STREET CHILDREN "TALE OF HOMELESSNESS" SCENARIO, STATUS & STRATEGY

(A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF FOUR MAJOR CITIES OF RAJASTHAN - JAIPUR, AJMER, KOTA, & JODHPUR)

A Thesis

For the award of the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

University of Kota, Kota

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Supervisor's Certificate

It is certified that the -

Thesis entitled **Street Children "Tale of Homelessness": Scenario, Status & Strategy (A sociological study of four major cities of Rajasthan-Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota, & Jodhpur) s**ubmitted by **SHAHINA PARVEEN** is an original piece of research work carried out by the candidate under my supervision.

Literary presentation is satisfactory and the thesis is in a form suitable for publication.

Work enhances the capacity of candidate for critical examination and independent judgment.

Candidate has put in at least 200 days of attendance every year and completed course work.

Place: Kota

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Candidate's Declaration

I, **Shahina Parveen, Department of Sociology** hereby declare that the work that is being embodied in this Ph.D. thesis entitled: **"Street Children "Tale of Homelessness": Scenario, Status & Strategy (A sociological study of four major cities of Rajasthan - Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota, & Jodhpur)"** is my own bonafied work carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Rajabala Vashishtha at **J.D.B.Govt. P.G. Girls College, Kota**. **The matter embodied in this thesis has not been submitted** for the award of any other Degree.

I declare that I have faithfully acknowledged, given credit to and referred to the research workers wherever their works have been cited in the text and body of thesis. I further certify that I have not willfully lifted up some other's work, para, text, data, result, etc. reported in the journals, books, magazines, reports, dissertation, thesis etc., or available at web-sites and included them in this Ph.D. thesis and cited as my own work.

Place: Kota

Date:

Shahina Parveen

Preface

The present study is a sociological study of the Street Children's which casts light on Scenario and Status of the street children across the country and also discusses the strategies contrived for the welfare and rehabilitation of street children in the country as well as in the state of Rajasthan. The study explores the various aspects and exposes the harsh realities of the daily life of the street children in four major cities of Rajasthan- **Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota and Jodhpur.** The problem of street children is becoming more serious because of their increasing number day by day and violation of Child Rights by the society at large, in order to fulfill their vested interests. The GOs & NGOs are making all efforts to check the problem and extending their helping hand to the children in difficult circumstances, through various schemes and outreach programmes. So this study expatiate "strategies" that is being adopted by the GOs and NGOs in this respect during a last couple of years.

The first chapter of the study deals with introduction and back ground of the problem comprising meaning and definition, category, characteristics, factors, problems, concerned issues and scenario in numbers and status.

Second Chapter is an attempt to understand the critical and phenomenal nature of the street children through reviewing available literature. Secondary data available in libraries and online portals were extensively reviewed and eye-opening observations were done to make this research more elaborative and relevant. Literature has been reviewed under two categories as following:

- **Workshop & Conference Reports**
- **Reference books**

Third chapter introduces the methodology used for this study and how it has guided data collection and analysis process. It explains the research objectives and a suitable methodology to achieve those objectives. The objectives of this study were to identify and explore the different aspects of the life of street

children in Rajasthan. The chapter describes data collection phases for this study, comprising of pilot study, in-depth interviews and Focused Group Discussions (FGDs).

Chapter four tries to discuss the phenomenon of the street children in context of daily life, stories and narratives about the hardship of the life on streets, source of livelihood, problems faced by children and characteristics through fact findings and data analysis. The Chapter presents a real scenario of the plight of street children in four districts of Rajasthan.

Chapter Five provides detailed information about interventions, laws and enforcements, policies in the country and Rajasthan.

Chapter Six deals with the evaluation of policies, programmes and schemes related with child welfare. In this chapter, strengths and weaknesses of the official policies has been laid down. Since this is a problem that is confronting the entire society, chapter examines the lacunas and bottlenecks within the system.

Chapter Seven discusses the role of Civil Societies and NGOs, different stake holders like police, Railway Department, Health Department, and Education Department.

Last but not the least **Chapter Eight** presents findings & conclusions along with both long term and short term solutions of the problem.

The present study reveals the harsh realities of street life and plight of street children in Rajasthan. Moreover it establishes the need of district wise study to understand the phenomena of street children in Rajasthan. Children are the future of the nation and are building blocks. They need safe, secure, child friendly environment regardless their ethnicity. The issues of children are very sensitive and needs a sensitive approach and child friendly approach to deal with. Family strengthening & preservation approach should be integrate in all policies and programmes to protect their right to family. Hopefully the study will be an eye opening to understand the phenomena of street children in Rajasthan.

Acknowledgment

The completion of this doctoral dissertation would not have the spirit that it has without the invaluable academic, educational, psychological and human support and belief in me as a writer and researcher provided by several people.

At the outset I would first like to thank my thesis supervisor Dr Rajbala Vashsihstha, Head of the Department of Sociology Department, Janki Devi Bajaj P.G. Girls College, Kota for the continuous and unconditional support extended for my Ph.D. thesis and related research, for her patience and perseverance, motivation, and immense knowledge. Her guidance helped me in completing my thesis. I could not have imagined a better advisor and mentor for my Ph.D study. She was instrumental in boosting my morale and steered me in the right direction as and when required. To have her as my supervisor was a blessing in disguise for me.

My special thanks to all the children whom I met in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota and Ajmer. They gave me their invaluable time and shared tales of their homelessness candidly. Without their kind support and inputs the completion of the research work would have been inevitable. I would like to express my gratitude to all the officials, stakeholders who provided their valuable inputs to complete my research work.

I would like to thank Dr. Bandana Jain, Mr. S.K. Jain who meticulously carried out the analysis of data, despite their busy schedules and for returning to me faith in myself and induced me to complete my thesis and for their insightful comments and encouragement, but also for the hard question which incented me to widen my research from various perspectives.

My field study was made less obstacle ridden because of the presence of a few individuals. My sincere recognition also goes to experts who were involved throughout the research project: Mr. Jaspal Singh Makkad, Dr. Veena Dwivedi, Mrs. Jyotsna Rajwanshi, Mr. Satindar Pal Singh who also extended a helping

List of Abbreviations

A.D.	Anno Domini
AIDS	Acquired Immune deficiency syndrome
AJ	Ajmer
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CCIs	Child Care Institutions
(CWPO	Child Welfare Police Officer
CNCP	Children in Need of Care and Protection
CRC	Convention of the Rights of Child
CWC	Child Welfare Committees
DCPU	District Child Protection Unit
DCR	Department of Child Rights
DRM	Divisional Railway Manager
DTP	Desktop Publishing
FGDs	Focused Group Discussion
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoI	Government of India
GoR	Government of Rajasthan
GOs	Government Organizations
Govt.	Government
GRP	Government Railway Police
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency virus
HRIDAY	Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojna
IITJEE	Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Exam
IMR and MMR	Infant Mortality Rate , Maternal Mortality Rate
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services

ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
ILO	International Labour Organization
JDA	Jaipur Development Authority
JJ Act	Juvenile Justice Act
JJB	Juvenile Justice Board
JMC	Jaipur Municipal Corporation
JP	Jaipur
JO	Jodhpur
KMs/Kms	Kilo Meters
KO	Kota
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender
MHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
WCD	Women and Child Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS Excel	Microsoft Excel
MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development
NCLPs	National Child Labour Projects
NOSP	National Open School Programme
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
NCB	National Crime Bureau
NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NGOs	Non-governmental Organization
OoSC	Out of school Children
PO	Probation Officer
POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
RMoL	Rajasthan Mission on Livelihood
RGSEAB	Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Boys

RAY	Rajiv Awas Yojna
RCH	Reproductive Child Health
RPF	Railway Protection Force
RSCPCR	Rajasthan State Commission of Protection for Child Rights
RSRTC	Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation
RTI	Right to Information
SARA	State Adoption Resource Agency
(SAA)	Specialized Adoption Agencie
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SSA	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
SI/ASI	Sub Inspector/ Assistant Sub Inspector
SJPU	Special Juvenile Police Unit
SJED	Social Justice & Empowerment Department
SP/DCP	Superintendent of Police/Deputy Commissioner of Police
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SCPU	State Child Protection Unit
SCPCR	State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TAABAR Society	Training Awareness And behavioral change about Health and Rehabilitation Society
RTE	Right to Education
UEE	Universalization of Elementary Education
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
UT	Union Territories
WHO	World Health Organization

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Introduction

The present study is a sociological study of the Street Children which casts light on Scenario and Status of the street children across the country and also discusses the strategies contrived for the welfare of street and rehabilitation of street children in the country as well as in the state of Rajasthan. The study explores the various aspects and exposes the harsh realities of the daily life of the street children in four major cities of Rajasthan i.e. **Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota and Jodhpur.** The problem of street children is becoming more serious because of their increasing number day by day and violation of Child Rights by the society at large, in order to fulfill their vested interests. The GOs & NGOs are making all efforts to check the problem and extending their helping hand to the children in difficult circumstances, through various schemes and outreach programmes. So this study expatiate "strategies" that is being adopted by the GOs and NGOs in this respect during a last couple of years.

The first chapter of the study deals with introduction and back ground of the problem comprising meaning and definition, category, characteristics, factors, problems, concerned issues and scenario in numbers and status.

The India is second only to China in population with over 1200 million citizens. It is home to almost 19% of the world's children. More than one third of the country's Population, around 400 millions, is below 18 years. The future and strength of the nation lies in a healthy, protected, educated and well-developed child population that will grow up to be productive citizens of the country. The children are considered as an asset of any nation but unfortunately children remain a voiceless population, a deprived population that is not able to amplify voices against the exploitation and torture by their own relatives, friends, parents, and teachers. An increasing number of children are being forced to the streets as result of poverty, abuse, torture, abandonment, negligence or orphaned by the circumstances.

Background of the Problem

They walk aimlessly with the look of snotty noses, unkempt hair, wearing either undersized/ torn clothes or half naked, under the influence of substance, dirty feet and vanquished faces tell their story without many words. We see them everywhere, at traffic signals, at crowded marketplaces, near eateries and at places of worship. Still, they remain 'invisible entities' left to be ignored, disgraced and abused while everyone looks the other way. No place to live, no job to support their family with, they are forced to take to streets as their homes live on the meager earnings that they somehow manage by doing various odd jobs. The railway stations and their surroundings like stairways of the platform; junk coaches of the train; footpaths; big water pipes; old garages; bus stands; under flyovers and over bridges, and in unoccupied spaces, shanties etc. They spend most of the part of their lives on the pavements and dividers of the roads. They are called as homeless children, street children, and street youth. Different terms are used to describe the street children as homeless, dirt of the society, abandoned etc.

The above scene is very common in each and every country's developed or developing cities. Street children, the offspring of today's complex urban realities worldwide, represent one of our global family's most serious, urgent and rapidly growing socio-educational challenges. No country and virtually no city can escape the presence of these so-called street children. In some parts of the world, they have been a familiar phenomenon for many years. **In the last decade this phenomenon has grown at an alarming rate throughout Asia and Africa. There are 20 million street children in India. Statistics reveal that India has 18 million child labourers -- the highest in the world.**

In many regions of the world, the phenomenon of street children is unabated, while it is emerging in others where it was unknown so far. It's the socio economic factors that are important in nudging children on to the street.

The Australian sociologist, Robert van Krieken (1999), has written extensively about the Australian government's policy of assimilation; removing Indigenous children from their families. Some have referred to this as a 'cultural genocide', since dominant European ideas about childhood were forcibly imposed upon Aboriginal people in what now, with the benefit of hindsight, seems to be an appalling history, and for which the Australian Government has now apologized. Similarly, the British and Australian Governments recently apologized for their tragic policies related to Child Migrants. These children were exported from orphanages and children's homes in the UK[1] to Australia and Canada in the period from the 1920s to 1967. The exact number of child migrants is not known, but estimates suggest that between 7000 and10 000 children were sent to Australia between 1947-1967 alone (Dow & Phillips, 2009). Often these children faced difficult conditions. In 1998 Great Britain's House of Commons Health Committee concluded that: children were placed in large, often isolated, institutions and were often subjected to harsh, sometimes intentionally brutal, regimes of work and discipline, unmodified by any real nurturing or encouragement. The institutions were inadequately supervised, monitored and inspected (cited in Dow & Phillips, 2009). **Both of these examples reflect the power of ideas about children, and the conflict between what may be considered to be in the 'best interests' of children, and the 'best interests' of societies and States.** These examples also illustrate how concepts, values and attitudes about children change over time. **Homelessness is largely an urban phenomenon, yet children are homeless and living on the streets in every region of the world from developing countries to the most affluent countries.** Latin America and India, for example, are known for their large populations of street children, despite the significant efforts of some governments and non-governmental organizations. **The AIDS epidemic and civil wars in Africa have caused a surge in the number of street children as a result of the abandonment of AIDS orphans or fatalities due to armed conflict. Failing economies and falling currencies in parts of Asia force the poorest families onto the**

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[1] United Kingdom

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street, often leaving children abandoned and homeless. Unstable political transitions, such as the end of Communism in Eastern Europe, caused unprecedented numbers of street children due to inadequate social security for the poor and those formerly State supported. **Children often experience the effects of political, economic, and social crisis within their countries more severely than adults, and many lack the adequate institutional support to address their special needs. Eventually, they end up on the streets.**

Some street children, notably in more developed nations, are part of a subcategory called thrown away children who are children that have been forced to leave home. Disowned children are more prone to come from working class and single parent homes. In the struggle for life they lose their innocence at this tender age. **Street children are often subject to abuse, neglect, exploitation, or, in extreme cases, murder by "cleanup squads" that have been hired by local businesses or police.[2]** In Western societies, such children are sometimes treated as homeless children rather than criminals or beggars.

Street children can be found in a large majority of the world's cities, with the phenomenon more prevalent in densely populated urban hubs of developing or economically unstable regions, such as countries in Africa, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia.

As pointed out by Muir (1991), "Street youths can be difficult to quantify, for they range on a continuum from those who live at home but spend a great deal of time 'hanging out' to those who live on the street (often in abandoned buildings and underground parking lots) and whose financial and personal support comes from street life[3]."

The street children are primarily a phenomenon of the metropolitan cities. Whatever the sources of their entry in cities, street children end

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[2] http://www.streetchildrenresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Street-Children-and-Their-Socio-Economic-Background-in-Bangladesh.pdf
[3] Cited in Rapid-assessment-of-street-children-in-lusaka

up in urban areas & metropolitan cities. But, as of today, the Municipal Corporation do not have the information about the magnitude and dimensions of the problems of street children and basic services, such as health, recreation etc., are not sensitized with a view to adapt them for facilitating access for the street children. The street children are perceived as pests, thieves, delinquents and parasites for societies.

Global Scenario of the Street children

The hidden and isolated nature of street children makes accurate statistics difficult to gather; however, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF in mid 90s estimated there are approximately 100 million street children worldwide with that number constantly growing. The phenomenon of the street children is increasing as the world' population grows There are up to 40 million street children in Latin America, and at least 18 million in India[4] Many studies have determined that street children are most often boys aged 10 to 14, with increasingly younger children being affected (Amnesty International, 1999). Many girls live on the streets as well, although smaller numbers are reported due to their being more **"useful" in the home, taking care of younger siblings and cooking. Girls also have a greater vulnerability to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation or other forms of child labor.**

The UN has estimated the population of street children worldwide at a staggering 150 million, with the number rising daily. Many consider this a conservative figure. Ranging in age from three to eighteen, about 40% are homeless. As a percentage of world population, this is unprecedented in the history of civilization. The other 60% work on the streets to support their families. Some are sent out by their impoverished parents to work or to beg[5]. **They are unable to attend school and are considered to live in "especially difficult circumstances".**

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[4] Casa_Alliance_Statistics
[5] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Street_children

The children are on streets due to violence, drug and alcohol abuse, the death of a parent, family breakdown, war, natural disaster or simply socio-economic collapse, many destitute children are forced to eke out a living on the streets, scavenging, begging, hawking in the slums and polluted cities of the developing world[6].

According to a study carried out by International Street Kids's (NGO), there is no definition that illustrates the plight of abandoned children as clearly as the following set of statistics:

- Every 2 seconds, a child becomes an orphan.
- Every 14 seconds, a child is orphaned by AIDS.
- 1,000,000,000 of the world's families live on less than a dollar a day.
- Authorities estimate that child pornography is a $20 billion a year industry; too many abandoned children end up as victims of this deviant activity.
- UNICEF estimates that nearly 1,000,000 children enter the sex trade every year.
- Experts also estimate that nearly 10,000,000 children are working as prostitutes, with nearly 90% of them girls.
- According to the World Health Organization, malnutrition is the single biggest contributor to child mortality rates worldwide.
- Many street children use a number of inhalants (glue, gasoline, lighter fluid) and illegal drugs (marijuana, cocaine and heroin).
- Street children are routinely detained illegally, beaten and tortured and sometimes killed by police in some countries.

Street Children in Asia and Africa

1. According to UNICEF, there are about 25 million street children in Asia and an estimated 10 Million in Africa (1998).

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[6] http://www.unesco.org/

2. Africa today has 10.7 million orphans just as a result of AIDS and the numbers are growing

3. With fewer and fewer family members left to care for them, many--if not most--of these children will join the street children of Africa who are already there because of poverty, wars and ethnic conflicts(UNAIDS).

4. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, there are 10,000 girls living in the streets (World Vision).

5. There are 5 to 10,000 street children just in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (World Vision).

6. In the Philippines, the Department of Social Welfare and Development estimated, 1.2 million street children in 1991, Action International Ministries says 50,000 to 70,000 street children live in Manila alone.

7. UNICEF estimates there are 16,000 street children in Vietnam, 20,000 child victims of prostitution, and 4,300 child drug users in Latin America.

8. In 1996, the Inter-American Development Bank and UNICEF estimated there were 40 million children living or working on the streets of Latin America--out of an estimated total population of 500 million.

9. In Central America, the majority of street children are aged 10-17; approximately 25% are girls.

10. The Government of Mexico has estimated the country has 2 million street children.

11. In Brazil, seven million children are abandoned or homeless (WHO 1994). From 1990 to 1994, about 4,600 street children were killed (Los Angeles Times). Street children are targets of death squads in Colombia; in 1993, 2,190 were murdered (Ottawa Sun, 1996).

12. About four million children live as street children in Bangladesh. It is estimated that there is over 600,000 Street children living in Bangladesh, 75% of them live in the nation's capital, Dhaka. In a Country ranked 138th on the Human Development Index and where 50% of the population is living below the poverty line, these children represent the absolute lowest level in the social hierarchy.

Street Children in Europe and North America

1. The Council of Europe estimates 7,000 street children in the Netherlands, 10,000 in France, 500 to 1,000 in Ireland, 6,000 to 7,000 in Turkey, 1,000 in Bucharest, Romania.

2. In Moscow, the BBC has reported that 5,000 children and young people are abandoned on the streets every year.

3. In the United States, the federal government reported there were about 500,000 under-age runaways and "throw-aways" (by their parents)--New York Times 1990.

Street children in Kenya[7]

There are an estimated 250,000 street children in Kenya and over 60,000 in the capital Nairobi. Rapid and unsustainable urbanization in the post-colonial period, which led to entrenched urban poverty in cities such as Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa is an underlying cause of child homelessness. **Rural-urban migration broke up extended families which had previously acted as a support network, taking care of children in cases of abuse, neglect and abandonment.**

Street Children in Indonesia[8]

According to a 2007 study, there were over 170,000 street children living in Indonesia. In 2000, about 1,600 children were living on the streets of Yogyakarta. Approximately 500 of these children were girls from the ages of

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[7] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Street_children
[8] Ibid

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4–16 years of age. Many children began living on the streets after the 1997 financial crisis in Indonesia. **The street children in Indonesia are seen as a public nuisance. "They are detained, subjected to verbal and physical abuse, their means of livelihood (guitars for busking, goods for sale) confiscated, and some have been shot attempting to flee the police".**

Street Children in Pakistan[9]

The number of street children in Pakistan is estimated to be between 1.2 million and 1.5 million, meaning that the country has one of the world's largest street children populations. Although, this number remains anecdotal since it was cited over 10 years ago. There has been no head-count or a mapping study of street children in Pakistan except in Karachi; which were also limited to certain geographical areas. These studies show that the numbers may be much higher now after **the increasing poverty, people's displacement after the natural disasters and war on terrorism in Pakistan. It is estimated that there are over 118,000 boys living and/or working on streets just in Karachi.**

Street Children in Philippines[10]

According to the 1998 report, "Situation of the Youth in the Philippines", there are about 1.5 million street children in the Philippines, 70% of which are boys. **Street children as young as ten years old can be imprisoned alongside adults under the Vagrancy Act; in past cases, physical and sexual abuse have occurred as a result of this legislation.**

Street Children in United States[11]

An "estimated two million (youth) run away from or are forced out of their homes each year" in the United States. 1.6 million youth are currently homeless. The difference in these numbers can be attributed to the temporary nature of street children in the United States, unlike the more permanent state in developing countries. Street children in the United States

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[9] Ibid

[10] Ibid

[11] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Street_children

tend to stay in the state, 83% do not leave their state of origin. If they leave, street children are likely to end up in large cities, notably New York City, Los Angeles, Portland, Oregon, and San Francisco. Street children are predominantly Caucasian and female in the United States, and 42% identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT).

Street Children in Brazil[12]

The Brazilian government estimates that the number of children and adolescents in 2012 who work or sleep on the streets were approximately 23,973, based on results from the national census mandated by the Human Rights Secretariat of the Presidency (SDH) and the institute for Sustainable Development.

Indian Scenario of Street Children

India is home to the largest number of children in the world. Nearly every fifth child in the world lives in India. There are about 43 Crore children in the age group of 0-18 years; 16 Crore children are in the age group of 0-6 years, of this there are 8.5 Crore males and 7.88 Crore females. In the age group of 6-18 years, there are about 27 Crore children[13]. **It is estimates that about 40 % of children are in difficult circumstances or vulnerable which include like children without family support, children forced in to child labour, abused trafficked children, vulnerable children, children affected by substance abuse, by armed conflict/civil unrest/natural disaster, manmade disaster like displacement.** Survival, growth, development and protection of these very large numbers therefore need priority focus and attention. (Report of the working groups of child rights (12th Five Year Plan, 2012-2017)

Though there is no concrete data on the exact numbers of street children but it is estimated that India has the largest population of

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[12] Ibid

[13] 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) Planning Commission(Govt. of India), Pg No.182

street children in the world. At least eighteen million to twenty million children live or work on the streets of urban India[14].

To a great extent the issue of street children is closely associated with the process of rapid urbanization that has been taking place in the major cities of India since the sixties. They come to the city with high expectations and full of hopes that they would easily get jobs there and would be able to live comfortably with their families or without families. But except for the fortunate ones the dream is shattered in the case of many.

Fact-Check about India

- There are 20 million street children in India.

- Over 59 million children in India have no access to school.

- One out of two children between the ages of 6 and 14 has no access to primary education.

- Out of 27 million children born in India every year, 2 million do not survive to celebrate their first birthday.

- About 60 million Indian children under the age of 6 live below the poverty line.

- 500,000 children are forced into this commercial sex trade every year.

- 1 out of every 3 girls does not live to see her 15th birthday.

- Every sixth girl child's death is due to gender discrimination, 3 lakh more girls than boys die every year.

- 53% of girls in the age group of 5 to 9 years are illiterate.

- 5.2 million HIV/ AIDS infected children

- 31% of infants are born with low birth-weight

- 7% of infants die before their 1st birthday

- 46% of children under 5 are malnourished

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[14] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Street_children_in_India

- Statistics reveal that India has 17 million child labourers -- the highest in the world. Under the age group of 5- 14 years, 4.02 % of children engaged in economic activities.

- Total of 6.75% children at work, of which 4.73% are boys and 8.93% are girls

- Sex Ratio under 15 years: 1.06 male(s)/female

- Infant mortality rate: 57.92

- Children Underweight Rate: 18%

- Life expectancy at birth > Male: 63.9 years

- Life expectancy at birth, years > Females: 63 (A HEART FOR INDIA)

- 19% of world's children live in India and almost 42% of its population is children.

- It is estimated that around 170 million children are vulnerable which include children surviving on streets and transport terminals.

- 53% of children reported having faced sexual abuse – *Govt. of India "Study on Child* Abuse, India 2007".

- **The aggregate outlay for children schemes in union budget 2010-11 as compared to total outlay is 4.1%.**

- UNICEF's (1994) estimate of 11 million street children in India, still remains widely quoted data.

- Railway Children (2009) estimated that 112,000 children arrive at railway stations of India per year. **Railway Station is a critical point of intervention, intervening early to protect children from entering "street life".**

13. India's Ministry of Social Welfare estimated that of the 10.9 million people residing in Calcutta in 1992, there were 75,000 to 200,000 children living in the streets. Agencies agree the number is much higher now, and deaths of parents from HIV/AIDS are likely to cause the numbers to rise more rapidly.

Street Children in Rajasthan

Though it is very hard to estimate the number of street children in Rajasthan due to non availability of systematic & demographic statistics regarding street children but it is estimated that there are 3.5 million street children in Rajasthan who are on street due to various reasons.

1.   **Street Children in Jaipur**

In Jaipur, there are hundreds of thousands of destitute, runaway and orphaned children living hand-to-mouth. For them education is an unattainable luxury, or an irrelevance. They lose their childhoods and have little hope for a better future. Jaipur Central Railway station is the main hub of the street children. Runway children reach from all over the country at Jaipur Railway Station and try to survive by their own way in the informal sector as a hawker; bottle collector; scavenging bins; laboring as porters at bus or railway terminals; as mechanics in informal auto-repair shops; as vendors of food, tea, or handmade articles; as street tailors; or as rag pickers; picking through garbage and selling usable materials to local buyers; some of them earn through begging by cleaning and dusting the floor of train bogies; selling soaps and other items; collecting of firewood; street vending; dyeing; begging; prostitution and domestic labour. They work as food vender, clearing ash-pits or cinder picking, and any work which "is done in close proximity (to) or between the railway lines"; selling goods at the traffic signals & intersections of the traffic signals running between the traffic.

Some of them keep wandering without work that is considered as anti-social elements by the police. They are perceives as thieves, rogues and drug addicts who have to be remanded in institutions and disciplined. They become the victim of brutal treatment and abuse of the police. Some of them get involved in criminal activities. Viewed as thieves and delinquents, there is a generally negative attitude towards

street children which result in gross maltreatment, harassment by police, authorities, shop owners and society at large is very common.

2.   Street Children in Ajmer

Ajmer is the city that is known for its presence globally as a religious pilgrim for both Muslim and Hindu Community. Number of tourists reaches Ajmer across the globe with their religious faiths. Alms have become serious business in Ajmer. Begging is the prominent source for children and adults. A large number of people depend on alms at Dargah Sharif and Pushkar. The begging has become so commercialized that children are picked by gangs and coerced into begging. They are often being exploited by the syndicates which run major gangs in almost all the pilgrimage centers and major metros. Number of children who are homeless work for these gangs and syndicates in Ajmer and they are kept in strict supervision, no contacts and communication from outsiders are allowed to these children. Most of the children come from West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Mumbai. Across the state children mainly come from Jaipur, Kota, Bharatpur and Sawai Madhopur. Drug addiction, solvent use, sniffing whitener etc. are very common among the children in Ajmer who are on streets. Moreover they commit petty crimes like pick pocketing, theft, and stealing goods of passengers for fulfilling their addiction needs.

The number of migrants enters in Ajmer city with aspirations or even in hope of getting some employment to feed their children. They reside in slums areas and near around station area. The children of these migrants start begging and also the parents find it easy money so ultimately their children earn for the family.

3.   Street Children in Jodhpur

Jodhpur is home to a large number of street children trying to earn a living on railway stations or by begging in tourist places. These

children live in miserable conditions and are often addicted to solvents. Most of them are from Jodhpur or come from nearby states lured by the tourist city's promise.

4.   Street Children in Kota

The connectivity of the all major cities of Kota through rail network makes it transit point for street children. Migration of the parents, from surrounded districts and states increases the number of street children in Kota city. Thousands of children every year enters in the city due to various reasons from across the country. C**hildren from nearby districts like Swai Madhpur, Baran, Jhalwar, Jaipur, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Bharatpur** daily migrates through trains and adopt begging as a major source of earning. Besides this a large number of children from nearby slum areas can be seen roaming around the city.

Rapid urbanization, industrialization, urban poverty, migration, increasing population compare to basic amenities are the issues which makes the child population vulnerable and contributing factors in phenomena of street children in four major cities of Rajasthan.

Presence of street children in literature

[15]**The phenomenon of street children has been documented as far back as 1848.** In 1848, Lord Ashley referred to more than 30,000 "naked, filthy, roaming lawless and deserted children" in and around London, UK. By 1922 there were at least seven million homeless children in Russia due to the devastation from World War I and the Russian Civil War. Abandoned children formed gangs, created their own argot, and engaged in petty theft and prostitution.

Horatio Alger's book, "**Tattered Tom"; or, "The Story of a Street Arab (1871)",** is an early example of the appearance of street children in literature. The book follows the tale of a homeless girl who lives by her wits on the

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[15] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Street_children

streets of New York, US. Other examples from popular fiction include **Kim, from Kipling's novel** of the same name, who is a street child in colonial India. Gavroche, in Victor Hugo's **"Les Misérables",** Fagin's crew of child pickpockets in **"Oliver Twist",** a similar group of child thieves in Funke's **"The Thief Lord",** and Sherlock Holmes' **"Baker Street Irregulars"** are other notable examples of the presence of street children in popular works of literature. **Alan Ball, in the introduction to his book on the history of abandoned children, "And Now My Soul Is Hardened: Abandoned Children in Soviet Russia, 1918–1930", states:**

[16]Orphaned and abandoned children have been a source of misery from earliest times. They apparently accounted for most of the boy prostitutes in Augustan Rome and, a few centuries later, moved a church council of 442 in southern Gaul to declare: "Concerning abandoned children: there is general complaint that they are nowadays exposed more to dogs than to kindness." In Tsarist Russia, seventeenth-century sources described destitute youths roaming the streets, and the phenomenon survived every attempt at eradication thereafter. (Riis)

The causes of this phenomenon are varied, but are often related to domestic, economic, or social disruption; including, but not limited to, poverty, breakdown of homes and/or families, political unrest, acculturation, sexual, physical or emotional abuse, domestic violence, lured away by pimps or internet predators, mental health problems, substance abuse, and sexual orientation or gender identity issues. Children may end up on the streets due to cultural factors. For example, some children in parts of Congo and Uganda are made to leave their family because they are suspected to be witches who bring bad luck upon their family. In Afghanistan, young girls who perform "honour crimes" that shame their family and/or cultural practices—like adultery (which may include rape or sexual abuse) or who refuse an arranged marriage—may be forced to leave their homes.

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[16] Ibid

Children may also end up on the streets due to religious factors. For example, some children in the far Northern parts of Nigeria (refer to as the almajiris) are forced to leave their homes by indenturing under a mallam (Islamic religious teacher) in order to understand the teachings of the Holy Quran. During the period of indenture, these children are forced to the streets in search for their daily livelihoods through alms begging. These children are also in most circumstances compelled to make returns from their daily proceeds to the mallam and failure to do so means severe punishment.

Street children differ in age, gender, ethnicity, social class and these children have had different experiences throughout their lifetimes. UNICEF differentiates between the different types of children living on the street in three different categories: candidates for the street (street children who work and hang out on the streets), children on the streets (children who work on the street but have a home to go to at night), and children of the street (children who live on the street without family support).

What is childhood and how it came on street ?

This section examines the process of childhood, history of childhood and transition of this process in 21st century to understand the role of family in current situation of the children who are homeless. This section will further assist in analyzing the role of family structure to understand the phenomena of the problem of street children.

According to **French social historian, Phillipe Ariès, childhood has different meanings, and children have different roles and undertake different activities in different historical periods and in different cultures. He believes that child hood is socially constructed.** Ariès argued that children existed alongside adults, and once they were past infancy, they participated in the life of the communities around them, working (and playing) with adults, with no distinctive practices (or clothes) focused on them as children. Gradually, bourgeois (middle-class) boys were singled out for special treatment in the form of education, and this was eventually, over the course of two or three centuries, extended to middle-class girls, then to

working class children. For example, during certain periods of history, children were expected to work, firstly with their families, and then as wage labourers, in order that they and their families could survive. This is still, of course, the case in many developing nations.

The classic work of Viviana Zelizer (1985) explored the shifting meaning of childhood in the USA, **showing how children gradually became 'economically useless' as they no longer undertook wage labour, instead they became 'emotionally priceless', giving meaning to their parents' lives.** Nowadays, however, industrialized Western societies demand schoolwork from children in order to prepare them as future members of the labour force, and this is increasingly the case globally.

Thus, to a large extent, Western society, and in particular its social policies, tends to focus on what children will become, rather than children's being –in other words, the cynosure is on what they will become in the future rather than the here-and-now of childhood, and their everyday lives as children.

In many majority world (developing) countries, however, children's roles are very different. **Because of the more crucial importance of children's labour to many household economies, children are involved in various forms of production. Girls often play a key role in domestic labour and sibling care-taking.** Children take on considerable responsibilities, and see this as part of their obligations to their families. Hence, in some countries, child labour is prevalent and, for many children, education has to fit around work commitments. This contrasts with the developed West, where children's work has to fit around their education commitments. **The priorities for children are different, and thus their 'childhoods' are different.** The age at which societies consider it 'acceptable' for females to enter motherhood, provides another example of how constructions of childhood change over a period of time and between different cultural contexts. In the 19th century, it was not only normal but also expected of the fairer sex to marry and have their babies. **Now, in Western developed countries (and increasingly globally) teenage parents are dominantly viewed as a 'social problem'**

whose sexuality needs to be controlled. Again, such an example illustrates the powerful norms (i.e. shared ideas and values) that society exerts on childhood, and how these changes are pre dominant over the period of time. **Experiences of childhood also, of course, differ according to class, gender, and ethnicity, religious and cultural background. Social structures such as these don't necessarily determine individual children's experiences, but they clearly influence them by setting the boundaries of what is possible, appropriate and expected.**

Children, as active individuals, are thus constrained by the various institutions, structures and cultures in which they find themselves – whether schools, families, or physical geographies. These in turn shape their experiences of childhood.

