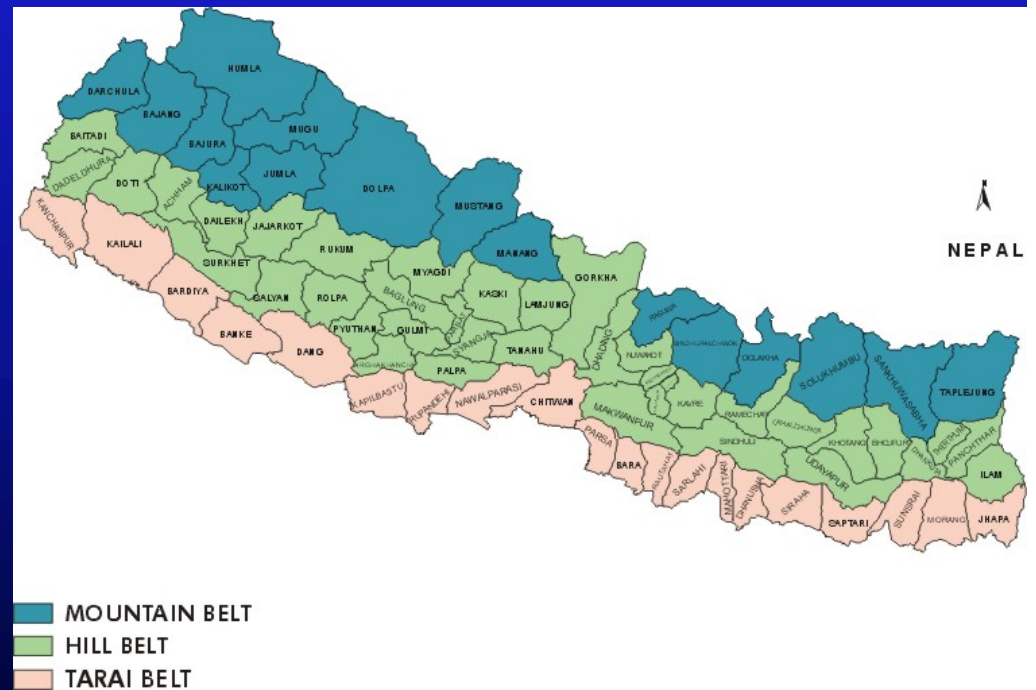


Nepal

- Total area: 147.2 Thousand Sq. Km.
- Total Cultivable land: 32 thousand sq. km. (20%)
- High mountains: 20% of land (11% of cultivable land)
- Hills: 63% of land (60% of cultivable land)
- Terai: 17% of land (49% of cultivable land)
- Urban areas: 3.3 Thousand Sq.Km.(2.23% of total area)
- Rural areas: 143.9 Thousand Sq. Km.

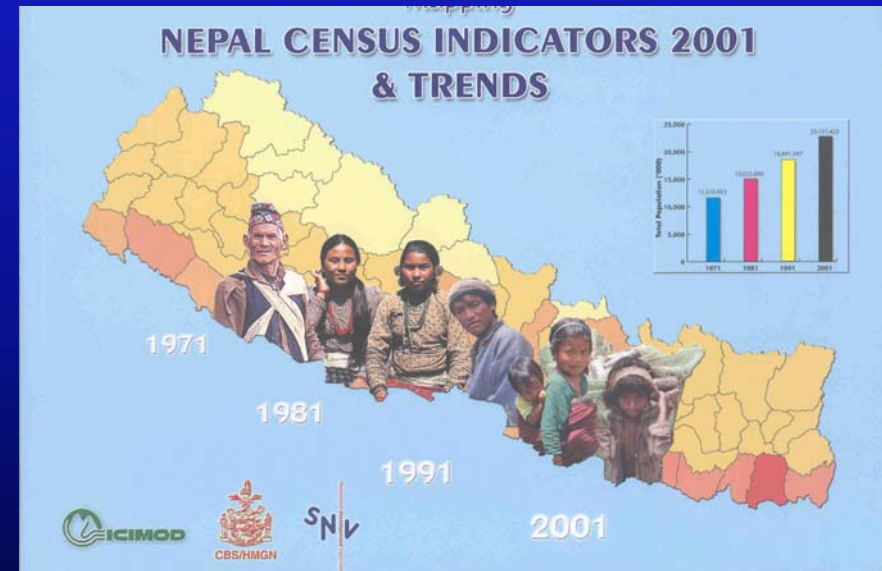
[National Census, 2001]



