

Program report on
"Increasing Urban Poverty and the Impact of Conflict"

20 April 2005



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Program report on

"Increasing Urban Poverty and the Impact of Conflict"

Foreword

Population density and poverty is increasing alarmingly in the urban areas after the internal armed conflict compelled common people to flee from the rural areas in search of peace, security and life. In this connection, with the view to initiate dialogue among major stakeholders on taking effective measures for the elimination of urban poverty, FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum and the Kathmandu Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) jointly organized a one-day talk programme on "Increasing Urban Poverty and the Impact of Conflict" in Kathmandu on 20 April 2005.

This programme was organized to draw the attention of the major stakeholders to the issue of increasing urban poverty. We are grateful to the KMC for extending financial assistance and persistent encouragement to accomplish this programme. We sincerely thank the renowned dignitaries including Dr. Hari Krishna Upadhyaya, Hon'ble Member, National Planning Commission, Dr. Mohan Man Saiju, Vice Chairman, Poverty Alleviation Fund and Prof Dr. Bishwambhar Pyakurel, Chairman, High Level Public Expenditure Management Commission for managing time to accept our invitation and for extending expert opinion in the programme. We express our sincere gratitude to renowned economist Dr. Tika Pokharel, Advisor of FOHRID for his encouragement and valuable comments to the paper. We thank Dr. Keshab Khadka for his relentless efforts in preparing the key working paper for the programme and his impressive presentation. Mr. Nutan Thapaliya, Coordinator of FOHRID and senior human rights activist deserves special thanks for his constant supervision, guidance and suggestions.

We thank Advocate Raj Kumar Siwakoti, General Secretary, FOHRID for preparing programme report, Mr. Tulasi Bahadur Karki for sharing his expertise in the official matters, Mr. Sunil Poudel for shouldering the responsibility of computer typing.

We are of course indebted to many others who were involved directly or indirectly to this programme. We thank them all for their respective contribution.

Thanks.

Birendra Prasad Thapaliya
Chairperson

1. Introduction of program:

Age old social and economic disparities, exploitation and caste discrimination has affected overall social development of Nepal. Policies and programs to address these problems were expected after the political change of 1990. But the Maoist insurgency that began in 1996 disarranged economic, social and political sectors before perspectives could be developed and effective efforts could be made in this connection. Neither anything remarkable could be gained in the field of poverty alleviation nor the State could guarantee fundamental rights such as social justice and social development. This resulted in various forms of vulnerabilities, e.g., humanitarian and physical vulnerabilities caused by conflict. This seriously affected the already fragile livelihood of the common Nepalese people. Under these circumstances, Nepal South Asia Centre (NESAC), Rural Self-reliance Development centre (RSDC) and FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum have been jointly conducting intensive rights-based programs for the promotion of sustainable livelihood and social and political participation of the vulnerable groups and marginalized communities in Nepal. The recently introduced concept of National Protection Working Group (NPWG) has also close linkage with all these activities.

FOHRID has recently initiated critic of policies and programs of the government pertaining to the promotion and guarantee of the sustainable livelihood of the vulnerable groups and marginalized communities. The study carried out in this regard has found poverty as a major challenge in the livelihood of the target audience. It was found that the government policies and programs made so far have emphasized poverty only in the rural areas. But the study revealed that poverty in the urban areas is also not ignorable. Actually we felt it very necessary to enter into the issue of urban poverty because it is in a more pathetic condition than the other one.

In the context of current situation of the country, the issue of poverty requires to be viewed in connection with the ongoing internal armed conflict. Number of IDPs who normally tend to gather in the urban areas has increased significantly in the recent years. This also compelled us to link urban poverty with conflict. Conflict has caused additional vulnerability in investment and reduction in production projecting a negative effect in the national economy. This has badly affected the State campaign for poverty alleviation. Under such circumstances, the government is only prioritizing the rural poverty, neglecting equally important urban poverty in the State policies and programs. Hence, we have felt that we need to concentrate our attention towards urban poverty also while initiating campaign against poverty. This campaign is directed to draw the attention of the policy makers to urban poverty and to make this an issue of national debate. KMC also accepted the importance of this issue and extended financial assistance to hold the program.

