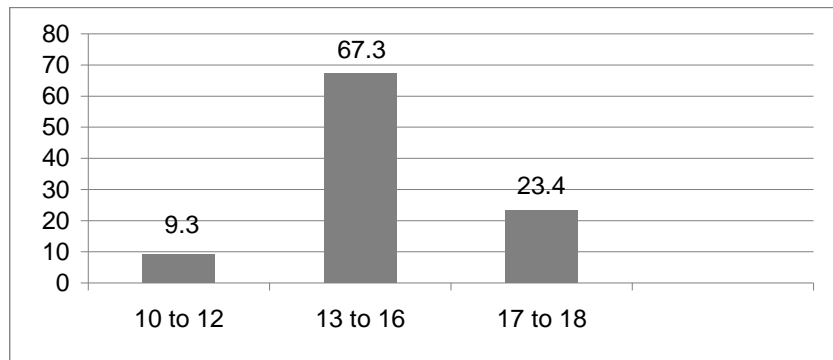
order for this deed to be considered a less desirable source of income, programmes need to foster a child's intrinsic motivation for being a valued member of mainstream Nepali society.

- Street children are highly dependent on non-government agencies, particularly in times of crisis. Such dependence exacerbates street children's vulnerability. NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) must ensure they are providing professional, evidence-based programmes and interventions. Further, the NGOs are not guaranteed of funding and therefore street children are not assured of ongoing services and continual support. NGOs provide services to street children at their discretion; street children do not have a statutory right to access services provided by the NGOs.

CHAPTER I

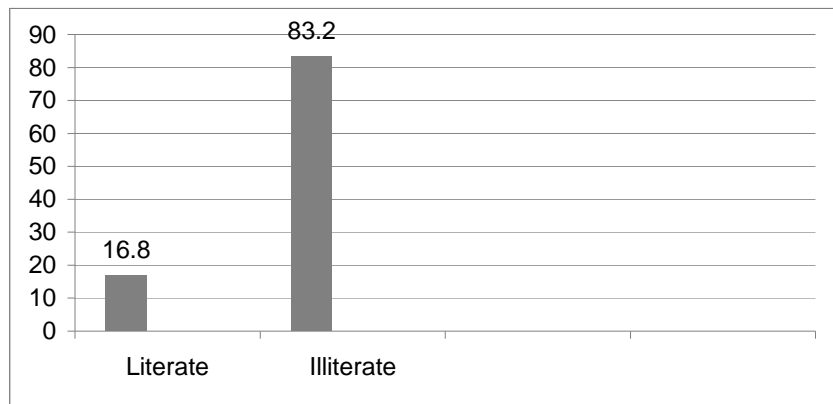
Demographics

Graph 1.1 Age at time of interview



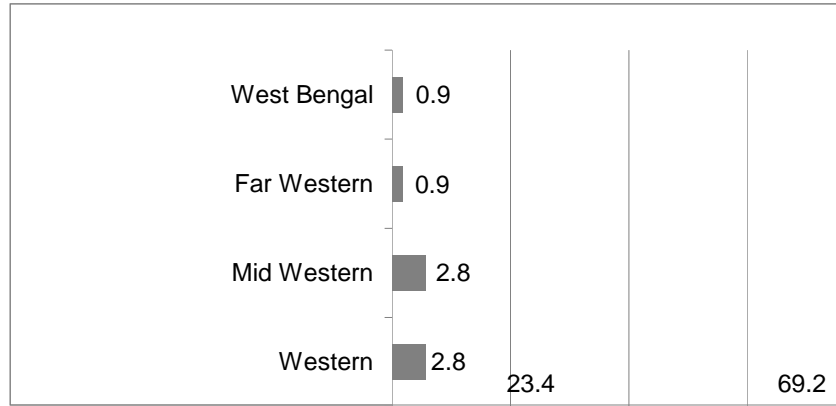
Age-group of majority of children at time of interview was 13-16 years. Only 9.3% children were in the age-group of 10-12 years of age.

Graph 1.2 Education



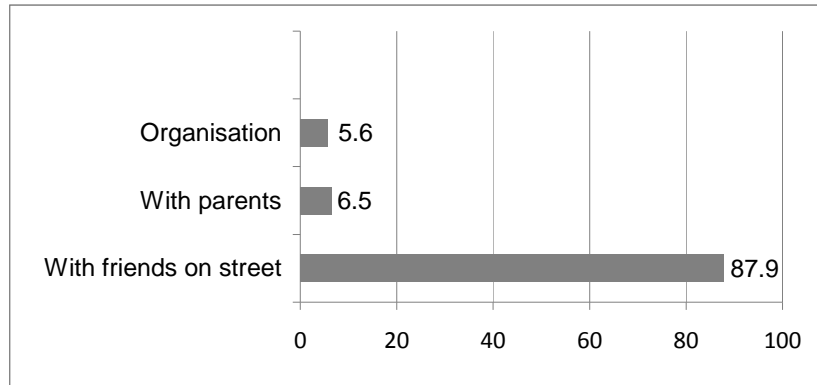
Majority (83.2%) of children interviewed for the research were illiterate. Most of the children have been to primary school and have basic reading and writing skills.

Graph 1.3 Place of origin



Central Development Region of Nepal was place of origin for 69.2% children followed by Eastern region (23.4%). A nominal percentage (0.9%) of children even came from neighbouring Indian states.

Graph 1.4 People respondents reside with



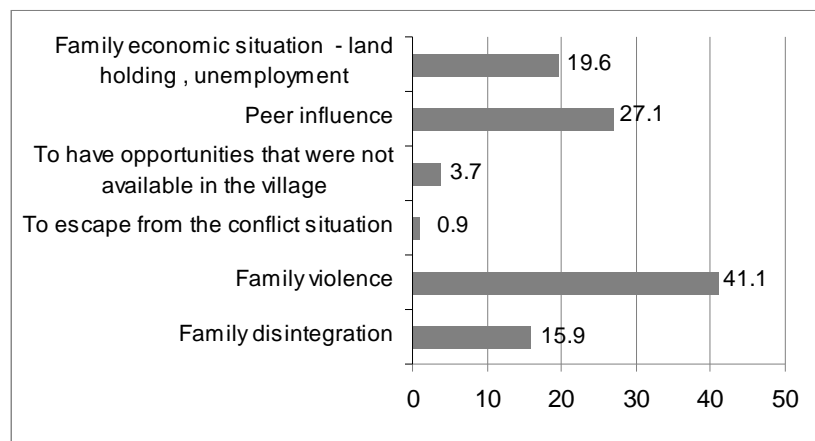
Majority of the street children (87.9) sleep with or spend most of their time with their friends on the street at night time. Some 6.5% reside with their parents and 5.5% with the organisations.

The National Alliance for Street Children (NAOS) report that there are approximately 250 beds available for street children within shelters on any given night in the Kathmandu Valley. However, only 5.6% of respondents reported that they access the available accommodation. The research findings indicate that children are at greatest risk of sexual abuse in the evenings and at night. (For further information please refer to chapter 3: Patterns of abuse). Further research needs to be conducted to determine why children have a preference for sleeping on the street. Such research will inform future programmes designed to entice children to sleep at shelter homes at night.

CHAPTER II

Nature of Street Living

Graph 2.1 Reason for migrating to the street.



