

### **My Uncle rescued me**

*My parents did not send me to school and life became even harder for me when they got divorced.*

My parents did not send me to school. Then they got divorced. Both of my parents were remarried. As a child when I was staying with my father, my father neglected me for my stepbrother and sister.

Under the guidance of my uncle, I came to Thimphu and at present I am working in a workshop. I am staying all by myself in a rented room where I pay Nu.1000 per month as rent.

I am sad that I cannot send money to my brother and sister, as it is not enough for myself.

*JANGAY ( male)*

### **Flight to my dreamland**

*I ran away from my village and came to Thimphu. I am now working in a restaurant.*

Presently I am working in a restaurant as a dishwasher and waitress. I am from Merak under Trashigang Dzongkhag. I come from a large family consisting of nine siblings.

It has been four years since I ran away from home with a friend. Till that time, I stayed at home to look after my younger brothers and sisters.

When I was 18, I heard about Thimphu. I heard so many good things about Thimphu and since then it became my dreamland. But I knew my parents would never send me away from home. So with one of my friends I decided to run away. My friend and I stole some money from home and came to Thimphu.

I was employed in a restaurant as a waitress. Now, it has been three years working as a waitress. I feel I am lucky to have met a kind employer who provides me free food, free lodging and pocket money. I am happy for myself but not for my brother and sisters at home. I am saving money to support my family at home. I will forever be guilty for leaving my parents and being selfish in pursuit of my own happiness.

*N YANGZOM (21 years female)*

**Father's drinking habit transferred family responsibility to me**

*I dropped out of school when I was in class VII to find a job and help my struggling mother.*

I am from Leopani, Sarpang Dzongkhag. I have both my parents, but my father was not a responsible and caring father. He was a heavy drinker. During the daytime he used to go for work (carpenter) but he hardly brought his earnings home.

He always made my mother and four of us (two brothers and one sister) wait for him late into the night.

When he arrived, he used to start quarrelling with mother and keep on banging those things around him. Most of time he would not even return from the bar. He always kept my mother and four of us in tears. Soon he left all of us for another woman. So, I being eldest of all, had to leave the school when I was in class VII and came to Thimphu in search of a job to help my mother, brother and sister. I am presently working as an assistant mechanic.

*A THAP (male)*

**I pitied my mother**

*I dropped out of class IV to help my mother after my father left my mother. I am working in a motor workshop now.*

I am from Samey, Dagana. Though I have both parents they are divorced. I stay with my mother. I have two younger brothers and two sisters. I am the eldest.

I studied till class IV. I was good in studies. I used to secure high marks from the class and even used to hold position during my school days. But my father and mother weren't in good relation. Most of the time there was misunderstanding between them. I could not make out whose fault it was; and soon father left us when I was in class IV.

Still I continued my studies even after father left us. All of us were in the school except my little sister. Though my mother always encouraged us to study but I being the eldest, could not see my mother struggling through all sorts of hardship just to bring us up. So, one night I thought I should stop my studies and do something to help my mother, brother and sister. So I sought the help of my uncle and went to Tsirang and stayed there with him in search of a job. But it was of no use. I could not get a job even after six months. Then my uncle took me to Thimphu. It is here where I at last got a job of a car washer. I did my duty sincerely and my boss was quite impressed with me and soon promoted me to the post of an assistant painter.

***TSHERINGI (20 years, male)***

## **TRASHIGANG DZONGKHAG**

### **My parents wanted help them in their business**

*When I was in class VIII, I was forced to leave my studies by my parents to help them run their shop.*

I am 16 years old. I was born in Rangjung under Trashigang Dzongkhag. At present I am helping my parents to run a shop at Kanglung.

I am the second eldest from the family. I have an elder brother who is still studying and two little siblings, who at present are in class V and III. I was brought up in my village until I was put in school at the age of seven. When I was in class VIII, I was forced to leave my studies by my parents to help them run their shop. I have been helping my parents for the past two years, though I am not happy with what I am doing.

In my life, the most disappointing thing that has ever happened was when I was forced to leave my education half way. Now I do not want the same things to happen to my younger siblings. I am not happy with my parents for making me discontinue my studies.

*JAMYANG (16 years, female)*

### **Improper guidance - My escape to drugs**

I am twenty-two years old. I want to be a driver. I am from Phongmey in Trashigang.

Ten years back, I had to leave my schooling, due to my parents divorce. After the divorce we faced lots of financial problems at home. Because of the lack of proper guidance, I was influenced into drugs, alcohol and fights.

I do all these things, because I cannot stand to see myself doing nothing. I am unhappy with my life because I have no job.

*TSHEWANG (22 years, male)*

Working to educate myself

I was born in the year 1987. I was born in Rongthong and still continue to live there along with my only father. My mother died when I was young.

Presently, I study at Kanglung Junior High School. But sometimes I think of leaving school because of the distance from my home. As my father is poor, I work during my winter vacations and I give all my earnings to my father. Apart from this I even look after the cattle, work in the farm and do household chores. I want to study hard and become a teacher and help my father.

*KARMA (17 years, female)*

### **My step-father is supportive**

*I never saw my father because my father had died when I was a small child. My stepfather is very supportive and now I am able to attend school.*

I am 16 years old. I am from Ashamdaylo under Kanglung gewog. I never saw my father because my father had died when I was a small child. After the death of my father, my mother as a farmer faced a lot of financial problems. So my mother decided to marry again. My stepfather is very supportive and now I am able to attend school.

I am regular in my classes. After my school I help my mother with cooking, looking after the cattle and with farm works. I even work during winter vacation and earn enough money to buy myself my school uniform and stationery. I even know a bit of carpentry.

I am often disturbed by the long distance between my house and the school. I really get worried thinking about my future but I have a dream of being independent and helping my mother.

*KINLEY (16 years, female)*

**I left school due to pregnancy**

*I studied till class IX. I had to leave school because of pregnancy.*

I am 18 years old. I am from Kanglung. I am the mother of a child. After the death of my father, my mother remarried. But my stepfather treated me badly.

I studied till class IX. I had to leave school because of pregnancy.

I am still interested in my studies. I am now running a small shop. What worries me most is about my child's life. I want to earn enough money to give him a good education.

*CHIMI (18 years, female)*

**I sell vegetables while coming to school**

I am 13 years old. I am from Resangdung village under Kanglung gewog. At present I am studying in class VI in Kanglung Junior High School.

As I come from a poor family, I face a lot of financial problems. I help my mother by selling fresh vegetables while coming to school. We also supply vegetables to Sherubtse College, one of the only two degree colleges in Bhutan.

Though I am poor and young, I want to be successful in life and lead an independent life.

*SONAM(13 years, female)*

**I am trying to stand on my own**

*My parents are poor and they have to look after the other children. So I am trying to support myself by working as a waitress. But I am worried about my mental problem.*

I am 16 years old. I am from Changmeygonpa under Trashigang Dzongkhag. Both my parents are farmers and I have five brothers and sisters.

I studied till class II. I left school because I had some mental problems, and I was not interested in my studies at all. At present I am working in a hotel as a waitress. I stay with the owner. My owner treats me well. My parents are poor and they have to look after the other children. So I am trying to support myself by working as a waitress. But I am worried about my mental problem.

***TSERING (16 years, female)***

**I am a heart patient**

*In the year 2001, I was referred to Vellore, India for treatment. But due financial problems, I could not afford to go even though most of the expenses were borne by the government.*

I am 21 years old. I am from Jamkhar, TashiYangtse. I am a heart patient. I have been suffering from this disease for past six years. In the year 2001, I was referred to Vellore, India for treatment. But due to the financial problem I could not afford to go even though most of the expenses were borne by the government.

I was married to a man from my own village in the year 2002. But unfortunately, he left me after knowing about my disease. I have a two-year old daughter from him.

At present I am working in a hotel. I have been working here for the past two months. It seems that my heart disease has now come to the last stage. So the hotel owner is sending me back to my village. My father died and my mother is a farmer. I actually came to Trashigang to look for a job because I could not do physical work in the village.

I am worried about my health, my daughter and my mother's welfare. But right now all I can do is pray for a longer life.

*TSHEWANG (21 years, female)*

**I am the only one studying**

*I have an older brother, an older sister and two younger sisters. All my siblings are illiterate and are helping my parents at home. I am the only one from the family who is studying and I feel lucky about it.*

I am 18 years old. I am from Resangdung under Kanglung gewog. Both my parents are farmers. I have an older brother, an older sister and two younger sisters. All my siblings are illiterate and are helping my parents at home. I am the only one from the family who is studying and I feel lucky about it. I am very interested in studies. I am also interested in sports like football and volleyball. I am in the school team of both these games. The school is quite far from my home, but I am not at all discouraged because of the distance.

At home I look after the cattle and do some works, and it is hard to find time to study. During the vacation I makes the best use out of it by doing some work to earn money to buy my school uniform, books etc.

I take alcohol sometimes during winter vacation. My drinking is not a habit. I drink only after working in a field or after some works that require physical strength. I am worried about the completion of my



schooling, then my employment and the welfare of my parents. My dream is to become a police officer.

*TSHEWANG (18 years, male)*

**I regret that I did not go to school**

*I am content with my life but the only regret in my life is that I could not attend school.*

I am 14 years old. I am working in a hotel in Trashigang. I am from Yalang under TashiYangtse Dzongkhag. Though both my parents are alive, they are divorced. My father is a peon and is in Mongar. My mother is a housewife. Both my parents are remarried.

My parents divorced when I was six years old. After the divorce, I lived with my mother, who at that time could not afford to send me to school. I like my mother and hate my father because he never bothered about my life.

At present I am working for my cousin who is running a hotel in Trashigang. I am happy with what I am doing because the job is easy, my sister treats me well and I can send money to my mother.

I am really interested in studies. If there is non-formal education class being conducted near by, I want to go and study.

I am content with my life but the only regret in my life is that I could not attend school.

*DORJI (14 years, male)*

**I worry about not being able to finish my studies**

*While going to school, we also have to take along with us vegetables and some cheese and butter to sell. I worry about not being able to finish my studies, looking at the problems that my mother faces.*

I am 14 years old. I am from Resangdung villang under Kanglung gewog. I am a student of Kanglung Junior High School studying in class VII. I am living with my mother and my three sisters.

Since my father died when I was small, it has been very difficult for my mother to make ends meet. Due to financial problems, my two elder sisters had to drop out of school and help our mother. Though my younger sister and I are going to school, the school is far away and we have to walk for one and half hours through the jungle to reach our school.

While going to school, we also have to take along with us vegetables and some cheese and butter to sell. I worry about not being able to finish my studies, looking at the problems that my mother faces. I want to fulfill my dream of becoming a doctor and help my sisters and my mother who are my strength in life. I dream of helping those people in my village particularly those with problems that facing now.

*SONAM (14 years, female)*

#### **My father made me work as helper**

*Being poor I had to do some work to support my father. So my father brought me to Trashigang to work as a helper in a house. I get Nu. 200 per month, which my employer sends directly to my father.*

I am 11 years old. I am from Bangtar under Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag. My mother died when I was small.

My father is a farmer. I have four brothers and sisters. I am the youngest. Being poor I had to do some work to support my father. So my father brought me to Trashigang to work as a helper in a house. I get Nu. 200 per month, which my employer sends directly to my father.

The employer also provides me clothing, food, lodging and some pocket money.

My father could not send me to school, because of financial problems. I am interested in studying, but I am unlucky to be born in a poor family.

*TASHI (11 years, male)*

**I had to leave school due to financial problems**

*I studied till class IV. I had to leave the school because of health problem, financial problems and the divorce of my parents.*

I am 14 years old. I was born in Thrimshing, in Wamrong gewog under Trashigang Dzongkhag. Both my parents are alive but they are divorced. My father is a religious practitioner and my mother is a housewife. Both of them remarried.

At present I am working in a hotel where all I have to do is to wash the dishes and clean the rooms. The job is easy and the employer treats me well but I feel that I am being paid too less. The benefits I get from the employer apart from my salary are food, clothing and even some pocket money.

