

**Lesson Title: Domestic child workers**

**Level: Grade 9**

**Number of students: 20--30**

**Teaching items: Reading; Speaking and Grammar (Expressing opinions)**

### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)**

The students will:

- Critically reflect on issues of domestic child labor in their society
- Read the text and discuss domestic child labor as a social issue
- Engage in dialogs expressing their opinions using 'I (don't ) like/think/agree' on varied topics
- Express opinions in their writings

### **Instructional materials**

Newspaper article “No festive season cheer for domestic child workers”

Video

Images

### **Lesson Plan**

<b>Time (60 minutes)</b>	<b>Teaching/learning activity</b>	<b>Materials</b>	<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>
5 minutes	Warm-up and announcement of lesson and objectives		Familiarize students with the agenda and goal of the lesson
15 minutes	<b>Individual and whole class work:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students write down any ideas or experiences that are related to the images and video<sup>1</sup></li><li>• Students and teacher discuss</li></ul>	Video Images	Students brainstorm and bring their knowledge/experience of child labor in their society  Students learn the

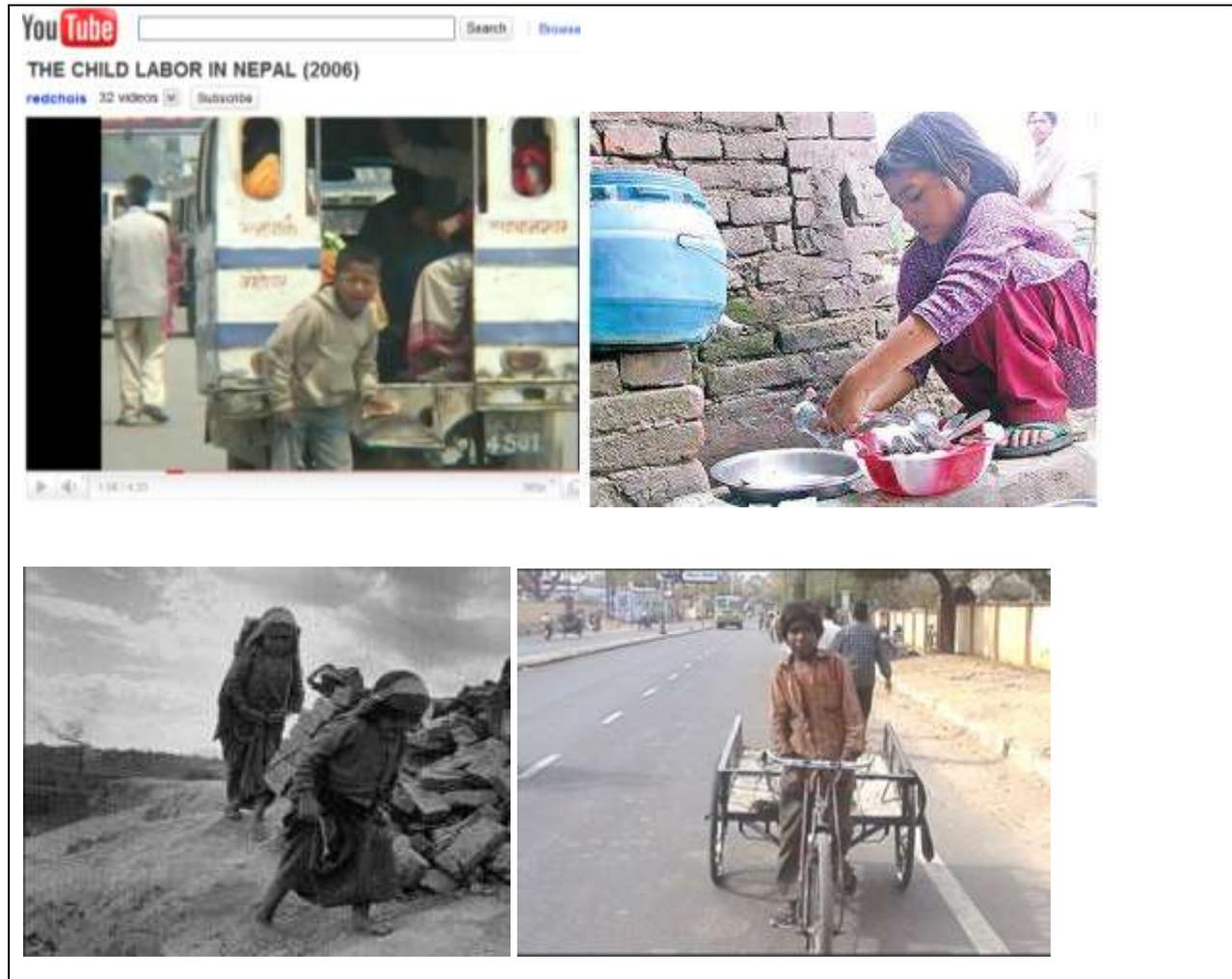
<sup>1</sup> Students can watch the youtube video in Internet Café before coming to the class.