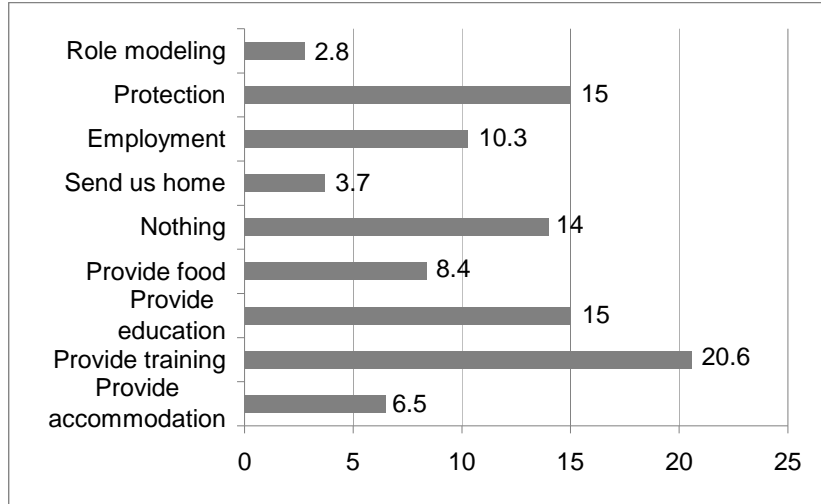
Family violence (41.1%), peer influence (27.1) and family economic situation (19.6) were identified as pull factors by respondents as consequentially leading to street life.

NOTE: Children provided multiple responses to this question.

Extensive research carried out by the welfare sector has highlighted the relationship between poverty, family violence and family disintegration. These factors are interrelated, affecting children's experiences of family life and their social, economic, and psychological coping strategies, both on the street and at home. Examination of the literature indicates that the backgrounds of street children, despite some differences, are remarkably similar. Research conducted by the

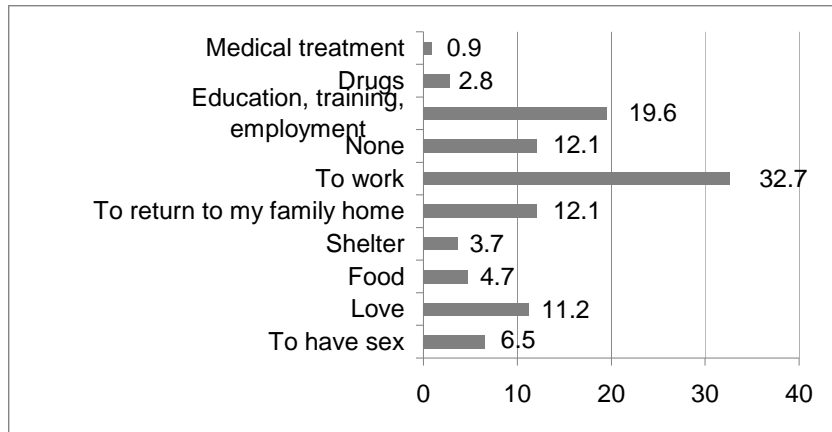
International Labour Organisation (ILO) on the sexual abuse of street children in Kathmandu revealed that adverse family situations such as family violence and poor socio-economic background were the leading factors for children's migration to the street (Subedi, 2002). This research substantiates such previous findings. 41.1% of respondents reported family violence and 19.1% cited economic factors were the main drivers of their relocation to Kathmandu Valley and ultimately, the street. The interviewees referred to situations of family violence perpetrated by step-parents and/or substance abusing parents. Additionally, lack of food was commonly cited as a socio-economic pull factor for relocation to Kathmandu and to the streets. Further, the ILO research identified that when street children grow up and are no longer able to sustain themselves through begging, they return to their home village and recruit other children to the street. While this research substantiates the fact that 27.1% of interviewees cited peer influence as one of the primary reasons for transition to the street, the research cannot verify that this is due to older street children specifically recruiting children from outside Kathmandu. More research needs to be carried out to establish the nature and dynamics of this relationship. However, as the statistics indicate that street dwelling young people are susceptible to the influence of their peers, interventions need to be targeted at developing healthy and supportive relationships amongst young people and informing children about the risks associated with moving to Kathmandu without family support.

Graph 2.2 Expectations of support agencies



The respondents were asked what services they expected from agencies mandated to support street children.

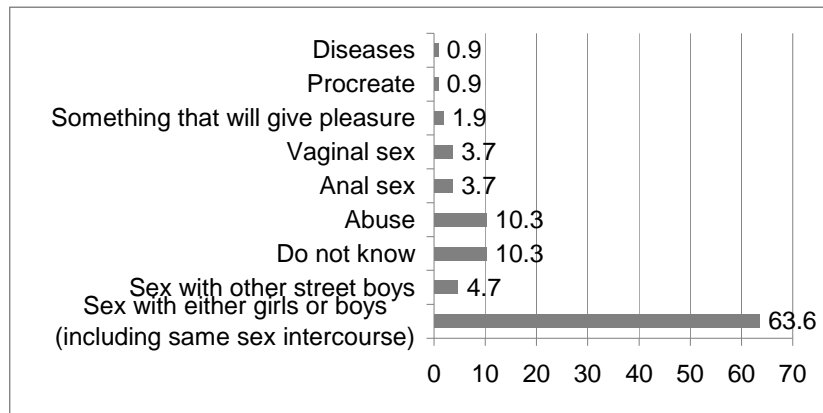
Graph 2.3 Desires and aspirations of respondents



The interviewee's were asked what their future desires and aspirations were.

20.6% of children requested Non Government Organisations to provide training, 15% requested education and 10.3% requested employment. Such a high percentage of requests for employment and employment preparation courses (education and vocational training) (45.9%) reflects the high number of street dwelling boys who reside on the street due to socio-economic factors. This is further highlighted as 32.7% of respondents reported they aspire to work. Such findings undermine perceptions of street children as lacking future orientation and having an entrenched mentality of dependency.

Graph 2.4 Sex defined



The respondents were asked to explain their understanding of what constitutes sex.

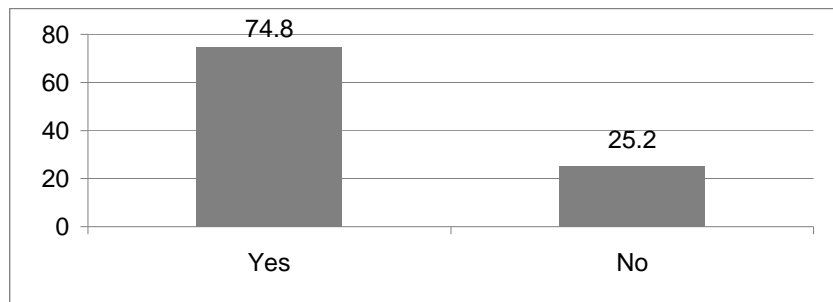
Sexual activity signifies different things to different people. Such meanings are derived from collective, individual and interpersonal experiences and expectations (World Health Organisation). The overwhelming majority (63.8%) of respondents defined sex as both physical intercourse between people of the same or opposite gender. The inclusion of same sex intercourse in the respondents' definition of sex

highlights the presence of norms that do not conform to traditional Nepali sexual roles and boundaries. As male-to-male sex is not a part of the sexual education discourse, male street children are ill informed and highly vulnerable. Tadele also made such findings in his 2009 research of the sexual abuse of male street children in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). Thus, interventions aimed at minimising harm associated with the sexual abuse and/or sexual habits of street dwelling children need to reflect this divergence from dominant sexual cultural norms. For example, awareness raising campaigns intended to address sexual abuse/sexual habits need to be sensitive to the diversity of sexual orientations found amongst street dwelling children.

