

Original Article

Street Children and Back to School:
Insights from Hyderabad Karnataka Region

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ABSTRACT

Street children receive no education and as a result they face one of the crucial problem as that of education deprivation. One of the important challenges in the field of work related to street children is that of taking them back to school. Street children face increasingly difficult scenario of returning to the mainstream education.

Keywords :Street children , crucial problem , education deprivation.

INTRODUCTION

The present paper makes an effort to understand the problem faced by street children in terms of their desire to go back to school and the current job satisfaction with which they are working. The dynamics of the Street Child are complex, especially with regard to provision of formal education in the context of right to education and welfare of the children. Poverty is the main cause of bringing these children to streets as they lack basic necessities of life like food, clothing, shelter and health facilities (Shukla 2005). Millions of children are street children in the world today. It is a pity that socio-economic issues are causing an uneven increase in the population of street children worldwide thus supporting the growth of different evils in the society (Scheper-Hughes, 2004)

OBJECTIVES:

Taking into account the concerns of street children with regards to their education, the present paper makes an effort with the following objective.

1. To get the insights in understanding the scenario of street children's back to school possibilities.

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

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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 area so far. 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. Locality of the Respondents

Sl No.	Native	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Rural	102	42.50
2.	Urban	138	57.50
	Total	240	100

The above table describes about native place of the respondents, 138 (57.50%) respondents were from urban, 102(42.50%) were from rural. It is clear that, urban respondents are more than rural.

Table 2. Occupation of The Street Children :

Sl.No.	Occupation of the Street Children	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Rag picking	129	53.75
2.	Shoe-polish	9	3.75
3.	Mechanic	17	7.08
4.	Begging	35	14.58
5.	Hotel	19	7.92
6.	Coolie	12	7.92
7.	Other	19	7.92
	Total	240	100.00

The above table show about, the occupation of the street children. 129(53.75%) respondents were Rag-Picker, 35(14.56%) were, occupation has a begging, 19(7.92%) each

were has a hotel and other occupation, 17(7.08%) were mechanic, 12(5%) were coolie and 9(3.75%) were doing shoe-polish. It is clear that a rag picking respondents are more than other respondents and it is major occupation of street children.

Table 3. Reasons for coming to the street

Sl.No.	Reasons for coming to the street	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Alcoholic parents	75	31.25
2.	Uncared	55	22.92
3.	Poverty	33	13.75
4.	Violence	7	2.92
5.	Hate study	4	1.6
6.	Forced to work	28	11.67
7.	Death of parents	5	2.08
8.	Peer influence	14	5.83
9.	Other	19	7.92
	Total	240	100.00

The above table deals with reasons for coming to the street 75 (31.25%), respondents were comes to street because of alcoholic parents, 55(22.92%) were because and uncared 33(13.75%) were because of poverty, 28(11.67%) were forced to work, 14(5.83%) were peer influence 7(2.72%) were because of violence and 5(2.08%) and 4(1.66%) were come to street because of death of parents and hate study respectively. It is clear that a majority respondents were comes to the street because of alcoholic parents than the others.

Table 4. Job Satisfaction

Sl.No.	Job satisfaction	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Not satisfied	111	46.25
2.	Satisfied to some extent	73	30.42
3.	Satisfied to great extent	56	23.33
	Total	240	100

The above describes about the level of job satisfaction. Among 250 respondents, 111 i.e. 46.25% were not satisfied with their job, 73 i.e. 30.42% were satisfied to some extent, 56 i.e. 23.33% were satisfied to great extent, percentage of the satisfied to extent is half of the not satisfied to great extent is half of the not satisfied respondents.

Table 5. Reasons for Leaving School

Sl.No.	Reasons for leaving school	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Never went	74	30.83
2.	Family	39	16.25
3.	Forced to work	28	11.67
4.	Teacher fear	10	4.17
5.	Not liking	38	15.83
6.	Run away	17	7.08
7.	Poverty	29	12.08
8.	Others	5	2.08
	Total	240	100.00

The above table represents about the reasons for leaving the school. 74 respondents i.e. 30.83% were never went to school, 39 i.e. 16.25% were for family reason,

38 i.e. 15.83% were no liking, 29 i.e. 12.08 were for poverty, 28 i.e. 11.67% were forced to work 17 i.e. 7.08% were run away, 10 i.e. 4.17% were leave the school because of teacher's fear and remaining 5 i.e. 2.08% were leave the school because of other reasons. It is clear that a majority respondents were never went to school, is a major reason for leaving the school than the other reason.

Table 6. Desire to go back to school

Sl.No.	Desire to go back to school	Frequency	Percentage
1.	No	165	68.72
2.	Yes	75	31.25
	Total	240	100

The above table presents the distribution about desire to go back to school. 165 i.e. 68.75% respondents were not want to go back to school, 75 i.e. 31.25% respondents were desired to go back to school.

CONCLUSION:

Irrespective of the position of the street children, any intervention programme should aim at integration of street children to mainstream/formal education according to age and grade. This becomes especially imperative in the light of rights perspective in the context of right to education. Hence any programmes of intervention should keep in mind the the unmet need of education aspect of street children.

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