I studied till class IV. I had to leave the school because of health problem, financial problems and the divorce of my parents.

*SONAM (14 years, female)*

**All I have to do is wash dishes and clean the house**

I am 10 years old. I am from Bartsham under Trashigang. Both my parents are alive, but both of them cannot talk properly.

At present I am staying with my adopted family in Trashigang. They own a hotel. All I have to do is wash the dishes and clean the house.

I never had the opportunity to study because firstly, my parents are not bothered about my education. My parents thought that studying was not worthwhile and besides they could not afford it. I don't regret for not being able to go to school because I am happy with my employer who is my adopted mother

I do not worry about anything just now. I only want to stay with the present employer helping them in all the possible ways I can.

***PHUNTSKOM (10 years, male)***

## **TRONGSA DZONGKHAG**

### **Everybody loved me so much that I was pampered**

*I am a student in Trongsa. I want to become a teacher or a doctor in future.*

I am a student studying in Trongsa. I was born in Nanggor village. I am a daughter of an ambulance driver. When I was small I used to stay with my grandparents. They used to treat me well.

Every body loved me so much that I was pampered. I began my schooling when I was seven.

I was really sad when my grandfather passed away and I could not attend his funeral as I was in school. I remember staying in my aunt's place when my parents left for granny's funeral. I was not treated well there.

I am happy at present because I am with my parents and I love them. I want to become a teacher or a doctor in the future.

*D WANGMO (female)*

### **I saved someone's life**

*I am a class X student of Trongsa. My ambition is to become an army or a forestry officer.*

I am 21 years old. I am a class X student of Trongsa. I started my schooling at the age of nine. I was suspended from school when I was in class VII as I was found bunking from the hostel and drinking.

After suspension, I applied for police training. I got selected but my brother advised me to continue my studies. That is why I am here now.

I felt sad when my parents told me not to study. I joined school forcefully by myself. I am lucky to get a chance to study again. I hold positions in the class also. I am a captain at present.

I appreciate myself for one good deed that I have done. That is for saving the life of a man who had fallen off the cliff by taking him to the hospital. Actually I was going to the market to sell oranges with a horse. As soon as I saw the man, I took him on horseback. I also donated blood three times.

Something bad I have done was stealing chicken and vegetables from other people's homes while staying in the hostel. I also ran away from home when I was suspended from school.

My ambition is to become an army or a forestry officer. If I do not fulfill these dreams, I want to be an educated farmer.

*T DORJI (21years, male)*

### **My parents brought me up with love and care**

*After class XII, I could not qualify for admission in a government college in Bhutan. Now am studying in India with the support of my parents.*

I was born in 1983. My parents brought me up with great love and care.

I was sent to school when I was five years old. My primary schooling was in a remote place, as my father was posted there. After a few years, he was transferred to Zhemgang. My parents were good and happy. My father was working as a Judge (Thrimpon). I was the third youngest among seven children.

After class X, I studied class XI and XII in a private school in Thimphu as I could not qualify for admission in a government school. I worked hard, but again in class XII, I could not qualify for admission in a

government school. Now am studying in India with the financial support of my parents.

**KINGA OM (21 years, female)**

**Financial problem made me discontinue my education**

*I studied till class VIII. Then I had to leave school because of financial problem. Now I am working as a machine operator.*

I studied in Gelephu up to class II. It is unbelievable but I fell in love with a girl named Kesang at that time. I even used to steal pencils from other friends and give it to her to make an impression.

After that I had to leave for Nanglam to continue my studies there. I studied in Nanglam till class VIII. Then I had to leave school because of financial problem. My father did not have a proper job and at the same time I had very young brothers and sisters. So I stayed home to help.

Then I joined Penden Cement Authority and worked there for around five years. I stayed there with an uncle and aunt. Later, I left that job as I could not bear the bad treatment of my aunt. Then I returned to my village where I got married. Then I shifted to Trongsa where I am working as a machine operator.

I am supporting my sister who is presently studying in a private school. I am supporting my wife's parents also.

My dream is to make my children's future a bright and happy one.

**TASHI CHHOPEL (male)**

**My mother brought me up all by herself**

*My mother worked as a road-worker and supported my education. But when I was in class VIII, my mother grew too old to work hard and could not support me any longer and I had to leave school.*

I am a road worker. My mother brought me up all by herself as my father left for another woman when my mother was pregnant with me.

My mother worked as a road-worker and supported my education. But when I was in class VIII, my mother grew too old to work hard and could not support me any longer and I had to leave school. Then I started work as a road worker like my mother.

I am still feeling sad for not having seen my father. I feel miserable when I recall the times I had spent with just one dress or stayed naked, as we had no money to buy new clothes.

I am satisfied with what I am doing now. Above all I can look after my old and ailing mother. I dream to become a driver in future.

**K. TAMANG (male)**

### **I work as a babysitter**

I am here in Trongsa at present to be my aunt's babysitter. My daily work is to look after the kids, cook and also do weaving. At the same time I am studying through the Non-formal education scheme in Trongsa.

My life's greatest sorrow and regret is that I could not go to school. My parents kept me to help them at home.

My happiest incident is that I left my village and came to Trongsa. Here I earn around Nu. 2000 to Nu. 3000 monthly by weaving traditional clothes. So I am satisfied with what I am doing at present.

**T.CHODEN (female)**

### **I could not go to school due to sickness**

*I gave up my studies after I could not go to school for more than two months due to sickness.*



I was born in 1985 in Dagapela and started my schooling at six.

I gave up my studies after I could not go to school for more than two months due to sickness.

After that I stayed at Thimphu for three years where I worked in a workshop earning only Nu.1500 a month. I came to Trongsa to meet my brother but after reaching here I could not return back. I am working as vehicles scrap collector at present.

I want to become a driver in future.

*DK. TAMANG (19 years, male)*

### **I studied till class III**

*I studied up to class III and left school due to problems at home.*

I am a waitress at Sherubling hotel in Trongsa. I was admitted in a school at eight. I studied up to class III and left school due to problems at home.

While staying in village my aunty came and requested my parents to take me to Trongsa. Actually I came here to stay only for one month but after reaching here I was made to stay here and not allowed to return. Therefore I am here in Trongsa working as a helper cum waiter in my aunt's hotel. I am not happy and don't want to stay.

I ran a small shop after my studies. And I was successful in running the shop. I earned a little and gave money to my parents and to my brother and sisters. But all of a sudden due to misfortune I suddenly went under financial shortage. So I gave up the shop and stayed in the village doing some agricultural works.

I miss my parents and home. I am getting little free time here. I always have to stay within the four walls of my aunt's hotel. I have to really work hard. I have to get up at 5 am and start working and have to work

till 10 to 11pm. I get scolding for small mistakes and stay under their order only.

I want to start a small business on my own and be a free and independent woman in the near future.

**B. MAYA (female)**

**I am unemployed**

*I have studied till class XII. After that, I failed to qualify for admission in a government college and presently I am staying with my father in Bjezam without any work.*

I was born in 1983 in Samdrup Jongkhar. When I was four years old my mother ran away. So my father and grandparents brought me to Trongsa where they were working as road workers.

They admitted me to school and I have studied till class XII. After that, I failed to qualify for admission in a government college and presently I am staying with my father in Bjezam without any work.

I help my father in cooking. Some time I wash my father's and grandparents' clothes. During my free time I give free tuition to my neighbors' children.

**B.GURUNG (21 years, male)**

**My parents forced me to marry a man against my choice**

*At 17, my parents forced me to marry a man against my choice. This man has ruined my life now*

I am a mother of two children presently working under the Trongsa dzong renovation Project as a manual labourer.

I stayed in the village till the age of 20. During my childhood I could not go to school because of my poor parents. I was forced to marry an

orphan while I was only 17. Soon after marriage I came to know that my husband was in debt of around Nu. 25,000 which is a heavy sum for us. I had no option but to work hard and help my husband in repaying the debt. Still, Nu. 10,000 remains to be paid.

I have a son and a daughter. I was a happy mother. But all of a sudden my husband decided to go in search of a job and did not contact us for two years. I tried inquiring and later found that he was married again. I divorced him.

And in 2002 I came to Trongsa with my kids and started working there. My former husband came to me and approached me again. Thinking to give him one more chance, I accepted. But one day while returning from work I found my personal box open and my husband gone. To my horror he had taken my hard earned savings of Nu 10,000 and gone. My beast husband robbed me of everything I had.

I would like to run a small shop in the near future if possible. I always dream of my children's good and bright future.

***R. MAYA (female)***

## TSIRANG DZONGKHAG

### **I can't forget the night**

*I will never forget the night when my father beat my mother and left her half dead. Let me tell you how it happened.*

I am nine years old. I live in a small hut below the Tsirang - Thimphu highway. I live with my mother and two sisters.

I used to live with my parents in Punakha where my father was a carpenter and mother used to weave at home. Those were the happy days because we had enough to eat and wear.

But soon our happiness ended when we left for Tsirang. I was sad to leave behind my friends and the wide river of Punakha. As we began to settle down, father started to act strange. His drinking habit became worse day by day and became aggressive. My parents were constantly quarrelling. My elder sister and mother were crying most of the time. Soon I came to know that my father was seeing another woman. The situation began to deteriorate because we did not have money to pay the house rent and food was scarce in the house. Eventually we moved to a small hut on somebody else's farm below the road and this is the place where I live now. Father disappeared for days and when he came home it was only to fight with my mother. I hate my father for beating my mother.

But the worst was yet to come. It happened one night when my father came to our small hut with his woman. He began to push my mother out of the hut. She began to protest and fight back but the other woman caught hold of my mother's hands and pinned her down to the floor. My father picked up a big firewood and began to hit my mother. My sister came in between and tried to push away father but she too was beaten. I

ran to get help but it was too dark and the closest neighbour lived too far.

I came back to find my mother unconscious and my sister pouring water on her head. I was helpless and I began to cry. Father was still holding the firewood and with that he poked it into my eyes because my crying irritated him. Then my father and the woman left home with my mother half dead.

Early the next morning my sister told me to look after our little sister and stay at home since she had to take mother to the hospital. Sister came back at lunchtime and told me that the police had caught father and the woman and mother was in the hospital.

I have an uncle who is a driver and I hope to go to my uncle's place and learn how to drive.

*NAMGAY WANGCHUK (9 years, male)*

**I live alone**

*I am happiest when I am going to school because I have lots of friends and playing with them makes me forget the sad things of my life.*

I am a twelve-year old boy. I live alone. The headmaster of Mandaygang primary school has given me a single-room apartment as my parents are divorced and my mother works in a small hotel in Damphu and supports me financially.

My mother is happier now because she earns and lives on her own. When my father was with us, he was always drunk and beat my mother every day without any reason. My father was even taken to the police station for violence. I am ashamed of my father and my mother and I am better off without him. I am happiest when I am go to school

because I have lots of friends and playing with them makes me forget the sad things of my life.

I cook my own meals and wash my clothes and sleep alone. I get scared and some times I remain wide awake at night. Then I go to my teacher's quarters. My mother comes to visit me once in three weeks. She brings provisions for me and washes my clothes.

I feel sorry for my mother because she has to work hard in the hotel for me. In school I am ashamed that I do not have a proper home to live in and the fact that my parents do not live with me. I am very grateful to my headmaster for giving me a house to live in and my teachers for helping me with everyday life.

*P. PRASAD (12 years, male)*

### **I don't remember my mother**

*I don't remember my mother. She had died when I was too young leaving my little sister and me with a drunkard father.*

I am eleven years old. I work in a small bar. I wake up at 5 o'clock in the morning and sweep the floor of the entire house, wash clothes and dishes.

It is a hard work but now it's almost four years and I am quite used to it. I don't remember my mother. She had died when I was too young leaving my little sister and me with a drunkard father.

My father was a roadside worker. When father went for work I carried my younger sister on my back and did all the household chores. We never had enough to eat but some sympathetic neighbors used to give us rice and vegetables.