CHAPTER III

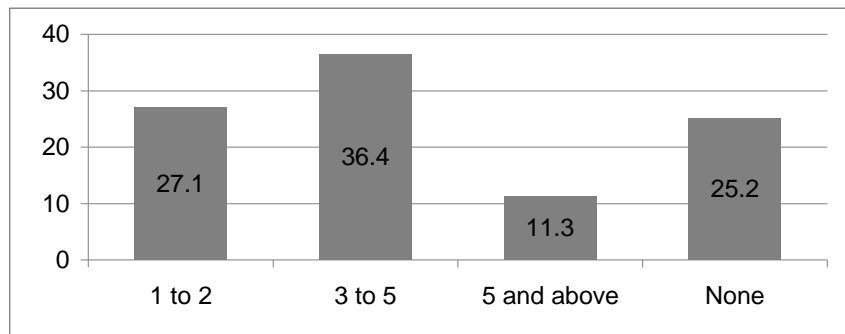
Pattern of Abuse

Graph 3.1 Knowledge of non-consensual sex within the street children community



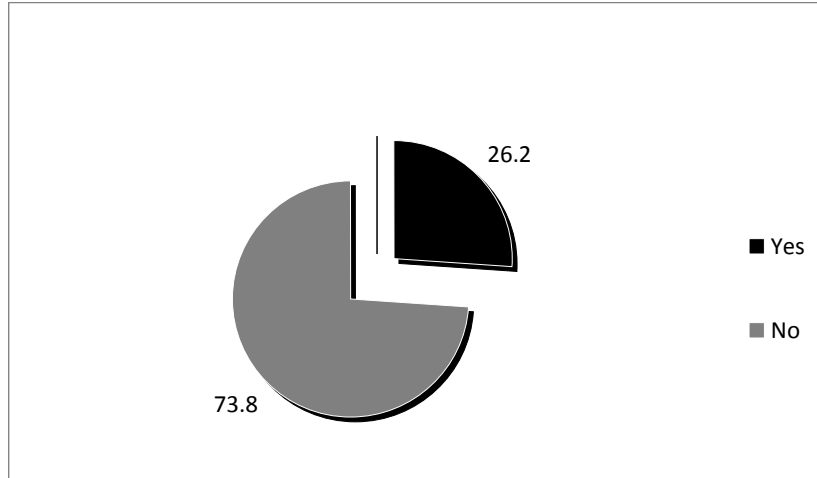
The respondents were asked if they were aware of other street boys who had had non-consensual sex.

Graph 3.2 Number of street boys known to the respondent who have had non-consensual sex



The respondents were asked how many street boys they knew that had had non-consensual sex.

Graph 3.3 Personal experience of non-consensual sex

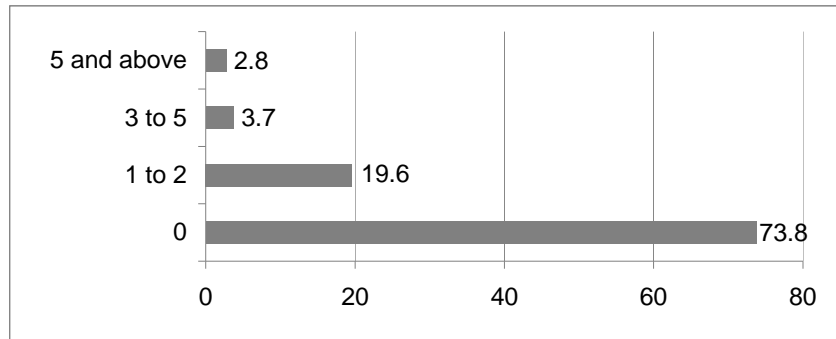


The respondents were asked if they had previously had non-consensual sex.

73.8% of interviewees stated that they have not had non-consensual sex. However, 74.8% of respondents reported that they were aware of other street boys who have had non-consensual sex. Additionally, 36.4% of interviewees reported that they knew 3 to 5 street dwelling boys who have had non-consensual sex and 10.3% reported they knew 5 or more who have had non-consensual sex. It can be inferred from the data above that many respondents did not report their own personal experience of sexual abuse but rather were comfortable reporting abuse experienced by others. If reporting of knowledge of sexual abuse experienced by other street dwelling children is considered an accurate representation of the prevalence of sexual abuse, it has reached endemic proportions. Fredericks 2010 research on the

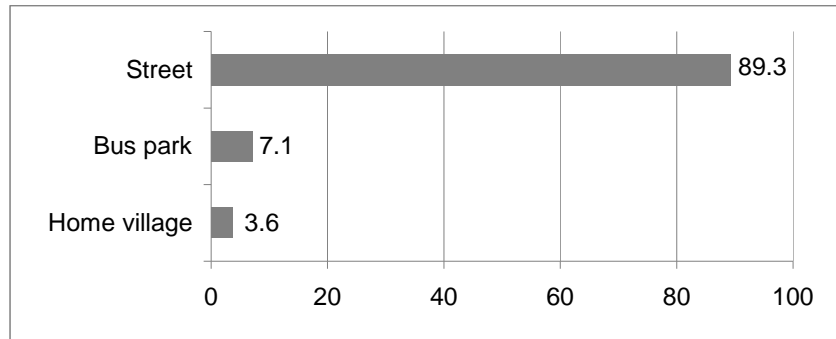
sexual abuse and exploitation of South Asia corroborates these findings. Frederick notes that street children face some of the highest incidence of sexual abuse and exploitation throughout South Asia.

Graph 3.4 Reported number of offenders per respondent



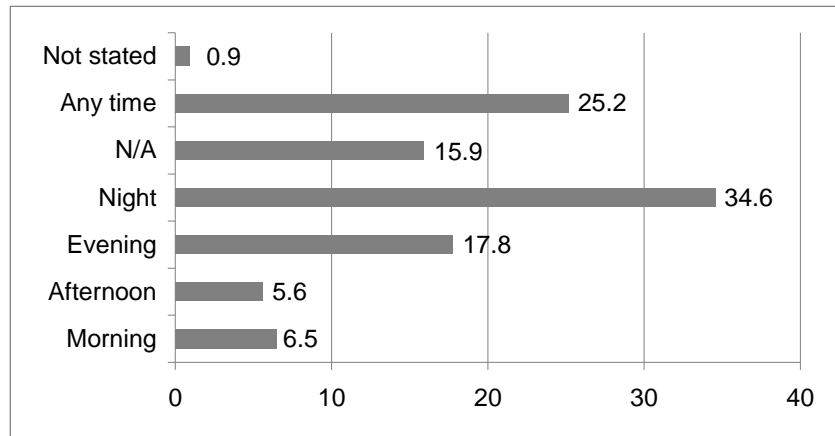
The average number of people respondents reported having had non-consensual sex with.

