



Virtual Event 15-18 June 2020

# 2020 Asia-Pacific Statistics Week

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## Employment Relationship in the Brick Industry of Nepal

C: Integrated statistics for integrated analysis (SC3)  
**Journey towards integrated statistics**

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# Outline of Presentation

- Background/Introduction
- Methodology
- Results and Discussions on Child Labour, Forced Labour and Bonded Labour
- Way Forward



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# Introduction

- Brick industry is a multi-million-dollar industry in Nepal (Premchander et al. 2011) and produces annually about six billion bricks from more than 1000 brick kilns (Baum, 2012).
- It provides employment to at least 142000 individuals belonging from the poorest illiterate population segment of the country (Premchander et al. 2011).
- about 17% of the workers involved in the manufacturing sector are employed in the brick industry
- Since majority of brick kilns are located in rural areas, it injects incredible amount of money to rural economy especially by buying the local produces.



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### Introduction; contd..

- Moreover, in the context of increasing urbanization and collapse of thousands of buildings/houses from the twin-earthquakes that strike in 2015, the role of brick industry in building better Nepal cannot be undermined (Goda et al., 2015).
- Despite these positive aspects, the industry has been blamed for child/bonded/forced labour practices.
- Among several products manufactured using child and forced labour across the countries in the globe, brick is listed by the United States Department of Labour (USDOL) as one of the products made using forced/child labour in Nepal (USDOL 2018).





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## Introduction; contd..

- Government of Nepal has ratified the ILO's fundamental conventions i.e. Convention on Forced Labour (No. 29), Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labour (No.105) and Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182).
- Nepal Labour Act 2074 has already come into effect on 4<sup>th</sup> of September, 2017.
- Based on New Labour Act 2074, Nepal Government has recently framed Labour Rules, 2075 (2018).
- Furthermore, Nepal has fully embraced Sustainable Development Goals and vowed to meet its targets.
- Target 8.7 aims to end all forms of forced labour by 2030 and end forced labour of children, along with all other forms of child labour, by 2025.



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# Methodology

- This study employs mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative) approach for data collection because child, forced and bonded labour is a complex and sensitive issue
- The universe of operational brick kilns was taken from first Nepal Economic Census 2018 conducted by CBS.
- Two-stage stratified cluster sampling approach was used for sample selection using existing seven provinces as strata.



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## Methodology; contd..

- The sampling size was statistically determined using the ILO-IPEC interactives tools. The sample size (number of households) was estimated to be 4075.
- About 14 household unit were decided to sample from each brick kiln requiring 300 brick kilns to be selected in the country.
- The qualitative approach like Focus group discussions (FGDs), consultation workshop and key informants' interview (KII) were used to collect information with concerned stakeholders.



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## Results

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### Number of persons engaged by nationality, sex and type of employment

Employment Type	Total				Nepali				Indian			
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Non Productive Worker	483	4.9	9,293	95.1	483	100.0	9,241	99.4	-	-	51	0.6
Productive Worker	35,824	20.3	140,548	79.7	21,636	60.4	77,534	55.2	14,188	39.6	63,014	44.8
Employees with disability	19	12.3	138	87.7	10	49.7	93	67.5	10	50.3	45	32.5
Total	36,308	<b>20</b>	149,843	<b>80</b>	22,119	<b>60.9</b>	86,776	<b>57.9</b>	14,188	<b>39.1</b>	63,067	<b>42.1</b>