Though this program was on urban poverty and the impact of conflict, this is a part of overall campaign of FOHRID to promote sustainable livelihood of the vulnerable groups and marginalized community. It is hoped that this campaign will contribute to establish the right to sustainable livelihood of the poor, exploited, vulnerable groups and marginalized communities.

2. Program Rationale and background:

The decade old Maoist insurgency in Nepal has added hazards to the already difficult livelihood of the people in the rural areas. The rural population has been migrating to the urban areas in search of security, peace and employment. This has increased density of population and poverty in the urban areas. Poverty has made the life of the urban population very much vulnerable. Unemployment and unmanaged settlements have become the usual

feature of urban life. Till now, urban poverty is neglected by any government and it never entered into policies and programs of the government.

It is natural that the income ratio is quite different in the urban areas than in the rural areas. Livelihood depends upon income. The ongoing Maoist insurgency has laid negative impact to the income gap and caused damage to the source of livelihood in both the rural as well as urban areas. *The ratio of families under line of poverty was 33.7 percent in 1977 – 34.3 percent in the rural areas and 19.9 percent in the urban areas. It was 36.2 percent of the total population covering 37.2 percent in the rural areas and 17 percent in the urban areas.* National incidence of poverty was 42.5 percent in 1985 (Nepal Human Development Report, NESAC 1998:79). It is estimated that the urban population under line of poverty has increased two fold since 1977 and the ongoing conflict is responsible for this.

National Planning Commission (NPC) in its PRSP has estimated the population under poverty line to be 38 percent. NLSS had show in 1996 that the ratio of poverty *was 44 percent in the rural areas and 23 percent in the urban areas.* Major objective of the tenth plan is poverty alleviation and the overall plan has addressed the rural poverty. But this tenth plan has not addressed urban poverty.

Nepal has expressed commitments for poverty alleviation many times in the national and international forums. Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) has remained a roadmap for the attainment of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). PRS has significantly included the issues incorporated in the MDGs. But the PRS will be fruitful only if its performance and implication becomes effective.

Nepal has expressed its commitments for poverty alleviation in the regional level through the **SAARC Charter**. The Charter has given due priority to poverty alleviation and enhancement of economic and social status of the people. It is of course required to make unprecedented efforts to attain the goals and objectives of poverty alleviation because it addresses all forms of poverty. Likewise, the civil society is required to firm up practical concepts and implement them. The activities of the government should be monitored through the organizations and networks like NPWG. This program is guided by the intention that the issue of poverty alleviation should not be ignored by the government. This has linkage with the following issues:

1. It is not always true that the physical prosperity available in the urban areas makes livelihood comfortable, rather for the humanity it is necessary to link prosperity with the value of dignity, participation and justice. This justifies the current struggle for livelihood through attainment and utilization of fundamental issues of justice and livelihood.
2. Rights to guarantee of sustainable livelihood and freedom from poverty are the fundamental human rights. These rights have linkage with the three basic elements prevalent in the urban poverty. First is related to the source of livelihood. Second is related to the right and justified livelihood of the migrants, child workers, landless, labourer, women, minorities, marginalized who are compelled to face discrimination, vulnerability, powerlessness, and lack of access to resources in the age of globalization and structural reform. Thirdly, protection and empowerment is necessary as the poor in the urban areas are already in vulnerability.
3. This program assimilates diversified issues of the livelihood, right to freedom from poverty and justice. Current efforts are considered while selecting subject matter and issue. This program has recognized the need to

conceptualize the right to sustainable livelihood of the urban poor at the highest level. This leads ultimately to three elements of urban poverty:

- a. The policies and programs of the government should address the issue of urban poverty at the highest level. National debate is necessary in this regard. Study and discussion is required to identify the impact of armed conflict on the urban poverty.
- b. Methodology and perspectives for widening awareness campaign on sustainable livelihood and justice should be expanded. The vulnerability of urban poverty should be evaluated and monitored promptly.
- c. New policy and effective implementation mechanism is necessary for protection and empowerment for the vulnerable communities of urban poverty.