When I was seven, my father took me to the market and sent me with a woman who is presently the owner of the bar I am working in. I cried

myself to sleep thinking of my little sister. I was afraid that my sister would go hungry and that she may be all alone since father did not come home that often.

After two years I heard from my employer that my sister had been sold to a man for Nu. 200 by my father. I then realized that I too must have been sold to my employer. I do not know for how much he sold me. But I am lucky because my employer treats me well and makes me feel comfortable. I do not know what my future will be.

I have only one wish and that is to meet my little sister.

*K.L (11 years, female)*

### **He beat my sister and paralyzed her**

*My most dreadful memory is of my father beating my mother. He even beat my sister and made her paralyzed.*

I am a nine-year-old girl. I am studying in class IV. I come from a broken family and I am very much exposed to hardship.

I live with my mother and elder sister who are paralyzed. My mother goes to work on other people's farms and sometimes she works on the road to feed the family. Though they have to work a lot, they are better off now since home it's become peaceful after father left us. My most dreadful memory is of my father beating my mother.

One evening my father came back from farm work totally drunk. First my parents began to quarrel and then father began to hit mother. My elder sister and I tried to stop them. But we failed and all three of us were beaten. Then father with the handle of a spade began to hit all three of us. I ran away but my sister could not. My sister was hit on her head and back. That night father went away and did not come back. I got help from my neighbours and took both my mother and sister to the

hospital. They were there for about a week during which I had to carry food for them twice a day. Mother recovered but my sister became paralyzed.

It is almost two years since I last saw my father. Some say that he had migrated to another village where he has married again.

I want to become a teacher and would like to support my family and help my sister get better medical facilities.

*SG (9 years, female)*

### **My step-mother scolds me too much**

*I am happy to be in school and I do not like being at home because my stepmother scolds me always saying that I only know how to eat.*

I am twelve years old. I live with my father and stepmother. I walk to school from home, which takes about an hour. In the summer time it's difficult for me to reach school in time because it rains hard and the path is usually washed away. I feel discouraged by all these difficulties but I love to be with my friends at school and play the whole day. I do not like being at home because my stepmother scolds me, always saying that I only know how to eat.

I will be happier when I start to earn and live on my own. During the winter vacation I carry oranges and earn money for school. I feel that those children who have their mothers are the luckiest since mother is the one who takes care of the children's food, clothing and health. I have a feeble memory of my mother who was always sick. She died when I was about five year old. My only dream is to leave school soon and live on my own by doing some work, earning by myself and free from the scolding of my stepmother.

*P. TAMANG (12 years, male)*



## **My father left my mother for another woman**

*My father left my mother for another woman. This has made me face a lot of difficulties.*

I am sixteen years old. I live with my mother in Dunglagang. It is almost two years since we came to Tsirang from Thimphu. In Thimphu my father was in the Army. But he left us for another woman. My mother was sick for about a year since the divorce. I was depressed and suffered severe stomach ulcer. That year I had to leave school to look after my mother.

My mother is a constant encouragement to me to make me study more. I have a dream to become a doctor.

I am the only child. When I go to school, I am scared that something might happen to my mother as she is left all alone at home. During the vacations, it's even more difficult for me as I have to work and earn money for school. I have to carry oranges from the far-off farms and sell it on the roadsides. I sometimes work on the road. My mother weaves and grows vegetables and some fruits. I bring the farm products to the local market and sell them.

The greatest worry in my life is my mother's health. My mother is frail and often falls sick. I don't know what will happen to me if my mother passes away.

My mother sometimes tells me to get married and I myself think that this would be a solution to our problem but then again I think of my parents getting divorced and the related problems. These things make me think that marriage is not so good.

My only wish is that my mother lives long enough.

*J. ZANGMO (16 years, female)*

### **I am studying hard to support my parents**

*My father died when I was small. We have a lot of problems but I am studying hard to support my family.*

I am 18 years old. I am studying in class X. I was born in Mongar. I want to become a doctor.

My father died when I was small. At present I live with my mother and my two younger sisters who are also studying. My family is going through a hard time. My mother runs a shop in Damphu town, but she hardly earns enough from it to support all of us.

So during my vacations I work on the roadside to help my mother.

My mother being so busy in the shop really worries me. She is an ulcer patient who needs proper food and rest. I am also worried that my mother takes many medicines and I feel that taking too many medicines is also not good.

**A. SUBBA**

### **I work during winter vacations**

*I manage my school expenditure by working during vacations in construction sites like school, projects etc.*

I am from Senkhar in Mongar. I am studying in class X. Before I could understand the love and affection of a mother, my mother expired. I was just two years old then.

Later, my father remarried and my little sister and I were treated very badly at home.

I manage my school expenditure by working during my vacations in construction sites. And for this reason I have not been home for three

years. I plan to use this money to further my education as I aspire to become a teacher in the future.

**SHERAB ZANGMO (female)**

**I wish if my father would get well soon**

*I wish that my father who is a leprosy patient in Gidakom Hospital would get well soon.*

I have a wish. I wish that my father who is a leprosy patient in Gidakom Hospital would get well soon. I am thirteen years old. I am in class III now.

I stay with my relatives in Tsirang. My mother died when I was very small. My father remarried a lady called Aum Bow who used to hit me with pots and pans on my head. Later she left my father, taking all our belongings and furniture and me.

Again my father told me that he needs some one to give him food. So again he remarried with a woman called Wangmo. Later she also left us and went to Nepal, taking all my father's money.

I have an elder brother who is in the army. I hate him because last year when my father was undergoing an eye operation, he did not come because he was ashamed that father was suffering from leprosy. I want to become an Army officer. I always pray to god for my father's recovery because I love him very much.

**D. DORJI (13 years, male)**

**I stay with a neighbour**

*My father left my mother for another woman. At present I am staying with a neighbour because my mother went to Thimphu hospital because my brother is sick.*

I am nine years old. I am from Ridha in Wangdiphodrang. I am at present in class II. I am the youngest among the four children. I don't like my father because he left us for another woman. I have not seen my stepmother. At present I am staying with my uncle and aunty (neighbour) because my mother went to Thimphu hospital because my brother is sick.

Due to financial problem at home, my mother could not pay money for my school fees. But the head master of my school understood my problem and admitted me for free. For money my mother works in other people's house as a maid and some times on the land of Bhur. It is very tough for my mother. As for food it's ok but not that enough sometimes.

*P. WANGMO (9 years, female)*

### **I sell vegetables to buy books**

*During my holidays I sell vegetables and get money for my books and fees. When I grow up I want to become a doctor.*

I am studying in class VIII. I moved to Tsirang with my father on the land given by the government under the resettlement program. My parents divorced a few years back.

My school is very far away from my house. It is a two hours' walk by the short cut path.

In school some times the teachers ask us to bring money. I am not able to bring. So I feel ashamed in school. During my holidays I sell vegetables and get money for my books and fees. When I grow up I want to become a doctor.

*WANGDI (13 years, male)*

### **I just want to work at home**

I am originally from Panbang, Zhemgang, but now I have come to live in Tsirang on the land given by the government under the resettlement program. I am 24 years old. I have two children. My husband is a policeman who is posted in Samdrup Jongkhar, but I have not heard from him for a year now.

My parents are in Suray. I have been living in Tsirang for more than five years with my in-laws. I have to do everything at home.

I have no aspirations in my life. All I want to do is look after my children and just work at home.

*P.DEM*

### **Our father left us for another woman**

I am 13 years old. I am studying in Mendagang Primary School in Tsirang. I live with my mother.

My father and mother are divorced. One day my father brought home a woman. Then the woman and my mother quarreled. My father did not say anything. So my mother, brother, sister and myself left for our village. Later after a few months, my mother received a letter saying that my father has moved in with that woman. Since then there has been no contact with my father.

It is a tough life for my family with a lot of problems at home.

*SW (13 years, male)*

### **I worry about my mother**

*I really worry about my mother's health as she does not get enough to eat and works a lot.*

I am studying in class V. My parents are divorced. At present I am living with my mother, grandfather, grandmother and my sister who is in class III.

I do not miss my father as he remarried a younger woman leaving my mother. But I really love my mother. My mother borrowed money from the neighbor for our school fees and to buy rice and edibles for home.

I really worry about my mother's health as she does not get enough to eat and works a lot. After a day's hard work my mother suffers from severe back aches, but she still continues with her job of carrying oranges.

I want to study hard and become a teacher.

*L. GYEM (12 years, female)*

### **I carry oranges and earn money**

*I carried oranges during my vacation and earned about Nu. 500 and paid my school fees.*

My father expired and my mother remarried when I was very small. Since then I have been living with my mother and stepfather and two of my stepsisters.

My stepfather has no work and drinks a lot. And after drinking he beats my mother and me. But now I have learned to run away when my stepfather gets drunk.

My stepfather differentiates me from his own children. I am made to do hard manual work at home after school. I often sleep without eating, since my stepfather does not give me food to eat. At school I envy my friends who are well loved by their parents. I like being at school rather than at home.

My mother wants me to study till class VIII and drop out of school. But I want to continue my studies and become an officer. For some pocket money I carried oranges during my vacation and earned about Nu. 500 and paid my school fees.

***K.TARCHEN***

## **WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONGKHAG**

### **I do not have good clothes when I go to school**

*I am not happy when I go to school because I do not have good clothes to wear.*

I was born in a very poor family. I am not happy when I go to school because I do not have good clothes to wear. I have no proper shoes and no pocket money.

When I see my friends eating lots of things, I feel sad. My parents have a lot of problems and they did not want to put me in school. But being so interested in studying, I forced my parents to put me in school. So my poor parents borrowed money from others and sent me to school. They don't have their own land. So my parents work in other people's fields and get only half of what they harvest. The other half goes to the landowner.

*P. GYELTSHEN(male)*

### **My parents borrow money for my education**

*My shoes were worn out because of the long distance in walking to school.*

I am interested in studying but I am worried that my parents will not be able to afford it. They are very poor and I go to school wearing torn clothes, shoes and socks. My parents often have to borrow money from others.

Last time, my shoes were worn out because of the long distance in walking to school. I asked my parents for a new pair, but they had no money for it.



When I get home from school, I work in the farm, looking after the cattle or doing household chores.

*T. ZAM (female)*

**I can't go to school because my parents are poor**

*My parents are so poor that they are not able to send me to school.*

I have both my parents but we are so poor that we have to depend on others to fill our stomach. I am really an unlucky person to be born to a poor family. Sometimes I feel happy with my employer because my employer gives me good food, good clothes and sometimes some pocket money too.

We are six children but we do not have any land and also no good house to live in. My parents are not able to educate me. My father was a blacksmith but he used to drink a lot and spend all his money.

*NIMA (male).*

**Both our father and mother can't work now**

We are brothers and sisters. We are studying but we depend on financial help given by others, as our parents are both crippled.

Our mother had broken her leg long time back. Father used to work hard and earn enough for the family. But now, father has broken his legs in an accident and cannot work.

We are happy that Her Majesty Ashi Dorj Wangmo Wangchuck has promised that we would be given help by the Tarayana Foundation for our education.

*KARMA(male) and DEKI OM (female)*

**I look after uncle's cattle**

I am from a poor family and at present I am staying with my uncle. My parents have many children to support.

I feel comfortable with my uncle. My uncle really likes me. My poor parents do not have any land or house to live in. At present my parents are staying as tenants.

I am staying with my uncle and looking after the cattle. My uncle gives me money as well if my family is in need of it very urgently. But I really feel sad when I see my friends going to school.

*T. PENJOR (male)*

**I regret that my parents can't afford my education**

*I regret that my parents and even grandparents cannot afford the cost of my education.*

I am staying with my grandparents at present. My parents are very poor to support me. We are six children in all and my parents look after the rest of us.

My parents are too poor to give me education. My parents are living at Tsirang at present. My father is a policeman but his salary is very low.

Although my grandparents love me very much, they are now getting very old. I regret that my parents and even grandparents cannot afford the cost of my education.