Meaning and Definition

Street children are a term for children experiencing homelessness who live on the streets of a city. Homeless youth are often called street kids and street youth; the definition of street children is contested, but many practitioners and policymakers use UNICEF's concept of boys and girls, aged under eighteen years, for whom **"the street" (including unoccupied dwellings and wasteland) has become home and/or their source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised.**

[17]**Street children are minors who live and survive on the streets. They often grow up in public landfills, train stations, under the bridges of the world's major cities. There are various factors that resist them to return in the families.**

[18]**A street child in India is someone "for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has**

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[17] Street Children | Humanium – Together for Children's Rights

[18] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Street_children_in_India

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become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood; and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults".

There is no consensus on any one definition of street children which is accepted worldwide. With the aim of understanding the nature of the problems, the definitions for ready reference which are evolved by many experts, academicians and researchers has been discussed in this chapter from national and international level.

There are two main definitions of street children that are recognized internationally:

The UNICEF Definition

UNICEF has defined and segregated 'street children' into three categories:

i)   Street Living Children: children who have run away from their families and live alone on the streets.

ii)   Street Working Children: children, who spend most of their time on the streets, fending for themselves, but returning home on a regular basis.

iii)   Children from Street Families: children who live on the streets with their families

The INTER-NGO Definition

There is another definition for 'street children' given by Inter-NGOs which states that a street child is any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood, for whom the street (in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become her or his habitual abode and/or sources of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults.

The following are definitions or descriptions of street children, predominantly from South Africans Investigators:

- Street Children; homeless youngsters who roam the streets by day and sleep in culverts, empty buildings and vacant lots at night (Drake, 1989)

- Street children comprise a group of poorly socialized children, failing to develop commitments and attachments within society (Cemane, 1990)

- In the widest sense a street child is one who has made the street his real home…those who have abandoned (or have been abandoned by) their families, schools and immediate communities before they are sixteen years of age and have drifted into a nomadic street life (Gebers, 1990)

- A street child… is any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become her or his habitual abode and or source of livelihood and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults (Swart, 1988).

- The term" street child" refers, more specifically to children of the streets. These children come from homes where there is violence, overcrowding, drug and alcohol abuse or from communities divided by political forces into war zones. Many have been abused and hope to find a better life in the city (Bernstein & Gray, 1991)

- …throwaways and runaways children whom families and communities have failed (Richer, 1988)

- …a byproduct of a community that has been exposed to industrialization and urbanization without the support of a from social service infra-structure (Loening, 1988 inberbstein & Gray, 1991)

- "Strollers" is the name used by street children to describe them in Cape Town (South Africa). They are mainly "colored" or of mixed racial descent. "Manual" and "omalalapayipi" are Zulu words meaning "those of the street" or those who sleep in the (storm water) pipes." These terms are used by Johannesburg (SA) street children (mainly of African racial descent) to describe themselves (Ritcher, 1989)

- We say we are the Malundi, the ones that sleep by the street, nut its better not to sleep by the streets, because when it's cold the people throw cold water on you and you don't have other clothes to put on. Sometimes we say we are the malapipe, because we sleep in the big pipes where they make the buildings. Pines' (1986) definition refers to the self description of a child in South Africa.

- "A stroller is someone who doesn't sleep by his house-he sleeps in the street. He doesn't eat by his house-he eats by the bins. A stroller is someone who thinks he is free, to do what his mind says. It's a nice name for us," according to a street child in Cape Town, South Africa (Swart, 1988)

- Street children include "those who are without family, or whose family ties are so weak that they are only infrequently to be found at home".

- Who have been abandoned and work and live on the streets: "have no permanent home, stray in public places, earn a living on the street, and tend to be victimized by criminals to commit crimes. These children do not include those who migrate with their family to work place". Children without family support and who frequent the streets either to beg or to earn a living or who belong to household headed by women and lack attention and care would classified as street children.

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 that repealed by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 currently dealing with certain categories of children in vulnerable conditions has a classification termed **'children in need of care and protection'.** Street Children, as referred to in this report, fall within this category. The exact definition from the Act is as follows- A 'child in need of care and protection' means a child:

i) Who is found without any home or settled place or abode and without any ostensible means of subsistence; or

ii) Who is found working in contravention of labour laws for the time being in force or is found begging, or living on the street; or

(iii)   Who resides with a person (whether a guardian of the child or not) and such a person-

    (a)   Has injured, exploited, abused or neglected the child or has violated any other law for the time being in force meant for the protection of child; or

    (b)   Has threatened to kill, injure, exploit or abuse the child and there is a reasonable likelihood of the threat being carried out; or

    (c)   Has killed, abuse, neglected or exploited some other child or children and there is a reasonable likelihood of the child in question being killed, abused or neglected by that person; or

iii)   Who is mentally or physically challenged or the suffering from terminal or incurable disease, having no one to support or look after or having parents or guardians unfit to take care;

iv)   Who has a parent or guardian and such parent or guardian is found to be unfit or incapacitated by the committee or the Board, to care for and protect the safety and well being of the child; or

v)   Who does not have parent and no one is willing to take care of or whose parents have abandoned or surrendered him; or

vi)   Who is missing and run away child whose parents cannot be found after reasonable inquiry in such manner as may be prescribed; or

vii)   Who has been or is being or is likely to be abused, tortured or exploited for the purpose of sexual abuse of illegal acts; or

viii)   Who is found vulnerable and is likely to be inducted into drug abuse or trafficking; or

xi)   Who is being or is likely to be abused for unconscionable gains; or

x)   Who is victim of or affected by any armed conflict, civil unrest or natural calamity; or

xi)   Who is at imminent risk of marriage before attaining the age of marriage and whose parents , family members, guardian and any other

person are likely to responsible for solemnization of such other persons are likely to responsible for solemnization of such marriage

The most common definition of street children used today is "boys and girls for whom 'the street' (including unoccupied dwelling, wasteland, etc.) has become their home and/or source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised by responsible adults," as defined by the United Nations (cited in Volpi, 2002).

Although there is a variety of definitions or descriptions of the street child phenomenon, they have the following in common:

1. These children are trying to escape an anti-child culture or have fled unbearable circumstances at home or in their immediate environment.

2. They feel they can no longer trust themselves to be in the hands of society. For this reason they have undertaken to manage their lives and futures on their own and retain total control of their lives.

3. They are vulnerable to exploitation. Most of them have left chaotic family environments that involved violence, abuse, alcoholism, and alienation.

4. Having severed all ties with a biological family, these children are entirely on their own, for material and psychological survival.

5. Children found on the street are subsumed under the broad category of children who are "in need of care and protection" or similarly "at risk".

6. Their families do not have or not able to provide even basic amenities, impoverished states of the family brings them on street but their social bondages are strong

In reality, the condition of any street children cannot be understood apart from such factors as their individual characteristics; living conditions; life choices and backgrounds; families etc.

Categories of Street Children

Street children is a very broad term that has been used to describe children and youth whose lives and work are closely associated with the street. However, their conditions and needs are not always homogeneous. **Efforts were made to further categorize street children in the late 1980s.** UNICEF recommended making a distinction between **children of the streets who live and work on the street without family support,** and **children on the streets who are compelled to work on the street mainly for the survival of their families but who return home to their families most nights.**

A further distinction has occasionally been made between abandoned children who have been deserted by their families or have left home completely, and thus are without any family ties, and other children of the streets who still maintain some contacts with their families, no matter how weak and sporadic these may be (Blanc, 1994).

Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) asserts that **"States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development."** Homelessness denies each one of those rights.

USAID has divided Street Children into Four Categories:

- A 'Child of the Streets': Children who have no home but the streets, and no family support. They move from place to place, living in shelters and abandoned buildings.

- A 'Child on the Street': Children who visit their families regularly and might even return every night to sleep at home, but spends most days and some nights on the street because of poverty, overcrowding, sexual or physical abuse at home.

- Part of a Street Family: These children live on sidewalks or city squares with the rest of their families. They may be displaced due to

poverty, wars, or natural disasters. The families often live a nomadic life, carrying their possessions with them. Children in this case often work on the streets with other members of their families.

- In Institutionalized Care: Children in this situation come from a situation of homelessness and are at risk of returning to a life on the street.

- Children on street, comprising 70% of the entire street children population, who work but still, have family connections of a more or less regular nature, most of them still attend school and return home at the end of each working day,.

- Children of the Street, comprising 20%, see the street as their home and the other street children as their family. Family ties exist but are remote, and their former home is infrequently visited.

- Completely abandoned and neglected children, comprising the remaining 5% have severed all ties with biological family. They are entirely independent in terms of meeting their material and psychological needs, and therefore require a very different approach. They are the true children of the street. (Empowering street children Teresita L.Silva)

- Richter (1988a), Konanc (1989), and Aptekar (1995a) have stated that street children can be defined according to their relationship with family. Children of the street left home permanently and usually have little or no contact with their families. Children on the street, who constitute the largest group, return home from time to time, usually contributing to the financial support of their families (Ennew, cited in Ritcher, 1988; compare Aptekar, 1994as to refer to these children as a "plague". It has also been suggested that children who have adjusted to street life are not easily convinced that there is a better alternative (Angelli, 1986. Samper, cited in Aptekar (1955a), has gone so far.

Thus street children encompass various categories. In addition, this term is commonly used in Africa, while in Europe, the Americas, and Australia the

term homeless children runaways, throwaways, and push outs are more common. However, the aforementioned categories still do not adequately reflect the realities of all children and youth who are living and/or working on the street. **Bigger** argues that **many youths are in fact "a blend" between these two categories as they "spend some nights sleeping on the street and return home after a few days, weeks or even months" (1999).**

Vulnerability and Homeless and Street Children

Children who are vulnerable to street life include those who have been abandoned by their families or sent into cities because of a family's intense poverty, often with the hope that a child will be able to earn money for the family and send it home. Children who run away from home or children's institutions frequently end up on the street since they rarely return home due to dysfunctional families, or physical, mental, and/or sexual abuse. In several areas of the world, disabled children are commonly abandoned, particularly in developing countries. In addition, refugee children of armed conflict areas, children separated from their families for long periods of time, and AIDS orphans, repeatedly find nowhere to go but the streets.

The Effects of Street and Homeless Life

Homelessness and street life have a detrimental effect on children. Their unstable lifestyles, lack of medical care, and inadequate living conditions increase young people's susceptibility to chronic illnesses such as respiratory or ear infections, gastrointestinal disorders, and sexually-transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Children fending for them must find ways to eat; some scavenge or find exploitative physical work. Many homeless children are enticed by adults and older youth into selling drugs, stealing, and prostitution.

Drug use by children on the streets is common as they look for means to alleviate the pain and deal with the hardships associated with street life. Studies have found that up to 90 percent of street children use psychoactive

substances, including medicines, alcohol, cigarettes, heroin, cannabis, and readily available industrial products such as shoe glue.

The mental, social and emotional growth of children are affected by their nomadic lifestyles and the way in which they are chastised by authorities who constantly expel them from their temporary homes such as doorways, park benches, and railway platforms. Countries in Latin America like Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Brazil are notorious for the torture and violence inflicted on street children, many times escalating to murder — by police officers or death squads. **Street children lack security, protection, and hope, and continue to face a deep-rooted negative stigma about homelessness. And, more than anything else, they lack love.**

The phenomenon of street children is multifaceted. The combination of familial, economic, social, and political factors plays an important role in their situation. It is therefore very difficult to single out one or more causes.

Characteristics of Street Children

On the basis of above mentioned definition and categories, following characteristics of street children have been drawn:

1. **Physical Appearance**

   Mainly they are with bad physical appearance (wearing only lower clothes, stinking body odour, appearing sick, uncombed hair, without slippers, lying on platform). They wore tattered clothes, hardly covers their body, oversized clothes given by the people as a gesture of sympathy or charity.

2. **Health and Hygiene**

   The street children use water pipeline on the tracks for cleaning and bathing or river. They even do not take shower for a long time. **Regarding their health conditions, street children are subject to sexually transmitted diseases like HIV due to unprotected sexual behaviours among them and also because of casual sexual**

relationships. Besides being subject to HIV/AIDS, RTI/STIs street children also exposing to other type of disease because of the harsh environment where they live. As for treatment, it depends how much money street children can afford when one of them become sick.

3. Drug addiction and substance use

They are usually found sniffing whiteners, solvents, inhalants, consuming alcohol and other substance. To fulfill their substance need, they get involved in petty crimes and exploited by vendors and older children. They often meet unnatural death or accident due to intoxication.

4. Place of Abode

The congregation of street children is street, unoccupied dwelling, railway stations, bust stands, traffic signal, waste land public places. Street children usually do not have a permanent place to sleep. They sleep on the Streets, pavements near Shops, Under Bridge, Benches, Musafir Khana, Bus Stand, Pipes, whatever place they find to spend night according to weather. Many urban poor live in very poor quality housing known as slums where people do not have access to one or all of those services like: drinking water, sanitation and electricity. No bedding with them, they use thrown parcel bags, jut begs and cement bags to protect from harshness of winter

5. A set of living conditions

They live in groups and gangs; they have their own code of conduct to avoid professional rivalry. They help each other; sometime they are seen protecting small children. There is no social security, physical protection for these children. After spending a great amount of street they are not willing to give up street life. They commit petty crimes like pick pocketing, snatching bags, and stealing railway property. They use abusive language with each other mostly. Few of the children live on street only for fun and frolic. As for culture, morals and traditions,

street children usually are not concerned about culture and morals, owing to being away from their family since childhood. **Lugalla and Mbwambo (1999, p.332) described street children as "… not only homeless or roofless, but they are also culturally rootless".** Usually, they play cards in their leisure time or have drugs substances. The street children do not have any kind of assets that the urban poor have. **They own nothing except the clothes they wear and what they earn from work during the day (Patel, 1990).** The children from near around slum areas spend their time at railway station, bus stand and other public places, temples for earning money to fulfill their personal pursuits.

6. Food Patterns

They mostly depend on food thrown by pantry car, left over by passengers, stealing food from pantry of luxury trains. When they do not get food from cited sources, they scavenge bins. The children who are from localities sometimes eat food at home.

7. A set of working conditions

Younger children mainly do begging for their lively hood. The older children start working some jobs like selling bottles, repairing chain and zipper, selling paper soap, selling tobacco.

Factors Responsible for the Phenomena of the Street Children

1. Poverty

Economic factors have been most cited factor for the increasing number of street children. In the country like India, children are moving to the street out of economic necessities. Poverty in childhood is a root cause of poverty in adulthood. Impoverished children often grow up to be poor parents who in turn bring up their own children in poverty (UNICEF, 2005). Now the urbanization and glamour of city has given wings to everyone regardless countryside or suburban areas. The

children run away from home to come out from vicious circle of poverty. Means of transportation like rail network has it made very easy. Burden of poverty is causing parents to neglect their children, unable to fulfill their basic needs, deprived from childhood joys and happiness.

1. **Domestic Violence**

National Crime Records Bureau Report of 1991 reveals that in every 33 minutes one Indian woman is being abused by her husband. Family Health Survey-III, carried out in 29 states during 2005-06, has found that a substantial proportion of married women have been physically or sexually abused by their husbands at some time in their lives (Chaudhary, April-June 2013).

For too many children home is far from a safe heaven. Every year, millions of children are exposed to domestic violence at home, and this has a powerful and profound impact on their lives and hopes for the future. These children not only watch one parent violently assaulting another, they often hear the distressing sounds of violence, or may be aware of it from many telltale signs. The devastating effects of domestic violence on women are well documented. Far less is known about the impact on children who witness a parent or caregiver being subjected to violence. These children are – the forgotten victims of violence in the home. The findings show that children who are exposed to violence in the home may suffer a range of severe and lasting effects. They may have difficult learning and limited social skill, exhibit violent, risky or delinquent behaviour, or suffer from depression or severe anxiety. Some children are find capable to cope the pressure of domestic violence some not and runaway from homes, make distance from their near dears. They start living their own life on streets**.** (Behind Closed Doors: The impact of Domestic Violence on Children, 2006)

2. **Emotional and physical abuse**

    Emotional and physical abuse by parents is more common practice. And many more reasons aggravate the factor of emotional abuse and physical abuse by parents and sibling and relatives like impoverished state of the family, being illiterate of parents, domestic violence, incapable to understand the childhood and its need, frustration of unemployment and job insecurity etc. The parents release their frustration over the children. They are brutally beaten by the parents. The quarrelsome atmosphere of the family weakens the bondage among the siblings and all goes against the childhood innocence. Not only physical abuse but ignoring them, neglecting them, scolding, using harsh language, slapping, harsh comments, freighting damages the childhood. Abused children cannot express emotions safely. As a result, the emotions get stuffed down, coming out in unexpected ways. The victim of child abuse can struggle with unexplained anxiety, depression, or anger in long term too. They may turn to alcohol or drugs to numb out the painful feelings.(Melinda Smith, 2016)

3. **Disintegration & Dysfunctional Family**

    Disintegration of family in many forms like loss of parents, second marriage of parents, divorce, single parenting, separation, abandonment leave negative impact negatively on rearing of the children. It was observed that mostly children leave their home due to above cited situations. **Studies has shown that children from disintegrated family are more at risk with feeble mental stability, poorer housing patterns and lower income, disinterest in studies, child labour, leaving school at early age, strolling around and then gradually became a part of street life**.

4. **Maternal Mental Health**

    Maternal Mental health is also a contributing factor for emerging number of street children. Unresolved parental conflicts, financial

hardship likely to have negative impact on maternal mental health often leading to depression, a consequent drain on the emotional resources required to parent adequately and lower levels of tolerance for problem' behavior in children. **Depression is the most common mental health problem in the population generally, with higher rates reported among women and people on low incomes. The rate of depression is particularly high among mothers in low income families with young children, and in lone mothers (Brown and Harris, 1978; Brown and Moran, 1997).** There is evidence that maternal depression is both a risk factor for separation or divorce (Aseltine and Kessler, 1993; Bifulco and Moran, 1998) and a consequence of family breakdown. In Indian society or in global perspective mother is regarded as Goddess, first teacher, care taker of home who is by berth has capacities to fight all hardship of the life for sake of her children and husband. But maternal mental health destroys the family, make unclaimed the children. They are on streets in spite of having family as there is no one to take care of them at home. (Ann Mooney C. O., 2009)

5. **Lack of Parenting Skills**

Parenting behaviour and the quality of the parent-child relationship play a critical role in understanding children's well-being in relation to family change. The quality of parenting is one of the best predictors of children's well-being both in intact families as well as lone parent and stepfamilies (Amato, 2005; Dunn, 2005). Just as parental conflict, maternal mental health and socio-economic factors can disrupt parenting and parent-child relationships, children's behaviour can also play a part, so that children who are temperamentally difficult, distressed or badly behaved, can influence the quality of parenting and relationships (Pryor and Rodgers, 2001). Likewise, the quality of the relationship with parents preceding family breakdown is likely to influence the nature of relationships following separation and divorce (Smith, 2004c). So long as the parental relationship remains relatively

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conflict-free, children generally report a wish to maintain a relationship with both parents (Wade and Smart, 2002).

6.   Socio-Cultural Factors

The phenomenon of street children has emerged as ensuant to industrialization of national across the world. In the race of technological advancement industrial growth centers have come up all over world disturbing the centuries-old pattern in which people lived and worked in their native villages and town. Industrialization not only provides opportunities for employment but also displace traditional workers from their place of work. Workers start migrating from relatively undeveloped regions of the country and state to the developing regions often either leaving their families behind in their homes or migrate with the family. Opportunities in urban areas for employment, education etc has been a pull factor attracting migration from rural to urban areas and from smaller towns and cities to larger urban areas[19].The migrant population however the need of the cities but their housing finds no place in the city's development plans. **With a great deal of effort and rarely any social support, these migrant families manage a roof over their head in Jhuggis, Chawl, Jhoparpatties and other differently named slum clusters without any basic amenities. The children wander on the streets while the parents, often both of them, work to make both ends meet.** Some wandering children are lucky to have home where they can revert to once the day is over, many others have no choice but to seek shelter on the street pavements, public places and in rare cases roadside establishment for which they work during the day. (Agrawal, 2002)

7.   Nata Pratha

Nata Pratha, practiced in many parts of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, allows a "Nata" (relationship) without a wedding ceremony. Both women and men are empowered to change their

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[19] Census of India 2001

partners by paying off the ex. This custom is called Nata Pratha. The Nata Tradition is prevalent in most Hindu communities in Rajasthan, with Rajputs. Some of them regard it as women empowerment; some of them regard it as sexual harassment of the women. In other way it is called live in relationship. Child marriages are most responsible factor for this customary marriage. Besides this disliking for spouse, widowhood are the reasons which leads a person to seeks their partner through this Nata Pratha that allows them to live together without any solicitation of marriage customs. These types of marriages are solicited by the intervention of community leaders, and Panchayat on the basis of mutual understanding without any formalities. Often the children of these types of couple remain uncared and unwanted in other family where a woman goes to live with another man. The children always reared by their grandparents or maternal grandparents where there are deprived from the love and affection of their original parents. Sometime they stay with their step father or mother that leads torture, exploitation and abuse. In such conditions often children flee from home and start living on streets.

8. Parental Drinking

The "WHO/Europe Declaration on Young People and Alcohol (2001)" states that all children and adolescents have the right to grow up in an environment protected from the negative consequences of alcohol consumption. The negative effects of excessive drinking on non-drinking family members, and particularly on children, remain a cause for concern and have to be considered a pertinent public health issue. Children are the most severely affected, since they can do little to protect themselves from the direct or indirect consequences of parental drinking (WHO 2001: 4/6).

Harmful parental drinking can dominate family relationships, affecting children both physically and emotionally and the impact will depend on the severity of the parent's problems and any protective factors being

in place. For the majority of children, parental harmful drinking has a negative impact on their lives with an increased risk of developing alcohol problems themselves later in life. Harmful drinking of the parents can seriously affect their ability to care and respond appropriately to a child and this can have negative consequences for children's social, emotional and physical development.

There is often a 'loss of childhood' where children's roles change because of a lack of positive parenting or because the child has to look after parents or siblings. Verbal and physical conflict in families where parents are drinking harmfully is common and there is a heightened risk for children experiencing abuse when living in families with alcohol problems and domestic abuse. Living with parents who are drinking harmfully has a negative impact on children's emotional wellbeing and a key finding across the studies is that children feel anxious, upset, worried, fearful, sad and angry about their parents drinking. The child faces psychological problems, unstable emotional states, frustration, anger, aggression and ultimately the feeling to come out from the situation.

9. Poor quality of Education

The children who dwell in slums need special attention while they are admitted in schools. First of all most of the children remain deprived from the education as the notion that **"कौनसी सरकारी नौकरी मिल जाएगी "**, secondly **"he/she will contribute in income of the family by doing some works",** thirdly **"the images of government schools where free education is provided, parents are remain doubtful and do not like the quality of education therefore the children who start education soon become drop out.** Teacher's attitude, discrimination and corporal punishment often leads the children getting into street life.

Problems of Street Children

Children generally have fewer rights than adults and are classed as unable to make serious decisions, and legally must always be under the care of a responsible adult.

1. **Shelter and food**

   Street children often don't not have any permanent shelter to live and do not have access to a healthy and sufficient food. Sometimes they do not have food, because of living on streets. Sometimes the use addiction of drug, substance uses subsumed their need of food. Urge of addiction, get so high that they spend their money on drugs and substances instead of food and ultimately seek the food in bins and leftover loads their stomach. They are unprotected and vulnerable to any type of sexual harassment in absence of shelter.

2. **Health**

   They live and work amidst trash animals and open sewers. Not only they are exposed and susceptible to disease, they are also unlikely to be vaccinated or receive medical treatment. Also the lack of hygiene, street children is exposed to different types of disease along with sexually transmitted and reproductive tract infection and HIV/AIDS. There is much ignorance about reproductive health and many suffer needlessly. In absence of family care, lack of money they have to take care of themselves and generally they go for self medication.

3. **Occupational Hazards**

   Everyone aspire a quality of life regardless poor and rich, but it seems that the parents of street children and the street children struggle for the quality of life. Their illiteracy and lack of skills force them to adopt the low income generating occupations and odd jobs.

4. **Abuse by Police, RPF, GRP and Vendors**

    Indian street children are routinely detained illegally, beaten and tortured and sometimes killed by police. Several factors contribute to this phenomenon: police perceptions of street children, widespread corruption and a culture of police violence, the inadequacy and non-implementation of legal safeguards, and the level of impunity that law enforcement officials enjoy. The police generally view street children as vagrants and criminals. While it is true that street children are sometimes involved in petty theft, drug-trafficking, prostitution and other criminal activities, the police tend to assume that whenever a crime is committed on the street, street children are either involved themselves or know the culprit. Their proximity to a crime is considered reason enough to detain them. This abuse violates both Indian domestic law and international human rights standards.

    Street children are also easy targets. They are young, small, poor, and ignorant of their rights and often have no family members who will come to their defence. It does not require much time or effort to detain and beat a child to extract a confession, and the children are unlikely to register formal complaints.

    Police have financial incentives to resort to violence against children. Many children reported that they were beaten on the street because the police wanted their money. Even they have to give the share or extortion money to the vendors and TTs. (Watch/Asia, 1996)

5. **Vulnerability to Sexual Abuse**

    Every second child is victim of sexual abuse on streets. They are sexually abused by older children, older people, gangsters etc.

6. **Inaccessibility to Government Schemes**

    The street children do not have accessibility of government entitlement and schemes. No birth registration, no identity and other documentation that proves them is the citizen of a country.

Concerned Issues

The study explored the concerned issues which needs immediate attention to protect their rights and entitlement and their childhood.

1.   **Identity, Respect and Dignity**

Street children live in adverse condition, totally deprived from rights and identity of their own. Society looks at them as unwanted population without understanding the causes and factor of being street children.

2.   **Health**

World Health Organization studies show that street children suffer from health problems ranging from cholera to tuberculosis and anemia, and that they are exposed to a variety of toxic substances, both in their food and in the environment around them. They are also at risk of various kinds of abuse. In a survey in 2000, 86 percent of street children identified violence as a major problem in their life. In another survey, 50 percent stated that they had been exposed in some manner to rape.

3.   **Lack of Social Ties and Networks**

Since most of the street children were found instable to stay specifically in a specific place for a longer period, they actually lack proper social tiers with others. Since the mainstream society, in most cases, hates them due to their dirt living on the street, they lack social relation with them. Moreover, they did not have any union to uphold their needs and rights.

4.   **Lack of Recreation**

Lack of playing time due to tiresome long hours of work for mere subsistence was a common situation among most of the respondents.

However, many lack the idea of a sound and healthy recreation and therefore, indulge, in some case, in wicked thoughts and activities.

5.   Insufficient Institutional Support

According to the respondents the institutional supports were insufficient to ameliorate the predicaments of all the street children.

6.   Lack of Protection And Security (Physical, Economic and Emotional)

Absence of parents/ family members, no near and dear ones, no affection and loved ones were great emotional threats among the respondents. They had a continuous feeling of being scared and insecurity due to endangered street living without guardians, protection from hoodlums and miscreants, mostly temporary and hazardous working condition with low wages etc.

7.   Identification of Children

The word street children stigmatize these urchins and they are considered as thrash by the society.

8.   Education, Training & Rehabilitation

The street children who are below 14 years are easily restored by early intervention of NGOs but the age group between 14-18 years hard to restore them with their families as they have become the freedom of street life, they want money, not interested in education but they express that some type of jobs or training, skills development program can make a difference. But unfortunately all the programs and interventions are lacking the rehabilitative programs of this particular age group.

9.   Advocacy

The policy and interventions at government level needs refinement and reviewed in keep in mind the various need and circumstances of

the street children. Institutional care is not only the way for mainstreaming these children. An advocacy effort is urgent need that can be ensuring the rights and entitlement of these children at policy level.

10. **Poverty Reduction and Family Strengthening Program**

The study found that because of the communication gap in the family and the weakening of social capital, a sort of disconnection took place and children of adolescent age opt to leave their families. Street children are an alarm, signaling the urge for social development and poverty reduction policies to improve the situation in the community at large, and to prevent younger people from becoming marginalized. While preventive interventions are essential, those children already facing the hardships of street life need immediate opportunities for human development via special protection programs.

Besides above mentioned issues mapping of the street children, drug addiction, awareness and sensitization of community, stake holder, society, and community are such issues that needs immediate attention.

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CHAPTER-II

CHAPTER-II

Review of Literature

Review of Literature

These sections explores the literature related with problems of street children and present comprehensive review of literature that covers the wide variety of publications, books, articles, studies from India and International. This is an attempt to understand the critical and phenomenal nature of the street children through reviewing available literature. Secondary data available in libraries and online portals were extensively reviewed and eye-opening observations were done to make this research more elaborative and relevant. Literature has been reviewed under two categories as following:

- Workshop & Conference Reports

- Reference books

So far as the problem of street children is concerned, authentic and relevant data is most important as it guides the whole research work. Though the problem has got identification but authentic and relevant quantitative data is lacking yet. A number of studies have been conducted by various individual, researchers, and academicians, research institutions concerning the problem worldwide but not so much in India, especially not in reference of Rajasthan. In Rajasthan, the number of studies and work done on street children is very insufficient and limited. The objectives of the review of literature were as following :

1. Developing an in-depth understanding and acquire the knowledge from across the globe

2. Exploring the facts and figures and scope of other's work that supports the study

3. Seeking support for ground theory

4. Distinguishing what has been done from what needs to be done

5. Synthesizing and gaining a new perspective

6. Identifying relationships between ideas and practices

7. Establishing the context of the topic or problem

8. Rationalizing the significance of the problem

9. Enhancing and acquiring the subject vocabulary

10. Gaining Methodological insight and understanding

11. Identifying recommendations for further research

1. Review of Workshop & Conference Reports

A rapid assessment of children living on the streets of Lusaka, 2002

A rapid assessment of children living on the street of Lusaka was conducted in 2001 under the auspices of Africa Kid SAFE, a network of NGOs providing services to street children, Project Concern International Zambia (PCIZ) and Fountain of Hope (FOH) with support of UNICEF Zambia. The rapid assessment explored the following:

1. Information on the basic demographics, background characteristics, and needs of street children in Lusaka,

2. Information to NGOs, the government, and other stakeholders for planning and implementing a program of withdrawal of children from the streets,

3. Building the capacity of NGOs to systematically gather and record information on street children.

The study discussed the plight of street children and weak implementation of Juvenile Justice System. It recommended exploring the need of foster parenting and encouraging communities, and families need to be sensitized to understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to taking care of children in society, especially vulnerable children.

In addition recommendation had been made for sensitization, efforts to build the capacity of communities and families to care for children, for example, through business training, support for income generating activities, and other developmental support need to be undertaken so that communities and families are empowered to provide the basic needs of children under their care. The study strongly recommended psychosocial counselling and rehabilitation programme (for children and families), community mobilization techniques. Apart from this intellectual strongly recommended strengthening and enhancing networking among child care service providers, creation of a database on street children for use by child care service providers, information sharing among the members of networks and with other networks, Coordination of network activities and other support services, establishment of referral systems and guidelines.

The study was helpful in discovering the variables in context of plight of street children in Rajasthan as the state hardly done any in-depth study and mapping of the street children. It also helped to understand the similarity of problem and differences universally. The study provided insight what has been done and what needs to be done that helped in analyzing and synthesizing the works has been done in Rajasthan so far. As present study assumes that family strengthening programme is a matter of dire concern to prevent the phenomenon of street children but in reality all the programs, legislations are revolving around children on the basis of approach of control while the problem starts from family which needs preventive measures. The study supported the assumption and encouraged to collect evident in context of Rajasthan.

Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development (2011), Report of the Working Group of Child Rights for 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017)

1. The report threw up a lot of issues related with children in need of care and protection which need to be addressed adequately to create safe environment to grow up.

2. This report emphasized on identifying the problems faced by these children and mapping the more susceptible areas.

3. The report urged to assess the needs of children through **district wise studies and draw up their implementation plan.**

4. The report accepted that there is a lack of data related to vulnerabilities of these children that make it difficult to measure the intensity of the problem and provided appropriate services.

5. Apart from this the report strongly urge for rehabilitation services community based services, implementation of Juvenile Justice Act and strengthening institutional and non- institutional care services.

The present study moves with the idea of need of the mapping of street children and maintaining data at national level or state level so that their human rights and child rights could be ensured and monitored.

"Neglected and Forgotten: The Human Rights of the Children"

Anna Lena Schmidt reviewed the human rights of street children in Ethiopia in 2003. The researcher overviewed the human rights of street children in context of global scenario. Number of conventions, declaration like Universal Declaration of Human rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights constitute the back ground for child right protection. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Declaration & Plan of Action from the World Summit for children as well as the Africa Charter on the Rights of the Child however more clearly mentions street children and add to specific understanding of their human rights. The UN declaration on the right to development and the treaties on the elimination of discrimination mention street children within their context. After a thorough study of different instrument to protect human rights of the street children, the researcher concluded that international provisions were not being implemented to a satisfying degree and states were failed to create a safety net for street children according to the international measures. (pg no 27)

Inhalant use among street children in Bangalore (2008-2009)

"Inhalant use among street children in Bangalore" a study conducted by NIMHANS[1] with support of WHO[2]. The aim of the study was assessing the pattern of substance use among the street and slum children. Drug abuse among this population is a rampant phenomenon not only in India but also in other parts of the world. WHO estimated that about 25-90% of street children abused some kind of drugs? Abuse of inhalant drugs (mainly type ink, eraser fluid in several cities and towns of India) is very common among street children. Given the health damage that is associated with abuse of inhalants, it is important to formulate and provide interventions.

The study reveals that inhalant use enabled them to survive the hardships of the street life by helping to cope with pain, emotional distress, fear and hunger. The data also supported that children perceived both benefits and problems due to drug use. Tobacco and inhalants are common drugs of use. While harder drugs (like cannabis, heroin) are also used, their use was reported by relatively older adolescents. Inhalants are widely available and their use is clearly associated with certain perceived advantages (to survive the hardships of the street life, for pleasure and a variety of other reasons). The study helped to understand that almost the situation of the street children across the country is the same and their life is at risk. Street children always intoxicated or drunk, in such condition they move train to train and many incidents has been reported when these children crushed by train. According the study, the situation is worst and it's associated with damage of their whole personality and life.