3. Program Objectives

Short-term Objectives

- a. To initiate discussion by linking the increasing urban poverty with impact of conflict;
- b. To draw the attention of the major stakeholders on urban poverty;
- c. To identify advocacy and right based activities to influence at the policy formation level.

Long-term Objectives

- a. To create pressure to the government for national policy formation, implementation and the establishment of relevant mechanism.
- b. To implement effective and result oriented activities in collaboration with the GO and NGOs.

4. Program Methodology and stakeholders:

A concept paper will be prepared by an economist. A consultation meeting will be held on the basis of that paper. Future action will be prepared and subject matters will be selected from the outcome of the program.

Stakeholders:

Representatives from government agencies, National Planning Commission, Poverty Alleviation Fund, High Level Commission for Public Expenditure Management, local bodies of the government, civil society, vulnerable groups and marginalized communities, civil society, development agencies.

5. Proceedings Summary of Programme:

Summary of the issues raised by the working paper

Traditional thinking about poverty is that it is prevalent in the rural areas but currently a large number of people in the urban areas are suffering from poverty. We have to link the role of the government with the increment of poverty. In fact, honest intervention from the State is necessary to control poverty. Enhanced income standard does not reduce poverty but only widens the gap between the haves and have not. Capacity building of the people is necessary for poverty alleviation. Poverty can be alleviated when the State ensures growth of healthy, educated and creative manpower. There are several forms of urban poverty. The government should prepare effective policy and programmes to alleviate poverty (See annex 1 for details).

The paper entitled "Urbanization, poverty and conflicts: an approach paper" by Dr.Keshab Khadka was presented in this program.

II. Views of commentators, consultants:

a. Mr. Nutan Thapaliya, Coordinator of FOHRID and senior human rights activist

Urbanization and industrialization have contributed to increase poverty at present. Poverty has not been controlled though this issue has been brought to the limelight for the last half century. Instead, poverty is increasing and the conflict is going on alongside. The ongoing internal armed conflict has worsened the situation. Poverty has received due attention in the national budget but the question is whether the money was spent in the right way or not. We have to be alert on whether the money for the poor goes to by weapons.

The country is going through uncomfortable situation due to conflict. All the State mechanisms are failing to cope up with the situation. Where is the use of the Human Rights Commission if it speaks political language rather than human rights? Law and legitimacy are declining day by day. And we have to think about poverty alleviation in this type of situation. Poverty is prevalent all around the country. Neither conflict resolution nor poverty alleviation is near. Donors also may not extend assistance without people's participation. People will of course pressurize for social justice, but is it possible without democratic environment? The rationale of this program is to find out answers to the above questions.

b. Dr. Tika Prasad Pokharel – Economist

We are trying to think over poverty. Poverty is raised by all sectors and stakeholders. It is claimed that at present poverty is 42%. Nepalese people do not believe that it is limited to that. Reflection of poverty should be sought in the eyes of a woman with a child who is looking for employment and food. It should be viewed in the eyes of the unemployed youths who spend there whole day sleeping on the open Theatre and parks. We should look poverty from the eyes of the groups who are deprived of basic needs such as food, shelter, education, health etc. The poverty in Nepal should be viewed from Nepal and through the Nepalese eyes.