*OM (female)*

**My step-father never treats me well**

My father left us when I was very small. At present he gives me some clothes sometimes. I could not attend my school but I joined as a monk in a monastery. My stepfather never treats me well.

I want to study hard and become somebody and help my poor mother. She suffers a lot at home.

*P. DORJI*

**My parents could not support my education**

My parents have nine children including me. My father left us when I was small. At present I am living with my mother. My sisters are all living with my father.

I am the youngest from the family. But my parents could not send me to school.

*LHAMO*

**I cannot concentrate on my studies**

I am studying in Phobjikha Primary School. My parents do farm works in other's fields because they do not have their own land. They borrow money from others. We do not have a good house to live in. I am living with my grandparents at Phobjikha and study there.

I have to walk for three hours from home to school. When I reach home I get tired and cannot concentrate on my studies.

*ZAM (female)*

**My parents work for others**

I am staying with my grandparents and I go to school. My own parents are working in others' fields, as we have no land of our own. I love my parents a lot because they work very hard to support my education. My parents usually have to borrow money from others.

*SODA*

**My step-father is kind man**

I am studying in Samtengang Lower Secondary School. My parents were divorced when I was small. My mother has married again and my stepfather treats me very well. He is kind and supportive of me.

My own father also gives me clothes every year. My father's sister who works in Thimphu also gives me clothes, books, pens, pencils and other things.

***PHUB OM (female)***

## ZHEMGANG DZONGKHAG

### **I had to leave school soon after my grandparents died**

*I studied till class IV with the support of my grand parents, but when they passed away, I also had to leave school.*

I was an illegitimate child. I still do not know my father. My mother is somewhat dumb. I have a sister, who was fathered by the husband of my mother's sister. I studied till class IV with the support of my grand parents, but when they passed away, I also had to leave school.

After so many years of life in the forest looking after the cattle, I decided to leave my village looking for better prospects. My friend, who was working in a construction project in Sarpang came back to my village and he influenced me to go and work elsewhere on the construction sites. I borrowed Nu. 500 from him and we went to Surey where I earned Nu.100 per day. The nature of work was much easier there than at the village.

I feel pity on my mother and sister who are also not educated. I think I can give better life to my mother and sister by working here. I am afraid that my uncle may do something dangerous to my sister and mother, as he is quite influential in the village. At present I am learning to drive. I hope I will be a driver soon.

*CL (19 years, male)*

### **Often I work with the construction projects**

*After my father retired from the army, we came back to our village. Then the troubles began, and I even had to leave school.*

My father was a soldier. I lived in Thimphu for several years until my father retired from the Army. Then we came back to our village. After that, my father became more habituated to drinking, while my mother

broke her leg. My brothers are married and are living with their families. I have to bear a lot of responsibility at home.

I studied till class V. Because of lack of educational facility at my village coupled with the absence of manpower at home as well as having no one to bear my school expenses, I had to drop out of school despite my interest to continue.

I heard about the Non-formal education scheme and even participated in this programme. I thought it was one opportunity for me to learn what I did not learn in school. Often, I work along the road in construction projects. This is one source of income for me. With this money, I buy rice and other household items.

Village life is a bit harsh. I often drink but not as much as elders do. I do not know why I drink, but often I feel I should drink to quench my thirst after heavy physical work.

*K. JIGME (17 years, male)*

**It is for the first time that I traveled out of my remote village**

*I never went to school. My mother died when I was 12 years old.  
Since then, I had to take up the responsibility in the house.*

I am 18 years old. I am from Ritijing, Pantang. My mother died when I was 12 years old. Since then, I had to take up the responsibility of household chores. My father hardly stayed home, but was conducting his own small business. All through my years, I have been living in the remote village.

The farthest place that I have been to be Tingtibi. It is the biggest town I have ever seen. When I was 15, my father remarried. He was then a happy man. However, I lived in the original house with my grand parents. My father set up his small shop in Gomphu. Back at the village,

I used to attend to grandparents, carry out the field works and also look after the herd. Farming work was really difficult.

I attended Non-formal education, thinking that I might be able to know the world better. I regret that my parents did not send me to school. One of reasons why they did not send me to school could be that, there wouldn't be anyone at home to take up the responsibility in the house during their old age.

Now, I have come to Gomphu to live with my father and stepmother. I can see many different things. In my village, there is no road, no electricity, and vehicles. My stepmother is kind and treats me well. I dream to become a driver. This aspiration was derived from the moment I saw a woman driving a vehicle.

***K. CHODEN (18 years, female)***

### **I work on the road with my parents**

*I studied up to class V. I left the school mainly because I was poor in Dzongkha. I now work on the road along with my parents.*

I am 20 years old. I studied up to class V. I left the school mainly because I was poor in Dzongkha. My parents have been working on the road since 1998. Among three children, my younger brother is still studying, while my sister and I are also working on the road along with our father. We live together. In a month, we earn more than 9,000 Ngultrums, which is sufficient for us to sustain ourselves. My brother, studying in Tingtibi is staying in a rented house. Every month, either father or I bring him rice and vegetables. We also give him pocket money. As far as his school expense is concerned, I think it is not a big problem because three of us are earning. However, my brother seems less interested in studying.

I want to become a machine operator or a driver. It is because, every time, I go on duty, I see many machine operators and drivers in the Road Division. They have become a constant source of encouragement for me, mainly because they seem to be content and enjoying their jobs.

My parents left their village mainly because of economic reasons. They did not have enough money at the village.

*J BISWA (20 years, male)*

**I regret a lot**

*Life was difficult for me mainly because my parents got divorced when I was just seven years old. I studied till class IX with the support of my grand parents, but had to drop out because of problems at home.*

I am 19 years old. I am from Tingtibi. Life was difficult for me mainly because my parents got divorced when I was just seven years old. My mother, who used to drink too much is to be blamed for this. My father, who actually preferred not to separate, could not tolerate my mother's constant drinking habit. Not only did she drink too much and fought with him every day, she also quarreled with the neighbors.

My grandfather opened a shop for my mother and built a house for her. But within a year or two, she became bankrupt. It was due to her drinking habit. My father left us, without informing anyone, and then we did not see him for the next 12 years. My grandparents did not object to the divorce because they knew that the fault was with mother. However, they took up the responsibility of bringing us up. They sent us to school. For several years, they provided my school expenses. However, with the passage of years, they became too old to look after the three of us.



My mother, who used to drink, started selling her wealth including cattle and zees (onyx). Some amount was spent on our education while most of it was spent on her drinks.

I studied till class IX. I failed in my exams mainly because I was always worried and sad about this life. It was all the time frustrating. I decided to leave the school and work. I worked as a driver's assistant but never succeeded in becoming a driver myself. Then later, I worked in Bhutan Power Corporation. By then, I realized that I have been habituated to smoking and drinking. I used to attend my duty but at times I failed. The reason behind my drinking and smoking was the unfortunate situation in my life.

Then I went to Thimphu with the hope of getting some jobs. But I am still jobless. I dream of becoming a driver, but it is really difficult. I blame it on the divorce of my parents and mother's drinking habits. Otherwise, my life would have been much happier. Now when I see my friends completing their graduation, I regret a lot.

*PU (19 years, male)*

### **Elders bully me in the monastery**

*My father died when I was small. I am a monk and live in a monastery. But life in the monastery is difficult as the elders bully me.*

A river carried my father away. He used to drink a lot. So now I live with my mother, elder sister and a younger brother. My mother is just a simple farmer. We have a small hut. We do not have sufficient to eat.

I am a monk and live in a monastery. When I come home, I do the household chores and look after the cows as well as weed the maize fields. It is almost four years since I became a monk. I earn very little and I give my money to my mother to buy rice and clothes. I do not

keep any money to myself as I get food from the monastery. But life in the monastery is difficult as the elders bully me. I wish to leave the monastery but I am afraid that I may have to pay penalty. I wish to work back at home.

I never heard about drugs. I never drink. As I grow up, I wish to help my mother. I have never been to any other place. Therefore, I have very little exposure. I do not feel sad that my father is dead as he was cruel to me. After drinking so much, he used to beat me without reasons. Even while eating, my father used to torture me by pulling my legs and hanging me upside down. He never used to beat my sister. However, my mother used to be so kind to me. My mother gives me whatever she has. My mother is around 60 years old now.

***RINCHENLA (11 years, male)***

**With the money that I earn, we buy rice**

*I am a farmer like my parents. I work hard but we are poor and food becomes scarce in my home sometimes.*

I am not married. I have both my parents. They are strong and are farmers. I am from a very poor family. Even food becomes scarce sometimes. Our house is not so strong. It is just a small wooden shack. We have five members in the family. My elder brother also left school after studying till certain stage until our parents could not further afford to bear his school expenses. At home, I work in the fields as well as on the roads with the contractors. With the money that I earn, I buy rice for the family. I did not go to school because my parents did not send me to school. However, I studied for one year under Non-formal education scheme.

***P.DENDUP(18 years, male)***

### **Our mother do not care for us**

*My parents are divorced. I live with my uncle. I could not go to school, but my elder sister is studying in class XI.*

I am staying with my uncle who is a Buddhist priest. My brother also stays with him. My uncle will decide our future. Our mother does not care about us.

We have an elder sister who is studying in class XI. When my parents got divorced, I was in the forest herding the cattle for two years. My father has now sold all the cows because it was hard to look after them. Mother was at fault for causing the divorce. She went with another man.

While as a cowboy, I used to be in the forest singing and facing lots of physical hardship. I studied till class III. Mother used to sell ara (alcoholic drink) and meet my school expenses. We used to have a good income from our cows as well. Once our parents got divorced, we, the children got spoiled. Father has now reached the point of selling the house.

I do not have any job. When I get some money, I spend it on edibles and beer. I have heard about drugs but never tried it. I regret the fact that I could not study. I wish to become a *gomchen*- (a lay religious person) because it is a much easier way of sustaining my own life.

***P WANGDI (17 years, male)***

## **PART B**

### **Analysis of the Narrative Report on Voices of Bhutanese Youth: Dreams, Experiences, Achievements and Struggles<sup>1</sup>**

*Analysis done by Yeshe Dema*

#### **1 Introduction**

This report is based on the narrative report: Voices of the Bhutanese Youth: Dreams, Experiences, Achievements and Struggles, included in Part A. It contains the stories narrated by 209 young people interviewed in 12 Dzogkhags<sup>2</sup>. 56% of the respondents were male and 44% female. The respondents included the school-going children, school dropouts and uneducated youths.

#### **2 Interview objectives**

The Centre for Bhutan Studies (CBS) conducted the personal interviews in July-October, 2004 to find out various issues and problems facing Bhutanese youth throughout the country. The questions of interests were:

1. What is the current situation of school dropouts in the country?
2. What are the factors contributing to these dropout rates?
3. What are the problems and issues raised by these youth?
4. What are the dreams and aspirations of these youth?
5. What are the other issues facing the youth?

---

<sup>1</sup> Yeshe Dema had carried out this analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Viz. Bumthang, Chhukha, Haa, Paro, Punakha, Samtse, Thimphu, Trashigang, Trongsa, Tsirang, Wangdue Phodrang and Zhemgang.

### **3 Materials and Methods used in this survey**

The information reported in this document was collected through unstructured interviews. The data entry, analysis and reporting were done using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software. The focus of the data analysis was to provide possible answers to the five main questions.

### **4 Results and Discussion**

#### **4.1 The main findings of the survey report**

Out of 209 youths interviewed, 17% male and 15% female were the school going children. The age group of these respondents varied from 9 to 25 years. The age is not recorded in some cases. In this interview group, the maximum respondents were teenagers (13% male and 21% female) followed by the adult group i.e >20 years of age (11% male and 10% female), and the minor i.e. <12 years of age (5% male and 3% female) was the least.

