

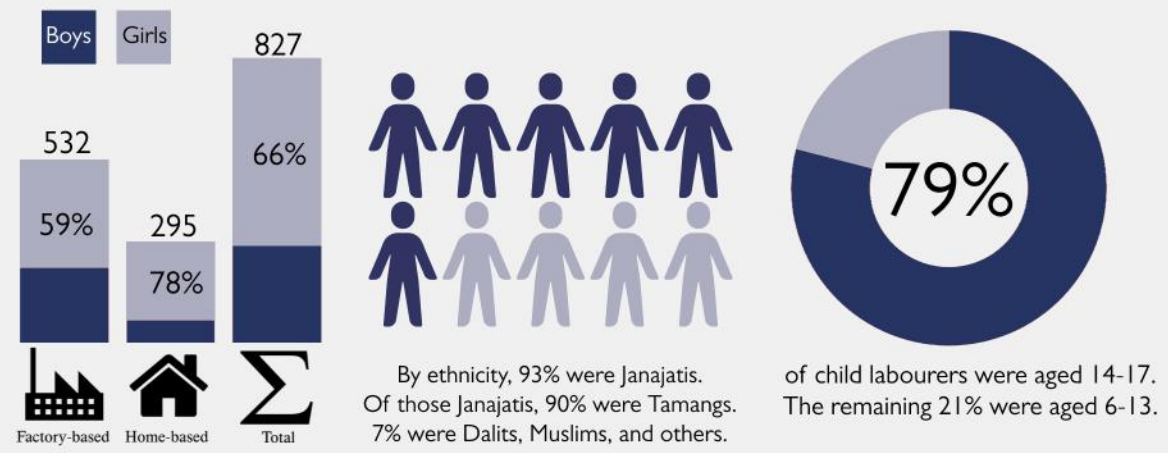


# Child Labour in Carpet Industry

Research over the last two years shows that there are still hundreds of children working in dangerous conditions in the carpet industries. Without renewed and constant vigilance, children will continue to work in this industry.

World Education's NGO partners mobilized communities to collect data of working children from 2020 to 2022. They identified 532 children under 18, 59% whom are girls, working in Nepal's carpet factories in the Kathmandu Valley. The actual number of child workers could be significantly higher. As many factories denied access and only 90 factories were assessed, there's very little good data and much of the work by children in factories is hidden.

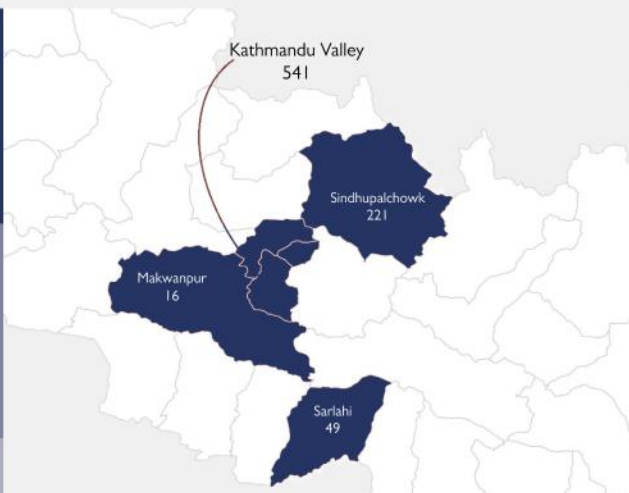
Media and industry reports indicated carpet production had moved to rural home-based workshops. NGOs surveyed four municipalities to find out the extent of children in the carpet industry. They also identified 295 children working at home-based workshops in seven of the municipalities.



**81%** stated low family income as a major factor for working in the Carpet sector

**38%** reported that they were working to help their parents

**10%** mentioned that they were working in the Carpet industry to pay off debt



- Most children were migrants to the Kathmandu Valley.
- 2/3 came from hill districts (Makwanpur, Sindhuli, and Sindhupalchowk).
- 1/3 came from lowland Terai sidtricts (Rautahat, Sarlahi and Bara).
- 1% came from India.

# Recommendations

1. Conduct Occupational Safety and Health Assessment of children on home-based looms and impacts of work in the carpet sector.
2. Carry out Rapid Assessment to better assess the current numbers of children working in the carpet industry and their working conditions.
3. Better tracking of children by municipalities to track the children from home, where they go to work, and on return.
4. Promote increased monitoring of registered fair trade carpet factories for child workers to further reduce the use of underage workers.
5. Create more awareness about carpet industry health problems with parents in source districts using targeted awareness raising through localized messages and media.
6. Provide eye checkups for children working on home looms.
7. Provide training for second generation carpet workers so they have work choices.
8. Expand high quality factories in rural areas to enable access to safe working and living conditions in their home community.

Average Daily Earning



On average, boys out-earned girls by Rs 27. Factory-based labourers were paid more.

Years in the Carpet Sector

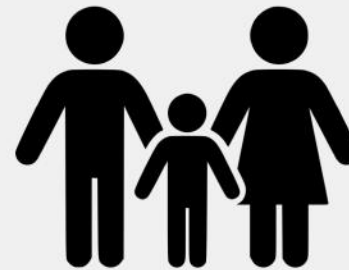


56% of child labourers had been working for 1+ years. 7% had worked for over 5 years.

Average Daily Working Duration



68% of the labourers worked over 8 hours. 86% of these children were over 14 years old.



41% were brought to the job by their parents



Over 60% were given facilities like free food, free accommodation, and leave.



42% mentioned that leaving the job would create difficulties to their families

Difficulties include financial problems, problems with food, and decrease in efforts to gain an education.



28% mentioned that they wanted to continue working in the sector



66% said that they have to operate sharp objects

56% said that they have to work in dusty and polluted place



96%

of the respondents mentioned that they had observed physical injuries