Poverty should not be seen from the economic angle only. Social perspective is also equally necessary to analyze poverty. Social aspect may be stronger in the rich countries but in a poor country like ours, it is necessary to see from both social and economic perspective as such society is weak socially and economically. From economic perspective, situation of Nepal is very pathetic. Social aspect is also not in a better position. Campaigns for poverty alleviation have been started for the last 52 years but we could not get expected success. We are required to find the loose points. The working paper has emphasized failure of the State and opined that the State should make effective intervention. I do not understand what, where and how can a failed State intervene? Tenth plan has stressed poverty alleviation. But poverty exists in all urban and rural areas. We have to identify the gaps. There are plenty of policies and plans for poverty alleviation but we are defeated in the war against poverty. Failure of policies and plans is disastrous. There are various forms of poverty in villages and in the cities there is problem even of housing. The livelihood of the people engaged in production works is very tough. The woman in Jumla is of course engaged in productive work but she hardly gets any chance to eat sufficient.

We say that laziness has also caused poverty but this is not true. There is no working environment in Nepal. The same lazy person goes abroad and works for hours. We can defeat poverty if we labour at our home as we do outside. We have might, history, culture, economy and base for work. Despite this people lack resources, means and capital but the government does not have that shortcomings. But still poverty is there – the reason is the government lacks intelligence, capacity, confidence, honesty to combat poverty. Who will do this?

Employment promotion centre was established few months back with the objective of hitting poverty, baby goats and piglets were distributed; but can this alleviate poverty? We need

national vision, confidence and honesty for poverty alleviation. Confidence without honesty does not work. National vision without confidence or honesty is meaningless.

We do not differentiate development and capacity. We do not think what is required to uplift and progress. We need clear vision. Poverty should be seen from Nepalese eyes. We need practical policy to identify programs for poverty alleviation. Poverty is the major cause for political, social, economic problems in Nepal. Unemployment is the fountain that we should hit. This is more so in the urban areas.

c. Prof Dr. Bishwambhar Pyakurel, Chairman, High Level Public Expenditure Management Committee

SAARC recently concluded a study on the situation of poverty and the efforts for poverty alleviation in South Asia. It has shown poverty in the urban and rural areas. The increase in poverty should be viewed with the weaknesses in policy level decisions. The weaknesses in the process of declaring places as municipalities and its impact should be studied. Lately conflict has emerged as another reason. Terror caused by conflict has compelled people to migrate from their land. This immigration has added problem in the urban poverty. In fact, Maoist insurgency has intensified internal displacement. Several data have shown that about four hundred thousand people have been internally displaced, though there is no valid instrument to measure internal displacement. There is not a clear standard to evaluate urban poverty.

We cannot ignore the impact of distribution while discussing urban poverty. The paper of Dr. Khadka has raised critical issues. Especially, it has incorporated disparities on the basis of migration, livelihood, economy, income, income consumption etc. Normally we believe that poverty is reduced when income increases, but we have also felt that the income enhancement cannot alleviate the extent of poverty. We do not care about its impact to the life of the common people when we talk about increase in export trade. Even the paper has not addressed this. The paper has also not incorporated impact of the fiscal budget and its concerns over urban poverty. Final section of the paper is incomplete. Intensive study is necessary on the impact of conflict in the cities and the problems created. Urban poverty, if not addressed in time can be disastrous in the future.

Child labour is alarming aspect of urban poverty. ILO report has shown that one among three children of age between 5-14 are engaged in child labour. There are 7.9 million children in Nepal. About four thousand of them are in the street and 5 percent children are dangerously exploited. Unemployment is about 27 percent. Vulnerability is increasing day by day. The youths of 15-29 years of age are deprived and they are extremely pessimistic. In search of meaningful living, they are further pushed into vulnerability. They are prone to be misguided and misused by the terrorist and criminal groups. Hence, we have to look for ways to generate employment keeping these youths at the centre. We cannot say that income enhancement reduces disparity and poverty or generates employment and ensures advancement. The question how to ensure quality life.