##### **4.1.1 Level of education of the dropouts**

Majority of the respondents were school dropouts (43%), 32% of them are still studying and 24% of them never went to school. 1% of them wanted to continue studies in India (Figure 1). The drop out percentage for the males and females are 28% and 15% respectively. The level of education for the dropouts varied from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> with the maximum number of respondents (21% males and 12% females) fall below 5<sup>th</sup> grade category. About 13% males and 6% females have studied up to or less than 8<sup>th</sup> grade while 10 % males and 8% females have studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> grade. About 7% males and 10% females have studied up to plus 2 while about 11% of the dropouts have not been recorded (Figure 2).

Analysis

Figure 1 status of the respondents

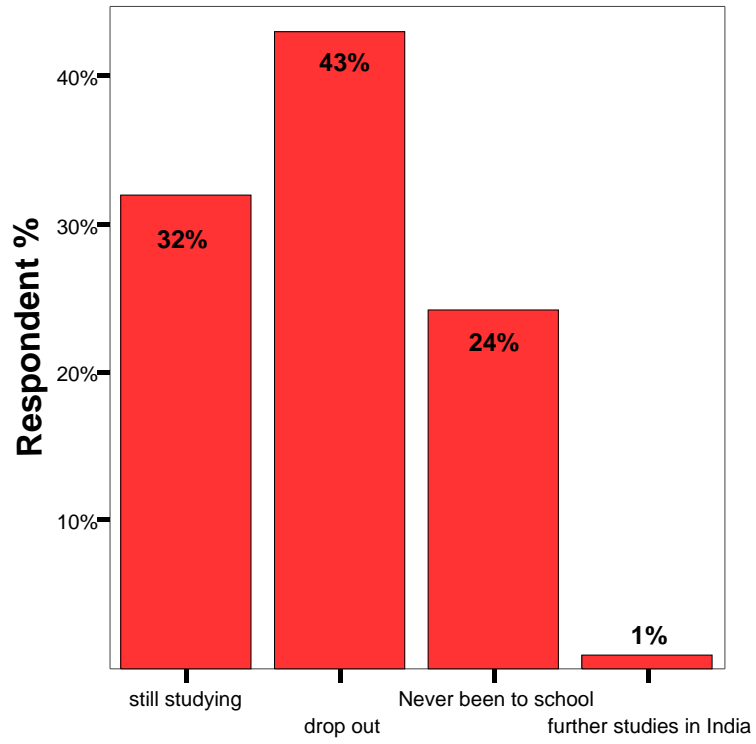
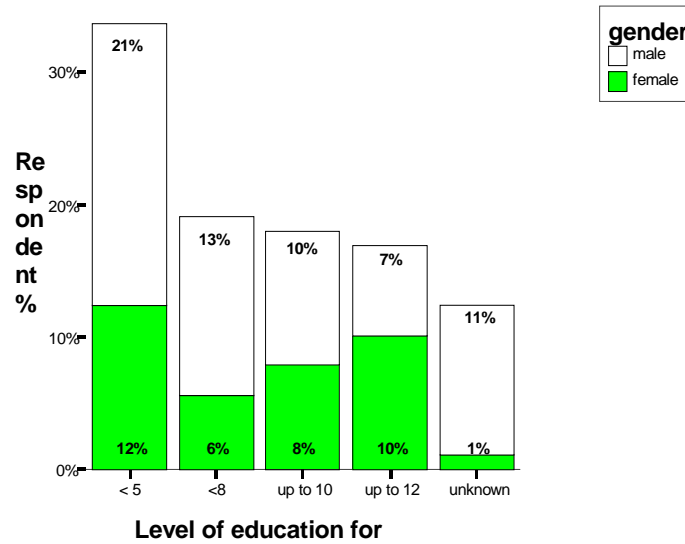


Figure 2. Drop out level of education



#### 4.1.2 Reasons for dropout

There are numerous reasons accounted for the various levels of dropouts by each respondent. The reasons for the school drop out varied from the poor family status, burden of household tasks, family disruption, individual's interest and disinterest in studies to the southern Bhutan problem of 1990s. The main cause for the school dropout was the financial problems (33%) associated within the family that includes the education cost for poorer children. Children of the divorced accounted ill treatment by their step parents as the reason for dropping out of schools. Some of them were forced to live with their grand parents and relatives. Most of the broken families were associated with either a drunken father or mother who poorly managed the families. A nine-year boy stated, "I will never forget the night when my

## *Analysis*

drunken father hit my mother and left her half dead and later married another woman.” Another nine-year old girl said, “My most dreadful memory is of my father beating my mother frequently. He even thrashed my sister and paralyzed her forever.” There were also some stories portraying the misconducts of mothers.

About 10% of them accounted that they felt too dull to study and were not interested in studying. Another 10% of them could not qualify for higher studies. There were some stories on personal problems such as the drug abuses, early marriages and teenage pregnancies. One of the girls raised the issue; “I got pregnant, when I was in class seven thereby forcing me to leave the school”. In addition, about 3% of them could not continue their studies because of the 1990’s problems in Southern Bhutan.

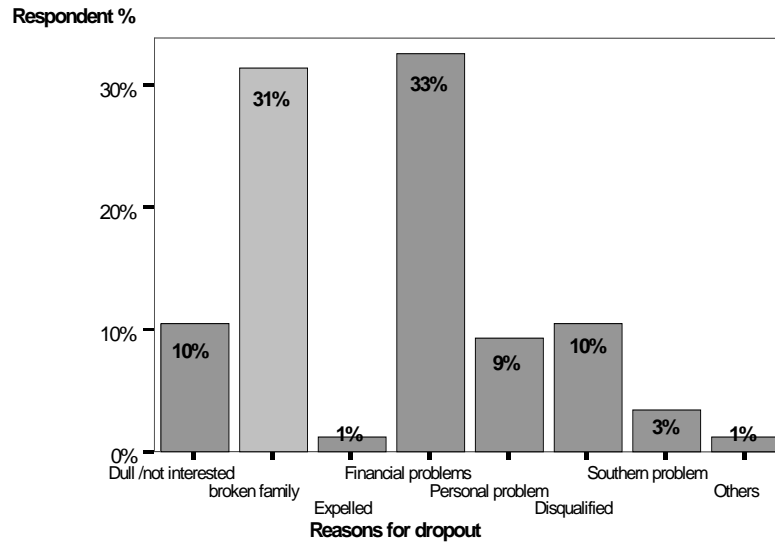
### **4.1.3 Current status of these dropouts**

Figure 1 shows that 43% of the respondents were school dropouts. Most of them belonged to farmers, unemployed and low-income families. 3% of these dropout (all males) are at present working in the National Work Force (NWF), while about 5% of the females are now settled as housewives and another 3% work as baby sitters across the country, mostly in towns like Thimphu, Paro and Phuentsholing. About 5% of the male dropouts are employed as mechanics or as helpers in the workshops (Garage). The majority (19% male and 11% female) of them are unemployed and idle at homes. A few of them plan to go for further studies outside Bhutan. 9% male and 1% female dropouts have taken up farming occupations while about 4% males and 9% females are engaged in small-scale business like small grocery shops, restaurants and saloon. About 15% male work in others occupations: chef, painting school, printing press and various small-scale contract works. About 4% of females are working as waitresses in the hotels and restaurants. 5% of the male are enrolled as monks.



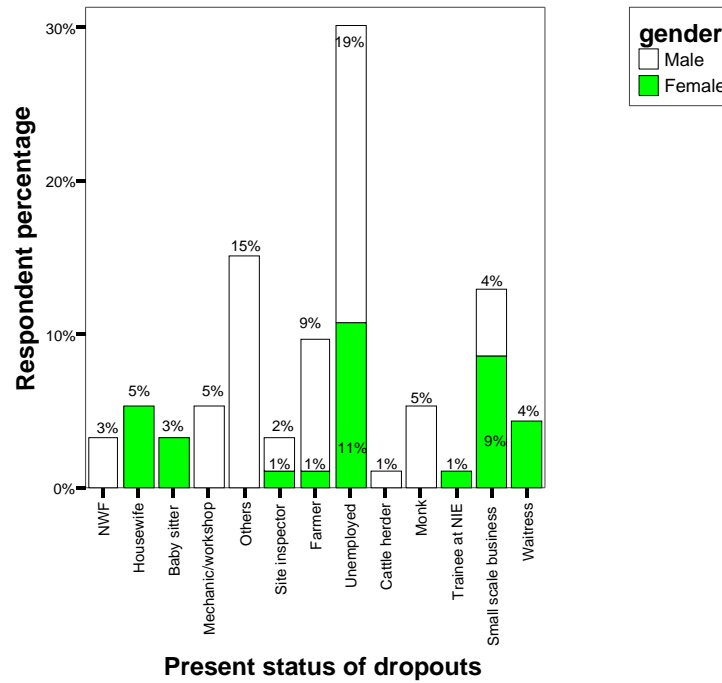
Analysis

Figure 3. Reasons for dropout



## Analysis

Figure 4. Present status of dropout (gender)



### 4.2 Children who have never been to school

Some of the youths never attended schools for various reasons. In this category, the percentage of the male to female respondents is 13% and 12% respectively. Parental divorce was reported as the main reason for not attending schools. 22% male and 14% female gave this reason. Another reason accounted by them is the cost of education. 16% male and 22% female gave this reason. Children had to stay home and contribute to the family's income rather than attend schools. The females were most affected in such case. Lack

of the financial means has forced some of the poor families to send their children to monasteries as monks. About 6% males and 2% females reported that their parents were not aware of the value of education. "I am sad that my parents who were uneducated themselves did not send me to school." A girl stated, "Since my parents are uneducated and ignorant, they never thought of sending me to school and giving me education." Many children were interested to study but failed to get school admissions, as they were late for schools when their parents decided to send them to schools. "My parents said, you should work to earn something and next year if you are still interested in studying we will admit you in school, but this promise was forgotten the next year, and so I was late for school admission". This was mainly related to the children of resource poor parents where they had to work at homes that it became too late when their parents decided to send them to schools. About 4% each of both the males and females stated that they were too old to join school (figure 5). Most of these under privileged children stated that they wish to attend schools, " When I see other children going to school, I also feel like going but my mother thinks I am too old to go to school now. "

#### **4.2.1 The present status of the youth who have never been to school.**

The figure 6 shows that a majority (14% male and 20% female) of youths stays at homes helping their parents and relatives in farm works. Some of them work out side their natal homes as paid workers. 8% females and about 2% males work as home-nurses. 6% each of both the male and female works as NWF while another 6% of the females work as waitresses in hotels and restaurants owned by their relatives. About 8% of the males work in the farms. 6% of the males work as mechanics or their assistants. 6% of them are enrolled as monks. 4% of them are employed as cattle herders of their own cattle or work for the others. Those young people who work with richer people as cow herders are not always treated well. This is indicated by the words of a ten-year-old boy, "since my family is poor, I look after the cows of a rich man

### Analysis

in Gedu. Sometimes when a cow gets lost, I get beatings and I have to go in search for the lost cows in the jungles even at night.”

In general, most of the young boys want to become drivers. They hope to learn driving either from their employer or from their relatives. Most of them regard this occupation as desirable because they can earn enough and travel to many places. Most of them who failed to attend schools have strong desires to enroll themselves in Non Formal Education Programmes (NFE).