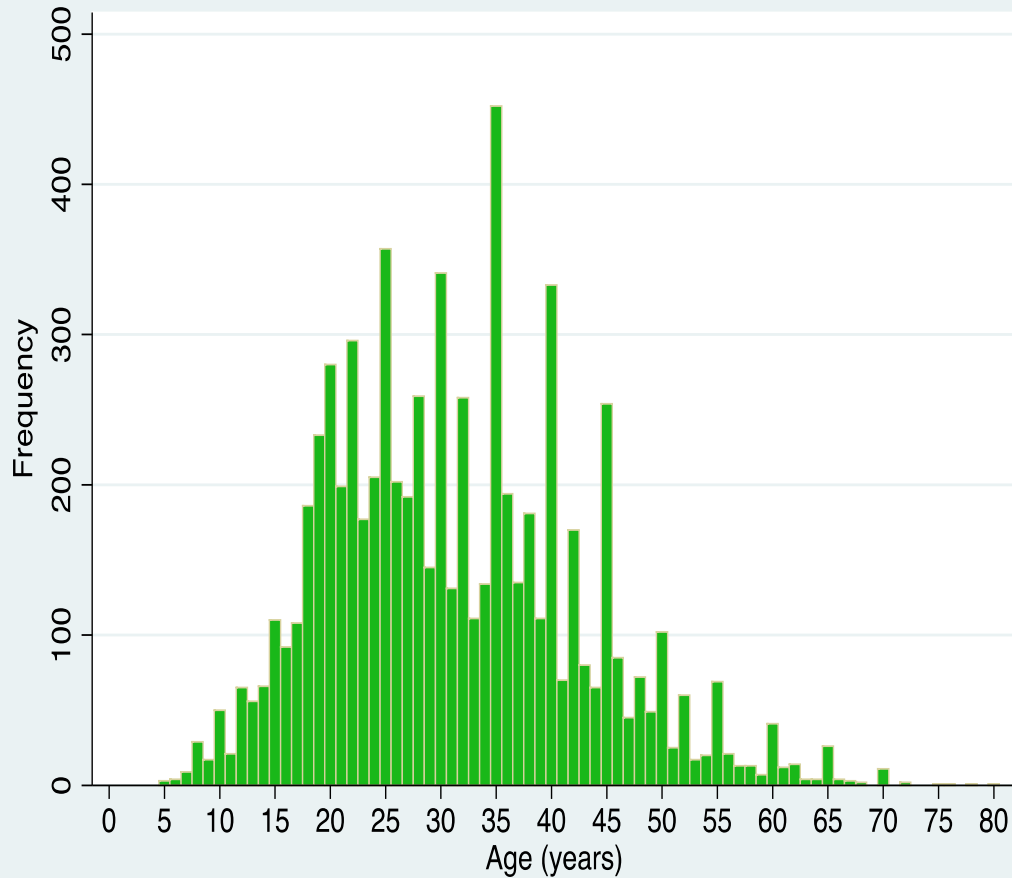
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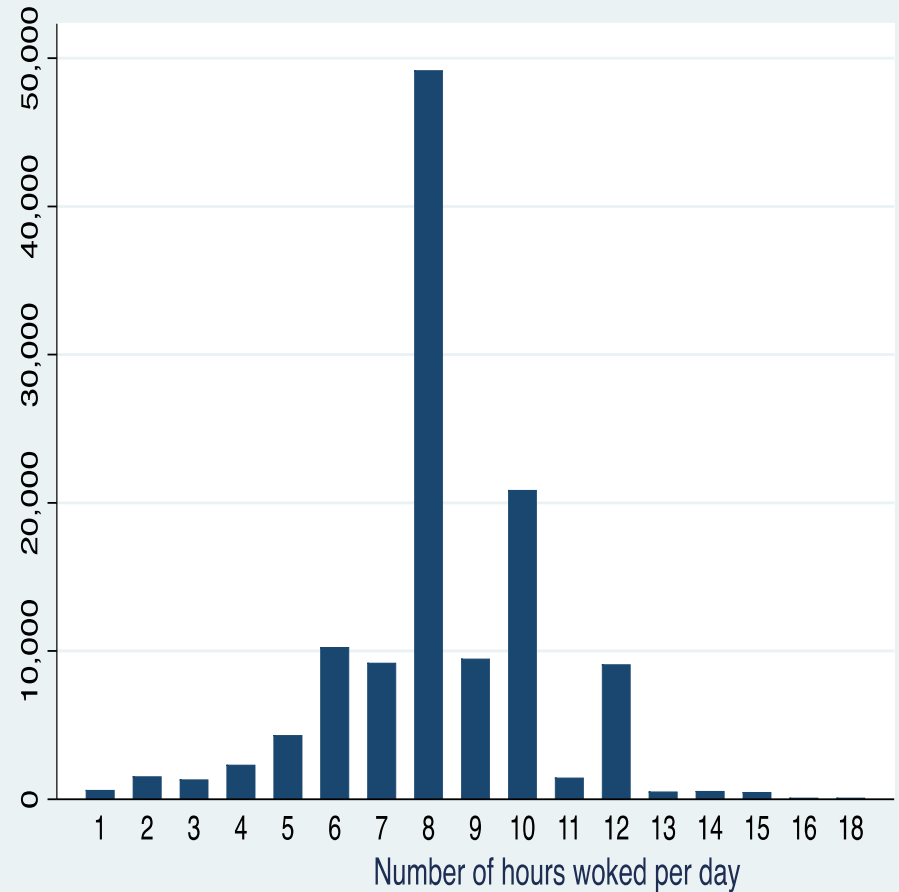
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# Results

## Age Distribution and Number of hours worked per day



Source: Nepal Brick Kiln Survey 2019



Source: Nepal Brick Kiln Survey 2019



DECADE  
OF  
ACTION



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# Results

## Child Labour

- The term “child labour” reflects the engagement of children in prohibited work and, more generally, in types of work to be eliminated as socially and morally undesirable under national legislation, the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182), as well as their respective supplementing recommendations (No. 146 and No. 190).
- Overall, the prevalence of the child labour is **9.03% (15919)** in the brick industry.