There are three layers of urban poverty in Nepal. First hard core, secondly intermediate poor, thirdly transitional poor. The hardcore poor are going through problem of food, shelter and clothing. Intermediate poor are in more disastrous condition. The transitional poor have opportunity for employment and income but they are in a difficult mode of livelihood. State must be able to address increasing vulnerability at present. We have made plenty of efforts for poverty alleviation; we have also managed money for follow up but poverty has not decreased. Minute study is necessary to find poverty in the urban areas on the basis of number of households. Different viewpoint is required to identify poverty and control it. We

may have to consult different stakeholders in this regard. Presentation of about a dozen working papers from various sectors and intensive consultation is necessary. We have to begin this.

Urban poverty is increasing alarmingly. Conflict is in fact responsible to support this situation. Expenditure will increase two fold after the conflict is resolved. We can take examples from other countries. Urban poverty becomes cancer during conflict. So far, we have been regarding poverty as the problem in the rural areas only. We are now compelled to change this definition. Let us hope the Poverty Alleviation Fund will introduce new policies in this regard.

d. Dr. Mohan Man Sainju – Vice-chairman, Poverty Alleviation Fund

The paper of Dr. Khadka is highly important and appreciable. It is important to raise the issue of urban poverty with this paper. Yes, I accept that there is no national policy to address the issue of urban poverty. Urban poverty is increasing. There are 14 slum areas in Kathmandu metropolis alone. As is the tradition in many countries, poverty is more intense in rural areas than in urban areas. This is true in African and Latin American countries.

Poverty in Nepal is regarded as one of the fastest growth in a third world country. Infrastructure construction makes room for urbanization. Urban population has reached 14 percent. It shows increased trend and process of urbanization. Liberal policy and globalization are responsible for growth in urbanization and poverty. Rural area naturally longs for urbanization in the modern world. It is not negative that the contribution of agriculture has decreased in the gross domestic income but the ratio of population has not decreased. We have emphasized bringing the rural population out of agriculture and urbanization which has naturally affected poverty. The basic needs such as education, drinking water, health are expensive in the urban area dominated by market economy. Problem is life in the urban areas is being more and more complicated and the social insecurity is increasing. I agree with the causes of poverty and nature of urbanization pointed by the paper. It has raised worthy issues but it has not explained with data the trend of poverty. It may be due to lack of reliable data. Many people have stormed to urban areas due to conflict but we do not have data about their ability and condition neither we have prepared their profile. Role of civil society is important in this regard. An NGO named Lumanti is working in the field of urban poverty.

I agree with the issues of sectorwise working papers for collection of data raised by Bishwambhar Pyakurel and stress that it is important. We cannot say that there is no policy for control of urban poverty; actually we are lagging behind in its implementation. There is no weakness in the part of policy and strategy. Our policies and programs have emphasized rural poverty. Now we have to give high priority to urban poverty because tomorrow we will go for more urbanization process. Economic liberalization has played crucial role in the urban areas but it lays negative impact to urban poverty. For this also we have to prioritize urban poverty.

KMC has coordinated the problem of urban poverty at present. The programme of urban poverty reduction is not the concern of local agency though it can play inevitable role in this issue. Experience shows that Singha Durbar alone can do nothing to reduce poverty.

Dr. Khadka has emphasized holistic approach to see poverty. Income improvement does not guarantee poverty alleviation. The issue of poverty alleviation should be viewed from the right based approach not from welfare approach only. They cannot progress without access to property, land reform, access to the means of production and access to decision making level.

The poverty alleviation programme should be liked by the poor and come from their level. Community forest is an example. We have to emphasize social mobilization for poverty alleviation and the programs should be prepared according to this. Programmes on poverty alleviation should reach directly to the poor. Aid should reach to the community. Paper of Dr. Khadka should be revised for holding discussions on urban poverty.

e. Mr. Hari Krishna Upadhyaya, Hon'ble Member, National Planning Commission

Urban poverty is more complicated than what we have understood. It may worsen if we do not pay attention to the policy and implementation level. Population growth is a cause behind poverty. It is natural that urbanization and poverty go along with population growth. We should not forget that urbanization also requires infrastructure development. Municipalities have increased in number and size. On the basis of means and faculties, poor people are in a large number in the urban areas also. Poverty is similar in all areas and the poor should get rid of this. This is their fundamental human right. We have to address the quality aspect of poverty while talking about it. Policy approach is necessary to view rural and urban areas. We cannot say that all the urban people are poor. Here, I would like to recall the saying of Mahatma Gandhi, 'It is very easy to meet the needs but difficult to read the greeds'.