Figure 5. Reasons for not admitting to school (gender)

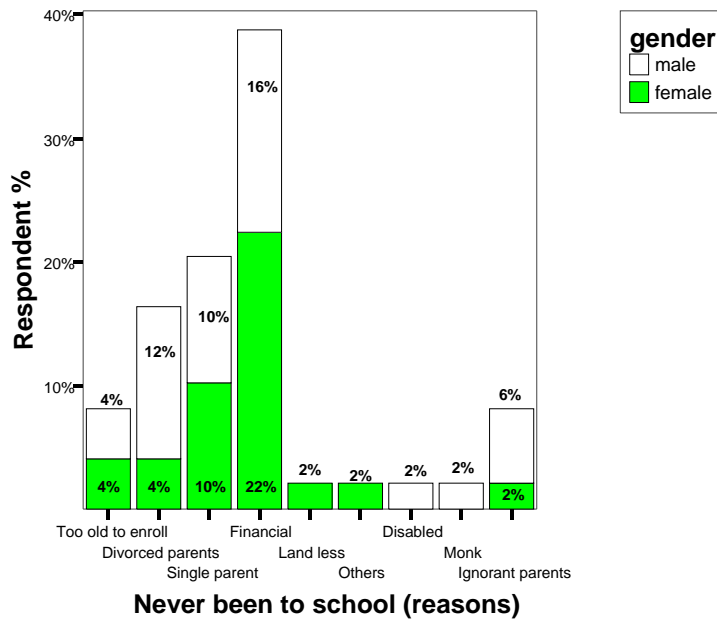
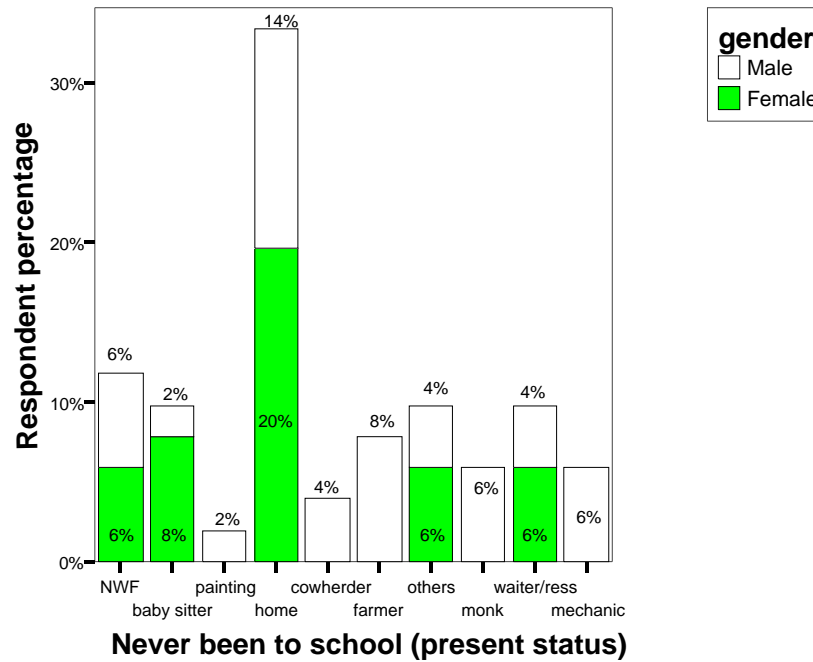


Figure 6. Present status of the never been to school category (gender)



### 4.3 Still studying

In figure 1, about 32% of the respondents were school going-children. Their present status is described below. Some of these children are associated with the divorced and broken families. There were some students from town and well-to-do families, who expressed their stronger views on their lives. “I am currently studying in Lungtenzampa Middle Secondary School. School is fun sometimes but at times it can get annoying because of all the pressures of studying and doing well in school. I think that sometimes our parents and

### *Analysis*

teachers expect too much from us. The pressure of having to live up to so many expectations make us less interested in studies and discourage us to work hard". The children from poor families, especially those who come from rural areas have stated that they work during vacations to meet their school-related expenses. "During my holidays I sell vegetables and get money for my books and fees. When I grow up I want to become a doctor." These poor children reported that they are also burdened with the household tasks besides their studies. "I was not good at studies, but was hard working. I had to find many excuses to miss games and sports activities in the school, because I had to reach home early to do household chores. Moreover, I usually did not have money to buy sports dress and shoes. I used to miss all activities like picnics, trekking, etc."

The figure 7 indicates that a majority of these school-going children have to find means to support their own education. 13% of these students have to work in the construction sites during their vacation so that they can buy stationeries and school uniforms with the income. Some of them have to work in the fields, look after cattle and sell vegetables. There were some children who reported that they have to sell vegetables even during school seasons. "While going to school, we also have to take along with us vegetables and some cheese and butter to sell. I worry how I would be able to finish my studies looking at the problems my mother faces." There are many children who transport oranges during winter holidays, the income of which they invest on books and school uniforms.

Few respondents reported cases of drug addiction, alcoholism and smoking related issues. These are usually associated with broken families though it is not significantly prominent.

#### **4.3.1 Aspiration and hopes of the students**

Most of these school-going children stated their dreams to become respectful civil servants. 13% of them, and mostly girls reported that they want to become doctors. 11 % said that they want to become teachers 3% of them want to become pilots. 2% of the total respondents want to initiate an orphanage. Among the male respondents, 11% of them want to be great men, 8% want to become doctors and 3% of them aspire to become engineers or army officers. About 2% of them want to become forensic journalists. However, there were a few students who just wished to be free from the harsh treatments of their stepparents and their relatives. Those were the children of the divorced and the dead. 32% of these children have not reported anything about their dreams and wishes.

Analysis

Figure 7. Present status of school going children

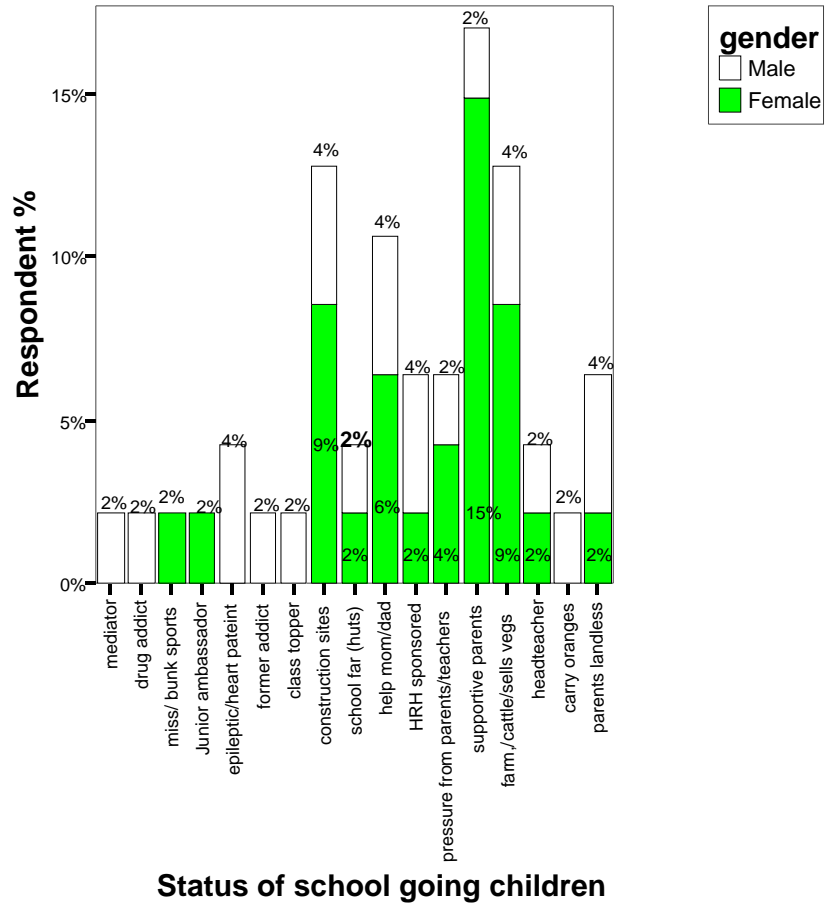
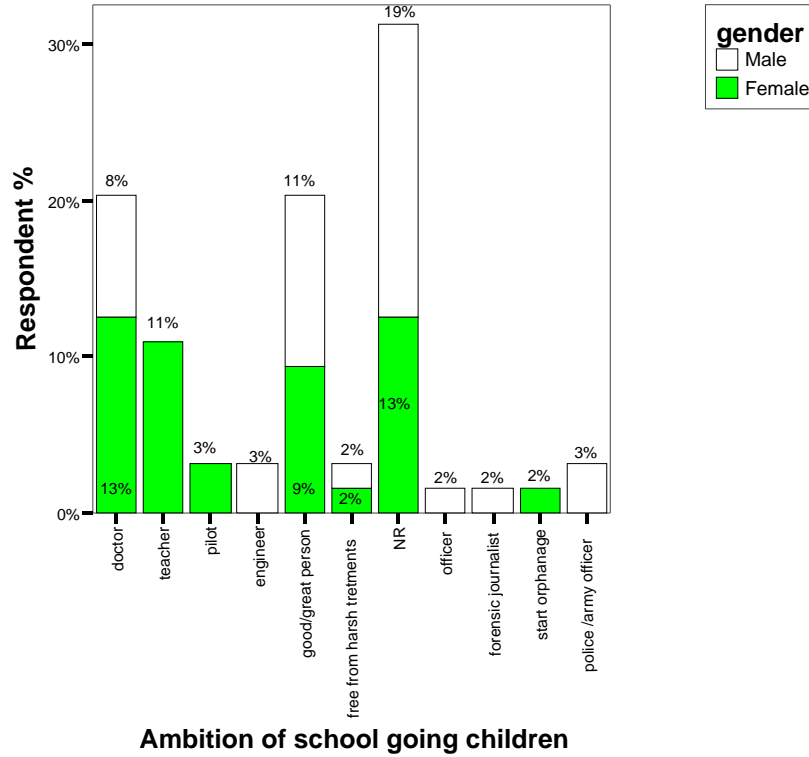




Figure 8. Ambition/ hopes of the school going children



#### 4.4 The main problems faced by the youths in general

In general, the main youth problem reported in the interviews is related to family disruption as a result of parental divorces. The roles of step-parents are not portrayed well by them as the step-parents tend to be discriminating them from their own children. Most of these children who experienced family

### *Analysis*

disruption reported that they had to discontinue their studies against their wishes. Single-parenthood is reported as another cause of problems that the youth in focus group faced. There were several stories of how mothers had to deal with difficulty in bringing up their children. “I do not miss my father as he remarried a younger woman leaving my mother. But I really love my mother. My mother borrowed money from the neighbor for our school fees and to buy rice and edibles for home.”

Those children who claimed themselves as belonging to landless and poor families have reported about their difficulties associated with school-life. “I was born of a very poor family. I am not happy when I go to school because I do not have good clothes to wear. I have no proper shoes and no pocket money”. In addition to these family problems, the children have also started to go astray with their behavior as there were no proper guidance and support from their parents. ‘It is here that I started taking even dendrite with my friends. It is really good especially for a person like me who do not have any one to care and bother about.’

There were a few of the students who reported about the difficulties in schools, especially in rural places. ‘During school days in boarding school, we hardly got enough food to satisfy our hunger. Although we were at our growing stage, most of the time we went hungry and unnourished.’ In some other cases school going children have to walk for hours to school and therefore, some stay in temporary shelters nearby “My village is a 3 hours walk from school. Due to this reason, like many other students from far-off villages, I live in a temporary shelter made of bamboo near the school.”

Although they were not able to attend schools for whatsoever reasons, some of the young people who are settled now expressed their regrets for not attending schools. They are now concerned about educating their own children in future. ‘I did not get chance to go to school because I was from a poor family and

more over my parents died when I was just small. My aspiration is to give good education to my child.'

#### **4.5 The life of a monk**

In Bhutan, sending children to monasteries is still considered important. 'We had no monk in the family and I had to be a monk because we believe that there should be at least one monk from each family.' The interviews recorded the narrations of a few young monks. Most of them said that they were enrolled as monks because their parents could not afford to send them to schools. Not all those boys who were enrolled as monks have managed to continue their studies in the monasteries; some of them have to abandon monastic life not being able to bear harsh discipline. There were some monks who spoke well of their monastic lives. "Life as monk is meaningful; everything is provided in the monastery. What I have to do simply study and pray". A few boys have become *gomchens* as they feel that it is easier to survive as *gomchens* than to be a farmer.

#### **5. Conclusions**

The main problem that youth in interview have reported is parental divorce and disruption in the families. Divorce of parents entailed other problems for them such as financial constraint, discontinuation of studies,

## PART C

### National Youth Survey

*Analysis done by Dorji Penjore*

The survey questionnaire was broken into two parts: Part I was basically designed to get information about the youth respondents such their background (rural or urban), gender and age; whereas Part II was designed to get details of their parents' marital status, economic background, their dependency on other family members, migration, etc.