	<p>in the class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher also presents some key vocabulary items from the passage</li> </ul>		<p>meaning of the words that appear in the reading text</p>
20 minutes	<p><b>Individual/group work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students read a newspaper article on ‘Domestic child worker Students’</li> <li>• Students discuss the answers with their group members</li> <li>• Students and teachers discuss the issue in the class</li> </ul>	Newspaper article	<p>Students understand issue of domestic labor in their societies</p> <p>Students put their perspectives on the issue</p>
15 minutes	<p><b>Individual and Pair work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students read and underline the examples of opinions expressed in the reading text (I think/don’t think, etc.)</li> <li>• Teacher illustrates with more examples and helps them discover the grammar rule</li> <li>• Students express their opinions on the worksheet provided</li> <li>• Students discuss their opinions in their group</li> </ul>	Newspaper article Worksheet table	<p>Students learn to use ‘I think/don’t think and I like/don’t like to express their opinions on a range of controversial social issues</p>
5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assigning homework (Write a paragraph expressing your opinion on one of the topics from your worksheet)</li> <li>• Closing</li> </ul>		<p>Students express opinions in their writing</p>

### Pre-reading activities

Students watch the video as well as look at the pictures. Teacher asks them to write down notes in words/sentences based on these prompts (e.g. who are they, what are they doing, why are they doing, etc.). The goal of this activity is to help them reflect on their real life experience/ observation. Students and teacher discuss the issue of child labor in transportation, homes,

politics and war, etc. Teacher explains the meaning of key vocabulary items that appear in the text so that the students become familiar with the words that appear in the text as well as their meanings.



### Reading

Students read a newspaper article on 'Domestic child workers in Nepal'. While the students read the text individually, the teacher goes around the class and ensures students' reading, helps with difficult vocabulary items and answers any questions the students may have. The

purpose of this task is to introduce the issue that the students are familiar with, but understand it more critically and consciously.

### **No festive season cheer for domestic child workers**



Dashain festival is over now and the fragrance of Tihar has started wafting across Kathmandu Valley. However, in many houses, there are still domestic child workers who are missing their homes and families as they have not been granted leave by their employers.

“This year also I am not allowed to celebrate Tihar in my hometown with my family as I have to take care of my mistress’ child and serve guests,” said 12-year-old Sanju Shrestha. She added “I don’t like to work here. I like to go home because I don’t feel good here”.

A native of Sindhuli, Shrestha has been working as a domestic helper at a house in Chabahil in the Capital for the last one-and-a-half years. Everyday, she puts in 16 hours for household chores like cleaning, washing and taking care of the employer’s children. Ever since she joined work, she has not been able to go home for the holidays — not even for the biggest festival Dashain. She said “I told them I want to go home for a few days for Dashain because I want to be with my family. But they do not like my idea; they say this is also my home. But I don’t agree with them.”

“I think our owners love work more than workers. I really wanted to celebrate Dashain and Tihar with my family. I miss them a lot,” Shrestha added with her eyes full of tears. Like Shrestha, scores of domestic child workers are not granted holiday in this festival.