Nepal [Demographic facts/ figures]

- Total population: 23.2 million
- [Male:11.6 million; Female 11.6 million]
- Sex Ratio:99.8 males to 100 females
- [Urban population:3.3 m (14.2%); rural population 19.9 (85.8%)]
- Population growth rate: 2.24%
- Total households:4.3 million
- Average household size:5.4 persons
- Households with females owning assets:715 thousand (17.3%)

[National Census, 2001]



Nepal [Economic facts/ figures]

- Dependency Ratio of 0-14 and 60 and above years on 15-59 years: 84.69%
- Economically active population aged 10 years and above: 9.8 million (58.21%) – [male- 5.6 million (67.6%); female- 4.1 million (48.93%)]
- Adult (15 years and above) economically active population: 8.6 million [5.6 million in Agriculture; 2.9 million in others]
- 7.2 (76%) million out of total 9.5 million employed people of 15 years and above in agriculture

[National Census, 2001]

[NLFS, 1998/99]



Suresh Pradhan July2003

Rural Agricultural Economy

- Population dependent in agriculture: 65 - 76%
- Contribution in Exports: 82%
- Contribution to the GDP: 40%
[National Census, 2001]
- Approx 300,000 new entrants every year
[NLFS, 1998/99]
- Disproportionate land ownership – lower 40% own 6% of and upper 6% own 33% of land
- 24.4% households are landless (7.5% in high mountains; 20.6% in hills and 30.8% in Terai)
[National Census, 2001]
- 70% of peasant families own less than 1 hectare of land
[Economic Survey report, 2001/02]



Suresh Pradhan July 2003

Rural Agricultural Economy

- Growth rate of 0.8% - agriculture sector 1.7% and non-agriculture sector 0.2%) –negative to the Population growth rate by 1.44%.
- Widespread poverty particularly at rural areas- Many people below the absolute poverty line with less than \$77 per capita income

[Economic Survey report, 2001/02]

- Total Literacy rate(6+ years):54.1%(65.5% for male, 42.8% for female)
- Adult literacy rate(15+ years):48.6% (male62.7%, female 34.9%)

[National Census, 2001]



Suresh Pradhan July2003

Rural Agricultural Economy

- Down turn of economy but growing construction sector
 - Remittances the major contributor to the GDP
 - Estimated number of workers-overseas 600,000 700,000 and 750,000- 1,000,000 in India
 - Inward remittances worth Rs.70 billion (\$1 billion)
 - Lack of investment opportunities
 - Investment on land and houses mainly in urban areas
- [Sheddon, Adhikari and Gurung, 2001]



Visa applicants for the Gulf countries in front of the Egyptian Embassy, Kathmandu

Stone Quarries in Nepal

- Growth in large scale construction work
- Increasing cement concrete construction method in residential houses
- Lesser industrial undertakings – mechanical crushers
- Demand for hand crushed stone aggregates



Suresh Pradhan (April 2004)

Stone Quarries in Nepal

- Major stone quarry sites in Nepal [rivers, sedimentary rock mountains]
- Their management – The department of Mines and Geology vis-à-vis the District Development Committees
- The contractors/ Rent seekers
- The laborers – migration – forward sale of labor



Child Labor in Stone Quarries

The Social Dimension:

- Indifferent societal attitude
- Inadequate legal enforcement
- Illiteracy and ignorance of parents
- Lack of access as well as low value to education
- Disharmony and diminishing family support
- Caste and ethnicity based discrimination

Child Labor in Stone Quarries

The Economic Dimension:

- Subsistence livelihoods
- Excessive dependence in agriculture
- Low wages



Child Labour in Stone

Impact of the Political Crisis:

- Violence and Insecurity caused by the Maoists
- Conscription, abductions, extortions and seizures
- Atrocities caused by the Security forces
- Agitation by Political Parties
- The King's Popular movement



Maoist abduction terror up in Taplejung

RSS

TAPLEJUNG, April 21: Great terror has spread in the rural areas after the Maoists started intensifying the abducting and then releasing of people from various places in the district.