Gap between the rich and the poor is very sensitive in this context. Everyone has the right to be free from poverty. State has the obligation to fulfill the need of the people. They must be able to enjoy fundamental needs. State must be serious to this. Weak performance of the State has invited conflict. Conflict has not brought much difference to poverty. Apart from conflict, there are political, economic, social, cultural and psychological reasons of poverty.

Recent report of the World Food Programme has shown that the number of displaced people has increased and the food security situation is in a transitory phase after the onset of conflict. I do not understand how Finance Minister declared that the number of IDPs is six hundred thousand in Nepal. Some people claim it to be 22 thousand. To find actual data of the displaced is difficult. There are two types of IDPs – Involuntary displacement and Forceful displacement. We cannot say conflict has affected poverty in Kathmandu, a recent survey of WFP has shown that it has not affected Kathmandu. There are many displaced people who do not want to return their villages even if their locality is developed. We have to incorporate both who have left and who have not left their locality while defining impact of conflict.

f. Mr. Keshav Rai – District Vice-Chairman, Nepal Basti Basobas Ekata Samaj:

Conflict has of course added urban poverty among other hazards. It has directly affected employment as the entrepreneurs feel insecure in the conflict. They have become pessimistic. New industries have not opened in the urban areas. With new policies, government is required to ensure environment to boost industries. Security should be guaranteed to ensure environment for investment. Government should facilitate the employment opportunities.

g. Mr. Ganesh Pande, intellectual

It may be that the conflict caused displacement of people from the village to the urban areas. We have to look for the answer why conflict, is it compulsion or need? The paper has not spoken about the causes and solutions of conflict. It did not stress the need to discuss in this issue. Cause and solution of conflict should be found out along with the issue of poverty.

h. Mr. Raj Kumar Ghimire, intellectual

A dozen plans have already been implemented in the country. All the plans have targeted poverty alleviation but it is increasing. The plans have failed to include local problems as the programmes have been prepared with one single approach. This has weakened our ability to combat poverty.

6. Findings of the program:

i. Impact of conflict on urban poverty: Conflict is in fact responsible for the population growth in the urban areas. Conflict has caused many problems in the urban areas. Conflict is not the only cause for urban poverty. Conflict does not cause ebb and flow in poverty, there are many other reasons behind this. Non-reduction of poverty has not caused growth in conflict. There are many displaced people in Kathmandu who do not want to return their village even if physical infrastructure is available in their locality. We have to be clear about how conflict contributes poverty.

Maoist insurgency has highly affected rural areas and thousands of families were displaced to the urban areas from there. Rural area has contributed 81.5 percent of migration to urban area whereas 75.2 percent migrate to the cities due to family reasons. This shows that conflict and hazards in daily life caused by conflict compels people to migrate in large number. This is a decisive community to increase urban poverty because security at present is limited to narrow circle of urban areas.

ii. Forms of urban poverty

There are many facets of the problems caused by urbanization. Urban poverty is one of them. Urban poverty can be viewed in the following forms in the Nepalese context:

- a. Group of poor hired poverty from generations due to traditional social structure;
- b. Communities who became poor during the development process and those having weak capacity of vulnerability management;
- c. Internally displaced to the urban areas by conflict;
- d. Landless, means less, marginalized communities;

Besides above distinctions we can classify urban poverty on the basis of form of vulnerability also, e.g., core poor, intermediate poor and transitional poor.