Graph 3.4.1 Location of unwanted sexual activities



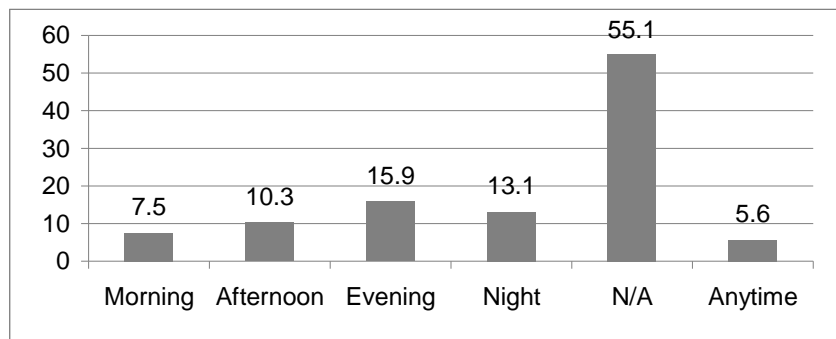
Respondents were asked where the unwanted sexual activities most often took place.

Graph 3.5 Time of day when unwanted sexual activities most frequently occur



Respondents reported the time of day non-consensual sexual activities commonly occurred.

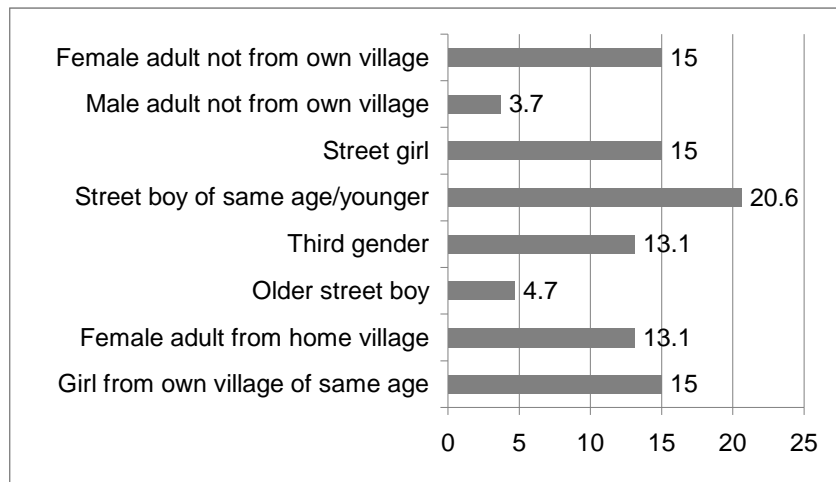
Graph 3.5.1 Time of day sexual intercourse with non-street dwelling people most frequently occurs



Respondents reported the time of day sexual activities with people who were not from the street most commonly occurred.

89.3% of those children who reported having had non-consensual sex stated that the abuse occurred on the street. 38.5% of those engaging in sexual activity reported that it mostly occurs at night. Further, 62% of respondents reported that they mostly have sex with people from outside the street in the evening or at night. These findings highlight the increased exposure to harm faced by these children as a result of living on the street. Further, the statistics identify the importance of drop-in centres and shelters providing accommodation as these services provide a safe place for the children to go at times of greatest risk/vulnerability.

Graph 3.6 First time sex



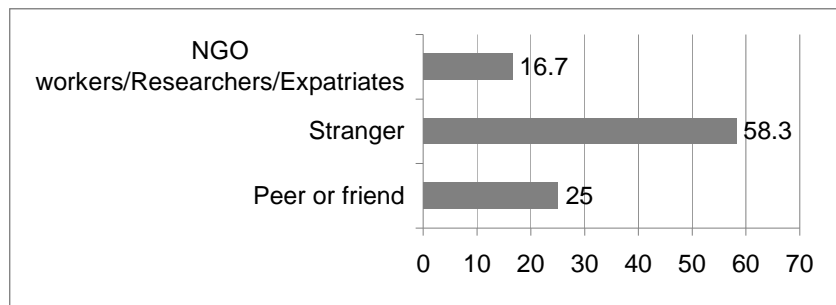
Interviewees reported whom they had sex with for the first time.

When the interviewees were asked who they had their first sexual experience with, the most common response (20.6%) was with another street boy of similar age group. The WHO training package on *Work-*

ing with Street Children states that sex is often used as a mechanism for initiating street children. In return, the new street child is provided with protection, shelter and their basic needs. During the research process, attendees at a stakeholders meeting, discussing the preliminary research findings, concurred that new street children's need for protection places them at risk of sexual abuse by their peers. Cockburn (2005) remarks survival sex on the part of children should be understood in the context of power relations. Further, the WHO argues that initiation sex with those who are charged with meeting your basic needs increases the vulnerability of street children in present and future situations. Such relationships have lasting impacts on a persons' ability to form and maintain healthy intimate and trusting relationships. Consequentially, street children often continue to form relationships with abusers or go on to become abusers themselves (WHO, 34). Such findings highlight the need for programmes to foster protective factors within the first few months of a child's move to the street. Attendees provided examples of how the Pokhara (Nepal) stakeholders' networks are informed by both police and other street children when a new child arrives on the street. Attendees advised that such information allows the stakeholders to monitor and support the child's transition to the street when community reintegration is not possible.

Graph 3.7 People who have used bribery and/or violence and/or threats to coerce street children to participate in sexual activities

Graph 3.7.1 Relationship to street child of foreigners who have used bribery and/or violence and or threats to coerce respondents to participate in sexual activities



Interviewees described their relationship with those foreigners who have used bribery and / or violence and or threats to coerce respondents to participate in sexual activities.

Table 1. Gender and relationship to street children of Nepali people who have used bribery and/or violence and/or threats to coerce respondents to participate in sexual activities.

		Sex						Total	
		Male		Female		Third gender		N	%
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
Nepali	Relatives or guardians	3	3.2					3	3.0
	Peers or friends from the street	44	47.3	2	50.0			46	46.0
	Peers or friends not from the street	10	10.8					10	10.0
	Police	4	4.3					4	4.0
	Strangers	21	22.6	2	50.0	3	100.0	26	26.0
	Drug addicts	11	11.8					11	11.0
Total		93	100.0	4	100.0	3	100.0	100	100.0

The reported gender and relationship to the respondents of those Nepali's who have used bribery and/or violence and/or threats to coerce respondents to participate in sexual activities.

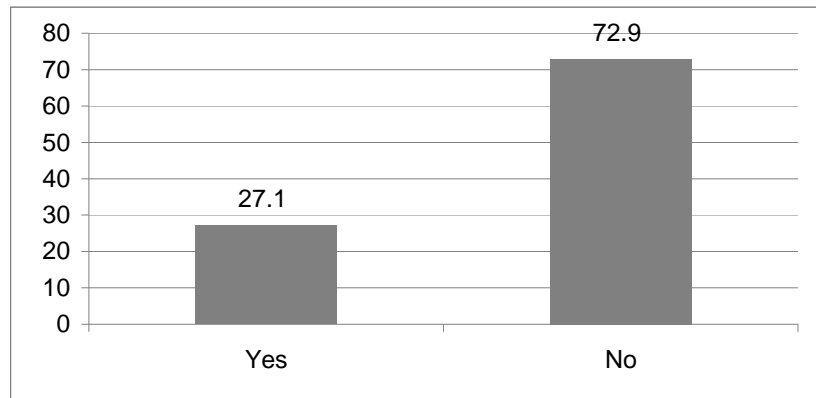
The respondents were asked about the use of bribery, violence or threats used to coerce them to engage in sexual activity. As data gathered during this research project and previous studies indicate that street dwelling children prefer to portray themselves as survivors, these questions were specifically phrased to avoid the implication that bribery, violence or threats amount to abuse (Frederick, 2010; Cockburn 2010). Children were able to provide multiple answers. 46% of interviewees reported that their peers or friends from the street used