#### Part One

##### 1. Distribution of sampling

Out of 942 youths enumerated in this survey, 476 (50.75%) were female and 49.25% male. The maximum respondents were from Trashigang (10.34%), and the minimum from Gasa (0.21%). Although, the enumerators had visited only 12 Dzongkhags, there were respondents from all the twenty Dzongkhags.

The Dzongkhag-wise distribution of sampling is given in table 1.

*Table 1: Youth Respondents by dzongkhags*

Dzongkhag	No.	%
Trashigang	97	10.34
Samtse	87	9.28
Tsirang	79	8.42
Mongar	79	8.32
Punakha	66	7.04
Trongsa	62	6.61
Samdrup Jongkhar	51	5.44
Paro	56	5.86
Chhukha	56	5.97
Dagana	37	3.84
Sarpang	36	3.84
Wangdue	35	3.73
Bumthang	34	3.62

## Analysis

Zhemgang	35	3.73
Thimphu	30	3.20
Pemagatshel	30	3.20
Haa	26	2.77
Lhuntse	22	2.35
Tashi Yangtse	22	2.24
Gasa	2	0.21
Total	942	100 %

The survey did not make a deliberate choice of respondents sampling from different Dzongkhags. The enumerators interviewed any youth they came across, whether they were students, monks, road and construction workers, baby-nurses, cattle herders, etc. In many cases, youths refused to respond while some ran away in fear. Out of 20 Dzongkhags, the maximum and minimum youths enumerated in the survey came from Trashigang and Gasa respectively. This testifies to our common belief that the number of youths (employed, unemployed, students...) is proportional to demographic size of the Dzongkhags irrespective of its development, be it commercial or farming.

### 2. Age and marital status of respondents

The ages of respondents were broken into three categories: (a) >12, (b) between 13-17 and (c) < 18. This age break-up was not based on any previous standard used for the study of youth. The choice of <18 was based on the government's regulation barring anyone below 18 years from consuming alcoholic beverages. Of 938 respondents, 105 youths (11.19 %) were less than 12 years, and 361 (38.49 %) were more than 18 years. Respondents between 13 and 17 years formed the maximum group at 50.32 %.

Table 2: Age of respondents

Age Range	Number	%
>12	106	11.19
13-17	473	50.32
<18	363	38.49
Total	942	

## Analysis

Only about 9% of respondent were married, while 40.41 % were single. Surprisingly, a majority (50.64 %) refused to respond either Yes or NO.

Table 3: Marital Status

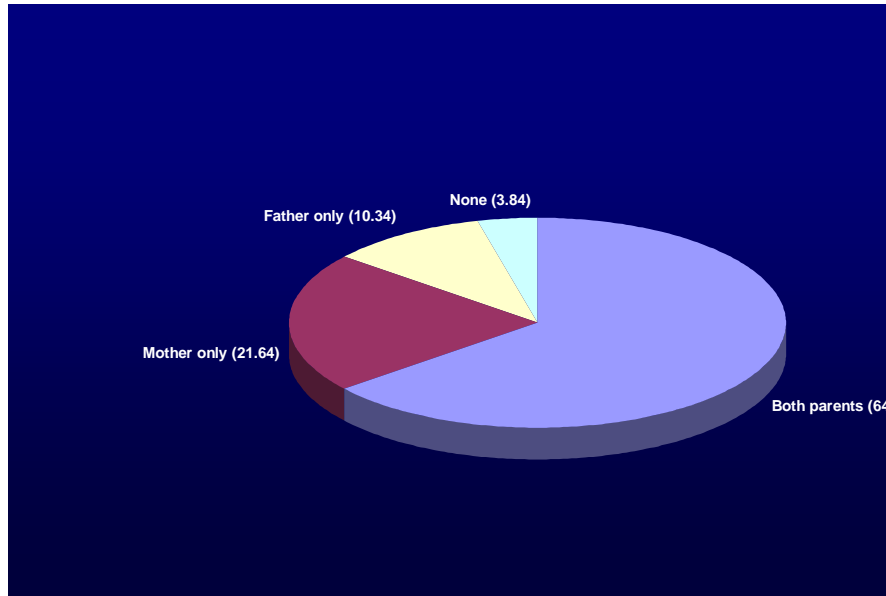
Marital Status	Numbers	%
Married	85	8.96
Unmarried	381	40.41
No response	476	50.64
Total	942	100

## Part Two

### 1. Parental status

Of 938 youths, 602 have both their parents, while the single parent youths living either with mother and father are 203 (21.64 %) and 97 (10.34 %) respectively. Only 36 youths (3.84 %) did not have both parents. The number of youths living with single mother is more than youths living with a single father by 11.3%. So mothers mostly bears the burden of bringing up children be it after divorce or 'birth outside wedlock'. The figure 3.84% who are without parents (orphan) is a great concern. It directly translates into a direct dependency on other surviving family members.

Table 4: Parental Status



Of 336 who did not have their mother, father or both, 64.88 % responded they were dead, 33.33 % (112) were divorced, and only 1.78% have other reasons. So, 1.78% (6 youths) were born out of wed-lock.

## 2. Parents' Occupation

Farmers formed a sizable 65.16% (593) of parents, followed by civil servants at 11.43%. National Work Force (NWF) and Private Firms are next at 10.11 % and 9.12 % respectively. There were 26 retired civil servants (2.9%). Religious occupation and others each constitute less than one percent. Details of parents' occupations are as follows.

## Analysis

Table 6: Parents' Occupations

Occupation	Numbers	%
Farmer	593	65.16
Civil servant	104	11.43
National Work Force (NWF)	92	10.11
Private Firm	83	9.12
Retired Civil Servant	26	2.89
Others	7	0.76
Religious occupation	5	0.58
Total	910	100

### 3. Family's Economic Background

When asked about the economic status of 731 respondents, 286 (39.12%) replied their parents' income were low; 30.64% said their parents were without job. 25.17% reported their parents have no land, while 3.28% were homeless. Only 13% said their parents have inadequate food.

Table 7: Economic Status of the Family

Economic status	Numbers	%
Low income	286	39.12
Jobless	224	30.64
Landless	184	25.17
Homeless	24	3.28
Inadequate food	13	1.78
Total	731	100



## *Analysis*

Parents of low-income group (39.12%) can come from all seven occupation groups listed in table 7, but the figure of 25.17% landless family is high. The maximum and minimum land-holding ceiling of 25 and 5 acres per household respectively leaves no family or household landless technically, and His Majesty has been granting land kidu to any landless Bhutanese. If the figure is correct, one can surmise that the youths flock to urban centre due to lack of land back in villages. A possession of a fertile land in rural areas may attract youths even after completing their education. 3.28% of the youths feel their parents are homeless. These parents must be those living away from their villages in urban centers, and those living in rented houses normally do not consider it their home, but houses or residences. Less than 2% of 731 responding their parents had no adequate food reflect real poverty both in rural and urban areas.

### **4. Like/Dislike of Parents**

To the question, do you like your parents, 97.9% of 886 youths interviewed responded positively, while 2.1% said they dislike their parents. Asked why they dislike their parents, 56 youths gave the reasons. 24 youths said parents do not care about their education, 8 respondents replied the parents punish them. Parental advice and parents' poverty scored 10.71 % each. The other reasons were given below in table 11.

## Analysis

Table 8: Reasons for disliking

Reasons	No	%
Do not care about my education	24	42.86
Beat me frequently	8	14.29
Advise me too much	6	10.71
They are poor	6	10.71
Because of step-father	6	10.71
Because of step-mother	2	3.57
Left me when I was a baby	2	3.57
Drinks too much	1	1.77
Others	1	1.77
Total	56	100

This question was designed to understand whether the problem or failure of the family has created any dissatisfaction among the children. This is important in understanding any dilution of the strong belief in repaying what parents had done for one's upbringing and education (investment). 2.1% of 886 who said they hate (dislike) their parents is a great social concern. Dislike directly converts into non-investment or helping their old parents and relatives at home. Poverty or low income (39.12% of parents) prevents them from sending their children to school (42.86% dislike parents for not caring about their education), and parents have little control. This figure also shows that youths value education above all others. Parents' divorce and subsequent remarriages contributes 17.85% of dislikes.

**6. With whom do you live now?**

Table 9: With whom do you live at present?

Persons	No.	%
Both parents	300	31.98
Self-earning	119	12.69
Mother	114	12.15
Father	63	6.72
Sister	59	6.29
Uncle	52	5.54
Friends	39	4.16
Employer	39	4.16
Brother	34	3.63
Aunt	24	2.56
Paying student	20	2.13
Grandparents	13	1.39
Step families	9	0.96
Others	53	5.65
Total	938	

About 32% of 938 youth respondents live with both parents, while those living with mother and father only constitute 12.15 % and 6.72 % respectively. About 6.29 % and 3.6 % of them live with their sisters and brothers respectively. Uncles and aunts share 5.54 % and 3.56 % of the burden, while 4.16 live with their friends. Table 13 provides details of with whom they live during the survey.

12.69% of those who are self-earning is both the strength and weakness – strength because youths can earn themselves and lead a decent life; weakness because this group could be behind a series of petty crimes like theft, shoplifting, burglary. 20.37% the youths depend on either their sister, brother, uncle, aunt, grandparents and step-families. Childhood dependency is an important indicator of economic and social burden which young people (and old population) give to working age population.

**6. Why do not you live with your parents?**

Of the 461 youths who do not live with their parents, 22.13 % left home to live with others because their parents have many children to support. 75 of them (16.27%) said they do not want to burden their parents (some may not necessarily have many children) and 15.62% thought parents are poor to support them. 36 youths left for studying reason and the parents of about 8% of youths were dead. The parents’ habit of beating and drinking contributed to 7.38% and 4.78% respectively. About 21% left for other reasons.

*Table 10: Why youth live with others?*

Reason	No.	%
Parents have many children to support	102	22.13
Do not want to burden parents	75	16.27
They are poor to support me	72	15.62
For studies	24	5.21
Both parents are dead	36	7.81
Parents beat me	34	7.38
Their drinking habit	22	4.78
Others	96	20.82
Total	461	100

**7. How long have you been living with them?**

203 (33.12%) of the 613 youths surveyed said they have been living with the present family/host family for more than five years. 21.21 % (130 youths) had arrived a few months ago.

## Analysis

Table 11: When did you start living with them?

Duration	No.	%
More than 5 years	203	33.12
A few months ago	130	21.21
2 years	76	12.4
1 years	71	11.58
3 years	54	8.809
4 years	49	7.993
5 years	30	4.894
Total	613	100

### 8. Reasons for Migration

Of 672 youths interviewed, 73.21% came from rural to urban areas, and only 26.79% vice versa.

54.77% of 409 youths migrated to urban areas looking for job, 28.61% moved with their parents, 6.36% were persuaded by friends to move, while 6.36% moved for studies. 1.47% moved because of conflicts with parents.

## Analysis

Table 12: Reasons for moving to urban areas?

Reason	No.	%
I came looking for job	224	54.77
Moved with parents	117	28.61
Came with friends	26	6.36
For studies	26	6.36
Resettlement	8	1.96
Conflict with parents	6	1.47
Others	2	0.49
Total	409	

Only 2.57% of 661 youths enumerated said their parents do not know where they are.

### 9. Nature of Domestic Work

Almost half of 600 youths surveyed for the above question said cooking is the main work, followed by looking after younger siblings (19.43) and farm work at 9.29%. Doing nothing or illness (8.20%) is followed by attending to grandparents at 7.86 %. About 5 % of them herd cattle and 1.14 % perform *woola*. Only 1% has the luxury of studying and playing at homes.