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# Results

## Child Labour

Conditions	Number	Per cent
Children are involved in hazardous work activities*	14,152	8.02
Victims of child abuse*	65	0.04
Children of age from 15 to 17 years working at least 43 hours of work per week	4,791	2.79
Children of age from 12 to 14 years working at least 14 hours a week	4,047	2.29
Children of age from 5 to 11 years working at least an hour in a week	3,380	1.92
<b>Total child labour</b>	<b>15919</b>	<b>9.03</b>



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## Results

### Status of children of different age groups working in the brick industry

Status	5-11 years		12-14 years		15-17 years		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Child labour	3,380	100.0	4,631	93.5	7,908	84.1	15,919	89.8
Enrolled at school and work in the brick kiln	375	11.1	602	12.2	654	6.9	1,631	9.2
Enrolled at school and are child labour	375	11.1	533	10.8	525	5.6	1,433	8.1
Unaccompanied working children	18	0.5	289	5.8	1,847	19.6	2,154	12.1
Unaccompanied working children that are child labour	18	0.5	286	5.8	1,697	18.0	2,001	11.3
Working children joining family	3,361	99.4	4,664	94.2	7,559	80.4	15,584	87.9
Working children	3,380	19.05	4,953	27.9	9,405	53.02	17,738	100





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# Results

## Forced Labour

- By statistical definition, a person is considered being employed as forced labour if s/he has worked under both involuntarily and the threat and menace of any penalty. Both conditions must exist to be statistically regarded as forced labour.
- The total number of workers who satisfies both the involuntariness and the threat and menace of any penalty are **453 with the prevalence rate of 0.26%**.



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# Results

## Forced Labour

- This means that for about 10,000 workers sampled, 26 of them are forced labour in the brick industry.
- The recent labour force survey results identified that for each 10,000 workers sampled in the country, about 12 workers are identified to be the victims of forced labour (CBS 2018).
- This indicates that the prevalence of forced labour in brick industry is **about two times higher.**



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# Results

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## Bonded Labour

- The bonded labour is a subset of the forced labour.
- Similarly, to the forced labour, there are few dimensions that characterizes bonded labour.
  - First, the workers have to take an advance payment either from the recruiters i.e. Naikes and the employers or should have paid some costs to obtain the job.
  - Second, these workers have not clearly understood the terms and condition of the repayment or did not have written agreement on the plan of reimbursement or have not signed any contract prior to starting the job.

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# Results

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## Bonded Labour

- Third, these workers do not have a freedom to leave the job/employer without any threat/risks.
  - Fourth and finally, these workers should be on forced labour.
  - When all these conditions are satisfied, a person is defined to be working as bonded labour.
- 
- About 34% of the workers did not have written agreement on the plan of reimbursement and
  - 56% have not signed contract prior to starting the job.





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# Results

## Bonded Labour

- Roughly 6% of the workers agreed that they do not have a freedom to leave the job/employer without any threat/risks and fall under forced labour.
- Based on the above four conditions, we find the **prevalence of bonded labour to be 0.14%**.
- This implies that for each 10,000 workers sampled in the brick industry, 14 workers will be working as bonded labour.



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## Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations

- This study looked into the employment relationship at different layers of work for producing bricks in Nepal and recommended options to end forced/child labour practices.
- The protocol of the forced labour convention focuses on prevention, protection and prosecution.
- Accordingly, knowledge-base for initiating three dimensional interventions—Prevention, Protection and Prosecution (PPP) measures to eliminate the child labour and forced labour from the brick industry were recommended.



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# Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations

- Overall, the elimination of the child labour and forced labour from the brick industry requires collective efforts from all the concerned stakeholders including donor community, trade unions, and brick kiln industry.
- The root causes of the child labour and forced labour should be addressed by the Government through establishing a coherent policy, legal and regulatory framework and strictly implementing such policies.
- The government should strictly monitor whether all the children after birth are immediately registered or not.
- A tracking system should be developed to figure out if a child is attending school or not after certain years (when child reach the school admissible age).





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## Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations; contd..

- If a child has not been admitted to school, then he or she is likely to work as a child labour.
- A labour registration certificate should be given to the eligible workers and only such workers need to be employed.
- Government and concerned stakeholders should organize a massive awareness campaign to sensitize the employers, Naikes, adult workers and the kiln community about the possible risks and hazards that children are likely to be exposed in the brick kilns, its negative consequences to their health and future, and the basic rights of children for a safe and healthy childhood



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