force, bribery or violence to coerce others to partake in sexual activity. Additionally, the 2008 joint CPCS – VOC on sexual abuse of street children in Kathmandu and Tadele’s 2009 research on sexual abuse of street boys in South Asia corroborate the findings of this research. The CPCS-VOC study found that others living on the street perpetrated 40% of sexually abusive acts. Tadele’s (2009) research found that peers/friends accounted for 47% of reported perpetrators. These responses provide insightful information about the nature and dynamic of sexual relations between street boys. Specifically, street children are at greatest risk of sexual abuse from other street children. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is a relationship between the children’s ingestion of glue and sexual activity imposed on others. Further, the respondents reported that they alternate between victim and offender. This statement needs to be further explored in future research. These preliminary findings suggest that programmes and intervention strategies aimed at addressing the sexual abuse of street children need to be grounded in the knowledge that children are at a greatest risk of sexual abuse from their peers, and that the children are simultaneously victims and perpetrators. Street children need to be educated about the conditional nature of consent. Street children need to grasp that if they are afraid to say no to the sexual advances of others, they are being abused. Moreover, legislation needs to incorporate “close in age exceptions” to ensure offending street children are provided with support and rehabilitation services rather than being processed through the juvenile justice system.

In response to such findings, CWIN facilitated 6 workshops with 165 street children. The emphasis of the workshops were to assist the par-

ticipants to identify when they were most at risk of sexual abuse from each other (again when affected by glue was identified) and the creation of a code of conduct amongst the street children to minimise future harm and foster a protective environment. This process empowered the children as they defined the problem and determined a solution. Moreover, as the children themselves developed and agreed upon the 'code of conduct', there is a greater likelihood of its ongoing implementation. Further intensive and ongoing peer support programmes could significantly reduce the prevalence of sexual abuse experienced and perpetrated by street boys.

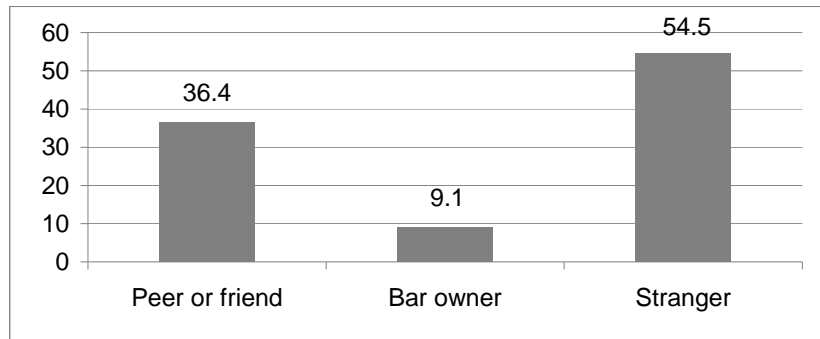
Graph 3.8 Provision of sexual acts in return for gifts



Respondents were asked if they have provided sex in return for gifts.

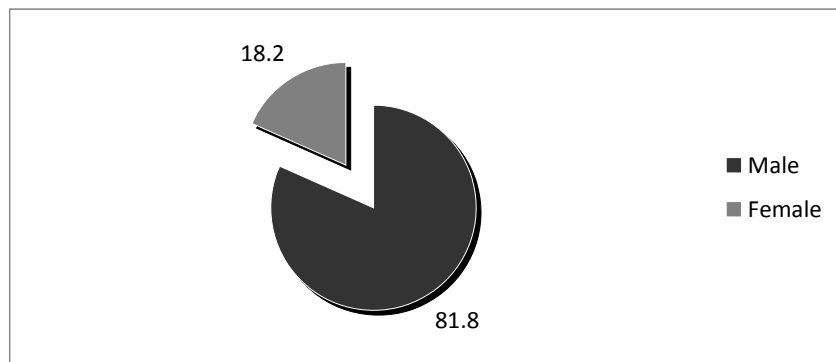
Graphs 3.9 People who have sought sexual activities from respondents in return for gifts

Graph 3.9.1 Relationship of foreigners to street child who have sought sexual activities from the respondent in return for gifts



Interviewees described their relationship with those foreigners who had endeavoured to have sex with them in return for gifts.

Graph 3.9.2 Gender of foreigners who have sought sexual acts from respondents in return for gifts



The reported gender of those foreigners who have solicited sexual acts from street children in return for gifts. Male foreigners were disproportionately represented in this category.

Table 2 Gender and relationship to street children of Nepali people who have sought sexual acts from respondents

		Sex						Total	
		Male		Female		Third gender		N	%
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
Nepali	Relatives or guardians	1	1.1					1	1.0
	Peers or friends from the street	25	26.9					25	25.5
	Peers or friends not from the street	14	15.1			1	25.0	15	15.3
	Strangers	32	34.4	1	100.0	3	75.0	36	36.7
	Drug addicts	21	22.6					21	21.4
Total		93	100.0	1	100.0	4	100.0	98	100.0

The reported gender and relationship to the respondents of those Nepali's who have solicited sexual acts from them in return for sexual acts.

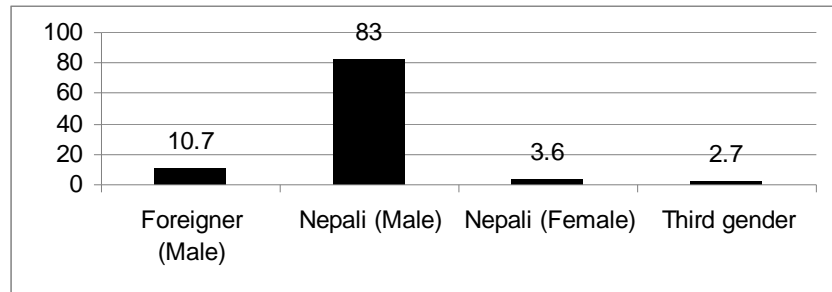
The respondents were asked who has offered them gifts in return for sex. During the interviews the children provided anecdotal evidence that suggested such offers of gifts largely comprised of money (approximately 100 to 200 Nepali rupees), food (meat, and *dal bhat*) and glue.

Male Nepali strangers were the most highly represented group (36.7%) of people reported to have offered gifts in return for sexual activity. This substantiates the findings of a joint CPCS – VOC study

carried out in 2008 that found that 40% of sexually abusive episodes are perpetrated by non-street living Nepali adults.

Of foreigners, male strangers were the largest group reported (54.5%). Anecdotal evidence suggests that males of Indian origin were the most likely foreigners to offer street dwelling children gifts in return for sexual activity.

Graph 3.9.3 Nationality and Gender of Perpetrators



The above graph depicts the percentage of those people reported to have solicited sexual acts from the respondents categorised by gender and country of origin (Nepali/non-Nepali).