This report provided an idea to explore the drug and substance use among the family member and how it affects the children. The present research explores the pattern and types of drug abuse among the family member along with children.

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[1] National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences , Bangalore, India (NIMHANS)
[2] World Health Organization

2.   Book Review

"Robbed of Humanity: Lives of Guatemalan Street Children"

Nancy Leigh Tierney provided a detailed account of the everyday realities faced by street children in Guatemala City in her book **"ROBBED OF HUMANITY"** through several moving personal testimonies. The book gives an insight into the daily obstacles these children are forced to overcome, the brutality they suffer at the hands of the police and private civilians, and the corrupt system responsible for them. Tierney attributed the indifference shown by the general populace towards their situation to Guatemala's history of terror and torture, a history in which the plight of the growing number of street children has never been a major concern.

In this book, Tierney describes, discusses and tries to explain the horrors faced by Guatemalan street children. Deftly guiding the reader through a clear, informative analysis of the conditions that cause so many kids to suffer, Tierney find that government not only neglects, but also terrorizes, the citizens it should protect. Health care, education and other social programs are shockingly inadequate.

Drug, Sex, HIV and Street Children in India (2010)

This book has highlighted the problem of non-tobacco substance use and sexual abuses along with HIV/STIs, among 'Hard-to- Reach Population' like street children. The reported prevalence of non-tobacco substance use was 30%; 9% reported having been sexually abused. Certain risk factors (age, lack of contact with family, orphan children, night stay at public place etc.) were documented to be associated with substance use and sexual abuses. One percent HIV sero-prevalence in street children is a matter of concern and need immediate intervention to check a potential epidemic in India. Without any intervention; it will definitely spiral and pose a serious health hazard which country may not deal with.

Perhaps the most disadvantaged group in India is the millions of street children who live or work on the street. *Street children have fallen through society's cracks – there are few ladders for them to climb back up. They live as their parents did and as their own children are likely to live.*

Urban Children in Distress: Global Predicaments and Innovative Strategies (1994)

The above mentioned master thesis explains "why must so many children in today's cities struggle just to survive each day, and what programs and policies most effectively help them? In 1989, the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) began a three-year project to answer these and other questions vital to the well-being of urban children around the world. Based on fieldwork in Brazil, Philippines, India, Kenya, and Italy, this volume uncovers the desperate situations and the resilience of street and working children, and their families, offering critiques and recommendations for national, municipal and community action.

Urbanization, Street Children and their problems (2005)

"Urbanisation, Street Children and their problems" explains that street children are the consequences of urbanization process. The author **N. K. Behura and R.P. Mohanty** examined the impact of urbanization on street children's and their problems. In first chapter, they constituted a theoretical framework of the phenomena of the street children in India. In which they defined street children and methodology of the study conducted to present a holistic profile of the street children of a growing city of Eastern India.

Chapter three describes family milieu in detail and examines its various aspects which are responsible for the phenomena of street children. The author regards that family is most important institution for healthy growth of a children and his/her future but urbanization and migration has weaken this system with this backdrop image, the family background of the street children has been discussed in the book in very detail.

The authors found that the parents of 65.83 children have migrated from different districts of Orissa, family size of the street children was found to be very large, and most of the parents were illiterate. Relating to communal affiliation, 56.67 percent of children comprise Hindu backward castes, 22.5 percent Muslims and 7.50 percent scheduled tribes and scheduled castes of tribes. **Minorities, SC & ST getting affected by the process of urbanization and data reveals that this is the matter of highest concern.**

Chapter four discussed socio-economic profile of the street children in which author found that 35 percent of the children belong to the age group of 13-14 years but when maximum percentage of (36.67%) of girls street children fall in the age of 9-10 years. As regard to cast and education most 65.83 percent of the street children do not know about their caste, 78 percent children are illiterate.

The study was conducted about 10 years ago as it was first published in 2005, since the data and findings provided a detailed account to researcher and helped to understand the phenomena of street children. After 2006, a lot of works has been done regarding the child protection of the children but we do not find any accounts of child protection system before 2005.

Street children: a socio-psychological study (1999)

Rashmi Agrawal in her book **"STREET CHILDREN"** examined the phenomena of street children from the **socio-psychological point of view** in which she explored and indentified the street children and their problems related with psyche of the people by posing some questions like she asks "who are street children" "how many are the street children across the globe and what is Indian scenario" "Why are they on street" and tried to find out the answers of these question to extend the existing knowledge. **She argues that child labour is a major problem which is affecting the lives of thousands of children in India.**

Ms. Rashmi explored the psychological causes for being on street in which it was found that cruelty by parents, impact of domestic violence, abuse by parents, negligence of parents affecting child psyche. The family size of the street children was found mostly very large that cause the above mentioned reasons to spoiling the childhood of the children.

Secondly, the book reveals that sexual abuse is becoming a harsh reality all over the world. The author shared the finding of the study conducted by Madras Society for Social work (1990) that a good number of those interviewed claimed that their first sexual contact was as a minor and forced. (Pg. No. 49). Apart from this poor parenting, peer group influence, fun loving and liking freedom of life are most psychological factors that force a child to leave homes.

Rashmi Agarwal further describes a legal frame work to protect the rights by giving reference of international Laws , conferences, conventions, agencies like UNICEF and ILO, constitution and legislations of India and media's contribution to safe guard the rights of the children. Author examined the emotional level of the street children in chapter four on various aspects. Anxiety, Fear, Anger, Jealousy, Grief are the cause of maladjustment. These causes lead them towards antisocial behaviour by developing an attitude of a rebel against the authority. Rashmi Agarwal established that children need to be taught to make positive use of their emotions and develop emotional balance (Pg. No. 85). Chapter six reveals that these children have a life and value system of their own that makes the task of peeping into their lives not so easy. Further, she writes that **"it is like entering a maze where there are no straight pathways"**

She argues that psychological aspects of a child's development have relatively received much less attention. **She studied level of Frustration, Aggression and Ego particularly in reference of these children through conducting an experimental study with street children and a controlled group of normal school going in Delhi.** The study revealed some very

noteworthy attitudinal difference between street children and controlled group-the normal children living with their families and regularly going to school with no compulsion to earn and support the family at tender age, the street children face a number of problems exclusively to their status which are extremely frustrating. They are aggressive in their attitude towards the society and people around them. (Pg. No. 129) The street children have constant fear of their personality getting disintegrated as they grow in an environment that they perceive is perpetually hostile to them. (Pg. No.130)

Mostly street children are regarded as useless for the society but the author discussed the phenomena of intelligence among the street children and its relationship to their frustration and reaction to frustration in chapter eight. **She found that the reason for a low level of intelligence of the street children as compare to normal school going children may be many but one thing is certain and that is that street children are not dull, and compensatory education, care and concern for them may help these deprived lot.** (Pg. No. 142)

The author evaluated the efforts, responses of government, policies, legal framework, legal safeguards and rehabilitation programmes, contribution of NHOs, welfare schemes etc. And found that there is still a great vacuum to provide holistic care to the street children because efforts made are not sufficient to deal with problem. The author suggested some ideas to tackle the problem such as improving parental quality programme, dealing with gender bias, role of industries in rehabilitation of street children, multipurpose centre, amendment in legislation sensitization of the society and contact programmes to ensure the rights of the street children and controlling the phenomena of the street children.

The book provides a detailed account of the phenomena of the street children from the point of view of psychology. Author very nicely used different types of research method, test and techniques and elaborated that makes fundamental clear. Psychological study can help to suggest a model to make use of their emotions in positive manner but it has been observed

that programme includes psychology very superficially, no efforts are made to educate stakeholders, service providers, parents to understand the child psychology. This book really opens the door of learning to the scholars and service providers.

Escape from Childhood (1974)

"Escape from Childhood" provides a detailed account on childhood process. The author, **"John Holt"** provides an in-depth understanding of child hood with his logics, different point of views, illustration and examples. This book is about young people and their place or lack of place, in modern society. It is about the institution of modern childhood, the attitude customs and laws that defines and locates children in modern life and determine to a large degree, what their lives are like and how we, their elder treat home. The book is thought provoking and it is based on the theory **"Free the Children, They Need Room to Grow"**

John holt describes childhood as walled garden in which children , being small and weal are protected from the harshness of the world outside until they become enough to cope with it. But the others side, he believes that most young people begin to experience childhood not as a garden but as a prison in different scenario and circumstance. John Holt described a number of situations in which child hood is regarded as prisons rather than walled garden like it becomes when parents are dead, children have been abandoned by parents, laws taken them due to brutality and abuse negligence of parents in custody to someone whose concern is to keep from running away (Pg. No. 7). A normal life in normal family doesn't mean that childhood is respected, safe and protected. They may be many ways exploited, bullied, humiliated and mistreated by their families. Cases of incest are the most inhuman practice that makes childhood prison for a childhood. Over controlled, over affection, lack of basic needs, etc, are the most crucial factor where a childhood can't be happy and respected (Pg. No. 8).

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Further he explained the family and its purposes for healthy childhood. In many ways John Holt has written on childhood and how it becomes prison. He advocates the rights of children like an adult and discover new family relationship not based on parental control. (Pg. No. 20)

At first look it seems absurd but John Holt put his thought with clarity and deep understanding. If we see the phenomena of street children, we find children are running from home as they find it unfit and miserable for them. They regard it as a prison; they don't want parental control over them. Apart from this when they are taken in custody always plan to escape. These are those children who want their right but can't raise voice and ultimately to live their life on their way they prefer better to leave home as an independent person. John Holt advocates treating children like real people, not pets and slaves, and for making available to them all the adult rights & responsibilities as outlined in the U.S. Bill of Rights. This book will challenges ideas about what constitutes "childhood" In today's society, but ideas about society as a whole

Street children of India: A socio-legal study (2010)

The book "street children of India: A socio-legal study" written by Dr. S. Nagaseshamma, first published in the year of 2010. He looked the problem of street children as a subject that needs immediate attention. The book draw the immediate attention towards the phenomenon of street children in India, seems to have acquire gigantic dimensions in the wake of rapid industrialization and urbanization. Thus the author regards that **industrialization and urbanization are the responsible factor for the phenomena of street children.**

The study explored in depth causative factors responsible for the street children to be on the street, their sufferings, responses of government and NGOs, appraising Juvenile Justice Act 2000[3], and Child Labour Act, 1986[4]

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[3] Repealed by Juvenile Justice Act 2015
[4] Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act 2016 came into force on 30th July 2016

with the aim to examine how far these are being implemented and applicable in solving the problems of street children (Pg. No.7)

Conceptual framework of the study enlighten on various aspects of street children such as who are street children, definition of street children, problems of street children, categories of street children, causative factors leading to street that are still the same in present scenario. The author provided profile of the street children from all over the world that helps to understand the phenomena of street children at global level. **The study illustrates few legal cases and important discussions in context of various children's rights. Protection of children from exploitation, abuse, and violation rights has been discussed throughout the study.** The study revealed following significant reasons for runaway of children from home:

1. Psychological Problems

2. Impoverished state of the family

3. Economical problems

4. Ill treatment of the parents

5. Unpleasant family atmosphere

6. Illiteracy

7. Low moral values

8. Drug addiction and alcoholism

The author concluded that implementation of Juvenile justice Act, Media participation, Poverty eradication programmes, rehabilitation centres, vocational trainings, non-formal education should be extended for care and protection of these children. **She also speaks about developing a loan system to the street children.**

The book is really helpful to extend the knowledge regarding legal framework of the child rights. Illustrations, cases make it worth and enlighten the existing knowledge.

Street Children and the Asphalt Life (2005)

"Street Children and the Asphalt Life" written and edited by Mr. P.C. Shukla who is a renowned and distinguished sociologist who presented this book in three volumes as following:

The first volume "Selection and Enumeration of Street Children" narrates the status and burning issues of street children around the world. The book has a detailed account of the history of being street children and various aspects of street life along with the intervention initiatives in many countries throughout the world. He advocates the preventive approach with illustrations and example of implemented programme in many countries like parenting programme implemented by Save the Children in UK. He also showed his concern about the ill implementation of the preventive strategies and the difficulties inherent in prevention work. He discussed the needful, systematic and useful teaching, training and skill development programmes by adopting need based approach at three levels:

- Individual Level (Street children)
- Community Level
- Beyond community

The second Volume **"Delinquent Street Children"** discusses the crime trends among the street children, the reasons that make them criminals and the measures to reduce the delinquent activities.

Street children and the future directions in volume third discusses about the precarious future of street children. It explains the effective interventions to be taken to protect them from the physical and mental vulnerability. The uniqueness of this book is that it focuses on the education of the street children and suggests strategies to impart education. The author, Mr. P. C. Shukla presents the effort made by UNESCO in five countries regarding non-formal and informal education for the street children. If these, efforts are adopted while making educational policy for the children definitely will help to link the street children with education.

India lacks this types of initiative yet. Rights and entitlements are still a dream for these children. Apart from this, author worked hard to find out the gaps which cause poor education and reason of leaving home among the street children. The author focused on dis-functionality of family set up which is most significant reason for nonschool going and drop outs. The author suggested capacity building/training programme for parents, service providers and community leaders for responsible parenting. He recommended various initiatives for different groups like drop out children, child labour, migrant's children etc. The author suggested street educator programme to link the street children with education. Different types of innovative activities have been suggested by author for quality education for street children.

The book talks about empowering street children that show the deep intelligence and understanding of the author and his hard work. The book really provides an insight of future intervention that is helpful for policy maker's service providers and stakeholders. The book is a resource for sociologist, researcher, child welfare agencies and all who working for the empowerment of the children

Conclusion

The above literature has been reviewed with the aim of developing an understanding about phenomena of street children. Authors have discussed the problem with various points of view by mentioning the plight of street children that is almost same around the world. Only strategies and approaches differ to deal with the problems.

Early intervention can prevent the delinquency of being criminal to these homeless children because if a child who has spent his initial child hood on the street is tough to bring back him to the main stream and he/she is more vulnerable and at risk indulging in criminal activities. Mr P.C. Shukla strongly recommends immediate interventions and preventive approaches for rehabilitation of these youngsters.

The present study focuses on three aspects of the problem i.e. status, scenario and strategy that will consolidate the work done so far in context of Rajasthan and also seeks solutions for their successful reinsertion, rehabilitation to lead a qualitative life with respect and dignity.

Once the child enters in street career, it is very difficult for him to experience himself as something different. There is a huge gap between the life before, in the family, at home, and the life in the street. This is also shown by the fact that often the children change their name, once they start dwelling on the street. They make their own identity by leaving behind the original identity given them by their biological parents.

It was observed that somehow all the studies done in the past revolves around the family unit and poverty has been regarded the most responsible factor for current plight of the street children. But the present study, being a sociological study looks at the problem from different angle. It focuses on family, community as well as the social identity of the street children because; the street children have their own subculture and living standards. They are regarded as human waste and nuisance for the society.

The Report of the working group of child Rights for the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) Government of India, Ministry of Women and child Development urged to assess the needs of children through **district wise studies and draw up their implementation plan. The proposed study will contribute to meet the objectives and fulfil the recommendations of the report.**

The present study discusses the magnitude of the problem in Rajasthan that covers the main districts of Rajasthan to generalise the finding and resenting strategies to cope up the problem and will be a resource and tool for further research and researcher in Rajasthan.

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CHAPTER-III

CHAPTER-III

Research Methodology

Research Methodology

Introduction

This chapter introduces the methodology used for this study and how it has guided data collection and analysis process. It explains the research objectives and a suitable methodology to achieve those objectives. The objectives of this study were to identify and explore the different aspects of the life of street children in Rajasthan. The three sections describe the data collection phases for this study, comprising of pilot study, in-depth interviews and Focused Group Discussions (FGDs). The research methodology has to be robust in order to minimize errors in data collection and analysis. Due to this, various methodologies namely survey, interview (telephonic, structured and unstructured) and case study were chosen for data collection. This chapter describes the pilot study, participants of the study, data collection, and data analysis procedures for the entire study. The chapter concludes by explicating the analysis approach for the empirical data.

The present study is exploratory in nature to understand the situation of street children with a mixed use of qualitative Methods. The emphasis was on to explore the street culture, observe various happenings on the station, and get fair idea of children's perception on their street life. The purpose of the thesis was to provide description of street children's plight. Subsequently it lead to the analysis of the existing conditions of the street children, laws and regulations, policies, strategies, scenario, socio-economic condition, psychological condition and their problems and society's attitude.

Operational Definition of Street Children

The categorization of street children namely "on street & off street children (by UNICEF) has been used in order to identify street children for in depth study and locate their urban areas of operation. Children were categorised into three groups

1. Children Living on Streets (No Connections with Family)

2. Children Working On Street (Irregular Connection with Family)

3. Children from Street Families (Regular Connection with Family)

Throughout the study, qualitative methodology was adopted however some quantitative methods were also used in order to supplement & confirm some qualitative statements. An interview schedule was administered in order to collect primary data and demographic information of street children and their socio-economic characteristics. A variety of ethnographic research methods were used including in-depth interviews (structured and unstructured), with research subjects, participants and non-participant observations, recording life histories, case studies of street children and their stories about street life experience and Focus Group Discussions (FGD).

This intensive ethnographic study was aimed at understanding more completely the circumstances that put children onto the street and their experiences of street life. These methods allowed the researcher to become close with street children, enabling them to feel experience and sense the nature of street life.

The entire research process treated the children as an active participant in the whole exercise. A combination of alternative playful research methods were used to attract the attention and participation of the street children and to provide insight into the way in which they are working. The researcher sought the help and support of NGOs, grass root level workers, Govt. Institutions, Universities/Colleges, in order to facilitate the data collection process in the study area.

Statement of the Problem

They are unwanted, unloved, and uncared. They are in torn clothes, naked, half-dressed. They are untidy, unkempt, unwashed, and half-buttoned, with uncombed hair. They do not have permanent shelter. Footpaths, Streets, Railway Stations, Bus-stops, Debris, condemned Ttrain Coaches are their homes; They sleep on footpath, railway platform, bus terminals, under bridges, pavements near shops and malls, under construction buildings,

condemned buildings, train bogies, and the places that can protect them from the harshness of the weather. They earn money by begging in train coaches, cleaning compartments with their shirts and brooms, selling chains, paper soaps, water bottles, cigarettes, tobacco & gutkha, cleaning floors, rag picking, washing dishes, boot polishing etc. They arrange their food by begging on platforms, circles, restaurants, train coaches or searching bins for food. In addition to this, they hop on the leftovers, thrown away food by pantry cars to satisfy their hunger. They use psychoactive substances, including medicines, Alcohol, Cigarettes, Heroin, Cannabis, Marijuana, and readily available industrial products such as shoe glue, solution, and whitener etc. to numb the pain and deal with the hardships associated with street life. As night approaches, these children are seen gambling, smoking, sniffing solvents, taking up with locals or tourists for a night for "big money," taking on odd jobs to get some money to ease their grumbling stomachs or to take home for the starving family members (Childhope, 1993).

The look of snotty noses, unkempt hairs, dressed in rags, dirty feet and vanquished faces tell their story without many words while fighting bravely with all the hazards of life, defying the harsh climate in tattered clothes and bare feet. We see them everywhere, at red lights, at crowded marketplaces, near eateries, and at places of worship. Still, they remain 'invisible entities' left to be ignored, disgraced and abused while everyone looks the other way. Earlier it was common in metro cities but now it has become a common scene in growing cities. Now the above portrayal is very common in each and every city. They are vulnerable, exploited, at risk and easy prey for criminals. They are physically visible, living and struggling for life on streets. Yet, they are also amongst the most invisible population deprived from rights and entitlements, respect and dignity and therefore hardest to reach with vital services such as education and health-care, and the most difficult to protect. Due to the invisibility and mobility of this population, exact number of the street children cannot be projected.

Commonly it is understood that the street children are orphans but the scenario has changed. Where the process of Industrialization, Urbanization,

Globalization contributed to the economy, on the other side have given to arise so many social problems. The Glamour of the city fascinates the people to leave their origin in search of good fortune. Once they leave their homes, they are trapped in the vicious circle of urban poverty in cities where they have to struggle everyday for feeding their stomach. In such conditions, it is very difficult to feed a couple of children; education and health is beyond imagination for these people. There are so many reasons which compel the children to go on to the street. Children who have parents are also on streets because their parents are not able to feed them. Many children are in contact with their families and work on the streets, railway station to augment their household income. Many others have run away from home are prone to psychological, physical abuse. Majority of them are male, as girls seem to endure abusive or exploitative situation at home for longer- though once they do leave their homes and families, girls are generally less likely to return. The street children comprise a major social problem not only in India but globally from various viewpoints. It is a despicable problem not only in the developing countries but in some of the developed countries also.

Need of the study

The constitution of India recognizes the vulnerable position of children and their right to protection. It guarantees in Article 15, special attention to children through necessary and special laws and policies that safeguard their rights. The right to equality, protection of life and personal liberty and the right against exploitation is enshrined in Articles 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 23 and 24. The concern for children has also been expressed in UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989. The Convention prescribes standards to be adhered to by all State parties in securing the best interest of the child.

However, these policies and legislations for children have on the whole suffered from weak implementation, owing to scanty attention towards the issues of child care and protection, resulting in scarce resources, minimal infrastructure, and inadequate services to address child protection and their development problems. 'Child Protection' is about protecting children from or

against any perceived or real danger or risk to their life, health, personhood and childhood. It is about reducing their vulnerability to any kind of harm and protecting them in harmful situations. It is about ensuring that no child falls out of the social security and safety net and those who do, receive necessary care, protection and support so as to bring them back into the safety net.

While protection is the right of every child, some children are more vulnerable than others and need special attention i.e. street children. **The Government recognizes these street children as 'Children in Need of Care & Protection', characterized by their specific social, economic and geo-political situations.** Failure to protect children has serious consequences for the physical, mental, emotional, social development of the child, with consequences in loss of productivity and the loss in human capital for any nation.

Rajasthan is the largest state of India with rapid devolvement leading towards Metro status. Rajasthan has its own identity globally with regard to the splendid History, Versatile geographical conditions with a great share of the Thar Desert and droughty areas and harsh climate, indigenous people etc. The population of Rajasthan has shown speedy increase and makes it the 8th most populous state of India. *Rajasthan has got the 8th rank among the 10 states of India with high population growth rate (Census-2011). Rajasthan is the 5th state of India having largest child population i.e. 10,649,504 Crores (Census 2011).*

As per 2011 Census; the share of the population of children (below 18 years) in Rajasthan was 43% of the total population. Rajasthan has several manifestations of violation of child rights. Irregular income, poverty, family migration, social marginalization and deprivation, low social awareness and scanty attention added with feeble commitment from the state to handle these issues effectively, have resulted in high incidences of child exploitation, rampant child abuse, increasing inward and outward child trafficking, migration and child sexual violence.

The problem of street children is largely an urban phenomenon—most street children appear concentrated in Jaipur, Kota, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bharatpur and Bikaner—the actual number of street children in Rajasthan is not very well known. This mainly includes a large population of varied nature living in slums, pavements, bus & railway stations etc. with poor accessibility and delivery of services in such places, preventing the children to receive meaningful and much needed services for their overall psychosocial, personal and economic development.

There are districts like Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota and Bhilwara, Jodhpur where the percentage share of migrants settling in urban areas with context to the total migrants is comparatively much higher. This percentage share of rural migrants in the last three successive decades for these districts is given in table placed below.

District / period	1991-2000	1981-90	1971-1980
Kota	56.8	54.3	50.7
Jaipur	53.2	48.5	35
Ajmer	41.4	35.6	28.7
Bhilwara	31.1	25.0	14.8
Jodhpur	26.8	18.7	12.4

The above mentioned figures disclose that districts like Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota and Bhilwara depicts that the percentage share of migrants settling in urban areas with context to the total migrants is comparatively much higher than other districts. Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota are the districts fall in the category where higher urbanization due to the migration has been observed.

In Rajasthan mainly three types of migration takes place:

1. Nomadic Migration

2. Local Migration

3. Transhumance

Sheep Pastoralism has always been an important and typical livelihood strategy in Western Rajasthan, The pastoral communities buy children from the tribal of Madhya Pradesh and migrate all over Rajasthan and other states. They never come back to their original places. These children are bought for only Rs 1500-2000 and ill treated. These children are used in menial jobs including looking after herds and some of them fled away and start living on streets. It was brought to light that these tribal and farmers sale their children as they are burdened with heavy debts and crop losses. The children who fled or got success to free themselves are too small. They cannot reach their native places until unless any voluntary organization comes or police comes to their rescue.

Any intervention aiming to rehabilitate and care for the street children requires understanding about their social and family background, the reasons that forced them to leave their homes, and the lifestyle that the streets thrust upon them. Understanding constitutes the main objective of this report, which endeavours to shed some light on the lives of street children, the inadequacy of the government's response to their growing numbers — above all, the reformatory-gulags where they are frequently incarcerated — and the contribution that humanitarian organizations can make to improve their existence. Every child has a unique story to tell. As important as it is to quantify this phenomenon, numbers alone are of trifle help in understanding the context in which they live, the desperation that leads them to abscond from home, and the challenges which they face in order to survive on the streets.

The problem of street children is dependent on their situation and not on their status. In fact, each child has a personal history with the street that cannot be generalized. Because of this, the care of street children to be effective must hinge on to the different situations on the streets, in other words, on many "child profiles". It is important to analyze the relationship a child has with the street.

After looking at the situation mentioned above, the study on Street Children "Tale of Homelessness: Scenario, Status and Strategy will be helpful to understand the phenomena of the street children in Rajasthan. It will be a supporting tool to prepare a comprehensive report for use of GOs and NGOs working for the betterment of the street children so that the policy level intervention and community intervention could be evolved for the control and retention of the phenomena of street children in Rajasthan.

Importance of Proposed Research Work

Nineteen percent of the entire child population of the world lives in India. India is a home for more than one billion people of which 42 percent are children, defined as person's less than 18 years of age. There are 43 Crore children in the age group of 0-18 years, of which about 16 Crores are represented by the young child under the age of 6 years. There is consensus that the early years are the most valuable and vulnerable period-when there are the greatest risks regarding survival, healthy growth, development and susceptibility to a vicious cycle of understanding and disease/infections. These early years are also crucial for cumulative lifelong learning and human development through physical, cognitive, emotional, social and linguistic development (Development, 2001)

The above mentioned data reveals that in an early age where a child needs attention, love, affection, care, protection, healthy growth, development opportunities, emotional support, and moral support then what happens that thousands of children are living in adverse situation without care. The present study explores the harsh reality which forces them to live in difficult circumstances without love affection, support system. The thesis examines the harsh reality of street life from micro to macro level. There are so many questions that arise out of this thesis regarding our values, culture, moral, humanity system that is silent over the condition of the street children.

Government is rushing after economic development and no doubt India has demonstrated vibrant economic growth rates in spite of a changing external environment. The diverse socio-economic, cultural and geographic

conditions of the country result in diverse needs of children but there is hardly anyone to understand the diverse needs of the children. The study focuses on the social aspect of life, explores the various aspects like economic, cultural, caste and creed, traditions, geographical conditions, psychological factor, legal aspect of the problem.

The thesis is a sociological study; hence it focuses equally on the issues which have been neglected till date. Childhood is totally a subject of Psychology and Sociology but there is no training about child rearing, parenting and child care. Marriage has become only the source of reproduction. There are so many people who are very poor but go on producing children incessantly. In a nut shell the whole scenario is that the physical need and fulfilment of sexual desire ends in reproduction without considering the consequences. In a large family with an impoverished state, parents are unable to foster and nurture them, either they are forced to earn money or are left neglected. The parents teach their children begging because they try to encash the religious psyche of the people.

The other side of development is means of transportation that plays a vital role of making street children or it can be said that trains foster the street children. The thesis reflects that most of the tiny tot's life is at stake. The thesis reflects what type of psychology do these children have which inspires them to take daring steps like travelling alone in the trains. It has been observed we adults normally are very cautious about the pros and cons while travelling but it is really amazing that these children are never ever apprehensive about it. It means these children are extraordinary, bizarre in this world. The study is significant to examine the responses of central government and state government to the growing problems of the street children. Also the study spotlights the problem in reference to the reformative frame work and legal frame work so far so that a real picture could be drawn on present scenario, failures and achievements.

The main problem of the street children is their invisibility, there is no concrete data regarding their population. The thesis emphasises on their

visibility by in-depth study of available literature. The study seeks street children's various problems. The problem requires urgent attention as it threatens the very fabric of society. ((Ph.D), 2000)

The study creates a need for realistic statistics about their number because till date the number is calculated approximately across the world. These children are not even counted or considered part of any statistics, therefore they are not of any concern to any legislation or subjects of any policies or there are many programmes or benefits for them.

The researchers and academicians globally accepted that they are alienated socially plus the psychological depression and deprivation act as permanent blockade to their personality development. Work has been done with their social aspects but psychological aspects have been less attentive so no rehabilitation programme has been put in any policy and social schemes.

The poverty, unorganised family, low moral values of the family, unemployment, migration are the root causes for the plight of the street children. It is necessary to work on the root cause to eliminate the problems but the family strengthening programme has not been considered in the policy. In present scenario, some states are launching family strengthening programme which has laid to the arising of many questions:

1. Are they sufficient to strengthen a family?

2. Are they practically successful?

3. Is there any implementation of the programme?

4. Are these programmes really accessible for the needy people?

The thesis provides a critical analysis of these types of programme and policies. In Indian context, there is a ruckus all over the country about the child protection but till date no strong policy especially for children in difficult circumstances has been implemented. Politicians demean the ruling parties and the promises made during the election remain null and void. This research proposal explores the problem in the following areas and will be

helpful to find out the solutions for the main streaming, rehabilitation of these children in the near future:

1. Advancing the street children Research

2. Defining the problem in four major cities of Rajasthan

3. Exploring the myths and new realities of the street children

4. Detailed study of the street children: mentioning their main issues and concerns

5. Finding the bottlenecks and loopholes in the existing safeguards, schemes and provisions

6. Importance as an Advocacy Tool
   a) Street children must be distinguished, but not isolated, from other children in policy frameworks and intervention design, to respond to the nature of their multiple deprivations and to their street-connectedness. The study advocates their issues.

   b) Transparency of information about budget allocations, child protection systems and evaluation of their impacts on the children is required to identify missing links between laws, policies, interventions and children's realities at preventive level for effective protection of rights.

   c) Local level policies and interventions involving NGOs and local authorities must be supported by effective national laws and budgets to prevent and protect the street children successfully. This research seeks solutions to strategize the local and state level interventions.

   d) Investment in research is needed to develop and consolidate a strategic knowledge base, capable of informing design of laws, policies and interventions to respond to the street-connected children & youth and protect young people from multiple deprivations.

Objectives of the Research

Over the years, a great interest has been witnessed from Government and NGOs in the issue of child welfare in context of protecting the child rights in the country; as a result many child welfare services were initiated. In recent years, hardly any anthropological and sociological research with street children has not been done in Rajasthan. Street children who are defined as "children in need of care and protection" under the Juvenile Justice Act, but in spite of a number of efforts from the public and private sector, they always remain deprived. Although GOs & NGOs have a lot of relevant knowledge concerning the street children, this knowledge lacks actualization and analysis to be positively used for the formulation of policy and programmes.

This research exposes the reality of street children in four major cities of Rajasthan i.e. **Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota & Jodhpur**. One of the **central objectives** of this research is to reveal the faces and voices of the street children and analyze their various back grounds, relation to the streets and the perceptions of their situation to give relevant insight into various reasons as to why children are on the streets, the activities in which the children are engaged and how they generate income and the consequences arising from their working/living/being in the streets.

The anthropological outline of the lives of the street children is the **second objective** of this research, namely to map different policy initiatives for street children and to identity the best practices to satisfy street children's needs.

This study specifically persuades the following objectives:

1. To understand the phenomena of street children in context of social processes such as poverty, industrialization & urbanization.

2. To collect systematic and authentic data of the street children in context of Rajasthan.

3. To address the problems and issues of the street children like violence, sexual abuse and drug addiction/substance use.

4. To understand the process of their marginalization & child protection system.

5. To explore the facts that is responsible for street children phenomena.

6. To understand the effectiveness and relevance of the policies and interventions made by the central and state government.

7. Evaluation of the existing schemes, policies, programmes, laws and their enforcements.

8. To ascertain the mechanism & impact of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NPCR) and Child Protection Act, suggesting best practices to ensure their future on the streets.

9. To find out better opportunities and solutions for their re-insertion in the community and society to lead a qualitative life with respect and dignity.

10. To set parameters & innovative strategies for their successful rehabilitation and establish approaches to work with street children.

Hypothesis

1. Poor socio economic conditions are forcing the children to leave their homes.

2. Substance use is the main tool to combat the loneliness and worst situation of the streets for these children.

3. Urban slum is the origin of the problem of the street children.

4. Children's human rights are not protected at home and streets as well.

Area and Universe of the Study

To generalise the findings of the research, four major cities of Rajasthan have been selected on the basis of rapid development, connectivity with rail, migration rates, tourist places and reading literature available about these cities. The study aims at male children between 6-18 years who are on the

streets because of various reasons. Study has been conducted in the four major cities of Rajasthan:

1. **Kota**

2. **Jaipur**

3. **Jodhpur**

4. **Ajmer**

Jaipur is the capital city of the state and rapidly growing as a next metro city of the country. Due to urbanization, numbers of social problems are arising with the sensitive issue of street children. Ajmer is a famous place of Muslims pilgrimage and number of people & children can be found on the streets, as begging is the major source of income in this city. Kota & Jodhpur are also growing remarkably. Especially Kota is well connected with all the metro cities and other states of the country through railways.

Profile of Rajasthan

Rajasthan is the largest state of the Republic of India in terms of area. It encompasses most of the area of the large, inhospitable Great Indian Desert (Thar Desert). The state is located in Northwest India, Madhya Pradesh in the South East, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to the Northeast, Punjab to the North and Gujarat in the Southwest. On the western side it shares a long stretch of border with the neighbouring country Pakistan. One of the world's oldest mountain ranges, the Aravali Range, cradles the only hill station of Rajasthan, Mount Abu. The Aravali hills prove the much-needed relief to this arid land, the wide spread sand dunes of the desert and arid region make it

one of the toughest terrains in the world. Eastern Rajasthan has two national tiger reserves, Ranthambhore and Sariska.