iii. Reasons for increase in urban poverty

There are following reasons behind increase in urban poverty:

- a. Trend to regard financial and physical advancement as individual status under consumer culture created by economic liberalization;
- b. Diversified income sources in the urban areas against those available in the rural areas;
- c. Intensive flow of poor youths from the rural areas to the urban areas;
- d. Negative impact of Maoist conflict in the education sector of rural areas and the trend of guardians to send their children to the urban areas for secured education;
- e. Urban areas are more professional and productive for different professions and activities;
- f. Impact of intensive population pressure, haphazard urbanization and globalization;
- g. Market oriented economy and urban oriented industries;
- h. Lack of policy to combat urban poverty.

iv. Urbanization vis a vis Vulnerability of urban poverty

Urban poverty has increased alongside the intensive urbanization. High standard living of the rich people in the urban areas has harmed the feelings of the urban poor. Increasing gain and consumption of physical goods has become matter of humanitarian dignity. This has laid overall impact in the humanitarian dignity of the poor. Culture of material consumption has deformed justice and equal humanitarian dignity. Indifference, nonrespect, disregard, pessimism, mental tension is increasing in the urban communities resulting in the growth of vulnerabilities such as suicide, divorce, criminal activities. Issue of the livelihood of urban poor is becoming more and more complicated. Expensive education and health in the urban

areas has become challenge to the poor people. Number of child labourer, uncontrolled sex workers and street children is growing. Child labour is dangerous in the context of urban poverty. Almost five percent of the total children are exploited and most of them reside in the urban areas. Hence, the process of urbanization has caused a alarming picture of urban poverty.

v. Obstacles and problems in minimizing urban poverty

- b. Lack of definition and firm idea about urban poverty;
- c. Lack of policy and programme to address urban poverty till date;
- d. Lack of study of urban poverty from various perspectives;
- e. Lack of management of the urban population;
- f. Government's inability to guarantee opportunities for income generation and employment;
- g. Inability of the government to provide minimum humanitarian service and materials;
- h. Lack of management of the clean dwellings, socialization and livelihood;
- i. Lack of clear data of the child labourer, domestic child workers of the landless and other vulnerable groups;
- j. Lack of coordination to the lowest level the opportunities of free market guaranteed by economic liberalization and globalization;
- k. Inability to address livelihood from the right based approach.

7. Recommendations

- a. Government should prepare policy and programs targeting urban poverty alleviation and a strong mechanism should be crated to implement them;
- b. To influence the policy making level, discussion should be held preparing working papers from different perspective to help policy makers identify measures for urban poverty;
- c. Traditional concept of limiting poverty to the rural areas should be changed to linking it to the urban areas also;
- d. The issue that freedom from poverty is the human rights for all should be conceptualized in the highest level;
- e. Clear data and intensive study is required on the status of the IDPs in the urban areas;
- f. Study and research of the increasing urbanization and forms of vulnerability is necessary. The issue of poverty alleviation should be raised from right based approach than from the welfare approach;
- g. Intensive employment generation is necessary for urban poverty alleviation;
- h. Stakeholders should be involved widely while preparing programmes for urban poverty alleviation;
- i. Participation of private sector, NGOs and international development partners from central to local level is necessary to reduce the size of urban poverty;
- j. Local agencies should be more autonomous and free;
- k. Planned urbanization needs to be prioritized;
- l. Report and resource materials of this programme on urban poverty should be published and widely disseminated.

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Dear Sir/Madam,

FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum has been conducting various programs to promote the issue of sustainable livelihood and social political participation of the vulnerable groups and marginalized communities from the right based approach. In this connection, FOHRID, jointly with the Kathmandu Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) recently organized a one-day discussion program on Urban poverty, a report of which is enclosed herewith.

We have also planned to conduct parallel sessions on about a dozen selected topics to conduct intensive discussion in this issue. We expect that this program will also assist at the policy level.

Comments / suggestions on the enclosed report will be appreciated.

Raj