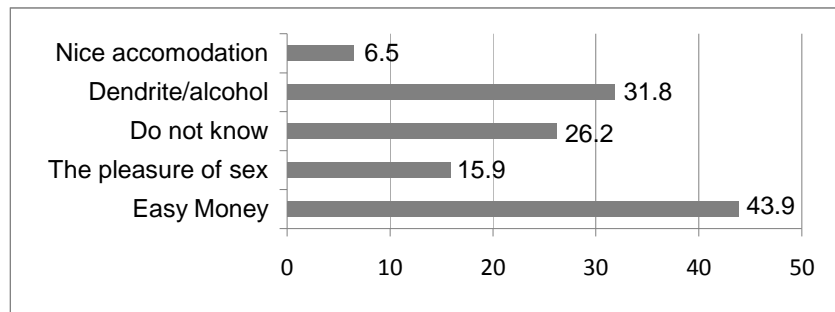
Interestingly, in all questions relating to the nationality of offenders, foreigners were not significantly represented. In relation to the use of bribery, violence or threat to coerce street dwelling children to participate in sexual activity, foreigners represented only 10.7% of all offenders. This finding is in contrast to the number of Nepali male offenders who represented 83%. These findings are congruent with the 2008 study completed by CPCS - VOC which found that foreigners represented 20% of perpetrators of sexual abuse against street children in Kathmandu. Furthermore, participants at the stakeholders

meeting stated that stereotypical perceptions of paedophiles as foreigners provides a level of protection for Nepali paedophiles as they are less likely to be suspected.

CHAPTER IV

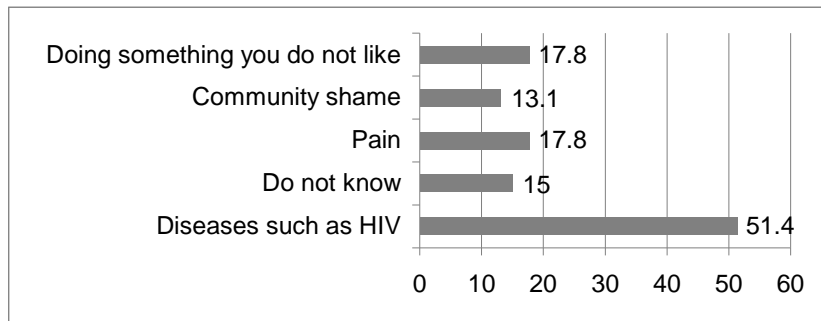
Motivations

Graph 4.1 Advantages of being provided with money and/or gifts in return for sexual acts.



The above graph illustrates the respondent children's reported understanding of the advantages of providing sexual activities in return for gifts and/or money.

Graph 4.2 Disadvantages of being provided with money / gifts for sexual activities



The above graph illustrates the respondent children's reported understanding of the disadvantages of providing sexual activities in return for gifts and/or money.

Interviewees were queried about what motivated/dissuaded them to provide sexual acts in return for money and/or gifts. The children reported that their primary motivation was that they were able to earn more money in a shorter period of time in comparison to other forms of income generation strategies (43.9%). 31.8% of respondents indicated that receiving glue in return for sexual activity was a motivator for participating in these acts. Anecdotal evidence suggests that other street children and drug users bribe their peers with glue in return for sexual acts. Further research needs to be undertaken to substantiate such information.

Participants of the stakeholders' meeting expressed their frustration with attempting to provide incentives for the children to leave the street. Participants elaborated that children are able to meet their basic needs with minimal effort if they are willing to provide sex/sexual activities in return for gifts. Participants explained that legitimate sources of income and a life outside of the street were unattractive to street children, as it required more work and less control over their life. Therefore, for programmes to successfully attract street children they need to address the child's ability and desire to become a contributing and valued member of Nepali society. This would require a two-pronged approach. Campaigns need to target mainstream Nepali citizens' perception of street children and how society can benefit from their reintegration. Furthermore, training and education programmes need to focus on employment opportunities that offer prestige and income beyond daily wage earning.

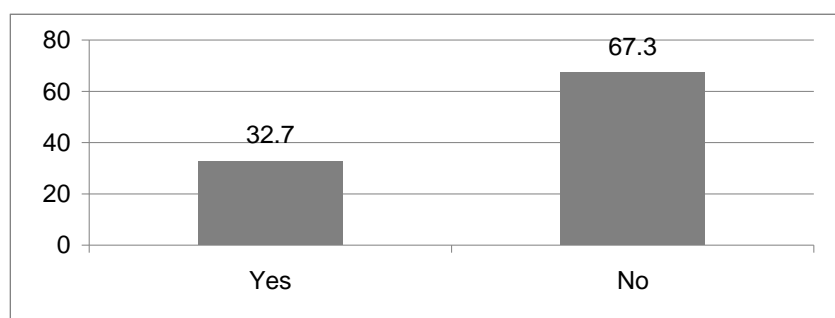
Fear of contracting diseases such as AIDS was overwhelmingly the principal disadvantage cited at 51.4%. Street children are over repre-

sented within HIV positive statistics (Centre for Molecular Dynamics-Nepal, 2009). The street children's exposure to their peers suffering from the HIV virus could explain the high representation of diseases (with particular reference to AIDS) as a deterrent for providing sex in return for gifts.

CHAPTER V

Adult-Child Sexual Relations

Graph 5.1 Sexual relations with an adult

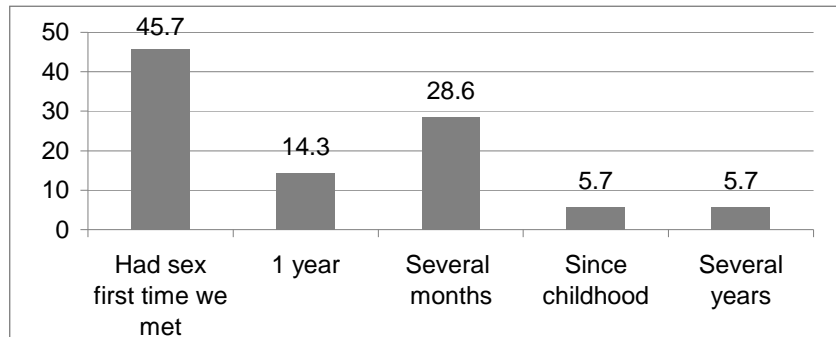


The above graph shows whether or not the respondents have engaged in any kind of sexual behaviour with an adult.

32.7% of respondents reported that they have had sex with an adult. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic and the hesitancy of the respondents to report personal incidents, it can be inferred that the level of sexual activity between street dwelling children and adults is higher than the 32.7% reported. This line of inquiry did not draw a distinction between consensual or non-consensual sex with adults. Such findings raise questions about the age at which a child is legally capable of providing consent for sexual activity. The *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989* considers all children (persons under the age of 18) to have a right to protection from sexual abuse (article 19); however there are no international conventions that specify the age at which a child has the capacity to consent. Nepal's current legislation does not clearly articulate an age of consent, however it is a widely

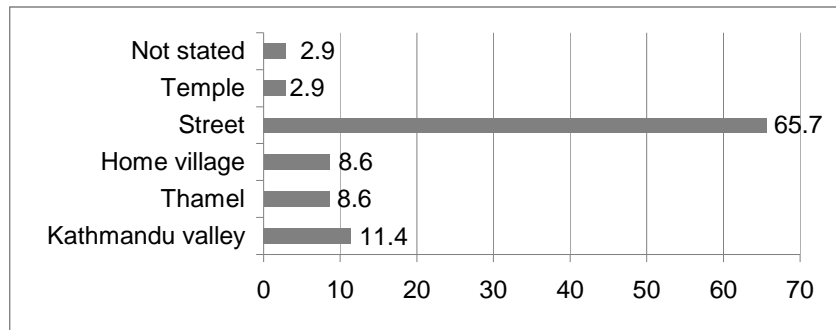
held interpretation within the child protection and child rights sectors in Nepal that as a person under the age of 16 is defined as a child in the *Children's Act 1992*, a person under this age is also unable to consent to sexual activity. This research did not distinguish responses of those interviewees below 16 years of age from those 16 and above. Further research needs to be undertaken to determine the volume of sexual activity that is occurring between adults and street children under the age of 16. Additionally, legislation needs to be strengthened to protect children who do not have the capacity to consent (under the age of 16) from sexual interactions with adults. When outlining punishments for engaging in sexual activities with a child, the *Civil Code (11th Amendment) 1999* makes limited reference to crimes committed against males. This leaves the largely male street-based population with limited legal protection from sexual abuse. Additionally, the *Civil Code (11th Amendment) 1999* does not delineate punishments for sexual offences committed against children under the age of 11, with the exception of penetrative rape. The *Civil Code (11th Amendment)* and *The Children's Act 1992* need to be amended to clearly reflect male children's right to legal protection from sexual abuse by adults.