According to the local people, the Maoists have been abducting local people for their open training programme and keeping them for two to three days.

Last Sunday, a group of youths, teachers and students were abducted from Phurumbu VDC and surrounding areas in Taplejung and released two days later.

Similarly on Tuesday the Maoists abducted more than four dozen youths and students from

See *TERROR*, Page 7

Child Labour in Stone Quarries

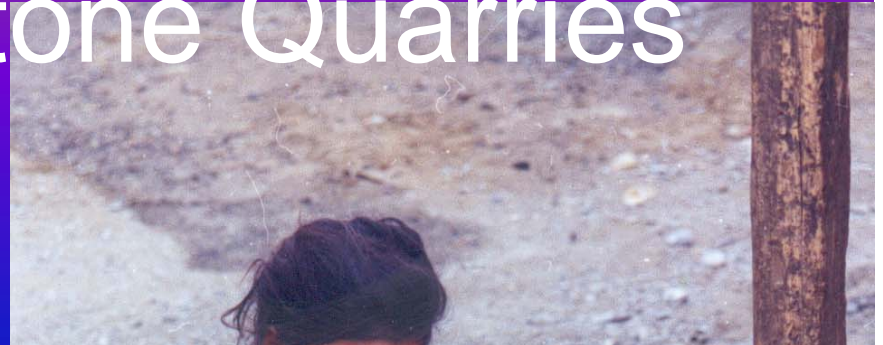
Impact of the Political Crisis:

- Children and youth migration
- Female headed households
- Rural marginal families migration
- More children in the worst forms of child labor



Child Labor in Stone Quarries

- Number of child laborers – well above 10,000
- Majority of the children are of 11-13 years in age
- More girls than boys
- Mostly from socially discriminated caste and backward ethnic groups outnumber others
- Working hours – 25% 4-8 hours a day and 67% 9-10 hours a day
- Earnings per day – 2% earned about \$1; – 90% less than NRs.60(\$0.85) - 35% less than Rs.20 (\$0.30) a day
- Kids mostly illiterate (80%) or drop outs



Child Labour in Stone Quarries

Occupational Risks and Hazards:

- Exposure to agents that can cause infections
- Exposure to risks of injuries and fatal accidents
- Exposure to risks of work related illnesses
- Vulnerability of adolescent girls
- Lack of social protection



Strategies for Eliminating Child Labor in Stone Quarries

- Keeping children away from work places and in the learning institutions
- Working children's actions in raising awareness for education and elimination of child labor
- Unionizing workers to strengthen their "voice"
- Generating support from Local governance bodies and generating local funding support
- Developing peer support among adolescent girls
- Skill development opportunities for grown up children



Strategies that have worked

- Community ownership of the day care centers for young children
- Generating local funding support for setting up school
- Children's actions through child clubs
- Adolescent girls actions through peer support
- Awareness on occupational safety and health
- Unionization of workers

Strategies that have not worked

- Generating support from the Government for the Day care centers
- Attracting government quota of teachers
- Vocational training
- Insufficient address to conflict related issues



Issues for future interventions

Education and Social Mobilization:

- Participatory planning with children, workers on understanding the causes and consequences of child labor in stone quarries
- Building their capacity to access and make their voice heard at the district and local governance bodies
- Spreading child to child approaches through child clubs and peer support through adolescent girls groups
- Functional literacy to women

Issues for future interventions

Strengthening Income Capacity:

- Apprenticeship on construction sector skills
- Introduction of Appropriate technology – to reduce work place risks and fatigue as well as to promote their production capacity
- Group based savings and credit for developing their own fall back mechanism
- Co-operative or group based marketing of their production

Issues for future interventions

Policy Development and Social Protection

- Registration of Workers
- Redistribution of Revenue from Stone quarries for social protection of workers or education of their children
- Prioritizing elimination of child labor in stone quarries as one of the objective of district development plans.