Rajasthan mainly comprises of 33 districts, divided into seven divisions which are as follows:

S.No.	Divisions	Districts
1	Ajmer	Ajmer, Bhilwara, Nagaur and Tonk
2	Bharatpur	Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli and Sawai Madhopur
3	Bikaner	Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh and Sri Ganganagar
4	Jodhpur	Jodhpur, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Pali and Sirohi
5	Jaipur	Jaipur, Alwar, Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Dausa
6	Kota	Kota, Baran, Bundi, and Jhalawar
7	Udaipur	Udaipur, Banswara, Pratapgarh, Chittorgarh, Dungarpur and Rajsamand

The state has a large indigenous populace Minas (Minawati) in Alwar, Jaipur, Bharatpur, and Dholpur areas. The Meo/Mev and the Banjara are travelling tradesmen and artisans. The Gadia Lohar is the Lohar, meaning ironsmith who travels on Gadia meaning bullock carts; they generally make and repair agricultural and household tools. The Bhils are one of the oldest people in India and inhabit the districts of Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Dungarpur, Banswara, Udaipur and Sirohi and are famous for their skill in archery. The Garasia and nomadic Kathodi live in Mewar Region. Sahariyas (tribal) are found in Kota, Baran districts and the Raibaris of the Marwar region are cattle breeders. In the North and West, the Jat and Gujar are amongst the largest agricultural communities. The Gujars who are Hindus dwell in Eastern Rajasthan. The nomadic Raibari or Raika are divided in two groups the Marus who breed camels and Chalias who breed sheep and goats. Muslims forms less than 10% of the population and most of them are Sunnis[1]. There is also a small but affluent community Shia[2] Muslims known

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[1] Follower of Prophet Mohammad
[2] Follower of Ali

as Bohras in South-eastern Rajasthan. The Rajputs represent only a small proportion of the populace and are the most influential section of the people in Rajasthan. They are proud of their martial reputation and of their ancestry.

Rajasthan's economy is mainly agricultural; millet, wheat, maize (corn), and cotton are grown. Though parts of the state are extremely dry, and are covered by the Thar Desert, the total cultivable area in the state is 27,465 thousand hectares, and the sown area, 20,167 thousand hectares. Tourism is also an important part of the economy.

Demographic Features of Rajasthan

As per the details from Census 2011, Rajasthan has a population of 6.86 Crores, an increase from figure of 5.65 Crore in 2001 census. Total population of Rajasthan as per 2011 census is 68,548,437 of which male and female are 35, 550,997 and 32,997,440 respectively.   Total SC population is 12,221,593 and ST population is 9,238,534. Total houseless people in Rajasthan are 181,544 of which 97,568 are male, 83,976 are female and 37,568 children (0-6 years)

The various religions or faiths representing the population are as follows: Hindus - 88.8% Muslims - 8.5%, Jains - 1.2%, Sikhs - 1.4%. In addition, there are also some Sindhis in Rajasthan who came to the state post partition in 1947.

Rajasthan Metropolitan/City Population			
Big Cities	Population	Male	Female
Jaipur (Municipal Corporation)	3,046,163	1,603,125	1,443,038
Jodhpur (Municipal Corporation)	1,033,756	543,120	490,636
Kota (Municipal Corporation)	1,001,694	528,601	473,093
Bikaner (Municipal Corporation)	644,406	338,442	305,964
Ajmer (Municipal Corporation)	542,321	278,545	263,776

Profile of Jaipur District
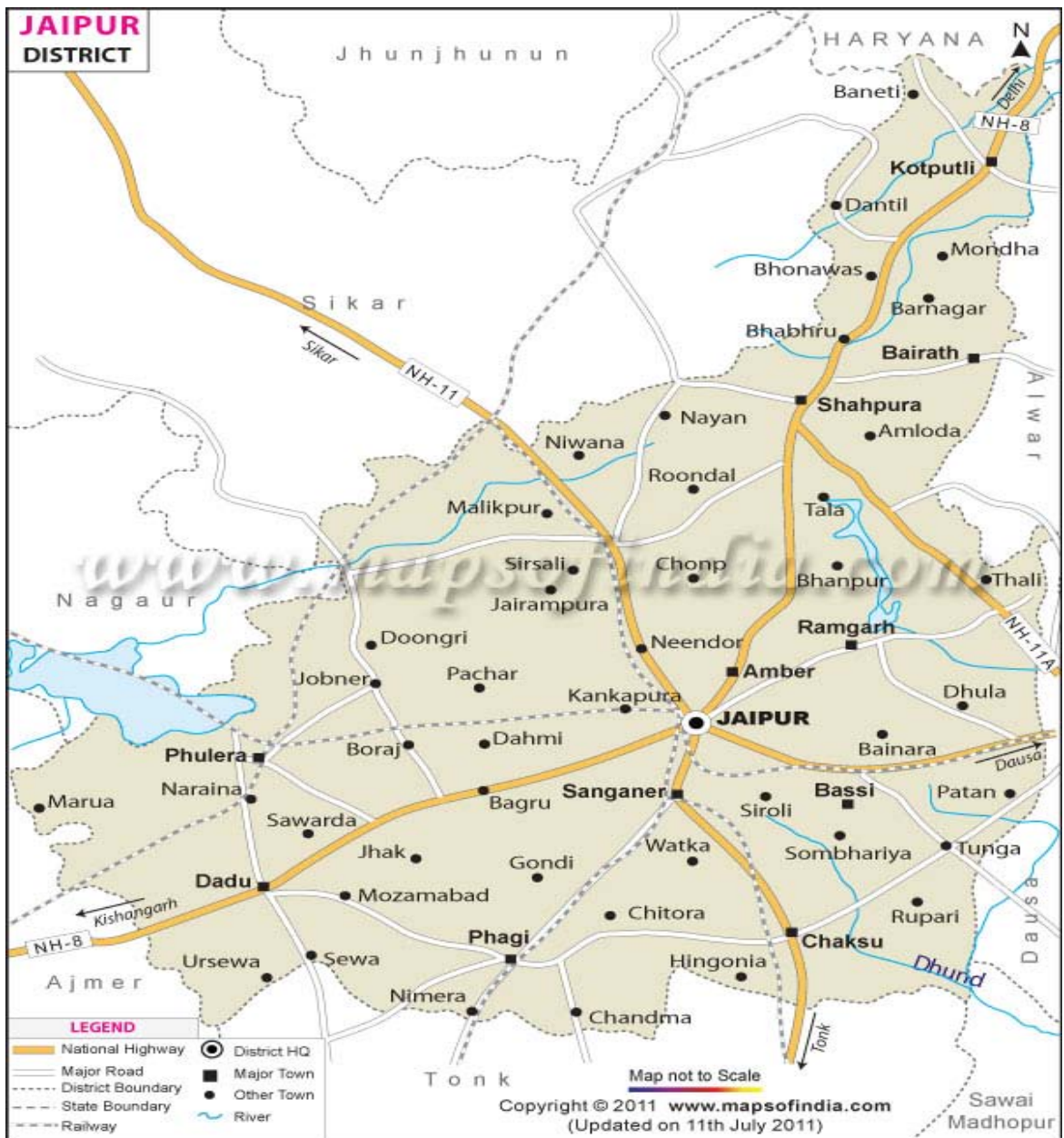
Jaipur is the capital and largest city of the Indian state of Rajasthan in Northern India. Jaipur is popularly known as the pink city and is one of the well-planned cities of India, apparently, also the first. It was founded on 18 November 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the ruler of Amer after whom the city is named. As of 2011, the city has a population of 6.66 millions, making it the tenth most populous city in the country.

On three sides, the city is enclosed by the Aravali hills and this is why, it is safeguarded from the rough desert. In the north, it is surrounded by Sikar and Mahendragarh district; in the south by Tonk; in the east by Alwar, Dausa and Sawai Madhopur; and in the west by Nagaur and Ajmer district.

The total length of Jaipur extending from east to west is about 180 km whereas the width from north to south is about 110 km. The main rivers passing through the Jaipur are Banganga and Sabi (Jaipur the pink city)

According to the census of 2011 the total population of Jaipur is 6626178. This figure is 26.19 % higher from the last census. As of 2011, Jaipur urban population is 34, 71,847 and rural population is 31, 54,331. According to the census of 2011, the population of the Jaipur Metropolitan area is 3,646,590 making it the 10th largest city of India. Jaipur stands on the 8th position with the highest child population i.e. 387,354, (boys 336,063 and girls 284,971) amongst the top 10 states in the country with highest child population. The Hindu population accounts for 78%, Muslim 18.6%, Jains 2.3% and others 1.0% while 47.49% people lived in rural areas, 52.51% lived in urban areas. The overall literacy rate for the district was 76.44%. 87.27% males and 64.63% females were literate. The sex ratio was 898 females per 1,000 males.

The Male-Female sex ratio is 1000:910 and literacy rate is 75.1%. Jaipur is spread over an area of 11152 square km and the density of population is 598 /km2. Jaipur has 2 parliamentary and 19 assembly constituencies. Jaipur is well connected with all metro cities through railway network and so it is prone destination for stray children.

Jaipur is located on the National Highway No.8 connecting Delhi and Mumbai. National Highway 12 links Jaipur with Kota and National Highway 11 links Bikaner with Agra passing through Jaipur. RSRTC operates bus service to the major cities in Rajasthan, New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Gujarat. Jaipur is located at a distance of 260 km from the Indian capital New Delhi. Jaipur is a popular tourist destination in India and serves as a gateway to the other tourist

destinations in Rajasthan such as Jodhpur (348 km), Jaisalmer (571 km) and Udaipur (421 km).

Jaipur is the headquarters of North Western Zone of Indian Railways. Jaipur Railway Station is well connected to all major cities of India like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, etc. Other stations include Gandhinagar, Durgapura, Jagatpura and Sanganer. Jaipur International Airport is at Sanganer, 10 km from the center. The airport handled 255,704(Wikipedia, 2015)

District Highlights- 2011 Census

1.   Jaipur district ranks 1st in terms of population, 9th in terms of area and 1st in terms of population density

2.   10th most populous city in India (Census 2011)

3.   Jaipur district has thirteen tehsils, in which Chaksu tehsil has the highest number of villages (287) whereas Jaipur tehsil has the lowest number of villages (72).

4.   Jaipur district has 2180 villages, out of them 2126 villages are inhabited and 54 villages are uninhabited. In Jaipur district 59 new villages and 8 new census towns have been created as compared to the 2001 Census

5.   Jaipur district consists of 47.6 percent rural and 52.4 percent urban population whereas the State percent of rural and urban population is 75.1 and 24.9 respectively.

6.   The sex ratio of Jaipur district (910) is significantly lower than the State sex ratio (928).

7.   The literacy rate in Jaipur district is 75.5 percent which is higher than the State Average (66.1 percent) and it ranks 2nd amongst the other districts of the state. Gender Gap of the literacy rate is 22.1 percent in the district.

8. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in Jaipur district is 15.1 percent and 8.0 percent respectively whereas the State percent of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population is 17.8 and 13.5 respectively.

9. The economy of Jaipur district is mainly dependent on other workers (60.8 percent).

10. In Jaipur district among the workers the percentage of cultivators, agricultural labourers, workers in the household industry and other workers (category of workers) are 30.2, 5.3, 3.7 and 60.8 percent respectively.

Jaipur Child Population-Census 2011

Category		Value
Total Population (0-18 yrs.)	Total	2562024
	Female	1193385
	Male	1368639
Total Population (13-18 yrs.)	Total	584908
	Female	272920
	Male	311988
Total Population (11-13 yrs.)	Total	450465
	Female	212065
	Male	238400
Total Population (6-11 yrs.)	Total	739846
	Female	344647
	Male	395199
Total Population (0-6 yrs.)	Total	786805
	Female	363753
	Male	423052

The city of Jaipur has two sides; it has prosperous jewellery and tourist industries, at the same time sprawling slums and acute poverty. As the capital of the poor desert state of Rajasthan, Jaipur has been the focal point of massive immigration during a recent series of droughts. These migrants, plus many impoverished others, live with their children in illegal makeshift shacks, tents, or with merely a blanket on the street, and are regularly dislocated by the authorities. The children that work are not only subject to the strains and hazards of their labour, but are also denied the education or training that could enable them to escape the poverty trap.

Urban Poverty in Jaipur

Urban poverty and slum is one of the most critical problems. Jaipur city is the state capital of Rajasthan. Jaipur city has 3,073,350 populations with 17% share of total urban population of Rajasthan. The only million plus city of Rajasthan, Jaipur has the distinction of having the largest population of Rajasthan. 10 percent of the population is below the poverty line in Jaipur. As per the survey conducted in preparation of Rajiv Awas Yojna (RAY, 2011), there are 192 slums under JMS and another 46 under JDA. Jaipur city's population is around 3.07 million (2011 Census), with 17 percent share of total urban population of Rajasthan. (India, 2012) The city's slum population, when compared to Rajasthan's entire population shows that 22.47 of the state's slum dwellers reside in Jaipur city.

Homelessness in Jaipur

The census of 2011 reveals that in 2011, a total of 4,530 families live on footpath or without any roof cover in Jaipur District. The total population of all who lived without roof at the time of census 2011 was 20,298. This is approximately 0.31 % of total population of Jaipur. Street children in Jaipur may be homeless because their family is homeless through poverty or migration, or because they have been abandoned, orphaned or have run away. It is not unusual to see whole families living on the sidewalks of Jaipur, or rows of individual children sleeping around the railway station.

Homeless children have the odds stacked against them. They are exposed to the elements, have an uncertain supply of food, are likely to miss out on education and medical treatment, and are at high risk of suffering addiction, abuse and illness. A single child alone on the streets is especially vulnerable.

Poverty is the prime cause of the street children's crisis. Children from well-off families do not need to work, or beg. They live in houses, eat well, go to school, and are likely to be healthy and emotionally secure. Poverty dumps a crowd of problems onto a child. Not only do these problems cause suffering, but they also conspire to keep the child poor throughout his/her life. In order to survive, a poor child in India will probably be forced to sacrifice education and training; without skills the child will, as an adult, remain at the bottom of the economic heap.

Profile of Ajmer District

Ajmer is the fifth largest city in the Indian state of Rajasthan and is the centre of the eponymous Ajmer District. Located in the heart of Rajasthan Ajmer is a small town with a very interesting past and in today's world, growing facets of growth and development in aspects of Culture, Education, state and privately owned Industrial & infrastructure establishments coalesce towards the fascination for trade tourism and investments in the district.

Ajmer has been selected as one of the heritage cities for HRIDAY - Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana scheme of Government of India.

According to the census of 2011 the total population of Ajmer is 2583052. This figure is 18.40 % higher from the last census. Male-Female sex ratio is 1000:951 and literacy rate is 69.33%. Ajmer is spread over an expense of in 8481 square km area and the density of population is 305 / km2. Ajmer has one parliamentary and eight assembly constituencies. The population of Ajmer city according to the census 2011 is 542,580 positioning Ajmer in the top 100 major cities of India and the 5th in Rajasthan. Total no of 110,675

people (Census 2011) resides in slum in Ajmer city. This is around 20.41 % of total population of Ajmer city. (Ajmer City Census 2011 Data, 2015)

Ajmer is well connected with all metro cities through railway network and being a religious place for Hindus and Muslims; it has the maximum migrants from across the country and therefore is a more prone destination for stray children. Total population of below 18 years in Ajmer is approximate 8, 60,000.

Ajmer Child Population- Census 2011

■ Ajmer (21)

		Ajmer (21)
Total Population (0-18 yrs.)	Total	996996
	Female	473745
	Male	523251
Total Population (13-18 yrs.)	Total	212941
	Female	101233
	Male	111708
Total Population (11-13 yrs.)	Total	170430
	Female	81061
	Male	89369
Total Population (6-11 yrs.)	Total	291353
	Female	138920
	Male	152433
Total Population (0-6 yrs.)	Total	322272
	Female	152531
	Male	169741
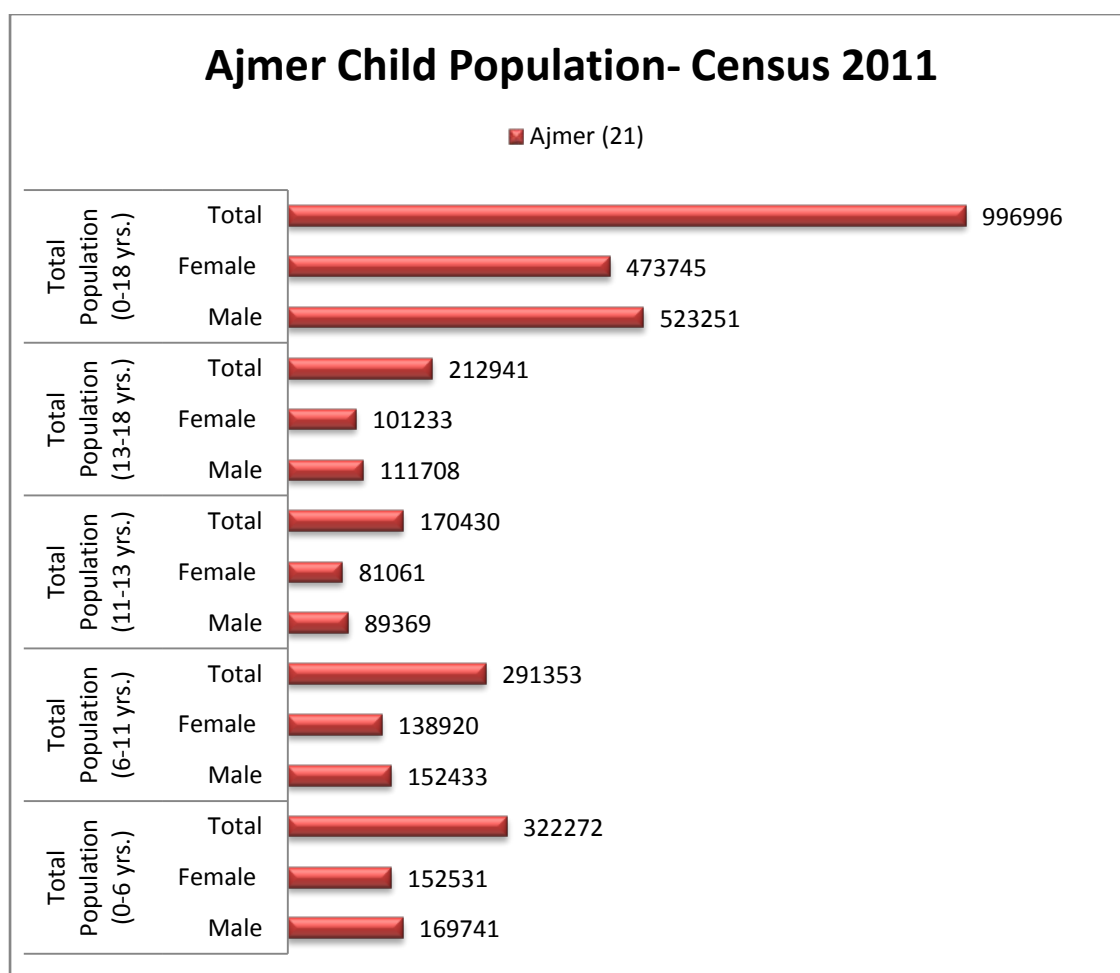
In a picturesque valley surrounded by the hills of the Aravali range, 132 KMs. west of current state capital - Jaipur lies the historic city of Ajmer- a green oasis, wrapped by barren hills founded by Raja Ajay Pal Chauhan in the 7th century A.D. Today hundreds of years later, Ajmer is a popular pilgrimage center for the Hindus as well as the Muslims as the final resting place of the great Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Hasan Chisti. Muslims from all over the world revere the Dargah Sharif, where the saint lies buried and locally

equally revered by both the Hindus and the Muslims. As an aside, Ajmer is also the base for visiting Pushkar about 14 Kms away from Ajmer. The abode of Lord Brahma the Pushkar Lake is a sacred spot for the Hindus. Thus, Ajmer is a perfect place that can be symbolized for demonstration of Indian culture, ethics and display of perfect blend of wide plethora of diverse religion, community, culture, linguistics etc. all coexisting and flourishing in peace and harmony. Besides local Hindus and Muslims several communities like Gujarati, Marathi, Malyali and other south Indian Communities, Sikh, Catholics, Parsi etc. also exist. Historically Ajmer is a centrally administrated state. At present the nearest airport is the Jaipur International Airport, about 132 Km away, with daily flights to the major cities in India.

Ajmer is at an important railway junction on the Broad gauge Jaipur-Ahmedabad line. Ajmer is connected to Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Abu Road and Jodhpur by regular trains. A dense network of bus service operates from Ajmer to the key destinations around.

District Highlights- 2011 Census

1. Ajmer district ranks 8th in terms of population, 14th in terms of area and 11th in terms of population density.

2. Ajmer district has nine tehsils, in which Beawar tehsil has the highest number of villages (223) whereas Peesangan tehsil has the lowest number of villages (64).

3. Ajmer district has 1111 villages, out of them 1099 villages are inhabited and 12 villages are uninhabited. In Ajmer district 82 new villages and 3 new census towns have been created as compared to 2001 Census.

4. Ajmer district consists 59.9 percent rural and 40.1 percent urban population whereas the State percent of rural and urban population is 75.1 and 24.9 respectively.

5. The sex ratio of Ajmer district (951) is significantly higher than the State's sex ratio (928).

6. The literacy rate in Ajmer district is 69.3 percent which is higher than the State Average (66.1 percent) and it ranks 8th amongst the other districts of the state. Gender Gap of the literacy rate is 26.7 percent in the district.

7. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in Ajmer district is 18.5 percent and 2.5 percent respectively whereas the State percent of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population is 17.8 and 13.5 respectively.

8. The economy of Ajmer district is mainly dependent on other workers (54.4 percent).

9. In Ajmer district among the workers the percentage of cultivators, agricultural labourers, workers in the household industry and other workers (category of workers) are 28.4, 13.8, 3.4 and 54.4 percent respectively.

Profile of Jodhpur
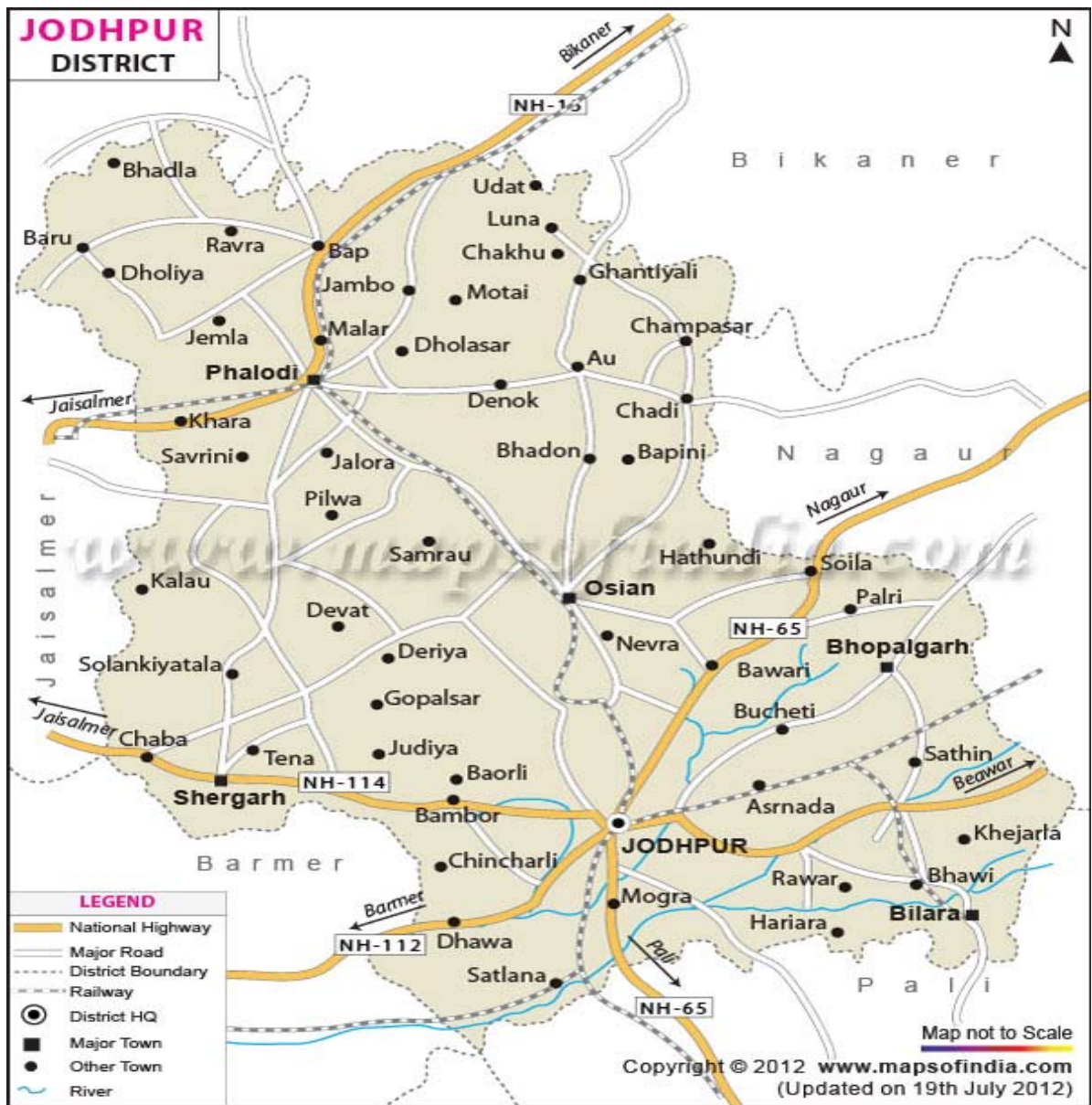
Jodhpur is a major district in the state of Rajasthan in India. It is located towards the western side of the capital city of Jaipur; this city is the 2nd biggest city in the state of Rajasthan. Formerly a princely state, Jodhpur is located in the Marwar region and is a well-known tourist destination and major commercial zone. Jodhpur district in Rajasthan is surrounded by the districts of Nagaur, Ajmer, Pali, and Jaisalmer district.

It encompasses an area of 22,850 sq.km and houses a population of 21, 53,483. The city of Jodhpur was founded in the 15th century by the rulers of the Rathore Rajput dynasty. After independence, the district was annexed to the state of Rajasthan.

According to the census of 2011 the total population of Jodhpur is 3687165. This figure is 27.74 % higher from the last census. Male-Female sex ratio is 1000:916 and literacy rate is 65.94%. Jodhpur is spread over an area of 22850 square km and density of population is 161 /Km. Jodhpur has one parliamentary and ten assembly constituencies.

Jodhpur is well connected with all metro cities through railway network and so is a prone destination for stray children.

This city of Rajasthan is among the famous tourist destinations in the state as well as India. Being a popular tourist destination, there are plenty of tourist attractions in Jodhpur. The district is known for its scenic beauty and rich cultural heritage and traditions. It is well connected to the rest of Rajasthan by airways, road and rail links. Jodhpur district can be accessed through various routes. Jodhpur is also connected by train and bus services with places like Agra, Jaisalmer, Jaipur, Delhi, Chandigarh and other places. Like other parts of Rajasthan, the climate of Jodhpur is mainly dry. The summer months are hot while the winter months are cool. Positioned in the Thar Desert's stark landscape, Jodhpur experiences a bright and sunny weather all throughout the year. For this, the city is called the "Sun City". One of the specialties of this metropolitan city is that almost all the houses based around the fort of Mehrangarh are painted in blue colour, due to which the city is even known as the "Blue City".

Demographics of Jodhpur

As per the report of Census, 2011, following are some of the basic demographic details about this Rajasthan city:

1.   Total population: 3, 685, 681

2.   Rate of male population: 52.62 %

3. Rate of female population: 47.38 %

4. Rate of child (Below the age group of 6 years) population: 12.24 %

5. Urban population: 1, 137, 815

6. Urban male population: 5, 99, 332

7. Urban female population: 5, 38, 483

8. Average rate of literacy: 81.56 %

9. Rate of male literacy: 88.42 %

10. Rate of female literacy: 73.93 %

As per the 2011 census, it is the second highest populated district of Rajasthan (out of 33), after Jaipur district.

Jodhpur Child Population- Census ,2011

Age group	Category	Population
Total Population (0-18 yrs.)	Total	1572442
	Female	739951
	Male	832491
Total Population (13-18 yrs.)	Total	315082
	Female	144977
	Male	170105
Total Population (11-13 yrs.)	Total	267917
	Female	127484
	Male	140433
Total Population (6-11 yrs.)	Total	477208
	Female	226650
	Male	250558
Total Population (0-6 yrs.)	Total	512235
	Female	240840
	Male	271395

District Highlights- 2011 Census

1. Jodhpur district ranks 2nd in terms of population, 4th in terms of area and 29th in terms of population density.

2. Jodhpur district has seven tehsils, in which Shergarh tehsil has the highest number of villages (507) whereas Bilara tehsil has the lowest number of villages (103).

3. Jodhpur district has 1838 villages, out of them 1836 villages are inhabited and 2 villages are uninhabited. In Jodhpur district 779 new villages and 3 new census towns have been created as compared to 2001 Census.

4. Jodhpur district consists of 65.7 percent rural and 34.3 percent urban population whereas the state percentage of rural and urban population is 75.1 and 24.9 respectively.

5. The sex ratio of Jodhpur district (916) is lower than the state sex ratio (928).

6. The literacy rate in Jodhpur district is 65.9 percent which is lower than the State Average (66.1 percent) and it ranks 15th among the other districts of the state.

7. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in Jodhpur district is 16.5 percent and 3.2 percent respectively whereas the State percent of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population is 17.8 and 13.5 respectively.

8. The economy of Jodhpur district is mainly dependent on agriculture as 56.0 percent workers in the district are either cultivators or agricultural labourers. However the district percent of such workers is lower than the state average of 62.1 percent.

9. In Jodhpur district amongst the workers the percentage of cultivators, agricultural labourers, workers in household industry and other workers (category of workers) are 39.8, 16.2, 2.8 and 41.1 percent respectively.

Profile of Kota District

Kota formerly known as Kotah, is a city situated on the eastern corner of the Chambal river which passes through Rajasthan. From the perspective of Rajasthan state in India, Kota lies on its South. It is located around 250 Kilometres south of the state capital, Jaipur. Situated on the banks of Chambal River, it is the third most populous city of Rajasthan after Jaipur and Jodhpur and 46th most populous city of India. The district is bounded on

the North by Bundi District, on the East by Baran District, on the South by Jhalawar District, and on the West by Chittorgarh District. Besides this Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Sawai Madhopur, Udaipur are nearest and well connected with Kota.

According to the census of 2011 the total population of Kota is 1951014. This figure is 24.39 % higher from the last census. Male-Female sex ratio is 1000:911 and literacy rate is 76.56%. Kota is spread in 5446 square km area and density of population is 374 /km2. Kota has one parliamentary and six assembly constituencies.

Since the Kota city of Rajasthan is set near the banks of the Chambal River, it is but natural that the lands of the place provide high crop yield. The rural parts of Kota are known for high quality agricultural produce that also helps in increasing the revenue for the city.

Chambal River plays an important role in the vocational contours of Kota in Rajasthan. Due to its close proximity with the river, Kota has successfully established a number of dams like that of Jawahar Sagar, Gandhi Sagar, Kota Barrage, Rana Pratap Sagar, among others. All of these dams provide fruitful support to the agriculture infrastructure of Kota as a whole.

It has fertile land and greenery with irrigation facilities through canals. Kota is one of the industrial hubs in Northern India, with chemical, engineering and power plants based there. It is home to the Asia's biggest manufacturer of fertilizer. The rail junction, a road hub, lies 4.8 km to the north. As a prominent location of Rajasthan, Kota boasts of several notable industrial zones such as the precision instrument unit, the nearby atomic power plant and fertilizer plant which is considered as the biggest one in Asia.

In the past decade the city has emerged as a popular coaching destination for competitive exams preparation and for profit educational services. It is renowned for its IITJEE preparation as well as medical exams preparation. It is now the hub of educational institutions that's why it is known as the Education Industry across India.   The education industry of Kota has

become a major part of the city's economy. Kota is popularly referred to as "**the coaching capital of India**"

Placed at a distance of 270 Km from Udaipur and 242 km from Jodhpur, Kota can be arrived through regular bus services that ply from the two previous cities of Rajasthan. Due to easy accessibility, Kota is visited by large number of tourists round the year. Kota Junction railway is situated on the West Central railway network. It is the headquarters of Kota division of West Central Railway zone. (https://en.wikipedia.org, 2015). Kota is the only station in Rajasthan followed by Jaipur & Ajmer, connected to all the metro cities of India through railway network and being an industrial city and educational hub, it has the maximum migrants from across the country and therefore is a more prone destination for stray children.

Further, Kota is surrounded by four power stations within its 50 km radius. First is Rajasthan atomic power plant which is an atomic power plant and is very near to Kota at a place called Rawatbhata in Chittorgarh District. Second is Kota Thermal Power plant which generates power from coal and is situated on the banks of Chambal River and is within the Kota city. Third is Anta Gas Power plant which generates power from gas and is situated at a place called Anta in Baran District and the fourth is Jawahar Sagar Power plant which is hydraulic power plant. Kota is reportedly the only Indian city besides Trivandrum that receives a continuous 24-hour water supply.

District Highlights- 2011 Census

1.   Kota district ranks 16th in terms of population, 24th in terms of area and 7th in terms of population density.

2.   Among the million plus cities with high proportion of slums, Kota ranks amongst the top 10 cities in the country. There are 31.8% of slum households in the city.

3.   Kota district has five tehsils, in which Sangod tehsil has the highest number of villages (218) whereas Ladpura tehsil has the lowest number of villages (150).

4. Kota district has 874 villages, of which 805 villages are inhabited and 69 villages are uninhabited. In Kota district 15 new villages and 1 new census town have been created as compared to 2001 Census.

5. In Kota district, Itawa (Tehsil: Pipalda) is the most populous (26,741 persons) village; and Barodia (Tehsil: Pipalda), Shahpura (Tehsil: Digod) and Bhat Kheri (Tehsil: Digod) are the least populous (01person) villages.

