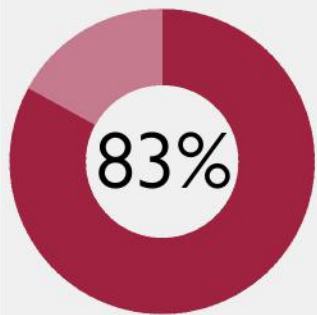


Child Labour in the Zari Sector

Zari is a special form of embroidery, usually with gold or silver thread. While production was always more prevalent in India, the industry in the 2010s expanded rapidly in Nepal. But because of raids on workshops, many of the zari businesses have gone underground or have relocated to India.

While a beautiful, intricate, and delicate form of decoration, the zari industry employs children to make its garments. They are subjected to some of the most disturbing and severe forms of exploitation – long hours, low pay, poor conditions, sexual abuse, and violence. This makes the zari industry one of the worst forms of child labor in Nepal.



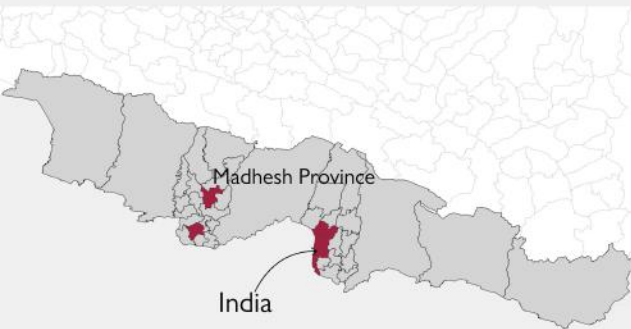
83% of the labourers in Zari sector were male.



92% of the labourers were Muslims. Others were Dalits (6.7%) and Janajatis.



67% of the labourers were aged 14-17. 24% were 12-13, and 8.4% were under 11 years of age.



- All of the children in the Zari sector were identified in Madhesh Province.
- 135 respondents (76%) were from Rautahat, whereas the remaining 43 were from Mahottari.
- Only 3% of the respondents were from India, who were all found in Manra Siswa municipality.

99%

99% stated low family income as a major factor for working in the Zari sector

53%

53% reported that they were working to help their parents in their work

38%

38% mentioned that they were trying to pay their debt off, which is why they got into the Zari industry



Recommendations

Community Level

- Prioritize vulnerable families for livelihood support for both prevention and re-integration of child laborers.
- More SBCC awareness raising with localized messages and the use of local media channels.

Municipal Level

- Better tracking by municipalities to identify children leaving to work in India or other parts of Nepal and when they return
- Expand use of Worker Data Management System so Labor Management Information System captures all adults and youth of legal working age and support access to social security, fair wages, benefits, taxation, OSH, and eliminates child labor.
- Study successful districts like Kapilvastu District that used to have a problem with boys working in the zari industry: which is now much better.

Provincial and National Level

- Foster more Cross Border Coordination and create new cross-border arrangements to remove and repatriate children.
- Expand number of Labor Inspectors and make complaint mechanisms and grievance systems more accessible for children and workers who are mistreated.
- Increase consumer awareness of child labor in products with Zari (embroidery) and encourage child labor-free supply chain.

Average Daily Working Duration



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

Years in the Zari Sector

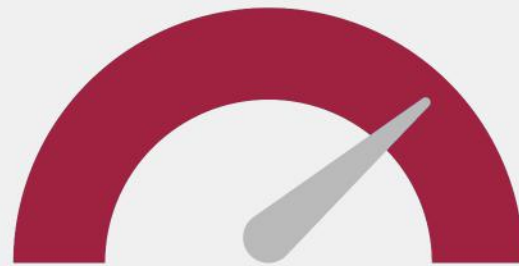


42% of the labourers had been working for 1+ years.
8% had worked for over 3 years.

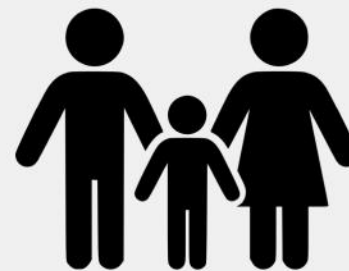
Average Daily Earning



- On average, boys out-earned girls by Rs 36.
- There was large income disparity among muslim boys and girls.



Over 75% were given facilities like free food, free accommodation, free health care and leaves.



89% were brought to the job by their parents



97%

of the respondents mentioned that they had observed physical injuries



80%

said that they had been a victim of verbal abuse and threats



88%

had to work in extreme temperatures



83%

had to operate sharp objects



35%

mentioned that they wanted to continue working in the sector

Reasons for wanting to continue were financial problems, fooding, and decrease in effort to education.

79%

had experienced other accidents in the workplace

77%

mentioned that they experienced violence against women



77%

had to work in dark environments