Graph 5.1.1 Length of time respondents have known the adults they have engaged in sexual activity with



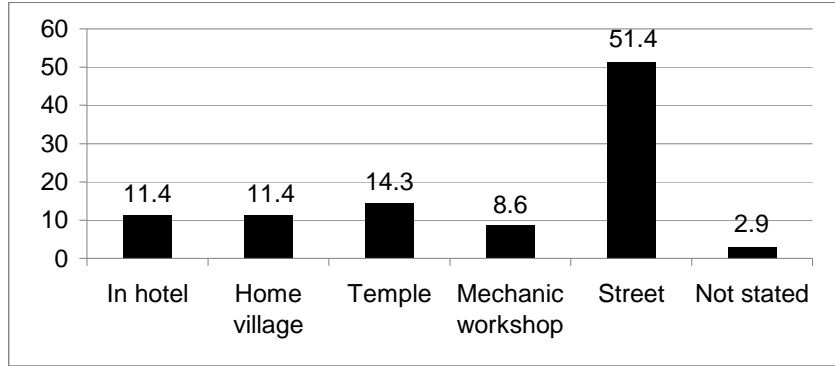
The above graph shows the period of time the respondent children have been in contact with an adult they have engaged in sexual behaviour with.

Graph 5.1.2 Location where respondents first met adults they engaged in sexual behaviour with



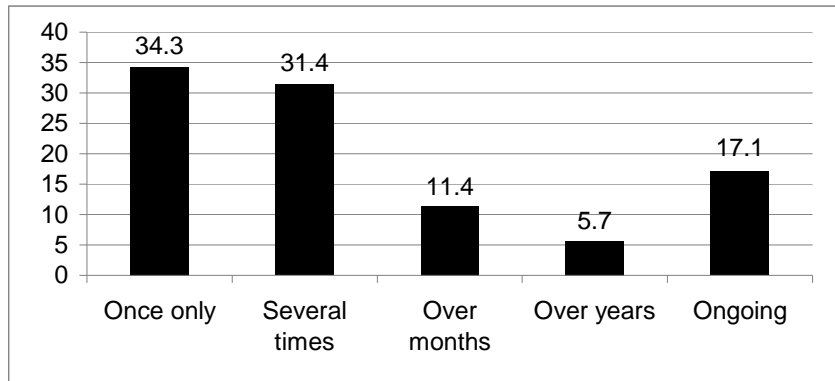
The above graph shows the location the respondent children first came in contact with an adult they engaged in sexual activity with.

Graph 5.1.3 Location where sex with an adult first occurred



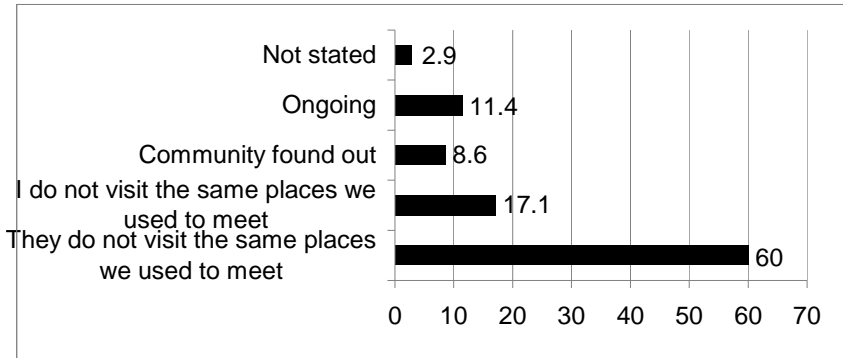
The above graph shows the location the respondent children first had sexual contact with an adult.

Graph 5.1.4 Length of time over which sexual interactions with an adult took place



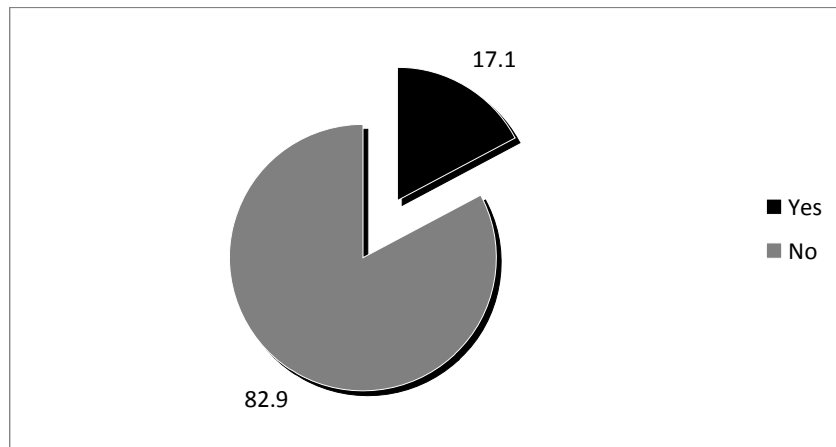
The above graph illustrates the length of time over which the respondent children have engaged in sexual interactions with an adult.

Graph 5.1.5 Reported reason the sexual interactions between the respondent and adult ceased



Respondents reported the primary reason for the cessation of sexual interactions with an adult.

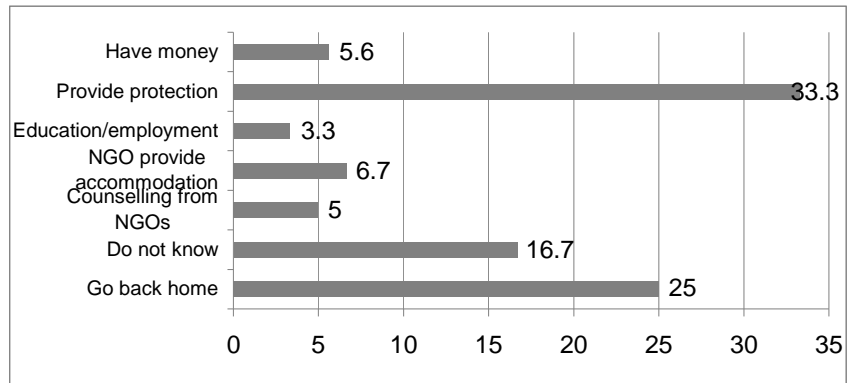
Graph 5.1.6 Ongoing friendship with adults who respondents have previously had sexual interactions with



The above graph identifies the percentage of respondents who continue to have a friendship with an adult they have previously had sexual encounters with.