6. Kota district consists 39.7 percent rural and 60.3 percent urban population whereas the State percent of rural and urban population is 75.1 and 24.9 respectively.

7. The sex ratio of Kota district (911) is lower than the State sex ratio (928).

8. The literacy rate in Kota district is 76.6 percent which is higher than the State average (66.1 percent) and it ranks 1st among the other districts of the state.

9. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in Kota district is 20.8 percent and 9.4 percent respectively whereas the state percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population is 17.8 and 13.5 respectively.

10. The economy of Kota district is mainly dependent on other workers (59.9 percent).

11. In Kota district among the workers the percentage of cultivators, agricultural labourers, workers in household industry and other workers (category of workers) are 18.7, 18.0, 3.4 and 59.9 percent respectively.

Child Population Kota- Census 2011

Category		Value
Total Population (0-18 yrs.)	Total	702177
	Female	329273
	Male	372904
Total Population (13-18 yrs.)	Total	168556
	Female	77384
	Male	91172
Total Population (11-13 yrs.)	Total	121158
	Female	56883
	Male	64275
Total Population (6-11 yrs.)	Total	194695
	Female	91774
	Male	102921
Total Population (0-6 yrs.)	Total	217768
	Female	103232
	Male	114536

Major concepts and variables employed in the study-its Operational Definition.

The present study attempts to explore the various aspects of the life of street children. It examines the scenario and status of the phenomena of street children, and evaluates strategies adopted so far and seeks new strategies. The main variables of the study are as following:

Independent Variables & Dependent Variables were used to understand the background of respondents and their families gather information about their family life, community life, life pattern of the families and its member.

The three major concepts have been used to carry out the study:-

1. **Scenario of Street Children**

   This concept deals with the historical scenario to current scenario of the children. With the help of secondary data available, investigator explored the population across the globe as well as in the area of universe. It helped to understand the various definitions and concepts worldwide, contributing factors accelerating the phenomena of street children, rights of the children in context with national and international level.

2. **Status of Street Children**

   Under this concept, the investigator tried to conceptualise the exact status of their problems in community society, attitude, livelihood, subculture, relationship, expectations, and daily routine life, liking-disliking over their whole social, economical, psychological, spiritual life.

3. **Strategy**

   Under this concept, the investigator studied various laws, rules & regulations, schemes, policies and strategies implemented till date by the national and state governments. It critically evaluates the weak implementation and plight of the street children.

   According to the above mentioned concepts, following attributes and variables have been used to gather in depth information to meet out the objective of the study:-

   1. General Information
   2. Family back ground
   3. Use of Substances/Drugs addiction among family members
   4. Background information of street children
   5. Educational Background
   6. Food and Nutrition
   7. Survival Technique on the streets

8. Income and Expenditure

9. Nature of savings among street children

10. Health ailments and treatment

11. Leisure and recreational activity

12. Social Attachment

13. Substance/Drug abuse among street children

14. HIV/AIDS/STIS: Knowledge, Attitude and Practices

15. Abuse and Exploitation

16. Protection

17. Support System

18. Perception about GRP, RPF

19. Perception about the Society

20. Expectations from the Society

21. Immediate needs and aspirations

22. Health information

23. Appearance of respondent at the time of interview

Sample Design

Selection of the respondents was done through a purposive sample. A sample of 50 street children was taken from each district. The places of concentration selected were mainly railway station, bus stand, under bridges, near around temples and shrine places, market places, traffic signals, hotels and parks etc.

S.No.	Name of the city	Sample Design (n)
1	Jaipur	50
2	Jodhpur	50
3	Kota	50
4	Ajmer	50
Total		**200**

The age group of respondents was 6-18 years. The respondents were those who were living on the station, footpath, at any other places with or without their family. The focus was on older street children who were living on streets for a long time without any support of family. The sampling method was based on the assumption that most street children are concentrated around marketplaces, railway stations and bus terminals.

The places of concentration where street children were interviewed:-

S.No.	Jaipur	Jodhpur	Kota	Ajmer
1	Railway Station	Railway Station	Railway Station	Railway Station
2	Hasanpura Puliya	Slums near Railway Station	Footpath	Dargah Area
3	Chandlpole Market	Mandor Garden	Under bridge near Railway Station	Ana Sagar Lake
4	Durgapura Railway Station	Badoriya Basti	Near Fly Over	Foy Sagar Lake Area
5	Gandhinagar Railway Station	Bus Stand	Bus Stand	Bus Stand
6	Traffic signals	Near air port	Dakaniya Talav station	Pushkar
7	Market place MI Road	Near Uttam Nagar	Near City Mall	Topdada
8	Near Birla Temple	Jasoda Chokdi	Khade Ganesh ji Temple	Sansi Basti

Data Collection

A one day workshop was conducted for data collectors on use of the interview schedule and techniques of approaching and eliciting information from the street children. The collection of primary data included: interviewing street children, stake holders, government officials, carrying out site visits, field work, visiting shelter homes etc. Planning and collection of secondary sources of data included reviewing literature, gathering information about

street children from various resources like online, university library, collecting data from the organizations who were working in the same field etc.

Tools for Primary Data Collection

1. Participatory Observation

Studying street children is critical because they may be rebellious, shy or not ready to open up with the researcher. The constant negligence and being despised by the society make them more frantic. They don't trust people and live in their own groups. They seem reluctant to interact with people because of their fear, feeling of being alienated and of lower social status (Behura and Mohanty, 2005). Since most of the street children mistrust adults and remain unwilling to express their life experiences—to a stranger. Also they lack proper understanding and knowledge and communication skills to relate their experiences.

Participatory observation was used to understand the various aspects of the life of street children. The researcher met constantly, spent time, spoke on general issues like their likings/disliking, organised drawing classes, and played games with these children. Informal interaction facilitated the overall interview procedure.

2. Mapping

Street children mobility is the major problem to figure out their problems. They keep changing their place of habitat. A mapping was done to find out the highest concentration of the street children in all the cities. Local NGOs helped in identifying the locations. A chart was prepared about availability of the children at identified places.

Focused Group Discussion & Case Studies

To generate qualitative data for the study a combination of focused group discussions and case studies were applied to find out the problems faced by the street children and to obtain their own opinion about street life and

expectations. FGDs were conducted with street children, RPF, GRP Personnel, vendors and porters.

Meetings and Interactions

To measure the magnitude of the problem, opinion were taken from various stake holders such as NGOs, Government Officials, Child Welfare Committees, Railway Manager, Station Master, Police officers etc.

Interview Schedule

An interview schedule containing 80 questions was administered to collect primary data. Documentation of all the above activities was done through photography and report writing.

Types of Questions

The following types of questions were formed:

a. **Dichotomous Questions/ Close ended questions**

Yes and No questions, these types of questions are formulated to give a yes or no

b. **Open ended questions**

Open ended questions encourage further conversation and more information can be gathered about the street child. The process of asking such questions should be guided by the topic being explored

c. **Contingency questions**

Contingency question is a type of question that is asked to a respondent to gauge if he/she is qualified and experienced enough to answer other subsequent questions. Subsequent questions are further split into other questions to get answers that have an overall idea.

d.   Multiple Choice Questions

Questions for which the respondent can select more than one option

e.   Ordinal Questions

Questions for which responses are ranked based on some predetermined measure

To support the main questions or to find profound information and to gain better understanding about respondents, sub-questions were asked. The interview schedule was divided into categories to cover all the aspects of the life of the street children.

Category	Sub Categories
General Information	In this category, questions were asked regarding their name, religion, caste, age, address (permanent or temporary) and physical condition etc.
Family Background	In this category, questions were asked about their family type, size, siblings, composition of family, status of parents, type of parents, class of family, location of paternal house etc.
Substance use among family members	Information was collected about drug addiction amongst the family members etc.
Back ground of Street children	This category basically explores their life after leaving home and pattern of life on streets. They were asked about the period of staying on streets, reason for leaving homes, criminal record and punishment, present living places etc.
Educational Background	Questions were asked about their educational status, reason for not going school, drop outs, type of school, medium of education, vocational training etc.

Food and Nutrition	Information was gathered regarding their food habits, timings, source of food etc.
Survival Techniques on streets	Questions were asked about the sources of livelihood on the streets etc.
Income and Expenditure	Questions were asked regarding their per day earnings, reasons for affecting income, use of income etc.
Nature of Saving Money	The information was collected to understand saving habits, types of savings, means of saving money, attitude about saving money, challenges in saving money etc.
Health information	Questions were asked about health ailments, treatment, types of health facilities used by street children, health risks such as animal bite, malnutrition etc., challenges in seeking health facilities etc.
Leisure and Recreational Activity	Entertainment and recreation is most important part of the human being's life, especially for children it is very important. To understand the importance of recreation and leisure activity in the life of street children few questions were posed such as favorite time pass activity etc.
Social Attachments	Street children develop their own culture and live a different social life. The purpose of this category is to find out what type of social life they live on streets. They were asked different questions like relationship with their parents and sibling, liking about family members, types of friends, relationship with friends, membership of gangs and clubs etc.
Drug Addiction & substance use	Hardship of street life and stress of everyday leads them towards drug use or substance use.

HIV/AIDS and STIs and sexual practices	Street children are uncared, unprotected, with half backed knowledge. Many reports say that adolescents are most vulnerable group of HIV/AIDS and STIs. This category explores their information and knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS and STIs, sexual relationship, about safe sexual practices etc.
Abuse and Exploitation, Protection, Support system	Street children are most vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation hence this category enquires about physical abuse, sexual abuse, violence by different people like parents, police, public, GRP, RPF, railway department and others, support system etc.
Perception about GRP, RPF	They were asked about how cops are helpful to them, how is the behavior of the cops towards them etc.
Perception about society	They were asked about how society is helpful for them, how is the behvaiour of the people towards them, how they regard social norms, expectation from the society etc.
Other information	Their opinion was sought on living in shelter homes, their fears, risks, danger, expectations from society, immediate need, aspirations etc.
Psychological	In this category, tried to understand the mental status and psyche by the time of interview through observations and taking notes

Ethical Issues

1. Informed consent of the respondent was obtained for the study.

2. The respondents and concerned people were detailed about the study.

3. The objectives of the study were made clear; confidentiality was maintained with regards to the detail enumerated from the respondent.

4. Information gathered was used only for the research purpose.

5. Once the ethical issues were clarified, the main interview was conducted.

6. Ensured informed consent, confidentiality, gender sensitivity, and voluntary participation.

Pilot Study

To test the feasibility of equipment and method, a pilot study was undertaken by covering 20 % of the target group in Kota district in order to measure the time, cost, and mistakes and avoiding errors in the actual study. The goal was to test the study on small scale first to sort out all the possible problems that might lead to failure of the research procedure.

Process undertaken for pre-testing the questionnaire

Before framing the interview schedule, available literature was reviewed to understand the phenomena of the street children. The researchers studied number of studies conducted on related issues across the country and globe in order to understand the nature of the problems and scope of the interview schedule. Thorough study of the literature helped to decide variables. A list of variables was prepared in consultation with guide. The guide provided her insight and valuable feedback that led towards the improvement in variables.

After a number of meetings with supervisor, an interview schedule got finalised for pilot study. The main objectives of the pilot study were as following:

1. Detecting possible flaws in the measurement procedures (including instructions, time limits, etc.) and in the operationalisation of independent variables

2. Evaluating the adequacy, feasibility and structure of tool

3. Assessing respondent's reaction

4. Examining the level of comfort and discomfort

5. Identifying ambiguous items in an interview schedule

6. Checking sequence of the questions

7. Checking possibilities of filter or contingency questions

Problems Faced

1. Mobility of the children was the main problem because they worked on long route trains.

2. They could be found early in the morning before 7 AM or late evening after 10 PM

3. In the evening they were mostly drunk

4. It was observed that some boys used to hide from the survey team

Process of Pilot Study

With the help of local NGOs, interviews for the pilot study were conducted. Meetings were conducted to persuade the respondents. Some participatory activities like drawing and painting, meetings on general health topics were conducted with the respondents.

They were explained about the aim of the study. A humble request was made to support. They were explained that their support will help to understand the problems of street life. Their feedback will be helpful to disclose the plight of the street children. Some of them replied "मैडम कुछ नहीं होता। हर बार आपके जैसे लोग बड़े–बड़े कागज़ लेकर आते है, हमें लालच देते हैं और बड़ी–बड़ी बातें करते हैं"।

Over all, they were explained that this study is being conducted in the best interest of street children. They were assured about the confidentiality and no one except the researcher would know who provided the information. Every child was interviewed separately. On the basis of the pilot study few changes were made in the interview shcedule.

1. Question No 7 was revised by adding Mohall/colony, Block, Tehsil, district etc.

2. Information about the status of parents was extended and question no 9 and 10 were added

3. A matrix of composition of the family was included to know the family size, total income of the family and different types of occupation.

4. Ordinal number was given to leisure and recreation activity as the children gave multiple answers

5. Question No 20 was extended by adding "Gutkha" option.

6. It was found that they do not understand the meaning of society so it was replaced with the word "people" to seek their opinion about society.

7. Apart from this, a sequence of questions was changed, repeated questions were removed, few questions were reframed to get correct answer of the same questions.

Findings and observation shared with the guide and after number of discussions, interview schedule got finalised.

Tools for Secondary Data Collection

1. Reviewing literature and other available secondary data on topic

2. Identifying GOs, and NGOs, that provide direct services to these children

3. Surfing on internet for relevant literature

4. Recent publications, unpublished doctoral thesis and articles from journals, edited publications and seminar volumes were carefully chosen for collecting useful information.

Data Processing / Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data was both qualitative and quantitative. Questions were coded and data was entered in MS Excel. Quantitative material was entered in the computer and analyzed by using Microsoft Excel and SPSS statistical packages. Considerable emphasis was given to the qualitative analysis in order to provide real life explanation and illustrations.

Limitation of the Study

1. Mobility and Migration of the children is an effective coping strategy to subsistence

2. Rescue operation, NGOs field work, clean operation of railway department , round up of GRP and RPF increased their transition

3. Hiding information by the street children on many questions

4. Street children replied "No" to many questions to get rid of the surveyor team

5. Due to the influences of the substance use, most of them took the questions lightly

6. Demanded payment and compensation in lieu of time giving and speaking to the surveyor

7. As the children were not available in day time and their habitation was not a colonial, it took a great time and effort to contact each one and tried to gather the right information from them.

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CHAPTER-IV

CHAPTER-IV

Understanding the Phenomena of Street Children

General Information

This section of the data analysis and interpretation of questionnaire deals with religion, age of the children, their age, physical status, caste.

Table No-01

Distribution of Street Children by Age Group

Age Group	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
6 to 10 Years	6	12.00%	3	6.00%	11	22.00%	11	22.00%	31	15.50%
11 to 15 Years	36	72.00%	26	52.00%	28	56.00%	33	66.00%	123	61.50%
16- 18 Years	8	16.00%	21	42.00%	11	22.00%	6	12.00%	46	23.00%
Total	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	200	100.00%

Source: Field Data

The evaluation of children's age suggests that **children between the age group 11 to 15 years occupy a major share i.e.; 61%** which is a matter of grave concern and immediate attention. Jaipur and Jodhpur districts are more progressive with 72% and 66% respectively. The age group 16-18 years comprises 23 % of the total sample. Focus needs to be laid on Kota as the percentage of this age group is at an all time high of 42%.

The children between 6 to 10 years constitute 15.50 % of the total sample which is again a matter of concern in every district of Rajasthan. The trend shows that Ajmer and Jodhpur districts are facing the problem of street children at an early age with 22% apiece.

Table No-2

Distribution of Street Children by Age Group Religions & Caste

Religion	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Hindu	42	84.00%	48	96.00%	50	100.00%	48	96.00%	188	94.00%
Muslim	8	16.00%	2	4.00%	0	0.00%	2	4.00%	12	6.00%
Total	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	200	100.00%
Cast Category										
SC	20	40.00%	14	28.00%	29	58.00%	27	54.00%	90	45.00%
ST	2	4.00%	9	18.00%	6	12.00%	4	8.00%	21	10.50%
OBC	17	34.00%	18	36.00%	8	16.00%	17	34.00%	60	30.00%
General	4	8.00%	6	12.00%	7	14.00%	2	4.00%	19	9.50%
Don't know	7	14.00%	3	6.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	10	5.00%
Total	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	200	100.00%

Source: Field Data

The above table reveals that 91% children of the total sample are Hindus and 9% Muslims. When we take a look at the data in 100 % of the districts like Jaipur, the numbers of street children are increasing in Muslims while other districts show the same trend. When the children were asked about their caste it was found that out of the total sample 44.50% were from Schedule Castes (SC) followed by 24.50 % from Other Backward Classes (OBC) while children from the general category represent 11.50 % of the share of the total sample. Ajmer and Jodhpur comprise the highest number of children from Schedule Caste (SC) category with a share of 62% and 50% respectively. Kota has the highest number of children from OBC category and Jaipur consists of a large number of children from the general category i.e. 26% followed by Kota with 16%. During the field work it was observed that a majority of the **Sansi Community** is found in Ajmer and Jodhpur. They live in ghettoes and the children of this community are found on streets and railway stations mostly by doing odd jobs for subsistence. (Annexure-List of Caste)

Physical Status of the Children
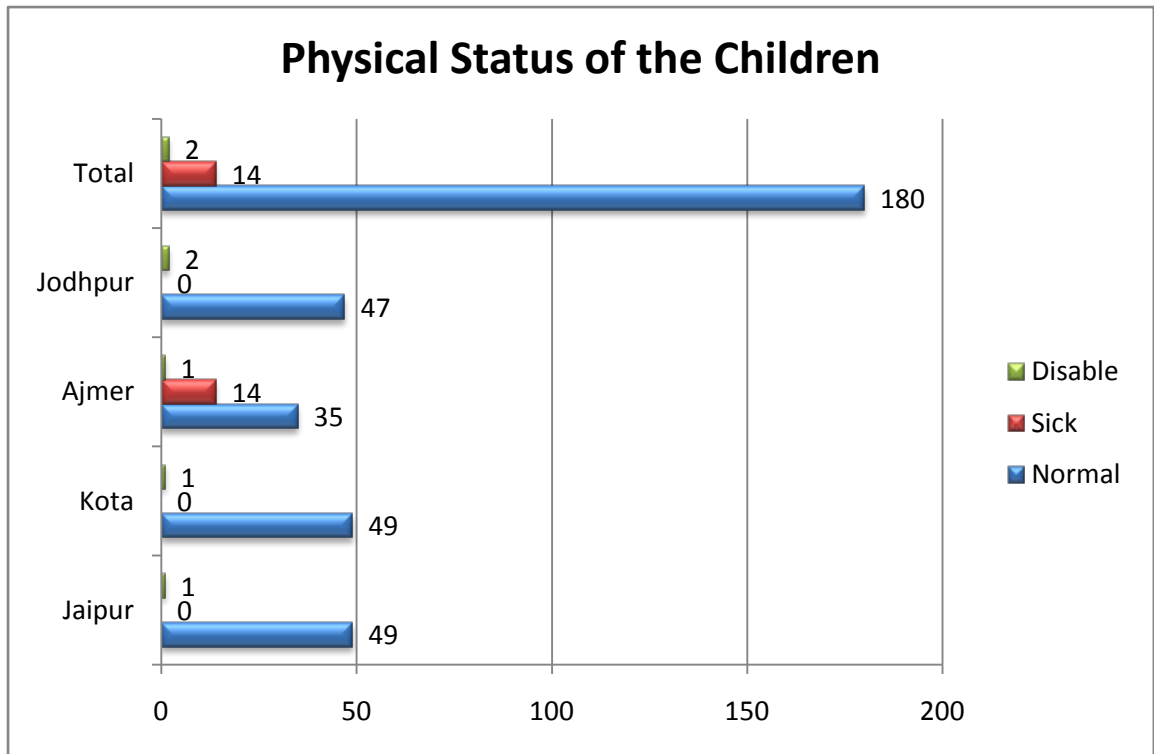
Chart No-01

Distribution of Street Children by their Physical Status or Appearance

The above figure shows that out of 200 children, 180 children were found to be physically normal. While 14 % were looking sick by their appearance and they needed immediate treatment though physically they were normal. There were two children who were having physical disability and that was the reason that their family members left them alone in this world. Only Ajmer was the district where children were found sick i.e.14 children, otherwise in other districts children were having normal physical status.

Family Background

This section reconcile the information of respondents related with family back ground to understand how and to what extent the Family back ground is responsible for their plight. The section investigates about their family size, types of family, parents, siblings, class, location of houses, types of hoses etc.

Types of Family

Broken Family ■ Single Family ■ Joint Family

	Broken Family	Single Family	Joint Family
Total(%)	7.00%	57.00%	35.00%
Jodhpur(%)	4.00%	38.00%	58.00%
Ajmer(%)	8.00%	66.00%	24.00%
Kota (%)	14.00%	38.00%	46.00%
Jaipur (%)	2.00%	86.00%	12.00%
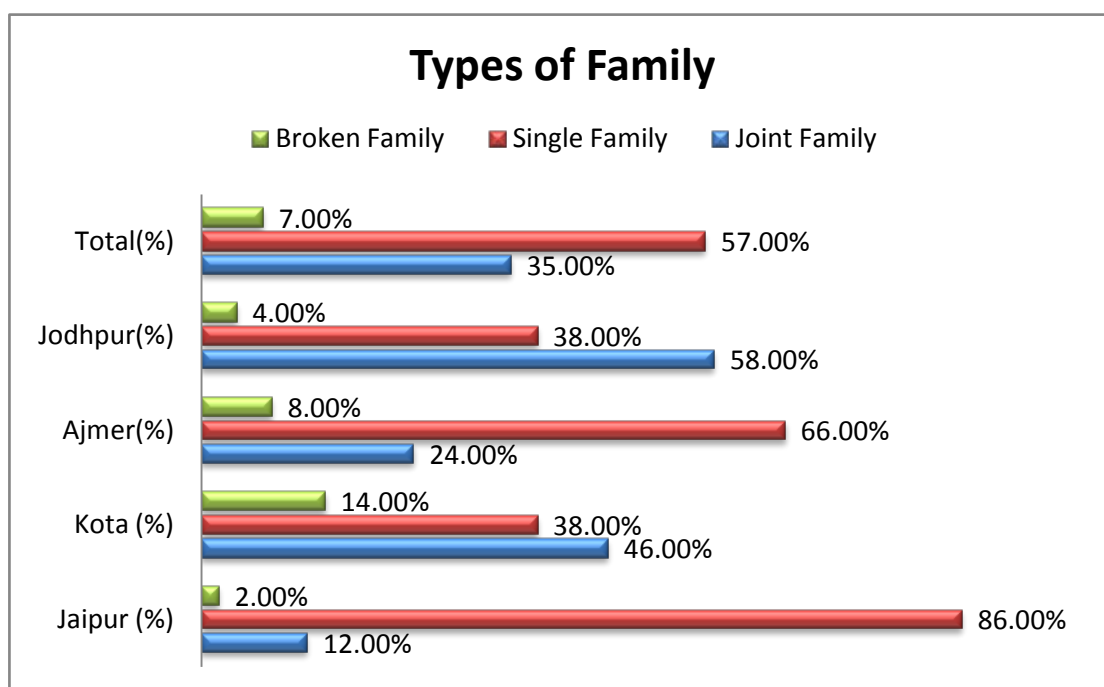
Chart No 02

Distribution of Street Children according to the Types of Family

The above chart depicts that the percentage of respondents under the joint family is 57%, single 35% and broken at 7% of the total Sample. This is self explanatory that the joint family trend still exists. The trend shows that Kota district has highest number of children of broken family followed by Ajmer and Jodhpur. The rapid development of cities has affected the structure of the family as we can see that most developed cities like Jaipur the joint family structure is on the verge of ending followed by Ajmer, Kota and Jodhpur. Mostly children were either local or from other states belonged to single family. The children who lived in joint families stated that all the family

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members earn for themselves. There is no occupation or job in hand to their bread earners, secondly they keep migrating one place to from another and stay at nearby station, sell flowers and move in ghettoes.

Table No-03

Distribution of Street Children by the type of their parents (N=200)

Type of Parents	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Biological	43	86.00%	45	88.00%	43	82.00%	46	90.00%	177	88.50%
Adopted Parents	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	2.00%	1	2.00%	3	1.50%
None-alive	7	10.00%	5	8.00%	5	10.00%	3	0.00%	20	10.00%
Total	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	200	100.00%

Source of Data: Field work

Family is a small and primary social unit where the children take birth and are nourished and socialized. Overall development and future of the children depends on their family background. If the parents are illiterate, unskilled, and unable to feed their children adequately then it affects the growth of the children. Parents are pivotal in upbringing of the children but when this unit is disorganized, it badly affects the children's growth and upbringing. 88.50 % street children had their biological parents, only 1.50% children had adopted parents and unfortunately 10% children lost their parents.

Table No-04

Distribution of Street Children according to the status of their parents (N=177)

Status of Parents	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Both alive and living together	35	81.40%	30	66.67%	26	60.47%	37	80.43%	128	72.32%
Both alive but not living together	5	11.63%	2	4.44%		0.00%	1	2.17%	8	4.52%
Only father alive	1	2.33%	8	17.78%	10	23.26%		0.00%	19	10.73%
Only mother alive	1	2.33%	3	6.67%	4	9.30%	8	17.39%	16	9.04%
Mother alive but went with another person-NATA	0	0.00%	2	4.44%	2	4.65%		0.00%	4	2.26%
Father alive but living separate with second marriage	1	2.33%	0	0.00%	1	2.33%	0	0.00%	2	1.13%
Total	43	100.00%	45	100.00%	43	100.00%	46	100.00%	177	100.00%

Source of Data: Field work

To analysis the sociological aspects of leaving home, the information was gathered and analyzed about the status of their parents. The present study explored that the parents of around 128 children out of 177 were alive and living together. Around eight children mentioned that their parents are alive but they are not living together and these children had rare or no contacts with their parents. Similarly around 19 children revealed that only father was alive and 16 children told that only mother was alive. Almost four children stated that their mother was alive but went to another person following Nata tradition. The reasons like **Nata-Pratha** and second marriage were the reasons that forced them to lead street life. Two children told that their father was alive but living separately with second wife.

Glamour of city and hope for employment bring them in cities but soon their dreams are shattered. They hardly manage shelter and food. They start

living in shanties, nearby railway tracks or station, under flyovers etc. in such conditions, it would be foolish to expect healthy upbringing of the children even if both parents are alive and living together. Besides this, they also soon fall into the clutches of drug addiction that makes the situation worst.

Table No-05

<u>Distribution of Street Children According to Class of Family</u>

Class of the Family	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Labour Class	20	40.00%	15	30.00%	13	26.00%	11	22.00%	59	29.50%
Lower Class	25	50.00%	25	50.00%	37	74.00%	34	68.00%	121	60.50%
Lower Middle	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	2	4.00%	3	1.50%
Middle Class	5	10.00%	9	18.00%	0	0.00%	3	6.00%	17	8.50%
Total	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**200**	100.00%

Source of Data: Field work

Operational Definition of Class:-

1. The labour classes are the people employed for wages, especially in manual-labour occupations and in skilled, industrial work. This class relies upon their earnings from wage labour, thereby; the category includes most of the working population of industrialized economies, of the urban areas (cities, towns, villages) of non-industrialized economies, and of the rural workforce (Wikipedia) who earn less than **Rs** 3000 per month?

2. Lower class means the people who are not having any job or subsistence to do that includes such community who moves one station to other station and mainly depends on begging and other odd sources of income.

3. Lower Middle Class who earns less than 5000/- per month (driver type Jobs, khalasi, conductor etc.)

4. Class represents the people who are doing some petty business like grocery shop, kiosk and government job as fourth class or private job in which they earn Rs 5000-10000 Rs per month.

If we sieve through the table we can clearly see that lower class at a phenomenal 60.50% has eclipsed the labour class 29.50% followed by middle class 8.50 and lower middle class at 1.50%.The trend shows that the children from middle class families are also coming on the streets in Kota, Jaipur & Jodhpur which accounts 8.50 %. Social problems are related with the economical classes, often it is regarded that all the evils and problems are found in lower strata but the trend has proven them wrong. The data has confirmed that the evils and problems are equally found in upper class also.

Location of Houses

■ Rural   ■ Urban

	Rural	Urban
Total	34(17%)	166(83%)
Jodhpur	7(14%)	43 (86%)
Ajmer	2(4%)	48(96%)
Kota	15(30%)	35(70%)
Jaipur	10(20%)	40(80%)
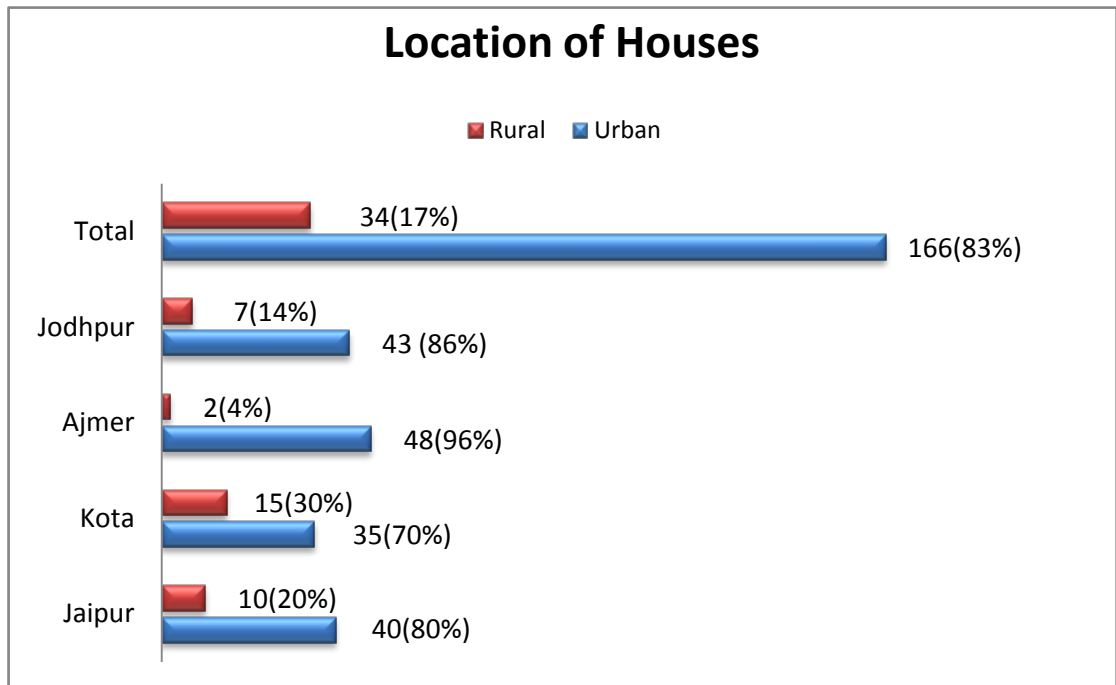
Chart No-3

Distribution of Street Children according to Location of their Houses

Street children are the by product and repercussion of processes like liberalization, privatization, urbanization and globalization. These processes directly affect the socio-economic life of the people. To understand the trends of escapade of the children from their homes, the study explored the connection of runaway with the location of houses. The statistics indicate that out of total sample (i.e. n=200) 83 % children resides in urban areas while 34 % in rural area.

For understanding, a working definition of the urban and rural area has been drawn. "An urban area is that which falls under Municipal limit and the rural area is that which is beyond the municipal limits. It is obvious from the data that a influx of children from urban areas is on the streets that proves that urbanization is most responsible factor for the phenomena of the street children. The villages are not untouched by the effect of urbanization process and urban-rural transformation. The children are getting attracted towards the glamour of the city. Some of them come to the cities in search of jobs and some of them just enter the city with fun and frolic attitude.

Table No-06

Distribution of Street Children according to the types of their houses

Types of House	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Shanty	8	16.00%	18	36.00%	12	24.00%	21	42.00%	59	29.50%
Kachha house	16	32.00%	15	30.00%	24	48.00%	16	32.00%	71	35.50%
Pakka house	10	20.00%	11	22.00%	10	20.00%	5	10.00%	36	18.00%
Semi Pakka	2	4.00%	2	4.00%	0	0.00%	3	6.00%	7	3.50%
Rental	10	20.00%	1	2.00%	4	8.00%	3	6.00%	18	9.00%
Owned	4	8.00%	3	6.00%	0	0.00%	2	4.00%	9	4.50%
Total	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**200**	**100.00%**

With reference to table no 04, a major share of the children are residing in the urban areas. The above table reveals that 29.50 % children's parental house is nothing except the name of shanty (jhuggi), 35.50% children's

posses kachha houses made of mud, wood, straw and thatch. These types of houses are found in both villages and urban areas. The people who frequently move from one place to another make these types of houses in urban areas. In all the districts, the number of people migrates from other states and when they don't find any a place to live in they make temporary arrangement. The labour class families generally live in a rented room. 6 to 7 family members accommodates in one room. Middle class people live in rented houses and out of which 4.50% possess their own house. The data concludes that the population lives in urban slum whether it is approved or not by the municipal corporation. They are deprived of basic amenities in slum areas. It is confirmed that a major share of the sample population is living in dilapidated conditions.