The rules say that half-an-hour leisure time each day and a day’s leave per week should be granted to them. Meanwhile, no child shall be engaged in work exceeding six hours a day and thirty-six hours a week by giving or not giving extra remuneration. However, all these laws, rules and regulations have remained in the books only. Milan Raj Dharel, a human right activist, said that most of the domestic child workers in Nepal are far removed from the privileges given by the act. He added “I don’t like the way employers make the children work for long hours”. Public holiday on the festivals is a far cry. They are compelled to work for more than 12 hours a day and deprived from weekend holidays too. Dharel added “I don’t think most of the child workers are aware of their rights”. So, there are no police complaints regarding these issues too. There is, however, a need for implementation of the law and proper monitoring from the government side.

There are some people who say that domestic labor is better than leaving children in their poverty. At least they can feed themselves well and send some money back to their parents. One employer mentioned “I agree with the idea that children should not be made to overwork. But I think it should not be banned”. Another employer also noted “I agree with the idea that children should be given holidays. But I don’t think that I am being unfair to these children”. According to the Survey Report on Domestic Workers’ Situation in Kathmandu – 2009, there are around 150,000 people working as domestic workers in Nepal and 70 per cent of them are

under 18 years old. ( <http://www.ekantipur.com/2010/10/28/capital/no-festive-season-cheer-for-domestic-child-workers/324234/>)

### Words

**domestic labor:** a form of work where a person works in somebody's house, doing the cleaning and other jobs

**privilege:** a special right or advantage that a particular person or group of people has

**household chores:** tasks or works at home like cleaning, watching, cooking, etc.

**violators:** person who goes against law or refuse to obey law, an agreement, etc.

**exceed:** to do more than the law or an order

**remuneration:** an amount of money that is paid to somebody for the work they have done

**implementation:** to use something officially

**imprisonment:** act of putting somebody in jail or another place from which they cannot escape

### Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Students discuss answers with their group members first. And then the teacher asks students to report their discussion to the whole class. Students and teachers discuss the issue in the class. The purpose of this activity is to engage in dialogs regarding what they understood reading the text and what everybody thinks about the issue of child domestic labor.

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions after reading the passage. Discuss your answers with other group members.

1. How does Sanju Shrestha feel working in the mistress' house? Why is she complaining?
2. What does the rule and law say about the child workers? According to the passage, are people following the rules?
3. How many people are employed as domestic child workers in Nepal? What do you think is the reason behind this?
4. Who are the people to employ domestic child workers? Why do you think they have those workers?
5. Discuss why domestic child labor is a good or bad thing in your society. Mention examples that you know.

### **Grammar: Expressing opinions**

The teacher helps the students to underline and notice opinion expressions in the reading passage. Teacher can elicit more examples from the students and draw their attention to them. The purpose of this activity is to help the students notice different forms used to express opinions. Focus will be on the following three ways to express opinions.

1. I think/don't think
2. I like/don't like
3. I agree/ don't agree

Then the teacher distributes the "Opinion Topics" to the students and asks them to work individually to fill in their opinions on the given controversial topics. Students will focus on using the grammar items just introduced to them, but the teacher does not discourage them if they use more ways to express their opinions. After they complete filling in the worksheet, teacher assigns them in pairs and engages them in dialogs in expressing their opinions. The purpose of this activity is to enable the students to express their opinions in '**speaking**' on issues that surround them.

**Worksheet: Opinion Topics**

**Think about the following topics and write your opinions about them using *I think/don't think; I like/don't like; I agree/ don't agree*. Also mention your reason to support your opinion. Then discuss in pairs.**

1. Smoking in public places

Opinion:

Reason:

2. Men doing the household chores

Opinion:

Reason:

3. Free school education by the government

Opinion:

Reason:

4. Student involvement in politics

Opinion:

Reason:

5. Saturday and Sunday as weekly school holidays

Opinion:

Reason:

6. National TV programs in local languages

Opinion:

Reason:

7. Making many friends in Facebook

Opinion:

Reason:

8. Prohibiting school prayer

Opinion:

Reason:

9. Killing animals for to please Gods/Goddesses

Opinion:

Reason:

10. Banning junk foods (noodles, etc.) in schools

Opinion:

Reason:

### **Homework/Assignment**

Ask them to write a paragraph expressing their opinions on one of the topics from the worksheet. The purpose of this activity is to prepare them to express their opinions and perspectives in writing on some controversial and local relevant topic.