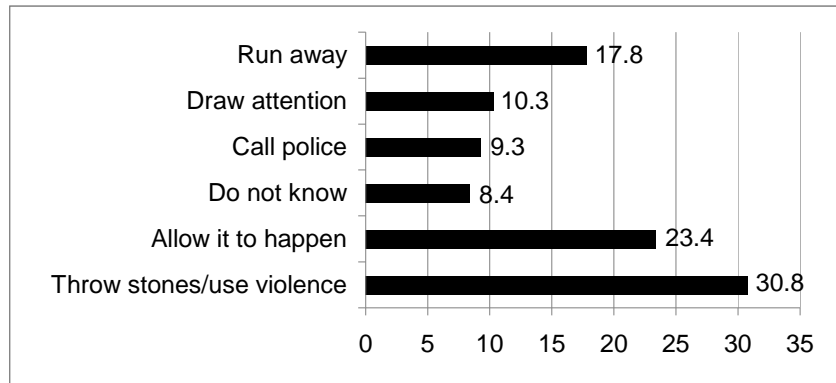
The data gathered reveals two types of trends concerning the nature of street dwelling boys' sexual relationships with adults. 65% of respondents stated that they first met the adults with whom they engaged in sexual activities with on the street. 51.4% of respondents stated that their first sexual encounter with an adult occurred on the street. 45.7% of those who engaged in sexual intercourse with an adult stated that they had sex with the adult on the first occasion that they met them. 34.3% of respondents reported that sexual relations with adults occurred only once. This indicates a pattern of short-lived opportunistic encounters with strangers. However, notably, 28.6% of those who reported having sex with an adult indicated that they had known the adult for several months. Moreover, 21.4% of respondents reported that they had sexual interactions with an adult over several months. This indicates a secondary pattern of street boys engaging in ongoing relationships with adults whom they had a prior relationship with. Further research needs to be undertaken to establish the nature of these relationships with particular attention to the power relations between the child and adult. 60% of respondents reported that the sexual activity stopped when the adult stopped visiting the typical meeting places. 82.9% of interviewees reported that they are no longer friends with the adult. Further research is required to establish the future risk of sexual abuse faced by those children who remain friends with the adult after they cease to have sexual interactions.

Graph 5.2 Respondents perceptions of required changes to permit them to cease having unwanted sex



The above graph illustrates respondent's perceptions of what change need to take place to enable them to cease having unwanted sex.

Graph 5.3 Respondent's reaction to forced sexual advances

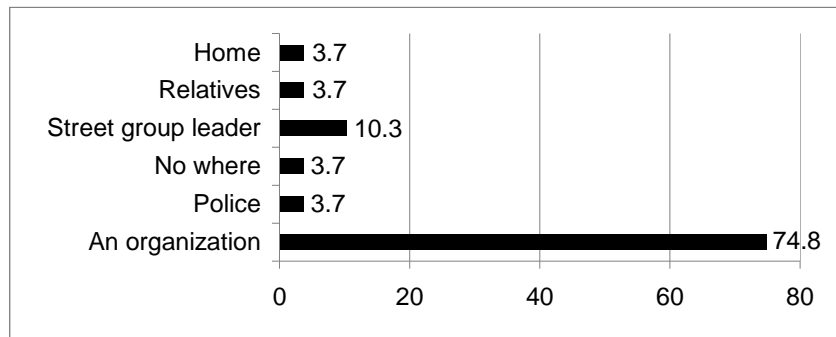


The above graph illustrates how the respondent children would react if someone tried to force them to engage in sex/sexual activity.

23.4% of the respondents reported that if someone tried to engage them in unwanted sexual activity they would "allow it to happen". This

highlights both the sense of powerlessness and the prevalence of desensitisation in relation to sexual abuse within this community. Street children need to be provided with education around what constitutes sexual abuse and their rights in relation to it. Due to the communal and public nature of living on the street, an appreciation of the individual rights one has over their body has limited applicability to street children. Street children need to be provided with information about their right to say “no” to unwanted sexual activity and what options are available to them in such situations. Programs need to be developed that build the self-esteem and self-efficacy of street children so that they believe in their ability to say “no” to unwanted sexual advances.

Graph 5.4 Services accessed by respondents when in crisis



The above graph shows where/who the respondent children seek assistance from in times of crisis.

74.8% of respondents reported that they go to an organisation when they have a problem. This can be attributed to the street dwelling children's alienation from mainstream institutions such as the family, police and education system. Besides, this reflects the street children's

reliance on charitable services. Such dependence leaves the children in a precarious and vulnerable position as NGOs have no statutory obligation to provide services to these children. Additionally, NGOs are typically dependent on external sources of funding and therefore provision of ongoing services cannot be guaranteed. Such dependence on the NGO sector also highlights the need for a high level of professionalism and evidence based practice.

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APPENDIX

Street Children Research Questions 2010

SN	Description	Classification
1	Age	10 – 12 13 -16 17 – 18
2	Educational level	Illiterate Literate
3	Place of origin	
4	Where are you living now	With friends on street With parents With relatives Organization Others....
Nature of Street Living		
5	Reason for joining the street	Family disintegration Domestic violence To escape from the conflict situation To have opportunities that weren't available in the village Peer influence Family economic situation – land holding /unemployment Street-based family
Daily Routine		
6	Morning	Afternoon
	Evening	Night
Understanding of sex or sexual activity		
7	What does sex mean?	

A Study on the Sexual Abuse of Street Boys in Kathmandu- 2010

8	Have you heard about other street children having sex / sexual activity?	Yes No
Pattern of Abuse		
9	Do you know of boys who have had non consensual sex?	Yes No
10	How many street children do you know have had non-consensual sex?	Few (1 – 2) Many (3 +) Every child they knew None
11	Tell me who you had sex with the first time?	
12	Have you ever had non consensual sex?	Yes No
13	If Yes, When and where?	
14	Which of these people use bribery / violence / threat to make street children have sex or other sexual activity?	FOREIGNER (including Indian – trend) Peers/friends Bar owners Strangers I/NGO workers Others NEPALI Relatives/guardians Peers/friends from the street Peers friends not from the street Bar owners Police I/NGO workers Strangers Others Drug Addicts
15	Do you have to provide sex in return for gifts?	Yes No
16	Which of these people have tried to have sex with you in return for a gift?	FOREIGNER Peers/friends Bar owners Strangers I/NGO workers Others

		NEPALI Relatives/guardians Peers/friends from the street Peers friends not from the street Bar owners Police I/NGO workers Strangers Others Drug addicts
17	What are the advantages of being provided with money / gifts for sex?	
18	What are the disadvantages of being provided with money / gifts for sex?	
Perpetrators of Abuse		
19	Who asks you for sex/ sexual activity?	
20	Who do you ask for sex / sexual activity?	
21	What time of year / season do you have most sex / sexual activity?	
22	What time of the year/season do you most have sex with people outside of the street?	
23	Apart from sex with girls/boys of the same age group from the street have you had sex with an adult?	Yes No
24	If yes, how long have you known them for?	
25	Where did you first meet them?	
26	Where did you have sex for the first time with an adult?	
27	Over what length of time have you been having sex with this person?	
28	How does the sex with that adult stop?	
29	Are you still friends with the adult?	Yes No
30	How many different people have you had unwanted sex / sexual activity with?	

Motivations for Unwanted Sexual Activity	
31	Is it good to have sex in return for food, money, other stuff?
32	Is there anything that could be changed so that you would not need to have sex with people that you did not want to?
Others	
33	What would you do if someone tries to force you to have sex?
34	Where do you go whenever you get into a problem?
35	What are your expectations from development organizations?
36	What are your de-sires/aspirations/dreams?