The statistics of all the districts conclude that the living condition of the enumerators is worst in 74% followed by Kota (72%) Ajmer (66%) and Jaipur (48%) that includes the proportion of shanties and kachha house in four districts

Facts About Jaipur

1. Jaipur is 10th most populous city with share of 3,046,163

2. There are 238 slums in Jaipur, comprising 80,000 households, housing 4.15 lakh persons, which is around 13% of city population

3. As per, Population Foundation of India report 2012, RAY 2011 survey (Rajiv Awas Yojna) states that there are 192 slums under JMC and another 46 under JDA. (Population Foundation of India, 2014)

4. Jaipur Ajmer, Kota, Jodhpur districts have been selected under Rajiv Awas Yojna (RAY) for to make slum free cities with the aim of providing shelter, civic and social slum re-development and for creation of affordable housing stock under the RAY scheme

5. Out of the total Jaipur population for 2011 census, 52.40 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 3,471,847 people lives in urban areas

6. As per 2011 census, 47.60 % population of Jaipur districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Jaipur district population living in rural areas is 3,154,331

7. In 2011, total 4,530 families live on footpath or without any roof cover in Jaipur district of Rajasthan. Total Population of all who lived without roof at the time of Census 2011 numbers to 20,298. This approx 0.31% of total population of Jaipur district. (source: http://www.census2011.co.in/census/district/435-jaipur.html)

Facts About Jodhpur

1. Out of the total Jodhpur population for 2011 census, 34.30 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 1,264,614 people lives in urban areas

2. As per 2011 census, 65.70 % population of Jodhpur districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Jodhpur district population living in rural areas is 2,422,551

3. In 2011, total 2,985 families live on footpath or without any roof cover in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. Total Population of all who lived without roof at the time of Census 2011 numbers to 16,226. This approx 0.44% of total population of Jodhpur district.(source: http://www.census2011.co.in/census/district/438-jodhpur.html)

Facts About Kota

1. Out of the total Kota population for 2011 census, 60.31 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 1,176,604 people lives in urban areas

2. As per 2011 census, 39.69 % population of Kota districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Kota district population living in rural areas is 774,410

3. In 2011, total 2,249 families live on footpath or without any roof cover in Kota district of Rajasthan. Total Population of all who lived without roof at the time of Census 2011 numbers to 9,570. This approx 0.49% of total population of Kota district.

4. Among the million plus cities with high proportion of slums, Kota ranks among the top 10 cities in the country. There are 31.8% of slum households in the city.

Facts About Ajmer

1. Ajmer district consists 59.9 percent rural and 40.1 percent urban population whereas the State percent of rural and urban population is 75.1 and 24.9 respectively.(district census handbook, Ajmer retrieved from

   http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/dchb/0821_PART_B_DC HB_AJMER.pdf)

2. Out of the total Ajmer population for 2011 census, 40.08 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 1,035,410 people lives in urban areas, As per 2011 census, 59.92 % population of Ajmer districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Ajmer district population living in rural areas is 1,547,642

3. In 2011, total 2,319 families live on footpath or without any roof cover in Ajmer district of Rajasthan. Total Population of all who lived without roof at the time of Census 2011 numbers to 7,690. This approx 0.30% of total population of Ajmer district.(source ; http://www.census2011.co.in/census/district/444-ajmer.html)

The use of substance among family Members

Table No-07
Substance/Drug use among family Members of Street Children

Use of Drug/Substance by Family Members									
	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur		Total	
Yes	45	90.00%	47	94.00%	46	92.00%	50	100.00%	188	94.00%
No	5	10.00%	3	6.00%	4	8.00%	0	0.00%	12	6.00%
Total	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50		200	100.00%
Members who are Drug/substance used in the family										
Family Members	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Father	29	64.44%	33	70.21%	38	82.61%	17	34.00%	117	62.23%
Mother	1	2.22%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	8.00%	5	2.66%
Father & Mother	12	26.67%	8	17.02%	6	13.04%	27	54.00%	53	28.19%
Others	3	6.67%	6	12.77%	2	4.35%	2	4.00%	13	6.91%
Total	45	100%	47	100%	46	100%	50	100.00%	188	100.00%

Source: Field Data

Poverty and drug abuse are interchangeably used words. Poverty may indulge one in drugs and substance use or drugs may end up one in poverty. If we look at the data around 94 % of total children stated that there family members are addicted to substance use that surpasses the share on non-users i.e. only 6%. 62 % stated that their father was a substance user. When we look at the district-wise data, Ajmer has the highest number of substance user in the family of respondents; Kota is second highest with 70% followed by Jaipur 64.44%. 28.19% respondents told that their mother and father both were substance user. Jodhpur and Jaipur are showing higher consumption of substance amongst parents.

The inference which we can draw from the above data is that almost all the family members are using any type of drugs or substances.

Table No-08

Types of Substance/Drug use among family

Members of Street Children (District-wise)

Jaipur					
Family Members	**Smoking**	**Tobacco**	**Cannabis**	**Marijuana**	**Alcohol**
Father	22	14	3	2	23
Mother	0	1	1	0	0
Father & Mother	8	11	6	5	9
Other	3	1	0	0	3
Total	**33**	**27**	**10**	**7**	**35**
Kota					
Father	31	19	11	11	29
Mother	0	0	0	0	0
Father & Mother	8	6	4	3	6
Other	5	5	5	5	6
Total	**44**	**30**	**20**	**19**	**41**
Ajmer					
Father	34	21	16	15	35
Mother	0	0	0	0	0
Father & Mother	5	4	2	2	6
Other	1	2	0	0	1
Total	**40**	**27**	**18**	**17**	**42**
Jodhpur					
Father	17	13	0	0	17
Mother	2	4	0	0	3
Father & Mother	26	21	1	1	27
Other	2	2	1		2
Total	**47**	**40**	**2**	**1**	**49**

*Multiple Responses

The above table indicates that smoking, chewing tobacco, consumption of marijuana, alcohol and cannabis are more common among the family members of enumerators. Also the trend shows that the bread winner of the

family, head of the family is using all types of drugs. Not even a single family remains spared from the use of drug and substances. All said and done the use of drug may lead to the downfall in all spheres of life whether be it economical, social, emotional etc. As put forth by the field worker of TAABAR NGO "Children left their homes due to alcoholic father". Majority of smokers are found in Jodhpur and Kota. Jodhpur has the highest number of tobacco chewers i.e. 40. Consumption of cannabis was found the highest in Kota (20) and Ajmer (18). Also the data revealed that the consumption of Marijuana is again the highest in Kota (9) and Ajmer (17). Alcohol is commonly used in all districts, Jodhpur (49), Ajmer (42), Kota (41), and Jaipur (35).

Types of Substance used by Family Members

■ Other   ■ Father & Mother   ■ Mother   ■ Father

Alcohol
- Other: 12
- Father & Mother: 48
- Mother: 3
- Father: 104

Marijuana
- Other: 6
- Father & Mother: 11
- Mother: 0
- Father: 28

Cannabis
- Other: 5
- Father & Mother: 13
- Mother: 1
- Father: 30

Tobacco
- Other: 10
- Father & Mother: 42
- Mother: 5
- Father: 67

Smoking
- Other: 11
- Father & Mother: 47
- Mother: 2
- Father: 104
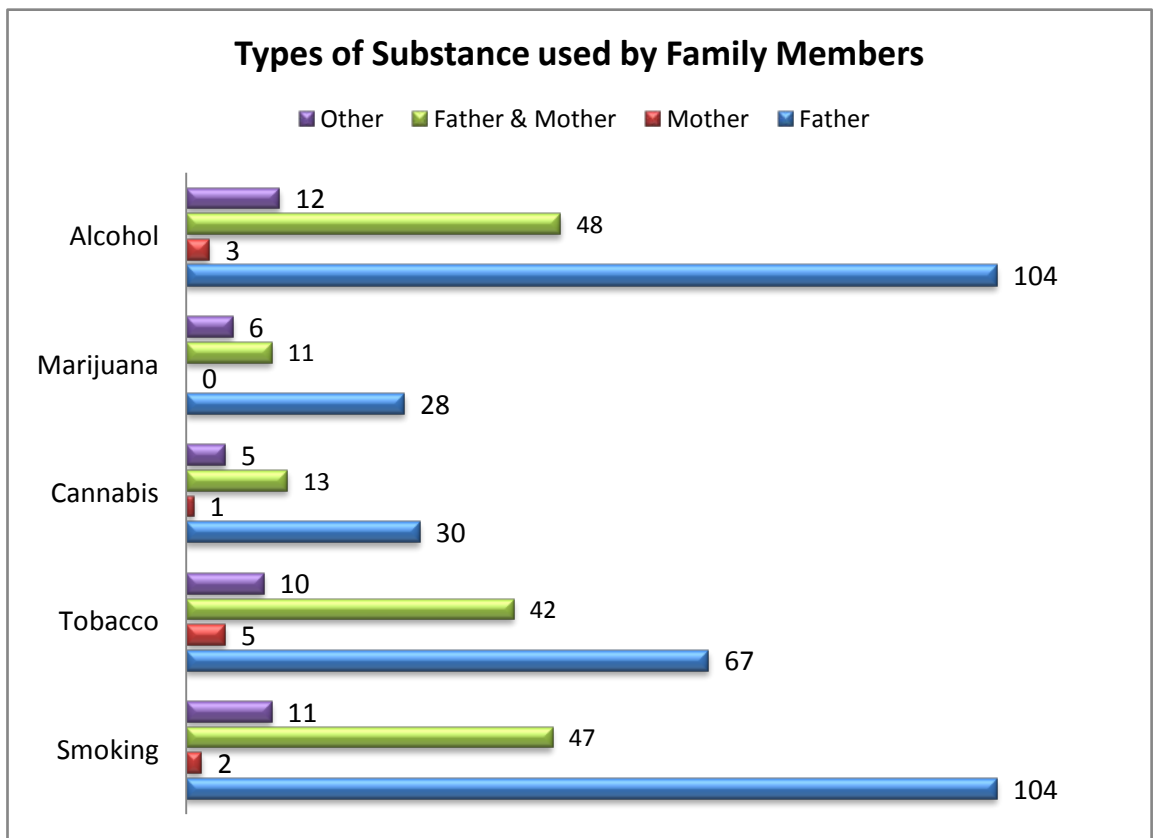
Chart No-04

Types of Substance used by Family Members of Street Children (N=200)

Unfortunately the consumption of alcohol among the male members of the family is at an all time high of 52% (104). The graph shows that smoking and alchol are at par 52% (104) among the family members of the street

children. The bread winner of the family that is the father of the children is greatly influenced by alcohol and smoking. Both addictions are a peril to the individual 's health as well as other family members, and society. The data depicts a very serious picture about the increasing trends of addictions in father –mother equally. It is strecthing like an epidemic. One can think about the by product and repurcussions of such epidemics where both the parents are affected. Economically, at a state and federal level, the price of addiction manifests through lost productivity and other devastating ways. Fatalities, traffic accidents and injuries related to substance abuse, consumes thousands of lives every year, not to mention the accidental overdoses that occur more frequently amongst prescription drug addicts.

Despite all these tragic losses that result from substance abuse, the most saddening byproduct of substance abuse is the neglect, abuse and maltreatment of children whose parents are addicted to drugs.

Because addiction and alcoholism alter perception and reality very frequently, children of parents who are chemically dependent are not uncommonly found to be put to any harm, neglected or otherwise abused. It highly affects the upbringing of the children. In Indian culture, the economic and decision power is in the hands of the male memebr of the family. But now a days when women are also contributing to the family income, they also find the soluiton of their stress and tension in differetn types of substances and addcitions. Economic independecny has brought so many other problems amongst the women. Tobbacco chewing is also the second highest bad habit amongst the male members with 33.50%(67), cannabis and marijuana are enticing the poor people. Stress, domestic violence, economic independence are the pushing factors which force women towards addiction. The data is very pathetic with the addiction of alcohol at 24% , smoking 23.50%(47), tobacco21% , rampantly gripping both the parents.

"At many stations, it has been observed that children are feeding their parents who are into addiction. I came across one child at Kota

Station, his name was Raju. He and his father had been living at the station for a long time. When I met his father he was in an inebriated state. The vendors told that he always remains drunk and lies in the Musafir khana. His son Raju earned money and fed him. They also told that both father and son consume alcohol in the evening." The situaion is alarming and we need to zero in on the factors that are nudging them towards these evils

Table No-09

<u>Frequency of having food among Street Children</u>

Frequency	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Once in a Day	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	3	6.00%	0	0.00%	4	2.00%
Twice in a day	32	64.00%	33	66.00%	29	58.00%	12	24.00%	106	53.00%
More than two times	14	28.00%	11	22.00%	12	24.00%	23	46.00%	60	30.00%
Depend on availability of money and food	3	6.00%	6	12.00%	6	12.00%	15	30.00%	30	15.00%
Total	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	200	100.00%

Food is a basic need of human beings. Efforts be it legitimate or illegitimate are made to earn their bread. People who are unable to earn money resort to various methods of survival like begging which is the easiest method in India to earn money. Children are forced by their parents and other racketeers into begging. Moreover when parents are not able to fulfill the wishes of their children, in such situations children adopt begging, which gradually drifts them away from their homes.

The study explored that 99% children eat vegetarian or non-vegetarian food in other words whatever they get, they relish it. Mostly children like non-vegetarian food. When they were asked about the frequency it was known that 106 (i.e.53%) children of the total sample population have a square meal a day. Stealing food from VIP trains and pantry cars is customary.

Sources of obtaining food on streets

Source of Food	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Buying	19	38.00%	10	20.00%	12	24.00%	8	16.00%	49	24.50%
Eat leftovers of Restaurants	11	22.00%	12	24.00%	4	8.00%	10	20.00%	37	18.50%
Leftover of Pantry Cars	10	20.00%	24	48.00%	4	8.00%	15	30.00%	53	26.50%
Scavenging Bins	8	16.00%	12	24.00%	25	50.00%	0	0.00%	45	22.50%
Eat at Home	18	36.00%	24	48.00%	20	40.00%	32	64.00%	94	47.00%
Eat at Drop-in-centers	4	8.00%	1	2.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	6	3.00%
Eat at Temples/ Religious places	18	36.00%	6	12.00%	14	28.00%	40	80.00%	78	39.00%
By all the above mentioned sources	30	60.00%	27	54.00%	30	60.00%	35	70.00%	122	61.00%
Total	50		50		50		50		200	

*Multiple Responses

After leaving home they learn how to survive and how to feed themselves. Older children teach them the techniques of survival on the streets or railway stations. After observing street children's life, it was found that there is no absolute source of obtaining food among the street children. The children gave multiple responses. The children who are coming from nearby slums and having biological parents eat at home sometimes i.e. 55 % of the total sample population. Besides this there are a large number of children who eat food at temples and religious places i.e. 39%. If we take a look at the district wise statistics, we see that Jodhpur is the city where 80% children are highly dependent on the food served in temples or any other religious place. This figure is followed by Jaipur 36% and Ajmer 28%. Three of these districts are well-known for religious significance all over the world.

More than 50% of the children in each district stated that they obtained food from various resources. At times they buy, and sometime they eat leftovers of restaurants and pantry cars, eat at home, eat at drop in center, and eat at temple or religious places. It was found that 61 % children of total sample (n=200) obtain food from all the above mentioned sources. The table also reveals that in Ajmer the situation of these children is worst. 50% children stated that they obtained their food from scavenging bins followed by Kota and Jaipur with 24% and 16 % respectively.

Table No 11

Distribution of Favourite Pass time or Leisure Activities

Ranking	Leisure time Activity	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
1	Gossiping with Friends	34	68.00%	42	84.00%	32	64.00%	42	84.00%	150	75.00%
2	Watching Films	25	50.00%	22	44.00%	25	50.00%	28	56.00%	100	50.00%
3	Playing Cards	20	40.00%	24	48.00%	33	66.00%	22	44.00%	99	49.50%
4	Fun & Picnic	15	30.00%	20	40.00%	20	40.00%	20	40.00%	75	37.50%
5	Using Drugs /Substances	19	38.00%	22	44.00%	15	30.00%	14	28.00%	70	35.00%
6	Watching T.V. at Restaurants	22	44.00%	23	46.00%	10	20.00%	13	26.00%	68	34.00%
7	Gambling	17	34.00%	17	34.00%	17	34.00%	15	30.00%	66	33.00%
8	Watching Adult Movies	2	4.00%	10	20.00%	5	10.00%	1	2.00%	18	9.00%
9	None of the above	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	2	1.00%
		50		50		50		50		200	

*Multiple Responses

Recreation is very important in everyone's life regardless of economic class, gender, religion, place of living etc. Generally the census tells about these children that they live an undisciplined life, but in reality they have to struggle to survive in unfavorable conditions. Despite of working hard they take out time to chill with friends. The enumerators were asked to rate their

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pass time activities. Over all 75% voted that they liked gossiping with friends albeit it may differ in each district. They told that they gossip with friends until the next train arrives. They mentioned that they can't miss the train so generally they spend their time gossiping at the station by waiting for the next train. 50% of the total said that they liked watching films during the leisure time. These children collect money to watch movies in cinema halls. 75% mentioned that they also, like to go to picnic. They avoid going to public places hence they chose deserted places like ravines, banks of rivers. Generally their picnic comprises of non-veg which they cook collectively accompanied by alcohol, or any type of substance.

Actually they watch movies at nearby tea stalls or dhabas. **In Kota, it was brought to light that there is a stand where these children go and watch Television, spend the night playing Cards, enjoy sniffing glue and whitener, whitener in privacy. The stand owner charges for these facilities. They also mentioned that they like watching TV at restaurants, taking drugs in groups with friends.**

Substance Use among street children

Use of Substance/Drugs

Legend: No (red), Yes (blue)

City	No	Yes
Total	32	168
Jodhpur	4	46
Ajmer	11	39
Kota	11	39
Jaipur	6	44
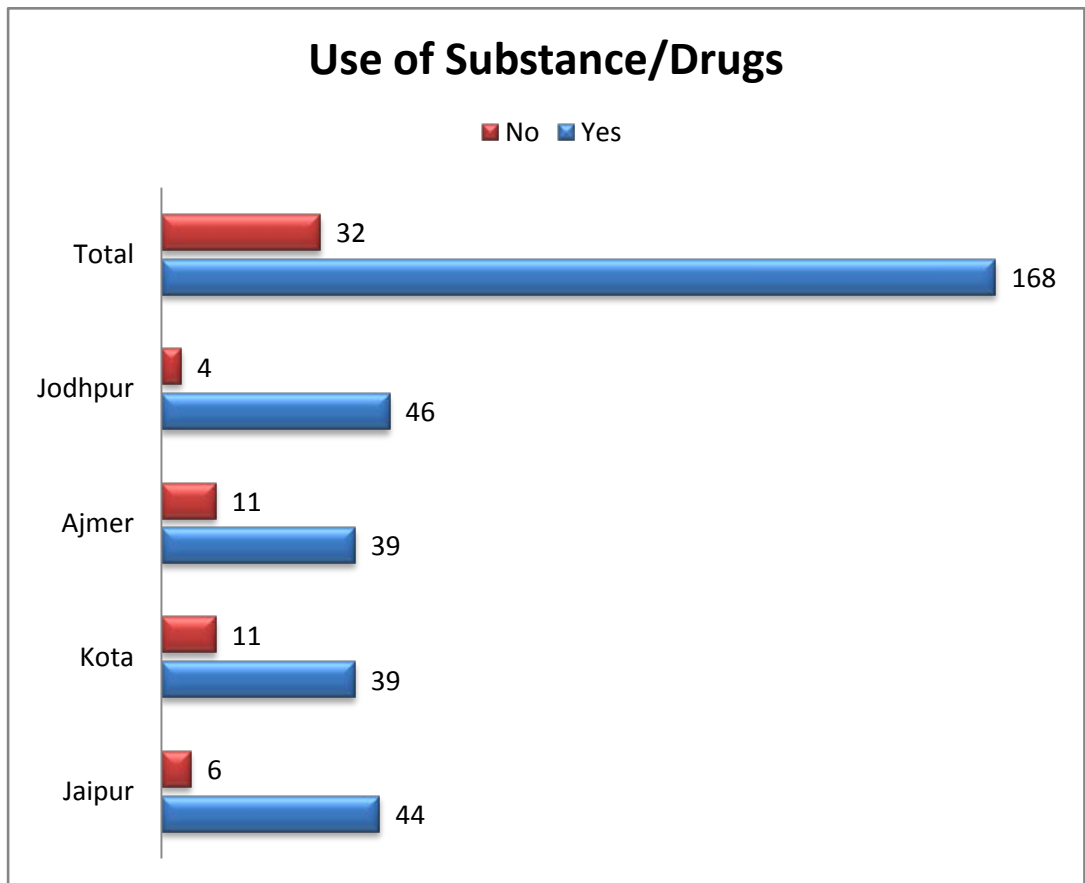
Chart No-05

Use of Substances/Drugs among Street Children (N=200)

Data received through the interviews indicated that almost 168 children (84%) of the total sample of street children consumed various substances or drugs on habitual basis, whereas 16% did not refer to use at the time when interviews were conducted. Table No 11 shows the types of substances or drugs consumed by the enumerators.

Table No-12

Type of Substance/Drug Use among Street Children

Substance /drugs	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Alcohol	33	66.00%	23	46.00%	10	20.00%	17	34.00%	83	41.50%
Cannabis	2	4.00%	15	30.00%	8	16.00%	2	4.00%	27	13.50%
Marijuana	6	12.00%	14	28.00%	4	8.00%	0	0.00%	24	12.00%
Whitener	34	68.00%	26	52.00%	13	26.00%	26	52.00%	99	49.50%
Smoking	29	58.00%	22	44.00%	15	30.00%	6	12.00%	72	36.00%
Smack	2	4.00%	7	14.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	9	4.50%
Gutkha	38	76.00%	36	72.00%	32	64.00%	44	88.00%	150	75.00%
Others	1	2.00%	9	18.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	10	5.00%
Total	**50**		**50**		**50**		**50**		**200**	

Source field Data

From the aforesaid analysis it is evident that Gutkha chewing habit (i.e.75%), sniffing whitener (i.e. 49.50%), consumption of alcohol (i.e.41.50%) and smoking (i.e.36%) are most prevalent among the children in four districts. District-wise data indicates that sniffing whitener is a major source in all districts in which Kota and Jaipur had the highest number of children (i.e. 68%, and 52%) respectively. The district where alcohol consumption is very high was Jaipur (66%), and Kota (46%), Cannabis (30%) and Marijuana (28%) are used in Kota. Further Kota has the highest number of smoking (44%) among the four districts, again smack consumption is found in Kota (14%). The table concludes that the Kota and Jaipur are the districts where the use of substance is highly prevalent and children are using different types of drugs. The table shows that 5% children on the whole are using other type of drugs like opium, Iodex, and puncture tube solution.

Majorly the following substances/drugs are being used by the children:

1. Gutkha Chewing
2. Whitener sniffing
3. Alcohol
4. Smoking
5. Cannabis
6. Marijuana
7. Smack

A majority of the respondents at least use one of these seven types of substance/drugs to fulfill different their desire. The field findings expose that there are many substances/drugs used by the respondents. Most of them told that "it depends on their financial circumstances and functions of drugs like Marijuana which increase their appetite, in order to bear the harshness of the weather they consume alcohol which leads them to slumber and whitener kills their appetite.

They stated that when they are hungry and are a penniless, they sniff whitener as it kills their appetite. On being asked how they arrange whitener without money? They said that "we borrow a drop of whitener solution from older children or friend for a paltry amount of Rs 5. Sometimes the situation worsens and they are not in a position food by any means then they resort to this trick. Additionally they said that at times that they had money but no hunger. In such conditions, they consume marijuana to increase their appetite so that they could put that money to use as they do not vaults to keep their money safely. The children without roofs said they were apprehensive about winters since that they did not have any bedding and cozy space to save them from the winter. In order to overcome the situation they piled on to alcohol that makes them to bear the chilling winter, rough summer and brutal society. Besides this the most popular functions for using the substances were as follows:

1. For relaxation

2.   Intoxication

3. Stay awake at night

4. Alleviate swing in moods

5. Kill the time and accompany friends

Table No-13

Duration and frequency of using substances among Street Children

Amount of Time among the children using substance /drugs									
	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Up to One Year	14	31.82%	2	5.13%	2	5.13%	12	26.09%	30	17.86%
Up to Five Years	26	59.09%	24	61.54%	32	82.05%	31	67.39%	113	67.26%
Up to 10 Years	4	9.09%	10	25.64%	2	5.13%	2	4.35%	18	10.71%
No Response	0	0.00%	3	7.69%	3	7.69%	1	2.17%	7	4.17%
Total Users	**44**	**100.00%**	**39**	**100.00%**	**39**	**100.00%**	**46**	**100.00%**	**168**	**100.00%**
Frequency and Intensity of using Substances/ Drugs among the Children									
	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Up to five Times	17	38.64%	20	55.56%	11	30.56%	25	55.56%	73	45.34%
Up to ten Times	9	20.45%	3	8.33%	12	33.33%	12	26.67%	36	22.36%
Up to twenty Times	0	0.00%	3	8.33%	5	13.89%	8	17.78%	16	9.94%
More than 20 Times	18	40.91%	10	27.78%	8	22.22%		0.00%	36	22.36%
Total Users	**44**	**100.00%**	**36**	**100.00%**	**36**	**100.00%**	**45**	**100.00%**	**161**	**100.00%**

Source field Data

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The above statistics indicates that 67.26% children had been using substances /drugs for a period 1-5 years at a stretch. The use of substance less than one year was found to be 17.86% in children. Further analysis revealed that 43.45% of the total sample was using drugs between one to five times a day. The trend shows that there is 22.62% children are consuming drugs more than 20 times a day and 21.43 % are using 6-10 times a day. The habit of chewing Gutkha was found in the age group of 15-18 years old. Frequency of Gutkha consumption is higher than any other substance and drugs. They said consume 20 pouches of Gutkha every day. Even they were unable to abstain from chewing Gutkha. Children in the age group below 15 were mostly dependent on whiteners, marijuana, Cannabis and alcohol

Health And Hygeine

Table No-14

Health Ailments and Types of Diseases

General Health Ailments									
Response	**Jaipur**	**%**	**Kota**	**%**	**Ajmer**	**%**	**Jodhpur**	**%**	**Total**	**%**
Yes	15	42.86%	40	80.00%	25	50.00%	31	62.00%	111	55.50%
No	35	100.00%	10	20.00%	25	50.00%	19	38.00%	89	44.50%
Total	**50**	**142.86%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**200**	**100.00%**
Type of Diseases									
if yes Type of Disease	**Jaipur**	**%**	**Kota**	**%**	**Ajmer**	**%**	**Jodhpur**	**%**	**Total**	**%**
Cough & Fever	2	13.33%	6	15.00%	1	4.00%	1	3.23%	10	9.01%
Jaundice	1	6.67%	1	2.50%	2	8.00%	0	0.00%	4	3.60%
Pneumonia	0	0.00%	1	2.50%	0	0.00%	2	6.45%	3	2.70%
Skin Disease	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	4.00%	7	22.58%	8	7.21%
T.B.	4	26.67%	3	7.50%	6	24.00%	1	3.23%	14	12.61%
Typhoid	0	0.00%	4	10.00%	3	12.00%	0	0.00%	7	6.31%
Weakness	8	53.33%	20	50.00%	11	44.00%	20	64.52%	59	53.15%
Others	0	0.00%	5	12.50%	1	4.00%	0	0.00%	6	5.41%
Total	**15**	**100.00%**	**40**	**100.00%**	**25**	**100.00%**	**31**	**100.00%**	**111**	**100.00%**

The health of street children is a matter of grave concern. They live in filthy places, scavenge dustbins for food eat leftovers on streets; there is no place for bathing and personal hygiene in their life. It makes them vulnerable to many diseases. In this section the study explored the status of general health and reproductive health, knowledge about HIV/AIDS and sexual practices. Out of the total sample population, 55.50% children shared that they had suffered from diseases. The above table reveals that T.B. Pneumonia, Jaundice, Cough and Fever and animal biting are serious

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health ailments which are found in street children. These diseases are directly related with their surroundings, health and hygiene, food patterns, substance use etc,

The above data reveals that 111(55.50%) enumerators out of 200 (n=200) were suffering from various types of health ailments related with their general health. The district-wise statistic indicates that a large number of children (i.e. 40) were suffering from health ailments followed by the number of Jodhpur (i.e.31) and Ajmer (i.e.25). The study further seeks the types of disease and found that T.B. and weakness, skin diseases are most prevalent among the street children.
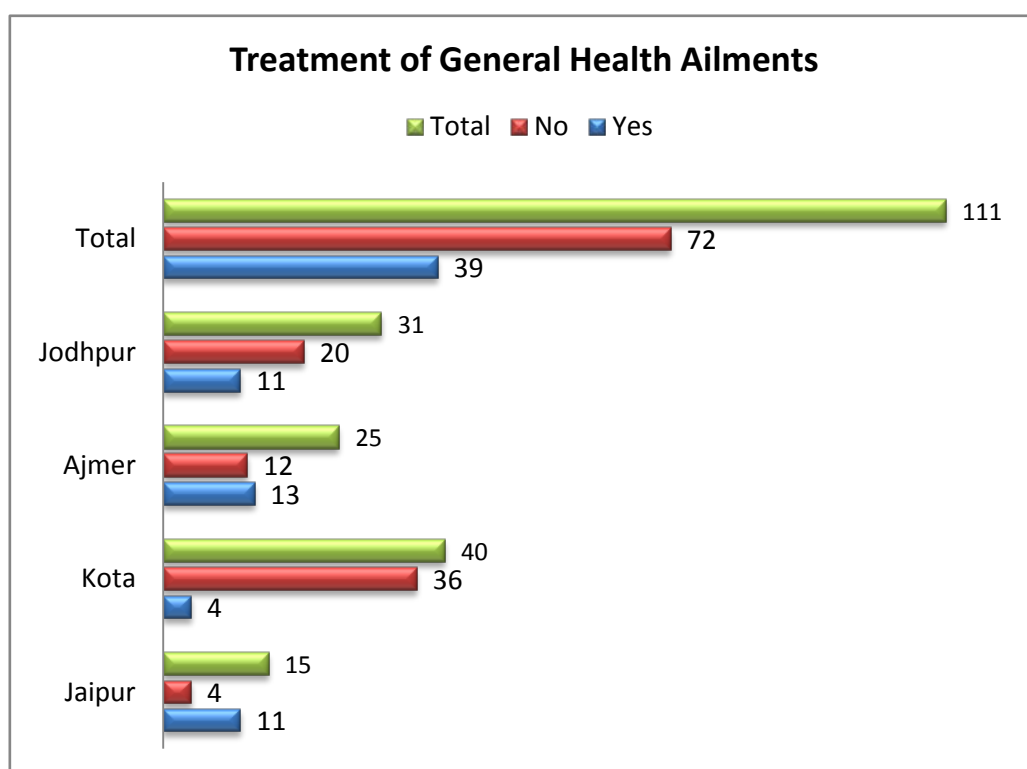
Chart No-06

Treatment of General Health Ailments (N=111)

Around 72 children stated that they do not take seriously the treatment of their health ailments. They looked very careless about their health. **They Replied "meri marzi me ilaaj karau ya nahi" "do ghoont pee lo zakhm,**

dard sab thik ho jata hai". They like to be intoxicated instead of getting treatment.

Only 39 children responded that they get treatment for health ailments and they mainly approach government general hospitals, private doctors, PHC/CHC whichever is nearest. It was also found that other options like self medication and sorcery are also used by the children to get treated.

It was found that lack of money, expensive treatment, negligence in government hospital are the most significant reasons which stop them to get treatment of illness.
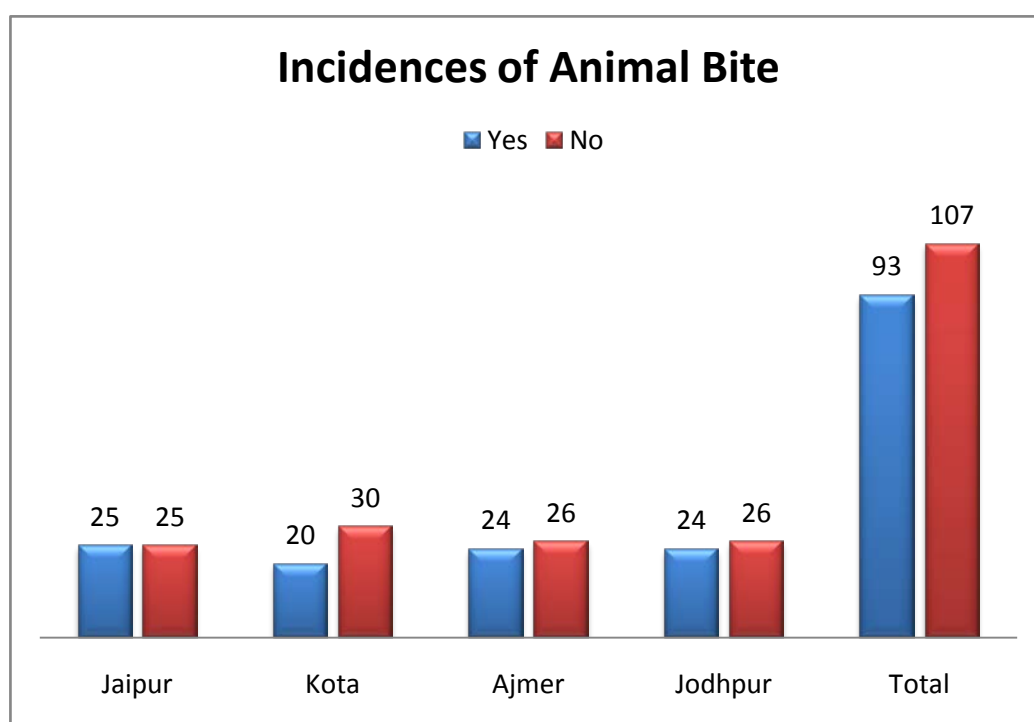
Chart No-07

Incidences of Animal Bite among Street Children

There were 93 children who were bitten by animals at least once. Almost half of the sample population had experienced the animal bite on streets or nearby surroundings. They were majorly bitten by dogs, monkeys, rats, scorpions, snakes and pigs.

Table No-15

Types of Animals

Animals	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Dog	19	76.00%	16	80.00%	16	66.67%	20	83.33%	71	76.34%
Monkey	1	4.00%	2	10.00%	1	4.17%	3	12.50%	7	7.53%
PIG	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	8.33%	0	0.00%	2	2.15%
Rat	2	8.00%	1	5.00%	2	8.33%	0	0.00%	5	5.38%
Snake	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	4.17%	1	1.08%
Scorpio	3	12.00%	1	5.00%	3	12.50%	0	0.00%	7	7.53%
Total	25	100.00%	20	100.00%	24	100.00%	24	100.00%	93	100.00%

*Source field data

76.34 % children were victim of dog bite. The incidences of Monkeys, Scorpions and Rat bites were highly prevalent amongst the street children.

This is very tragic to know that even a single victim of animal bite never took any medication or anti-vaccine. They just applied chili powder and oil on the wound.