## Analysis

*Table 13: Regular works youth perform at home?*

Activity	Number	%
Cooking	333	47.57
Look after younger siblings	136	19.43
Farm work	65	9.29
Do nothing	58	8.29
Attend to grandparents	55	7.86
Herding cattle	33	4.71
Woola	8	1.14
Studying and playing	7	1
Others	5	0.71
Total	700	100

### 10. Affects of Divorce

Asked how their parents' divorce affected them, 55 youths out of 148 surveyed faced financial problem, while 27 had to leave their school; 5.4% said they lost self-esteem and 3.38% faced physical hardship. 2.7% was forced to steal and less than 1% had to remarry early.

*Table 14: Affects of divorce*

Affect	No.	%
Faced financial problem	55	37.2
Could not attend school	47	31.8
Had to leave school	27	18.2
Lost self-esteem	8	5.41
Faced physical hardship	5	3.38
I was forced to steal	4	2.7
Teen (early) marriage	1	0.68
Others	1	0.68
Total	148	

### Analysis

However, Out of 197 youths whose parents were either divorced or one of the parents dead, 57.87% (83 youths) said the parents have remarried; 42.13% did not remarry. The survey of 114 youths whose parents remarried revealed 61.02% of step-parents were supportive, 21.19% punish them, and 16.1% said they discriminate them from their children.

*Table 15: Step-parents' treatment*

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>%</b>
Supportive	72	61.02
Beat me	25	21.19
Discriminate me from his/her children	19	16.1
Others	2	1.695
Total	118	100



# Questionnaires

## NATIONAL YOUTH SURVEY

### Questionnaire for study of Youth in Bhutan

(This form consist of 8 pages, printed back and forth)

**ENUMERATOR:**

.....

**FORM NO.:** .....

### **PART A: PERSONAL INFORMATION**

**Q1. Name:** .....

**Age:** .....or year of birth .....

**Q2. Dzongkhag of Birth.....**

**Q3. Gender:** .....

### **Marital Status**

**Q4.**

*Married*

*Not married*

1
2

**Permanent Address**

Questionnaires

Q5. Village.....

Q6. Gewog.....

Q7. Dzongkhag .....

(This ends the questions for personal information)

**PART B; YOUTH AND FAMILY**

Q1. Parental Status.....

*Only mother*

*Only father*

*Both*

*None*

1
2
3
4

**Give a reason if you have a single parent? (If the reason is divorced, >> Q 8,**

**Q2. Section B)**

*Dead*

*Divorced*

*Others*

*(specify).....*

1
2
3

Q3. What is your parent's occupation? (Write for each)

1. Father.....

2.

Questionnaires

Mother.....

**Q4. Economic status of your family....**

*Landless*

1

*Jobless members*

2

*No house*

3

*Low income*

4

*Not enough to eat*

5

**Q5. Do you like your parents? (If yes, skip Q 6.)**

*Yes*

1

*No*

2

**Q6. Why do you dislike your parents?**

*Do not care about my education*

1

*Beat me frequently*

2

*Advise me too much*

3

*Drinks to much*

4

*Are poor*

5

*Others*

6

*(specify).....*

*Questionnaires*

.....

--

**Q7. Who do you live with at present?** *(If you are living with both the parents, tick both father and mother)*

- |                |                       |                        |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Father..... | 5. Brother.....       | 9. Self-earning.....   |
| 2. Mother..... | 6. Sister.....        |                        |
| 3. Uncle.....  | 7. Grandparents ..... | 11. step-families..... |
| 4. Aunt.....   | 8. Friends.....       | 10. employer.....      |

**Q8. Why are you living with someone other than your parents?**

*Parents have many children to support*

1
---

*Parents are too poor to support me*

2
---

*Parents beat me*

3
---

*Parents' drinking habits*

4
---

*Do not want to burden parents*

5
---

*Others*

*(specify).....*  
 .....

6
---

**Q9. When did you come to the present place?** *(This is for those who have migrated from one place to another)*

Give the name of the place and Dzongkhag.....  
 .....

---

*Questionnaires*

*A few months ago*

*1 year*

*2 years*

*3 years*

*4 years*

*5 years*

*More than 5 years*

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

**Q10. Where did you live before coming to this place?**

Rural

Urban

1
2
1
2
3
4
5

**Q11. Why did you migrate to this place?**

*Parents moved seeking better economic prospects*

*I came alone to look for job*

*Conflict with parents*

*Came with friends*

*Others (specify).....*

**Q12. Do your parents know where you are living and what you are doing?**

---

Questionnaires

Yes

1
---

No

2
---

**Q13. What are the daily activities that you carry at home?**

*Attend to grandparents*

1
---

*Look younger brothers and sisters*

2
---

*Cooking*

3
---

*Herding cattle*

4
---

*Farm works*

5
---

*Woola (labour contribution)*

6
---

*Do nothing*

7
---

*Others (specify).....*

8
---

**Q14. How did divorce of your parents affect your life? (This is specifically for the children of divorced parents)**

*Could not ever attend school*

1
---

*Had to leave school*

2
---

*Felt lot of financial problems*

3
---

*Became susceptible to alcohol*

4
---

*Often forced to steal*

5
---

*Questionnaires*

*Lost self-esteem*

6

*Exposed to physical hardships*

7

*Teen marriage*

8

*Others*

*(specify).....*

9

**Q15. Are your divorced parents remarried?( if NO, skip Q..)**

*Yes*

1

*No*

2

**Q16. How does your stepparents treat you?**

*Kind and supportive*

1

*Beat me*

2

*Differentiate from his/her own children*

3

*Others*

*(specify).....*

4

*(This Is the end of Part B on Youth and Family)*

**PART C: YOUTH AND EDUCATION**

**Q1. Are you literate? (If YES, >> Q2)**

YES (...)

NO (.....)

*Questionnaires*

**Q2. Where did you study?**

*School*

1

*Monastery*

2

*NFE*

3

*Others(specify).....*  
.....

4

**Q3. If you have once gone to school, what level of education did you complete?**

Primary (class VI)

1

Lower Secondary (class VIII)

2

Higher Secondary (class X)

3

Pre-university (class XII)

4

**Q4. At what age did you leave school?**

9-12 years

1

13-15 years

2

16-19 years

3

20-24 years

4

**Q5. Why did you leave school? (This is specifically for school dropouts)**

I was not interested in studying

1



*Questionnaires*

Needed at home to help parents	2
Cost of travel to school	3
Contribution to school welfare fund	4
Cost of school uniform	5
No boarding in school	6
Health problem	7
Distance from school	8
Failed in exam	9
Early pregnancy	10
Discouraged by parents	11
Fear of unemployment after studying	12
Divorced parents	13
Others (specify)..... .....	14

**Q5. Why did not you ever go to school? (*This refers to illiterate young people*)**

<i>Parents could not afford</i>	1
<i>They were not bothered of my education</i>	2

Questionnaires

<i>I was the only child</i>	3
<i>Health problem</i>	4
<i>School faraway</i>	5
<i>Afraid of teachers</i>	6
<i>School not safe</i>	7
<i>I refused to go</i>	8
<i>Needed at home</i>	9
<i>Parents do not think school worth while</i>	10
<i>Problems getting school</i>	11
<i>Others</i> <i>(specify).....</i> <i>.....</i>	12

**Q6. Do you wish to go to school?**

<i>Yes</i>	1
<i>No</i>	2
<i>I do not know</i>	3

**Q7. If you are still going to school, what are your problems? ( Q.. refers to school going children)**

1. ....
2. ....

Questionnaires

3. ....

**Q8. How long does it take for you to walk from home to school?**

*1 hr.*

*2 hrs.*

*3 hrs.*


**Q9. Is home –school distance discouraging you from going to school?**

*Yes*

*No*

1
2

**Q10. What do you do at home after school hours?**

*Study and homework*

*Do household chores*

*Do nothing*

*Other (specify).....*

1
2
3
4

**Q11. How do you manage to meet your school expenses?**

*Sell farm produces*

*Parents borrow from neighbours*

*Education loan*

1
2
3

*Questionnaires*

*Work for money during holidays*

4

*Working family members gives me money*

5

*Others*

*(specify).....  
.....*

6

**Q12. Where do you work during vacations?**

*Road*

1

*Construction Projects*

2

*Farm*

3

*Small business*

4

*Others*

*(Specify).....  
.....*

5

**Q13. What benefits do you get by working during vacations?**

*Monetary*

1

*Meet friends*

2

*Interaction with adults*

3

*Work experience*

4

*Others (specify).....*

5

Questionnaires

**If you are a son/daughter of road workers, what determines your access to**

**Q15. education?**

*No school in the locality*

1

*Look after home when parents go for work*

2

*Parents think I can earn additional income*

3

*Parents want me to work in the same profession*

4

*Parents cannot support my education*

5

*There is a school, but cannot get admission*

6

*Others (specify)*

7

**Q16, Did you hear about NFE?**

YES (.....)

NO (.....)

**Q17. If there is one near by, will you enroll?**

YES (.....)

NO (.....)

**If you were a monk, why did not you pursue your monastic  
Q18. education?**

*(This is the end of part C on youth and Education)*

Questionnaires

**PART D : YOUTH AND OCCUPATION** ( *This is for those young people who are working on their own* )

**Q1. What is your present occupation?**

**Q2. Who decided it for you?**

*Yourself*

*Parents*

*Friends*

*Others (specify).....*

1
2
3
4

**Q3. Why do you work in the present job?**

*Forced to*

*To support parents*

*Support myself*

*To support school- going brothers and sisters*

*My own interest*

*Do not want to be in village*

1
2
3
4
5

Questionnaires

Others(Specify).....  
.....

6
---

**Q4. Do you like it?** (Circle any number in the boxes, can circle more than one)

YES (.....)

NO (.....)

1. I can earn enough money	1. I earn less money
2. Job is physically easy	2. Job is physically difficult
3. My employer treat me well	3. Harsh treatment by employer
4. I am proud of what I am doing	4. Not satisfied

**Q5. How much do you earn in a month?**

200-500

500-1000

1000-2000

2000-3000

1
2
3
4

**Q6. How do you spend your money?**

To buy clothes for yourself

Give your earning to parents

Buy alcohol

1
2
3

*Questionnaires*

<i>Buy tobacco</i>	4
<i>Save</i>	5
<i>Spend for freinds</i>	6
<i>Others (specify).....</i>	7

**Q7. What other benefits do you get from the employer?**

<i>Food</i>	1
<i>clothing</i>	2
<i>Pocket money</i>	3
<i>Lodging</i>	
<i>Others (specify).....</i> .....	

**At what age did you join the present job?**

.....

**Q8. If you can, will you switch to another occupation?**

YES (.....)

NO (.....)

**Q9.**



*Questionnaires*

**If yes, what kind of occupation?**

*(This is the end of Part D on Youth and Occupation)*

**E**  
**PART E: YOUTH ALCOHOLS, DRUGS AND OTHER CHALLENGES**

**Q1. Did you hear about drugs?**

Yes

1
---

No

2
---

**Q2. Do you take drugs?** *(Treat it private, make sure that respondent feel comfortable with the question)*

*Never*

*Once*

*Sometimes*

*Regularly*

**Q3. Why do you take drugs?**

*Family problem*

*No employment*

*Not happy with life*

*Friends influence*

1
---

2
---

3
---

4
---

Questionnaires

*Others (specify)*

5
---

**Q4. Do you take alcohol?**

YES (.....)

NO (.....)

If yes,

why?.....

.....

**Q5. Why do you take alcohol?**

*Family problem*

1
---

*No employment*

2
---

*Friends' influence*

3
---

*Not happy with life*

4
---

*Others(specify).....*

5
---

**Q6. How often do you take alcohol?**

*Daily*

1
---

*Weekly*

2
---

*Occasionally*

3
---

**Q7. Where do you drink?**

*At home*

1
---

*Bar*

2
---

*Questionnaires*

*Alone*

3

*With parents*

4

*With friends*

5

*Others (specify)*

6

**Q8. What worries you the most in life? (Tick only one)**

*Education*

1

*Employment*

2

*Health*

3

*Welfare of parents*

4

*Others*

5

**Q9. What do you aspire to become in life? (This is an open ended question, list his or her dreams and aspirations)**

## *Questionnaires*