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UNDERSTANDING ATTITUDES OF STREET CHILDREN TOWARDS LIFE: FIELD EXPERIENCES FROM HYDERABAD KARNATAKA REGION



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ABSTRACT:

Understanding attitudes of street children towards life gives significant direction to the probable solution to the intervention for them. The problem in Indian may seem to result from traditional attitudes, urbanization, industrialization, migration, lack of schools or reluctance of parents to send their children to school, but its main cause was extreme poverty. Rapid Industrialization has accelerated the migration of thousands of families from rural areas to cities. These migrants increase the population of urban poor contributing to the ever growing number of slums and pavement dwellers. In Romania Street Children were victims of incoherent, irrational birth control, policy, pauperisation and alcoholism.

KEY WORDS: *Algae, Euglenophyceae, Cyanophyceae, Filamentous algae, Bori Dam.*

INTRODUCTION:

Many of these children have fled countryside, where the lack of money and lack of moral and affective education was more wide spread than it big cities. The problem of street children arises from poverty non-existent supportive social and economic structure to provide such children with opportunities for growth and development, fast pace to urbanization and oppressive home environment. In the recent past amongst others, there has been much scientific discussion on the issue of the street children phenomenon have been puzzled by the issue, focusing their concern on how to develop strategies for child protection, social reintegration and social well being among street children. Some of the significant contributors in the field relate to Swart (1990), De Moura (2002), Kerfoot et al. (2007), Mathur, Rathore & Mathur (2009). Taking this aspect of street children an effort in this paper is made to get some insights of the street children especially with regard to their attitude towards life.

OBJECTIVE:

1.To study the attitudes of street children towards life.

METHODOLOGY:

To satisfied and meet objectives of the study qualitative methodologies as well as quantitative technique were employed. Further, participatory approach is practiced in order to get valid facts. The study is exploratory cum descriptive in nature. Exploratory design was chosen in order to gain familiarity with the situation of street children. Descriptive design was picked up for portraying accurately the characteristics of street children and for determining its association with the socio-economic factors.

DATA AND SAMPLE:

The primary data were collected over face to face to interviews with street children, personnel of NGO and GO by using structured interview schedule and focus group discussion with detail checklist. Further, participant and non-participant observation method was used to triangulate the facts. It was very difficult to go for the random sampling as the street children have no specific location and it is difficult to have structured base as they keep on moving. Hence, purposive and accidental sampling method is adopted for the study. It was interviewed the street children as and when met to the researcher at the identified locations of the studied area. The children were met at the public places like, railway station, bus stand, market, and important streets of the city. This method of sampling was confirmed to be more appropriate in existing conditions as there is no authentic data available on the number of street children in studied are so for. The geographical coverage for the sample was restricted to Gulbarga city as it is the central point to the region having good infrastructure in terms of railway and road transports. The children from all the districts of Hyderabad Karnataka region and to some extent from boarder districts of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra also float to Gulbarga city. Further, the experience and learning of the pilot study and discussion with the existing NGOs also confirmed the same understanding. This was the major reason, made the researcher to stick to Gulbarga city for collection of primary data.

In Gulbarga city four locations were selected for drawing the samples. The locations are station area, bus stand area, darga area and market area. From each area a sample of 60 is covered to have equal representation of the universe. Further, from the each area out of 60 again three classifications of the street children were covered equally of 20 (16 males and 4 females). The classifications were, street children having regular contact with family, children having occasional contact with family and

the children have no contact with the family. The sample of 240 street children was totally covered in the study.

RESULTS:

Table 1. Attitude of the Neighbour

Sl.No.	Attitude of the neighbour	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Hatred	57	23.75
2.	Suspicion	85	35.42
3.	Friendly	98	40.83
	Total	240	100

The above table shows about attitude of the neighbour towards street child. 98(40.83%) respondents were have a friendly attitude neighbours, 85(35.42%) were have suspicion, 57(23.75%) were have hatred attitude neighbours. It is clear that friendly attitude neighbours are more than other attitude neighbour.

Table 2. Relationship with Companions

Sl.No.	Relationship with Companions	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Cordial	173	72.08
2.	Not cordial	67	27.92
	Total	240	100

The above table deals about the relationship with companions, 173(72.08%) respondents i.e. two-third were cordial relation with their companions, 67 (27.92%) i.e. one-fourth respondents were not cordial relation with their companion.

Table 3. Reasons for Fight

Sl.No.	Reasons for fight	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Don't fight	70	29.17
2.	No reason	44	18.33
3.	Job	50	20.83
4.	Money	28	11.67
5.	Friends	18	7.50
6.	Drug	24	10.00
7.	Other	6	2.50
	Total	240	100

The above table describes about reasons for fight. A majority i.e. 70(29.17%) respondents were don't fight, 50(20.83%) were fight because of job, 44(18.33%) were for no reason, 28(11.67%) were for money, 24(10%) were for drug 18(7.5%) were for friends, 6(2.5%) were fight for other reasons.

Table 4. Street Children’s Attitude towards life

Sl.No.	Street Children’s Attitude towards life	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Negative	37	15.42
2.	Indifferent	190	79.17
3.	Positive	13	5.41
	Total	240	100

The above table represents the street children’s attitude of life. 190(79.17%) respondents were indifferent attitude of life, 37(15.42%) were negative attitude of life and 13(5.41%) respondents were positive attitude to life. It is clear that a majority respondents were indifferent attitude are more than others.

CONCLUSION:

Attitudes are the tendency to behave or think in a certain way. This involves street children’s values and beliefs. If street children are supported, they can acquire healthy attitudes and a sense of self-worth. However, attitudes are learnt gradually and you must have patience. Appropriate attitudes provide the foundation for learning and adopting useful skills. Taking this aspect of street children an effort in this paper is made to get some insights of the street children especially with regard to their attitude towards life. The understanding of this aspect of street children may be considered useful for the policy and planning of intervention works in the field of street children.

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