Education of the Street children

Educational Status

■ Never Attended   ■ Dropout

	Jaipur	Kota	Ajmer	Jodhpur	Total
Never Attended	22	25	23	34	104
Dropout	28	25	27	16	96
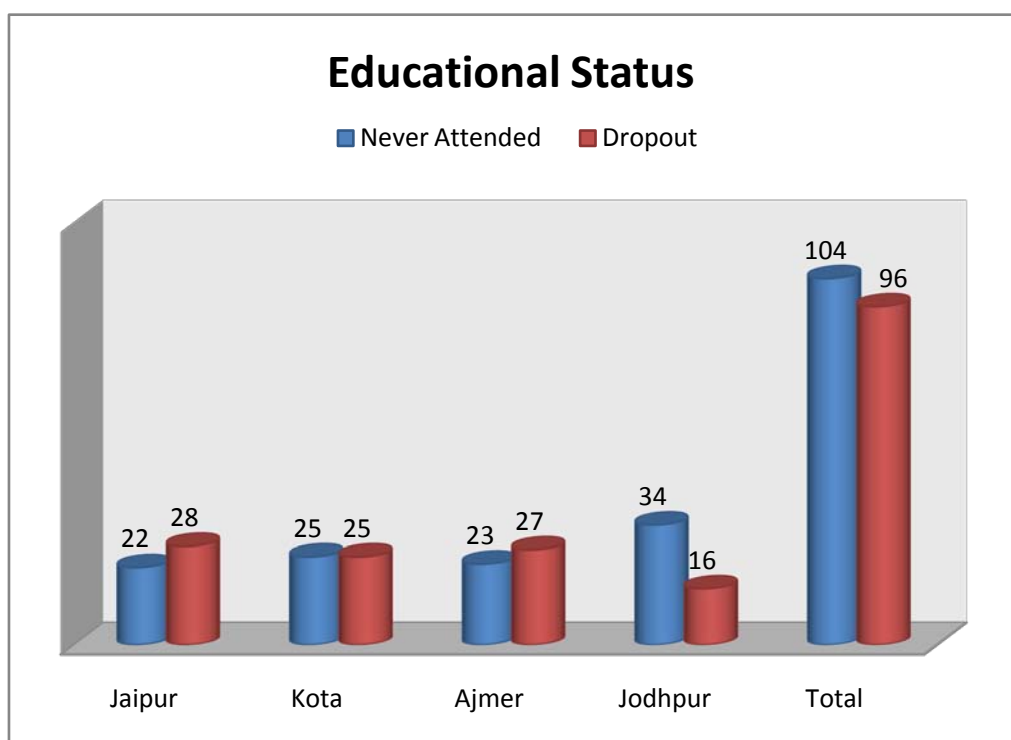
Chart No-08

Educational Status of Street Children (N=200)

Around 104 (52%) children of the total sample never went to school or were never sent to school by their parents and 48% were drop out before completion of primary, upper primary and secondary level. Table no 16 presents the detailed scenario of educational level of street children. District wise data reveals that highest number of non-school going children is in Jodhpur followed by Kota. Dropout rate almost equal in all districts

Table No-16

<u>Level of Literacy among Street Children</u>

level of literacy	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	Total
Never went to school/Illiterates	20	40.00%	22	44.00%	19	38.00%	31	62.00%	92	46.00%
Informal Education	2	4.00%	3	6.00%	4	8.00%	3	6.00%	12	6.00%
Lower primary education	12	24.00%	11	22.00%	10	20.00%	9	18.00%	42	21.00%
Upper primary/Middle education	16	32.00%	11	22.00%	17	34.00%	6	12.00%	50	25.00%
Secondary education	0	0.00%	3	6.00%	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	4	2.00%
Total	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**200**	**100.00%**

*Source field data

Among the drop outs 21% left school during lower primary education and 27% dropped out of school when they were studying in upper primary/middle class while 2% left school when they were studying in secondary class. Jodhpur district has the highest prevalence of non-going school children followed by Kota and Jaipur while Jaipur and Ajmer are the cities where dropout rate is high. None of them passed secondary school examination as the rate of drop out is higher in higher primary education (upper primary) and lower primary standards.

Table No-17

Reasons for not attending School

Reason for not Attending School	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	
Poverty	17	50.00%	17	50.00%	14	46.67%	28	50.91%	76	49.67%
Migrant labour	2	5.88%	0	0.00%	1	3.33%	17	30.91%	20	13.07%
Negligence of parents	4	11.76%	5	14.71%	5	16.67%	1	1.82%	15	9.80%
Lack of interest In study	8	23.53%	12	35.29%	7	23.33%	9	16.36%	36	23.53%
Non availability of school nearby areas	1	2.94%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.65%
Others	2	5.88%	0	0.00%	3	10.00%	0	0.00%	5	3.27%
Total	**34**	**100.00%**	**34**	**100.00%**	**30**	**100.00%**	**55**	**100.00%**	**153**	**100.00%**

*Multiple responses

Further the data indicates that poverty has emerged as most significant reason behind not attending the school. It was also found that lack of interest in study, migration negligence of parents were they key factors for not attending the school.

Table No-18

Reasons for Drop out (*N=131)

Reason for Drop out from School	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Failed in last examination	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	5	11.63%	0	0.00%	5	3.82%
Lack of interest in the school activities	8	23.53%	10	28.57%	2	4.65%	5	26.32%	25	19.08%
Rigid atmosphere of school	2	5.88%	3	8.57%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	5	3.82%
Sudden demise of parents	1	2.94%	3	8.57%	3	6.98%	0	0.00%	7	5.34%
Impoverished state of the family	20	58.82%	14	40.00%	24	55.81%	10	52.63%	68	51.91%
To earn and support the family	3	8.82%	4	11.43%	9	20.93%	4	21.05%	20	15.27%
Influence of Peer group	0	0.00%	1	2.86%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.76%
Total	**34**	**100.00%**	**35**	**100.00%**	**43**	**100.00%**	**19**	**100.00%**	**131**	**100.00%**

*Source field data

Further the reasons for drop out were examined and similarly the reasons were same as for not attending the school as 51.91% children of the total sample stated that they left school due to the impoverished state of the family and 15.27 % left school to earn and support the family. Around 19.08% children left due to lack of interest and 5.34% due to sudden demise of their parents and 7.64 % left school due to failing in the last examination and rigid atmosphere of the school.

Types of School

Govt. School ■ **Private School** ■

	Jaipur	Kota	Ajmer	Jodhpur	Total
Govt. School	25	22	26	13	86
Private School	3	3	1	3	10
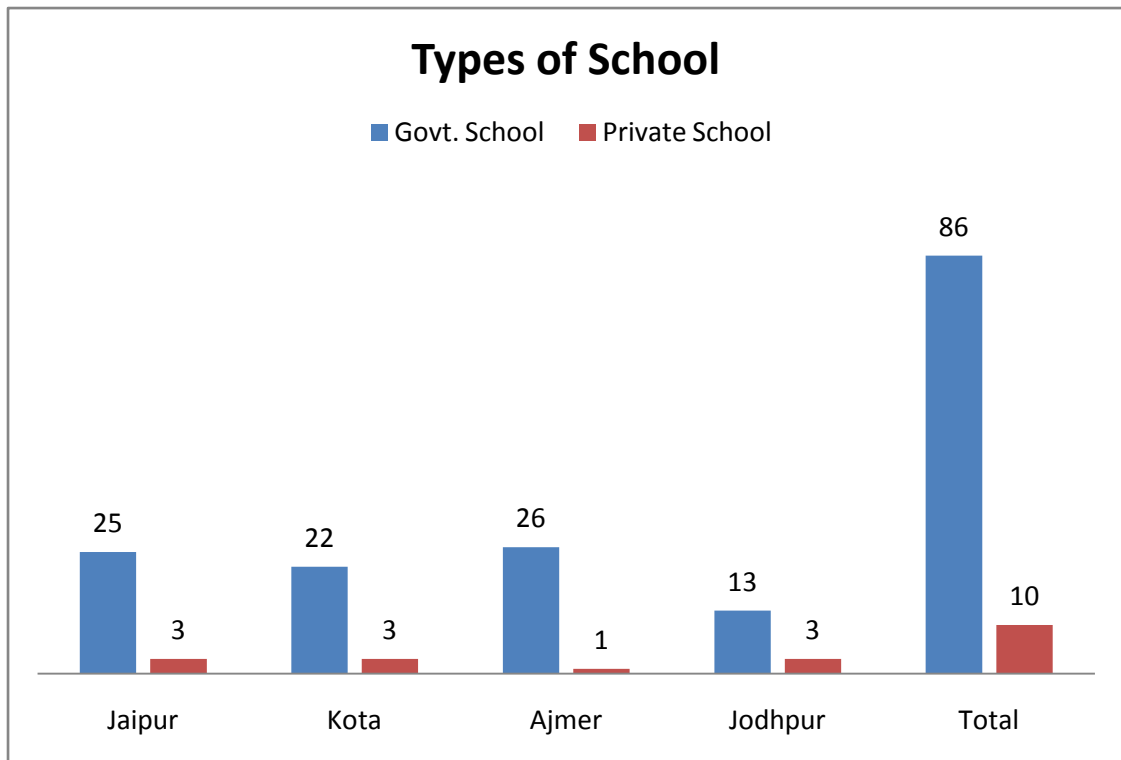
Figure No 09

Types of School attended by Street Children (N=96)

The above figures depict that 86 children out of 96 (drop out) studied in government school and the medium of instruction was Hindi. Only 10 children studied in private Hindi medium Schools.

Table No-19

Major Sources of Livelihood on Streets

Means of Survival	JP	%	KO	%	AJ	%	JO	%	Total	%
Rag Picking	22	44.00%	17	34.00%	12	24.00%	27	54.00%	78	39.00%
Cleaning Train Coaches & Begging	26	52.00%	29	58.00%	13	26.00%	6	12.00%	74	37.00%
Begging at Railway Station/ Bus Stop/ Other Public Places	21	42.00%	11	22.00%	15	30.00%	21	42.00%	68	34.00%
Vending Water Bottles	10	20.00%	14	28.00%	6	12.00%		0.00%	30	15.00%
Grabbing/Stealing/ Pick pocketing/ Drug peddling	5	10.00%	12	24.00%	15	30.00%	2	4.00%	34	17.00%
Traffic Signal's Vendor	9	18.00%	3	6.00%	3	6.00%	11	22.00%	26	13.00%
Work at Restaurant / Dhabas	9	18.00%	13	26.00%	2	4.00%	2	4.00%	26	13.00%
Repairing Zipper	2	4.00%	2	4.00%	8	16.00%	8	16.00%	20	10.00%
Shoe Polishing/Mending	3	6.00%	1	2.00%	3	6.00%	5	10.00%	12	6.00%
All Above Mentioned Sources	1	2.00%	3	6.00%	6	12.00%	6	12.00%	16	8.00%
Total	50		50		50		50		200	

*Multiple Responses

Since economic liberalization in 1991, India's GDP has grown constantly with few major setbacks, making it one of the wealthiest economies in the developing world. At the same time, the distribution of wealth in Nida is fairly uneven, with the top percent of income groups earning an third of the country's income and 77% living on less than twenty rupees per day.

Children and youth at risk on the streets are excluded from sharing this wealth. (India, 2008)

The above table reveals dark side of economic development where street children trying to survive by their own. There is no absolute source of income for these children. They just do whatever makes them able to feed themselves or fulfilling their needs. Rag picking and Begging are prominent means of survival on streets. Begging in coaches and railway stations is the most common technique and public spaces are most approachable spots for begging. Some of them were rag pickers and vending water bottles for livelihood. Begging is related with age of the children. People show sympathy to the younger children. As they cross the age of 12 years, people stop showing their sympathy and start scolding them or threatening to hand them over to the police. Ultimately for survival they chose other options for livelihood of which rag picking is mostly opted by older children. It was also found that the older children trained younger children in pick pocketing and used them for drug peddling like opium, smack etc. Stealing railway assets, pick pocketing, drug paddling are most common practices for which younger children are used by the older children and antisocial elements of the society.

One of the Juvenile Justice board members in Ajmer told that Sansi community made raw alcohol; they had small breweries in their homes. When alcohol was prepared, it was given to the children to ferry its destination. Many children were apprehended under Aabkari Act in Ajmer.

Source of Livelihood on Streets

Income & Expenditure

Daily Income of Street Children

Legend: ■ Above 200 Rs ■ 150-200 Rs ■ 100-150 Rs ■ 50-100 Rs ■ Up to 50 Rs

Total
- Above 200 Rs: 8
- 150-200 Rs: 28
- 100-150 Rs: 54
- 50-100 Rs: 88
- Up to 50 Rs: 24

Jodhpur
- Above 200 Rs: 0
- 150-200 Rs: 10
- 100-150 Rs: 8
- 50-100 Rs: 32
- Up to 50 Rs: 0

Ajmer
- Above 200 Rs: 2
- 150-200 Rs: 5
- 100-150 Rs: 12
- 50-100 Rs: 20
- Up to 50 Rs: 11

Kota
- Above 200 Rs: 0
- 150-200 Rs: 9
- 100-150 Rs: 14
- 50-100 Rs: 22
- Up to 50 Rs: 5

Jaipur
- Above 200 Rs: 6
- 150-200 Rs: 4
- 100-150 Rs: 20
- 50-100 Rs: 12
- Up to 50 Rs: 8

Chart No-10

Distribution of Daily Income of Street Children

The above figure represents data on the daily income of the street children according to their respective source of income. Majority of street children i.e. 88 out of 200 earned in between Rs 100 to Rs 150 every day followed by the 54 children whose income was found in between Rs 50- Rs 100. Around 28 children earned Rs 150 to Rs 200 per day and eight children stated that they earned above 200 Rs per day. Children earn through the following major sources (Table No 20): The street children also revealed that not necessarily we get money as remuneration of work, sometimes we get food, alcohol, Gutkha, whitener etc as remuneration. It shows that they are exploited by the people or vendor take advantage of their conditions on streets

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1. Rag Picking
2. Begging in Train Coaches
3. Begging at railway stations and other public places
4. Selling water Bottles

Factors Affecting income

The children stated that there is uncertainty in income. There are many reasons which affect their income like substance use, street-free railway station driven away by railway department and RPF/GRP and rescue operations by police and NGOs. One of the enumerator stated that ″जब टपोरी बच्चों की संख्या स्टेशन पर बढ़ जाती है तो प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ जाती है″

(When the number of inmates exceeds, competition increases). The respondents told that they earn enough amounts at the railway station and the surrounding areas when compare to other places.

These children live in groups at the station. They have their own mechanism to avoid clashes and conflict regarding their income amongst the mates. To maintain harmony and brotherhood among themselves they mutually fix their area of operation and never cross the jurisdiction of each other's operational area. This operational area included clear cut division of train routes, coaches and trains. They beg in the assigned train, assigned bogie, on assigned route. The children living in vicinity, come in the morning, beg throughout the day at the station and on the trains and go back to homes in the evening. They use various techniques for begging. Following methods which are mostly seen in all the districts:

In Hindu Mythology everyday is devoted to particular God as following:
1. Monday-Lord Shiva
2. Tuesday-Lord Hanuman
3. Wednesday- Lord Ganesha and Lord Krishna
4. Thursday- God Vishnu
5. Friday- Goddess Mahalaxmi (Goddess of wealth) and Goddess Santoshi Maa (incarnation of Power)
6. Saturday- God Shani (Saturn)

It is believed that the worship of specific Gods on specific days appeases the concerned God. These little children encash the religious belief of the people. They easily earn 100/- day along with oil, grain, clothes etc.

Though the study targets on 6-18 years children but the children below 6 can be easily seen begging at the station. They are sent by their parents forcibly. Children beg for some bucks by disguising themselves as any Hindu God and Goddesses. They paint their faces with color and beg at the station by singing devotional songs. It came to know that children rush towards the train and got in the running train without caring for their lives. They try to earn as much as they can and get down the running train. Railway department remains apathetic.

Children are major source of bread earning for many families in the surrounding of cities. The railway station is a major hub. Parents train their children for begging and snatching. Parents watch their children while begging and at the end of the day they meet at a place and collect whatever their children earned.
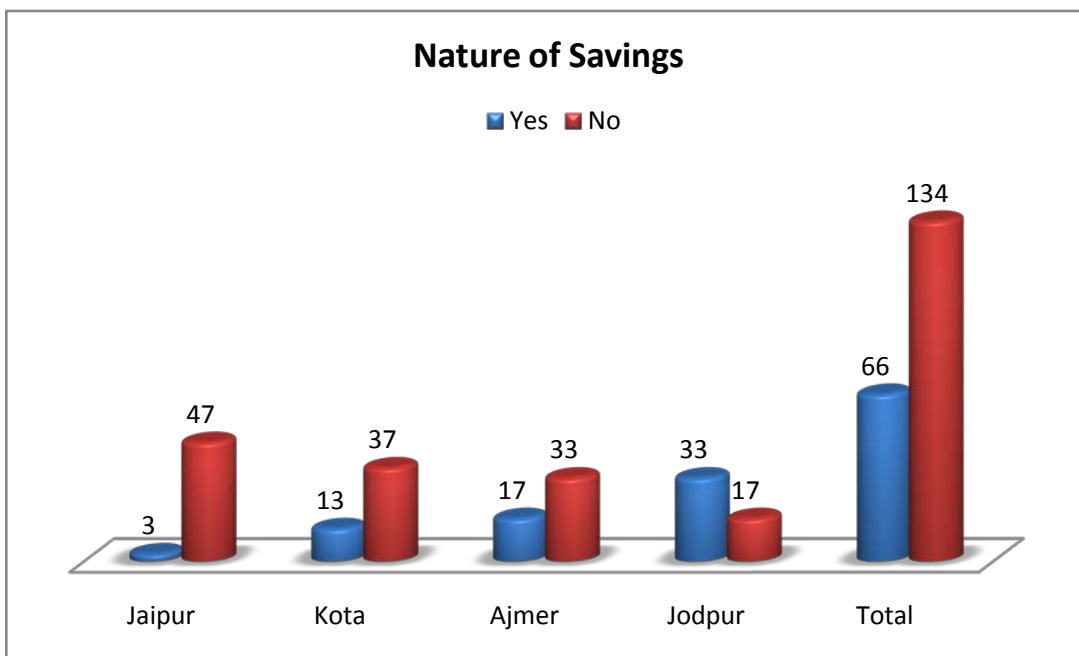
Nature of Savings

Chart No-11

Nature of Savings among Street Children

The urchins work hard to get money; they work in shifts (day & night) and earn money to fulfill their own needs and family needs. But the above figure presents that very few children save their earnings. In Jodhpur, the nature of saving was found highest while in Jaipur it was the lowest. The 66 children who save money are those children who are having regular relations with their parents and are local residents. Mostly they belong to Sansi Community, Kalbeliya (Snake Charmer) and migrated.
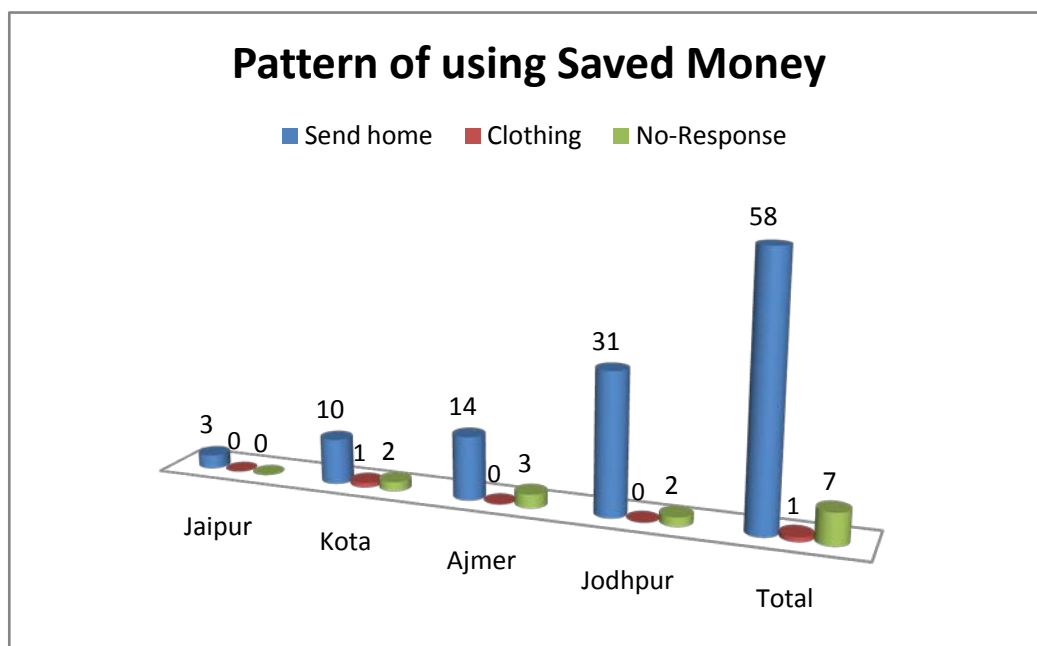
Chart No-12

Patterns of using Saved Money among Street Children

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Almost 11 children saved their money with their employer; only two children in Ajmer stated that they deposited their money to a friend and post office. Around 40 children stated other options like they deposited their money at secret places while 13 children did not want to share.

Around 58 children (n=66) sent money to their parents while 7 children didn't respond. It shows that they have other options to spend but didn't want to reveal. The data proves that the impoverished state and poverty is the major cause of being street children.

Though these children easily earn 100-150/- per day by begging or sweeping train coaches but they spend their money on fulfilling their addiction of substance use like alcohol, whitener. Substance use is priority than fulfilling any other needs. It has been observed that their main source of food is left over food, thrown by passenger and pantry cars, no matter it is worth to eat or not. They do not like to spend money over food. They get their food from dustbins. Mostly children reported that they didn't have place to keep safe money so they used to spend whatever they earned otherwise older children or their own mates stole their money. Few of them told that there were few children who deposited their money to the vendors and employers but mostly they arrogated their deposited money. In the study street children were found to have minimum booty and belongings with them. Mostly they owned filthy and torn shirt/pant/shorts which was not sufficient to cover their body and a broom, dirty cloth to wipe the floor of train coaches.

Table No 20

Category of Street Children

Category of street children	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jod	%	Total	%
Children from street Families (regular connection with family)	17	34.00%	18	36.00%	37	74.00%	30	60.00%	102	51.00%
Street working on children (irregular connection with family) on street	20	40.00%	19	38.00%	3	6.00%	10	20.00%	52	26.00%
Street living children (no connections with family) off street	13	26.00%	13	26.00%	10	20.00%	10	20.00%	46	23.00%
Total	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**200**	**100.00%**

About 51 % children of the total sample having regular contacts with their parents. These children are mainly those who come from nearby towns and slums, they are called floating population. Trend shows that number of such street children was highest in Ajmer and Jodhpur. Through in-depth discussion it was found that Ajmer being a famous Muslim pilgrimage (tomb of saint Khawaja Gharib Nawaz Chishti) across the globe is main source of income for majority of poor. "Thousands of beggars, fakir, pickpockets have positioned themselves in the area around Ajmer Sharif. Beggars and Pickpockets from the entire country congregate at Ajmer during the world famous six days Urs (Fest). A meeting of pickpockets is held before the event where the contract for pick pocketing is given to the highest bidder, the source claimed. (Beggars, pickpockets mar Urs festivities at Ajmer, 2006). During the interview with government official it was found that these pickpockets hire the children. The children are trained in pick pocketing, robbing and looting the pilgrims. These children steal mobiles, purses, handbags, and other valuable assets and earn thousand Rs. Per day of which they are just paid few Rs and a large share goes to pickpockets. It

came to know that these pickpockets and racketeers give commission to police thus a nexus is active during the Urs.

Second highest i.e. 60% street children (from street families) were from Jodhpur. Sansi Community and other backward classes live in ghettoes that don't have any livelihood mainly depend on daily wages or begging or illegal activities and earning of their children. Jaipur and Kota had highest number of children who were having irregular contacts with their parents. Jaipur and Kota are well connected with metros so these railway terminals are home for many children. 23% children were totally disconnected of which almost 9 % were orphans 9 % were deserted themselves and 5% were abandoned by their own parents. The study reaches at the conclusion that children from street families are increasing day by day. Studies and researches conducted in the past in various part of the world concluded that mainly street children fall under off street children's category but the finding of this study concludes that millions of families are either homeless or living in adverse conditions in urban slums. They are not able to foster their children in such conditions children are becoming a source of income for these families and they are forced by their parents to adopt street life. Habitants of urban slum areas, homeless families and migrants are major challenges along with the on street and off street children for the development of the nation or state.

Table No-21

Duration on Streets

Duration	Jaipur (n=50)	%	Kota (n=50)	%	Ajmer (n=50)	%	Jod. (n=50)	%	Total (n=200)	%
up to 6 months	12	24.00%	15	30.00%	2	4.00%	6	12.00%	35	17.50%
less than 1 year	1	4.00%	4	8.00%	12	24.00%	5	10.00%	22	11.00%
1-2 Years	14	28.00%	5	10.00%	9	18.00%	11	22.00%	39	19.50%
2-3 Years	6	12.00%	1	2.00%	11	22.00%	6	12.00%	24	12.00%
3-4 Years	10	20.00%	3	6.00%	10	20.00%	11	22.00%	34	17.00%
4-5 Years	1	0.00%	3	6.00%	2	4.00%	0	0.00%	6	3.00%
Above 5 Years	6	10.00%	19	36.00%	4	8.00%	11	22.00%	40	20.00%
Total	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**200**	**100.00%**

The above table reveals that 20% children had been living on streets for more than Five and almost 20% were going to complete two years of street life. If we look at district wise data we find that Kota has highest concentration of children who were living on streets more than five years followed by Jodhpur. It can be seen that Kota again has highest number of children who are living on street below six months followed by Jaipur (24%). Majorly these children came from slum areas and migrants families who temporarily lived at the station.

Around 18% children were fresh; they just spent less than six months on streets.12% children were on streets for around two years and 11% children were experiencing street life for less than one year.

Table No-22

Reasons for being on Streets

Reason for Leaving Home	Jaipur (n=50)	%	Kota (n=50)	%	Ajmer (n=50)	%	Jod. (n=50)	%	Total (n=200)	%
Impoverished state of the family	35	70.00%	27	54.00%	40	80.00%	44	88.00%	146	73.00%
In search of employment	21	42.00%	21	42.00%	25	50.00%	27	54.00%	94	47.00%
Not interested in study	11	22.00%	13	26.00%	13	26.00%	17	34.00%	54	27.00%
Demise of parents	6	12.00%	6	12.00%	3	6.00%	1	2.00%	16	8.00%
Only for fun & enjoying freedom	1	2.00%	7	14.00%	2	4.00%	0	0.00%	10	5.00%
Remarriage of parents	1	2.00%	3	6.00%	3	6.00%	3	6.00%	10	5.00%
Abused & Negligence by parents	2	4.00%	4	8.00%	2	4.00%	0	0.00%	8	4.00%
Abused by relative	2	4.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	4	2.00%
Separation of parents	3	6.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	2.00%
Criminal behaviour of parents	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	1	2.00%	2	1.00%
Do not like discipline at home	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	3	6.00%	4	2.00%
Abused by brother /sister	1	2.00%	3	6.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	2.00%
Domestic violence	1	2.00%	1	2.00%	1	2.00%	1	2.00%	4	2.00%
Alcoholic father	1	2.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	1.00%
Abused by step parents	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	2	1.00%
Peer group influence	0	0.00%	2	4.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	1.00%
Any other reason	3	6.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	2	4.00%	6	3.00%
Total	**50**		**50**		**50**		**50**		**200**	

There are different sets of factor that prompt the children to leave homes. These factors can be grouped into categories like economic factors such as poverty, migration, a low standard of living, family factors such as violence and conflict in the family, abusive step parents, loss of parents, negligence: social factors like peer pressure, attraction of city; psychological factors such as fun loving nature, anger, need more attention; Educational factors such as lack of interest in educational activities, poor quality of education, corporal punishment etc. The above table shows that impoverished state is most significant factor that led 73% children to leave home. The impoverished state means that the family is not able to secure the basic needs of their children, not able to accommodate in the house. Consequently children are sent to work to supplement the family income. It is not only economic compulsions that drive the children onto the streets. Social stratification on the basis of caste, creed, gender, community, ethnicity, etc also results in geographic, social, cultural and political compulsion. 47% children reported that were on streets in search of employment to supplement the income of their family. Their utmost priority is to arrange food so that they could survive in this cruel world.The economic compulsions are however more directly visible and apparent than others.

According to table no 17 there were 52 % children who never attended school and 48% children were drop out. A major share of the children were drop out from school before completion of the upper primary education. The illiteracy is directly linked with the economic factors and rate of drop out is associated with economic factor as well as educational factor. How can one imagine ensuring a child's education when a family is not capable to fulfill even basic needs? The children are leaving home at early and tender age of 6; education is merely a dream for these children. As the study has already been proved that children were drop out due to economical and family factors. 27% children stated that they were not interested in educational activities so that they left home. Education is directly linked with the environment in family, back ground of family and economic status of the

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family but the poor quality of education in government schools had emerged as one of the most significant factor for lack of interest in studies. The perception about government school education is inferior among the people regardless their economic status. Everyone wants to educate their children in private schools. Also the government school has been failure to detain poor, lower class, slum children due to their sick mentality, lack of accountability and responsibility towards poor children.

A recent National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) report shows that a majority of students studying in private schools do so to make sure that they get better quality education. The survey was conducted between January and June 2014.

The problem of quality in government educational institutions seems to be more acute at the school level. Consider this: among 100 people who prefer private schools in rural India, more than 92 do it for three reasons. One, better learning environment in private schools; two, English being the medium of instruction in private schools; three, quality of education being unsatisfactory in government schools. The figure is above 70% in both rural and urban areas up to higher secondary level, with the exception of higher secondary level in rural areas, where it is 64%. For graduate and above and diploma level, the tables turn. Majority turns to private educational providers because of lack of supply—the reasons being absence of a government institution in the vicinity, or inability to get admission into one.

Source: http://ccs.in/yes-government-college-no-government-schools,5 April 2016

Family factors were most evident factor as per the data presented in the above table. Children left their home due to abused and negligence by parents, alcoholic father, abuse by relatives, domestic violence, conflict among siblings, remarriage of parents, and demise of parents.   Children gave multiple answers as the factors are deeply associated with poverty or economic factors. Many parents still use the conventional method to

disciplining their wards by hitting them with belts, canes, sticks and so on or use abusive language. Most of the children further told that they were verbally abused by their parents at homes. In families where one/both the parents is /are alcoholic (s) this cruelty is more pronounced and the children may sustain the injuries. The young, gentle mind of a child is not designed to cope with such severe trauma and pain and when the situation becomes unbearable, the only escape the child knows is physical escape from the home- the source of the pain and torture

Peer pressure and fun loving nature were also the important reason which forced to leave home. It has been observed when a child starts living on street and he becomes the addict of freedom (free from rules and regulations of the family, indiscipline life), economic freedom, drug addiction, chances become less to return in family again. During the field work and interviewing respondents it was found that these children didn't have any past record of criminal behavior only one child stated that he was sent observation home in theft matter.

Case Study-1

Harish is 12 years old hailed from district Darbhanga (Bihar). He had younger sister and elder brother. His younger sister studied in 3rd class and brother was a child labour who worked at a restaurant. His father worked as ticket collector to a private bus company and mother was a housewife. Harish was studying in 3rd class when he left his home.

He told us that his grandmother once scolded him when he reached home late night. He felt insulted and left home. By train, he reached Kolkatta then Boxer then Mughal Sarai. Thus he stayed at various stations. He sold papers at Mughal Saria Station for a month. When Police initiated child labour rescue drive, he left Mughal Sarai and reached Kota station. Soon he got friends at Kota Station who trained him in begging in train coaches

and sniffing whitener. He was restored many times but he didn't stay at home. Now street was his home.

Case Study - 2

Murli hailed from Andhra Pradesh. He left his home because his parents scolded him and due to anger he left his home. He walked from his village and came to Kurnul Railway Station. Unknowingly, he reached Mumbai Station. **Murli** did not know to speak Hindi, even he was not able to understand Hindi and other languages. For few days he lived at Mumbai Railway Station until he had money.

When money was finished he realized that he should go back to home. So he took the train to go back to home but on the train he was asleep. When he awaked he found himself at Kota Junction. He was in trouble because he couldn't talk to anyone due to language barrier. He became restless and started to wander here and there at the station. He was referred to a nearest shelter home.

Case Study-3

Sudeep was a 13 years old boy who hailed from Mujaffarpur, Bihar. He lost his mother in early childhood. He had an elder sister. He told that his father was having an affair with his aunty and got married with her. His mother could not bear this and got mad. After some time she died with this grief.

Both sister and brother were beaten and maltreated by their aunty. She used to make false complaint to their father. The father used to beat them on her complaints without knowing the fact. Sudeep's father didn't love them. He loved Sudeep's step brother and sisters. When Sudeep was eight years old and his sister was 10 years old they ran away from home and reached grandparents (maternal) home. They stayed there for a year but after death of their grandparents' they were forced to leave home by their aunty (maternal). So they were on the road. When they were trying to reach back to their home, police caught them and his sister was sent to an organization in Haridwar and he was sent to another home. But Sudeep ran away from home and since then he had been continue running away. During this period he was restored many times with family but it went in

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vain. He visited many organizations and cities. He lived with sages and went Nepal with them. He shared that he was tortured by police and elder street boys. He also told that he was sexually abused on the street. Due to extreme torture and abuse he developed some behavioral problems in his personality.

Table No 23

Type of Places for Living or Sleeping on Streets

Place for living / Sleeping	Jaipur (N=50)	%	Kota (N=50)	%	Ajmer (N=50)	%	JO (N=50)	%	Total (N=200)	%
On street (no fixed place)	21	42.00%	16	32.00%	21	42.00%	38	76.00%	96	48.00%
At home	7	14.00%	10	20.00%	22	44.00%	17	34.00%	56	28.00%
Railway Station	14	28.00%	26	52.00%	12	24.00%	4	8.00%	56	28.00%
Temporary Shelter Home	18	36.00%	7	14.00%	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	26	13.00%
Rented house sharing friends	0	0.00%	3	6.00%	4	8.00%	1	2.00%	8	4.00%
Condum Building	5	10.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	6	3.00%
Total	**50**		**50**		**50**		**50**		**200**	

*Multiple responses

Street children live on streets unprotected and vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. After leaving home they face acute problem of shelter. They are vulnerable to all ranges of weather be it burning heat of summer, the rainstorm or chilly winter nights. Not only vulnerable to weather but also they are at risk being sexually abused, beaten by police or venders. The children do not merely suffer from physical homelessness but also from a psychological homelessness since they have nowhere to belong. The homes they live behind no longer remain their havens, the street provides no comfort, and society does not accept them. But on the street they learn

by themselves how to survive in adverse situation and develop their own mechanism. The result shows that children use multiple places of living like 48% children reported that they didn't have any fixed place to live or sleep. They spotted place like under fly over, railway station, bus stop, and hospital, train coaches etc. 28% responded that they lived and slept at their homes mostly but simultaneously they used to sleep at other places due to their mobility. Majority of the children 28 % responded that permanently they slept and lived at railway platforms because all the livelihood operations were done from the railway stations via trains. Apart from this intoxication and substance use is easy at railway stations and mostly they liked spending time with their friends at stations that was itself a fun. The number of such children was found highest in Kota district followed by Jaipur and Ajmer. 13% children were living in shelter homes who recently rescued by the NGOs in Jaipur and Kota districts. Around 4% children slept and lived in rented house sharing with friends. Around 3% children shared that they used condemned building as a living or sleeping place.

During the focused group discussion it came to know that life on the streets/stations has so many darkest secrets. A network of antisocial people, exploiters, and abusers seeks the opportunity to take the advantage of the vulnerability of these children. Children shared that a person who owed a tea stall, provided them shelter and charged fee according to their needs. The children stated that they used this shelter especially in winters.

A child shared that he was sexually abused in Gangapur city by a person. The child was lured by giving food and shelter. Another child also shared that a person who is like don and used to give them packets of puncture tube solutions to sell the street children. He used to give them free puncture solution initially, when a child got addicted he used to exploit them. The stories confirm that how these children are at risk on streets.

Abuse and exploitation of street children
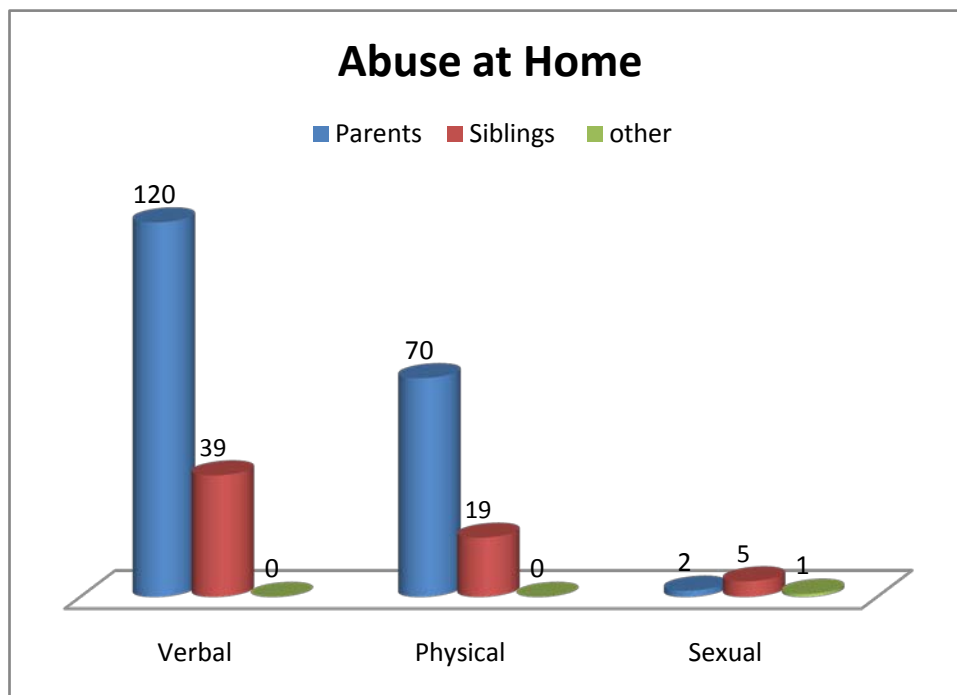
Figure No-13

Types of abuse by Family Members

According to UNICEF violence against children can be "physical and mental abuse and injury, neglect or negligent treatment, exploitation and sexual abuse. Violence may take place in homes, schools, orphanages, residential care facilities, on the streets, in the workplace, in prisons and in places of detention." Such violence can affect the normal development of a child impairing their mental, physical and social being. In extreme cases abuse of a child can result in death.

Child abuse has many forms: physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, and exploitation. Any of these that are potentially or actually harmful to a child's health, survival, dignity and development are abuse. This definition is derived from the W.H.O. (Child Protection and Child rights).

In the above context the study explored the types of abuses and perpetrator in families as well. It is a fact that most of the street children left heir home

due to family problems that includes physical torture, verbal abuse and sexual abuse. The study found that verbal abuse is more common in all the districts. Using abusive words by parents and siblings is a common practice in lower class, labour class even in the middle class family. Physical torture is also commonly practices with children by the parents and siblings to teach them discipline or lesson over their mistakes. The respondent reported sexual abuse in Ajmer, Jaipur and Jodhpur by parents, siblings and other (relatives). Below table presents districts wise data of abuse of children by family members.

Table No 24

District wise Distribution of types of abuse by Family Members

Family Member	Verbal	%	Physical	%	Sexual	%
Jaipur						
Parents	21	42.00%	15	30.00%	0	0.00%
Siblings	6	12.00%	10	20.00%	1	2.00%
other	0	0.00%	0	30.00%	0	0.00%
Total	27	54.00%	25	50.00%	1	2.00%
Kota						
Parents	41	82.00%	14	28.00%	0	0
Siblings	6	12.00%	4	8.00%	0	0
other	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0
	47	94.00%	18	36.00%	0	0
Ajmer						
Parents	33	66.00%	17	34.00%	2	4.00%
Siblings	15	30.00%		0	2	4.00%
other	0	0	0	0	1	2.00%
	48	96.00%	17	34.00%	5	10.00%
Jodhpur						
Parents	25	0.5	24	0.48%	0	0
Siblings	12	0.24%	5	0.1	2	0.04
other	0	0	0		0	0
Total	37	0.74	29	0.58	2	0.04

The study explored types of abuses which are faced by the children at home by their family members/parents. The above figure shows that verbal and physical abuse is most prevalent among the street children. The figure also shows that mostly physical and verbal abuse is done by parents. Abuse by parents is the result of bad parenting. Literacy, poverty, frustration, unemployment, drug/substance use, breakdown of the family is most contributing factors of child abuse by parents. The abuse of children by the family members is directly linked with use of substances or drugs.

"I hailed from Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh. My father was a mason. He was an alcoholic. Whatever he earned in a day used to spend on alcohol. We were five brother and sister. There was an episode of violent daily at home. My mother and we siblings were beaten by my father. I lost all love and affection to my father and fled away from home.

There are so many stories which reveal the tragic part of the street children's life. The figure no 04 reveals that the bread earner or head of the family is most user of all type of substance and drugs like Alcohol, Smoking, Tobacco, Cannabis, Marijuana etc.

Alcohol abuse increases domestic violence in several ways. According to the Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug and other Addiction, violent men are three times more likely to abuse alcohol or drugs. Additionally, chronic long term alcohol abuse creates stress by way of financial pressure, behavior changes, and lowered social standing in the family unit. Not only is there increased stress but the ability to cope with that stress may be reduced substantially because alcohol limits the control that the drinker has on their own behavior.

When someone drinks heavily, the desire to drink sometimes is all they think about, and if the sober spouse attempts to stop the drinking they may spark a violent episode. Clearly, alcohol abuse and domestic violence are an unhappy mix.

Children Suffer from the Combination of Alcohol Abuse and Domestic Violence in the Home. Not only women or the battered spouse suffer when alcohol is abused in combination with domestic violence. Children suffer too. One major study indicates that children from homes that have a history of drinking or drug abuse are more likely to suffer from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, 2002). (Alcohol Abuse and Doemstic Voilence)

Abuse on Streets

■ Yes   ■ No   ■ No Response

	Jaipur (N=50)	Kota (N=50)	Ajmer (N=50)	Jodhpur (N=50)	Total (N=200)
Yes	36	36	25	33	130
No	7	6	10	9	32
No Response	7	9	15	7	38
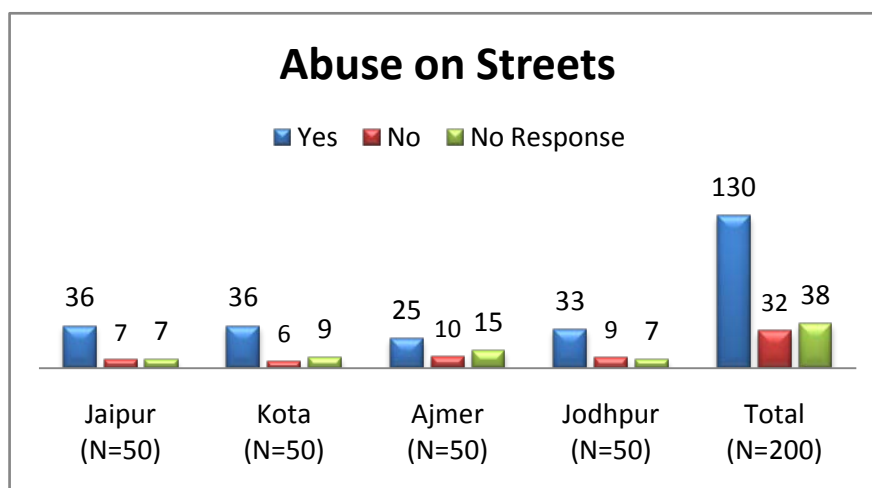
Chart No.14

Torture and Abuse on Streets

The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), 2011 came out with shocking figures of crimes against children: 5,484 children were raped and 1,408 others killed in India last year. In the Capital alone, 29 children were murdered and 304 raped in 2010. But these figures do not include even a fraction of crimes committed against street children. "Not even 10% cases of rape, sodomy or murder of street children are recorded. (Saxena, 2011) It is quite evident from the NCRB data and researches conducted in the past that street children are vulnerable to physical, sexual, verbal abuse after leaving homes. The above figure reveals that regardless geographical situation they are vulnerable to exploitation everywhere. In reference of Rajasthan the data presents the same story about their vulnerability to

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abuse and exploitation and torture. Around 65% children accepted that they have been abused after leaving home sexually, physically, verbally and mentally. However 16 % children said that they didn't experience any type of abuse on streets. 19% children seemed reluctant so they were not forced to give answer. But it is crystal clear from the data that streets are not safe for them but they are forced to live on street due to earlier mentioned reasons.

Table No. 25
<u>Abuser on Streets</u>

Perpetrator on streets	Jaipur (N=36)	%	Kota (N=35)	%	Ajmer (N=25)	%	Jod. (N=33)	%	Total (N=129)	%
Vendors	34	94.44%	31	88.57%	18	72.00%	33	100.00%	116	89.92%
Police/RPF/ GRP	23	63.89%	25	71.43%	24	96.00%	20	60.61%	92	71.32%
Employers	18	50.00%	5	14.29%	6	24.00%	0	0.00%	29	22.48%
Senior Street Children/ Leaders	8	22.22%	5	14.29%	11	44.00%	0	0.00%	24	18.60%

The above table reveals that the vendors were dangerous for these children as almost 90 % children accepted that mostly they are physically, verbally and mentally, sexually abused by vendors. 71 % children also told that Police/GRP/RPF is not sensitive for them. They are regarded nuisance by Police/GRP/RPF. They are beaten and physically verbally tortured by Police man. One Boy in Ajmer said "वैसे तो पुलिस,जी.आर.पी./आर.पी.एफ. का व्यवहार ठीक है लेकिन मुफ्त में चनाज़ोर* गरम खाते है" (Well, the behavior of Police/GRP/RPF is OK but eats **Chanajor Garam** free of cost.). The statement of the children indicates the corruption, protection money, extortion by the police men. **"POLICE ABUSE AND KILLINGS OF STREET CHILDREN IN INDIA" a study conducted by Human Rights Watch Asia in 1995 found that** sixty out of 100 children complained of police abuse in the form of detentions, beatings, extortion, or verbal abuse.

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***Chana Jor Garam* is a mouthwatering Indian traditional roasted chickpea snack, spicy and tangy in taste, (street food)

All the children interviewed reported a fear of the police. Of the sixty street children who reported police abuse, Human Rights Watch recorded twenty-two detailed testimonies.

On the streets, their situation is precarious. Street kids live in dirtiness and total insecurity. They have no rights and no access to education, healthcare or security. They are victims of different types of violence—they are beaten and kicked, they are victims of sexual violence, both girls and boys, and they are at risk of economic exploitation. Bandits and gangs, the police, and the military use and abuse these children. Girls are especially vulnerable to rape and sexual assault by military and sentinels who guard offices and buildings at night. — Mme. Bashizi Mulangala, Division of Social Affairs and the Family, September 15, 2005

Some police officers help to reintegrate street children with their families and protect them from abusive adults.

There are two sides of man in uniform. On the one hand children complained that they live in fear of the uniform meant to protect them and all other civilians. They are threatening, robbed, beaten, tortured, rounded up, harassed and exploited in various forms by Police/GRP/RPF. Under threat of arrest and imprisonment, tortures are forced to hand over money or material goods to men in uniform. They clean their utensil, bring tea for them and in exchange they let them live and earn money at the stations. On the other hand reported that it depends on officials, some official counsel them, had sympathy and tries to reintegrate them with their families.

The street children are at mercy of vendor and police men. The street children reported that whenever any animal or person crushed under the train, the railway department, GRP and RPF get cleaned the dead bodies of the animals and persons from the street children without giving them a

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penny. The street children do this because they have to survive and live at the station.

In addition to abuse by vendor, Police, GRP/RPF, employers, Senior street children and men physically assault younger children for their personal benefits and abuse them by getting done their personal tasks. 23% children reported abuse and torture by employers and almost 19% children reported that older children are a also a great risk for them. Younger children have to pay commission to the older children. Older children get collected empty bottles and get filled with normal tap water and get sold it from younger children. They gave some money to younger children and rest of the money is kept by the older children. The children reported beating, kicking, verbally abusing and other kind of physical abuse by senior children.

The abuse is usually accompanied by theft whereby younger children are obliged to hand over whatever coveted meager possession or money they have. Equally important, however, is the significance of these actions in creating control and establishing a hierarchical order on the street. Groups of street children are generally self-organized by age group with a leader. Each group is part of a larger group that is controlled by a neighborhood leader. Through intimidation, threats, and physical and sexual abuse, these leaders exact loyalty and exert control over younger street children. In most instances, the police, GRP and RPF fail to protect younger street children from abuse by older street boys and men as these children do not exist for them.

Project Coordinator of TAABAR shared that every second child is a victim of sexual abuse or physical abuse who come to us for shelter. They reported such two cases to CWC in which local person were involved.

Table No-26

Behaviour of RPF and GRP

Attitude/ Behavior	Jaipur (N=50)	%	Kota (N=50)	%	Ajmer (N=50)	%	Jodh. (N=50)	%	Total (N=200)	%
Exploiting	36	72.00%	18	36.00%	35	70.00%	26	52.00%	115	57.50%
Cruel & Brutal	19	38.00%	23	46.00%	5	10.00%	17	34.00%	64	32.00%
Abusing	15	30.00%	13	26.00%	5	10.00%	22	44.00%	55	27.50%
Depends on Officer	8	16.00%	2	4.00%	2	4.00%	7	14.00%	19	9.50%
Sympathetic	0	0.00%	2	4.00%	3	6.00%	1	2.00%	6	3.00%
Others	0	0.00%	4	8.00%	4	8.00%	1	2.00%	9	4.50%
Total	**50**		**50**		**50**		**50**		**200**	

*Multiple Responses

As we all know that SJPU, RPF, GRP & SM are the first recipients of children in the JJ System. This makes their role very critical as the experience of the system will last long on the child. Ironically the role of these recipients has been subject of criticism due to their apathetic attitude and behavior whenever they are linked with these children. The study complements that cruelty and brutality was highly in Jaipur (72%), followed by Ajmer (70%). In totality the RPF, POLICE and GRP was found insensitive towards these children. Though few children stated that sometime GRP, RPF, Police are sympathetic while few children stated that they experienced all type of officials, sometimes they were cruel, sometime sympathetic so it can be said that the it depends on official to official. According to the data, 57% children accepted that GRP and RPF had been exploiting in terms of extorting money, getting done odd jobs, expelling them from station etc. 32 % children also told that GRP/RPF and Police was cruel and brutal for them in terms of locked up them, detaining in police station, booking false charges, beating etc. Almost 27% reported that they are verbally abused by these departments. They are called with the following titles like Tapori (vagabond or rowdy), bhagoda (runaway) , kantak (thorn or

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troublesome), solushanbaaj (as they sniff solvent) , They are also identified with their disability like लूला (armless), बहरा (deaf), by physical adjective like लम्बू (taller), chhotu (short heighted).

Sexual Practices and Knowledge about HIV/AIDS & STIs
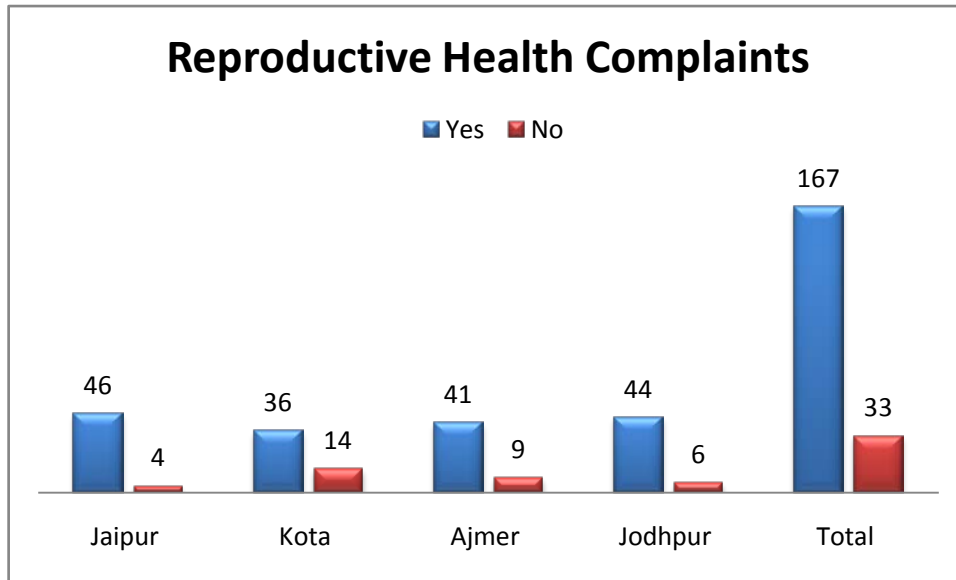
Chart No-15

Reproductive Health Complaints among Street Children

The street children live a mobile and transitory life style and are vulnerable to inadequate nutrition, physical injuries, and substance use and health problems including reproductive and sexual health problems. Sexual and reproductive /HIV/AIDS/STIs are closely link to the substance use and personal hygiene. The study has already confirmed that 84% of total sample consumed various types of substance and drugs. Out of total sample, 167 respondents accepted that they are having some unusual problems in their genitalia.

Table No 27

Types of Reproductive Health Complaints

Complaints	Jaipur	% (n=46)	Kota	% (n=36)	Ajmer	% (n=41)	Jodh.	% (n=44)	Total	% (n=167)
Itching & burning in urination	18	39.13%	18	50.00%	19	46.34%	10	22.73%	65	38.92%
Blisters on genital areas	19	41.30%	6	16.67%	15	36.59%	7	15.91%	47	28.14%
Pus on genital areas	2	4.35%	2	5.56%	1	2.44%	3	6.82%	8	4.79%
Others	7	15.22%	10	27.78%	6	14.63%	24	54.55%	47	28.14%
Total	**46**	**100.00%**	**36**	**100.00%**	**41**	**100.00%**	**44**	**100.00%**	**167**	**100.00%**

When they were probed to enquire about the type of complaints it was found that almost 33 % were suffering from itching and burning in urination.28% were having blisters on genital areas and almost 5 % were having pus on genital areas. 28 % couldn't mention exactly what type of problem they were having. Nevertheless, they didn't care about this and didn't seek any medical advice or treatment due to fear and shame. Apart from this, they told that in Government Hospitals, *"We are not listened carefully so we can't imagine going to government hospital for this type of illness and private treatment is so expensive that is beyond our capacity."*
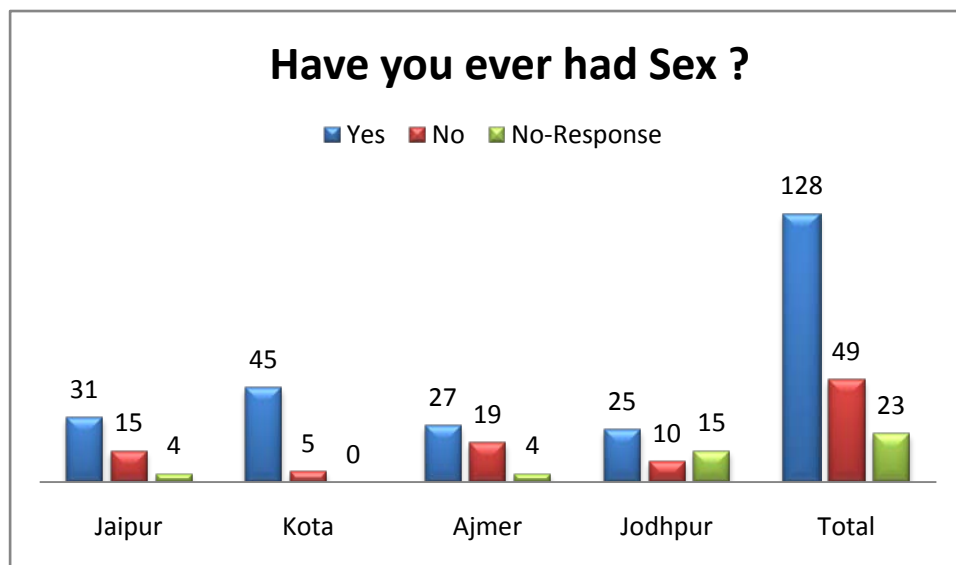

Chart No-16

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Have you ever had Sex ?

These children live in adverse conditions and get into the contact of many persons. There are slums nearby in each and every junction. The people live in shanties mostly depend on begging and petty crimes. The women and girls are equally involved. The slum girls mainly feed their families by begging or prostitution. The study explored about their relationships with peer group and others. It was found that 40 % children had friendship with opposite sex on streets. This includes mainly street and slum girls who are engaged in begging or prostitution who resides near around the railway station area and physical intimacy is the common thing between street boys and girls.

Homeless children are at risk of getting many diseases, including sexually transmitted infections (STI). The study explored that 64% children were sexually active. The median age at first sexual activity was 13 years among the street children. At early age, they had experienced or experimented sexual activity on streets by masturbating. Initially they started it with beggar and slum girls in exchange of some food, gutkha and other substance like alcohol, whitener etc. This is cheapest entertainment for the boys because they didn't pay money for this as the respondent told. The study revealed that sometime they abuse mentally disturbed girls who are lost, missing sometimes. The respondent reported that they go to commercial sex workers for change. ***Bundi district is stronghold for commercial sex. The group of these children goes to Indergarh and hires a sex worker, spends a night over there and return to the station. In addition, the study found that these children are abused by older children and especially by eunuchs who begs in the train. Eunuchs take these children on tour for a month or two; they take care of them, give them nutritious food, in exchange use them to fulfill their sexual urge.***

Table No-28

How many time you had sex ?

	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajm	%	Jod.	%	Total	%
one time	12	38.71%	15	33.33%	8	29.63%	12	44.44%	47	36.15%
2-5 time	11	35.48%	13	28.89%	10	37.04%	8	29.63%	42	32.31%
more than 5 time	8	25.81%	17	37.78%	9	33.33%	7	25.93%	41	31.54%
Total	31	100.00%	45	100.00%	27	100.00%	27	100.00%	130	100.00%

Out of 200 children, 47 children got physically intimated once, 42 children had sex two to five times and 41 children had sex more than five times. Substance use and pressure of peer group
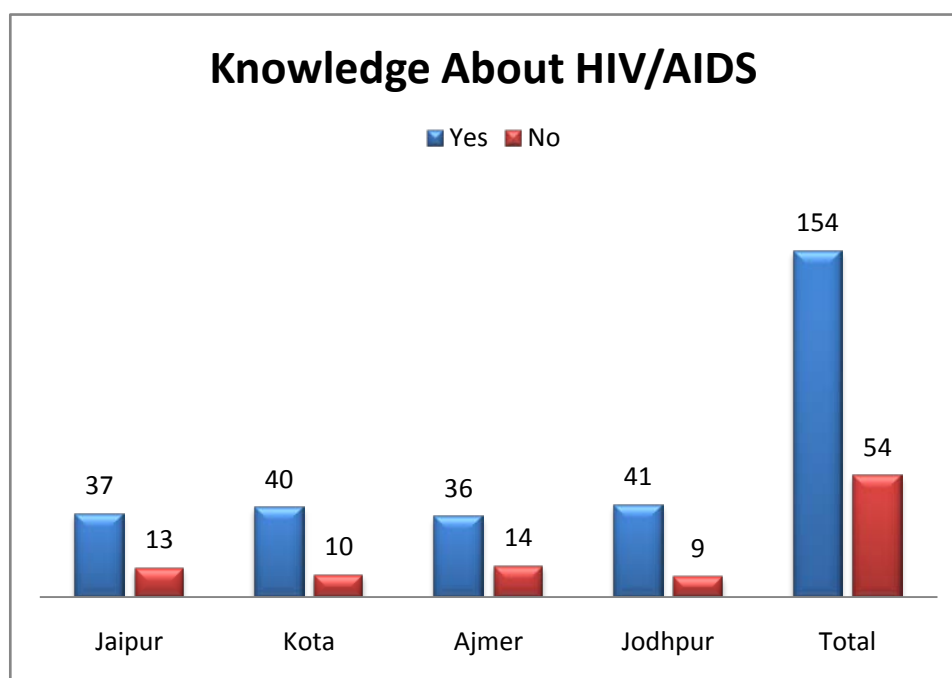
Chart No-17

Knowledge about HIV /AIDS

The study-examined knowledge regarding the HIV/AIDS and STIs and found that around 74% respondent of total sample were not aware about HIV/AIDS while 16 % were aware about HIV/AIDS but not about STIs. They had just heard about the name of HIV/AIDS but didn't know how it spread and what the symptoms of the HIV/AIDS are.

Table No-29

Knowledge about condom and sources of Information

Do you Know about Condom										
	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Yes	26	52.00%	36	72.00%	35	70.00%	29	58.00%	118	59.00%
No	24	48.00%	22	44.00%	15	30.00%	21	42.00%	82	41.00%
Total	50	100.00%	50	116.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	200	100.00%
Source of information about Condom										
Sources	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jodhpur	%	Total	%
Friends	20	40.00%	11	30.56%	34	68.00%	18	36.00%	83	44.62%
T.V.	22	44.00%	12	33.33%	13	26.00%	20	40.00%	67	36.02%
Adult/ Porn movies	2	4.00%	13	36.11%	0	0.00%	7	14.00%	22	11.83%
Advertisement	3	6.00%	0	0.00%	3	6.00%	0	0.00%	6	3.23%
Social worker	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Awareness programme	2	4.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	3	1.61%
Don't know	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	8.00%	5	2.69%
Total	50	100.00%	36	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	186	100.00%

*Source field data

When they were asked about the knowledge and practice about the condom, 59% respondent of total sample said that they knew about condom

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but never used. They shared that during the gossiping it was came to know that condom lessen the pleasure. In addition use of alcohol and substance make them senseless. It was found that 45.50% street children received the information about condom from their friends, 37% from television, 10% from advertisement and adult movie, 11.83 % from porn /adult movies. They main source of information about HIV/AIDS was from friends and television.

Table No-30

Immediate Needs of Street Children

Ranking	Immediate Need	Jaipur	Kota	Ajmer	Jodhpur	Total
1	Employment/Job	29	39	31	30	129
2	Capital to start up	19	32	29	26	106
3	Education/Back to school	12	17	21	23	73
4	Accommodation/Home	12	16	5	18	51
4	Food	4	15	9	23	51
5	Self Respect & Dignity	6	2	3	1	12
6	shelter home	1	6	1	0	8
7	Medical Treatment	0	1	0	1	2

*Source field data

Sohail left his home when he was eight years old. He started begging in train. Gradually he got mixed up with other children at the railway station. He started sniffing whitener. Within few months, he got addicted and completely got disconnected with family. Now he is eighteen years old. Now he pick empty water bottle and fill the tape water and sell it to the passenger. Sohail told that now he wanted to settle in life for this he requires a job but no one was ready to give him job.

Street children showed different perceptions of immediate needs. Large number of children wanted employment or job as their immediate need or

capital to start petty business. Some of them also wanted to study along with job. Few children wanted food. Some of them wanted to live life with respect and dignity. Some children expressed that they wanted to in shelter home so that they could be able to live a better life.

Table No-31

Appearance of the Street Children while Interview

Appearance	Jaipur (N=50)	%	Kota (N=50)	%	Ajmer (N=50)	%	Jodh. (N=50)	%	Total (N=200)	%
Unkempt hair/ Dirty wearing undersized cloth	31	62.00%	27	54.00%	27	54.00%	35	70.00%	120	60.00%
Wearing dirty and tattered cloth	22	44.00%	17	34.00%	31	62.00%	26	52.00%	96	48.00%
Under the influence of substance use	23	46.00%	20	40.00%	16	32.00%	25	50.00%	84	42.00%
Wearing dirty cloth but ok	10	20.00%	14	28.00%	12	24.00%	8	16.00%	44	22.00%
Half naked	3	6.00%	5	10.00%	2	4.00%	0	0.00%	10	5.00%
Neat & clean	7	14.00%	6	12.00%	5	10.00%	8	16.00%	26	13.00%
Drunk	2	4.00%	5	10.00%	2	4.00%	1	2.00%	10	5.00%
Normal	6	12.00%	9	18.00%	1	2.00%	4	8.00%	20	10.00%

*Multiple Features Observed

The term "Street Children" creates an image of a child, who is dirty, wearing torn and undersized cloth or half naked with unkempt hair, begging on street, roadside, train coaches/traffic signals. This is a universal identity of street children. Across the globe, the same image has been documented by many researchers, academicians etc. The study closely examined the street children appearance on various parameters and found multiple features among the street children that made them different. Out of 200 children, 60% children were appeared dirty, wearing undersized clothes with unkempt hair. 48% children were wearing dirty and tattered clothes that

were not covering their body parts. Along with this appearance, 42% children were under the influence of substance use (whitener, solvent, marijuana etc.). 5% children were found half naked only in pajamas. 13% children were found neat and clean with ok clothing. 5% children were under the influence of Alcohol in day time. Only the appearance of 10% children was found normal with so-so clothing. During the FGD discussing about personal hygiene, the street children told there is no need of bathing, personal hygiene in our profession. If we look maintained, neat and clean then who will give us alms that is our main source of income. They rare take bath and wash clothes. They mainly take shower under the railway water pipeline that is used for filling the water tank of coaches. They never pay for public toilets; they defecate and urinate in open areas near by railway track or bank of river. It was notices that older children become aware about their appearance. They start doing jobs so they looked in ok condition.

Table No-32

Dreams and Ambitions of Street Children

S. No.	Dreams/Ambitions	Jaipur	Kota	Ajmer	Jodhpur	Total
1	Actor			1		1
2	Abroad	1	---	---	---	1
3	Advocate	1	---	1	---	2
4	Dancer	1	---	1	3	5
5	Doctor	3	---	1	2	6
6	Dhaba Boy	1	2	---	---	3
7	Driver	3	---	4	3	10
8	Engineer	1	---	1	---	2
9	Good Human Being	2	---	---	---	2
10	Government Job	2	---	---	---	2
11	Grocery Shop	1	---	2	---	3
12	Purchasing House	2	---	---	---	2
13	Job	1	1	---	1	3
14	Marriage	3	1	---	2	6

S. No.	Dreams/Ambitions	Jaipur	Kota	Ajmer	Jodhpur	Total
15	Mechanic	2	---	---	---	2
16	Making lots of Money	5	---	---	1	6
17	Purchasing Motor Bike	1	---	---	---	1
18	No Response	5	---	13	---	18
19	Owing Shop	5	1	---	---	6
20	Study	4	2	---	---	6
21	Tea Stall	4	5	2	1	12
22	Social worker	1	---	---	---	1
23	Teacher	1	---	---	---	1
24	Business	---	5	---	1	6
25	Cant' say	---	1	1	---	2
26	Don't Know	---	1	---	---	1
27	Factory Worker	---	1	---	---	1
28	Job	---	1	---	---	1
29	Money/Marriage	---	7	---	1	8
30	Mechanic/own House	---	1	---	---	1
31	No Response	---	10	---	5	15
32	Scrapper	---	1	---	---	1
33	Selling Water Bottle	---	2	---	---	2
34	Study/Government Job	---	3	---	---	3
35	Study and works	---	1	---	---	1
36	Study and Own shop	---	1	---	---	1
37	Vendor	---	1	---	---	1
38	Police	---	1	2	3	6
39	want to works at Shop/tea stall	---	1	---	---	1
40	Own Auto	---	---	4	4	8
41	Own House	---	---	2	1	3
42	Own Car	---	---	1	1	2
43	Soldier	---	---	2	3	5
44	Tapori	---	---	1	---	1
45	Murderer	---	---	3	---	3
46	Mumbai Ka Gunda	---	---	1	---	1
47	Making Lots of Money	---	---	2	---	2
48	Guitar Player	---	---	1	---	1

S. No.	Dreams/Ambitions	Jaipur	Kota	Ajmer	Jodhpur	Total
49	Life with respect and dignity	---	---	2	---	2
50	T.V.Star	---	---	1	---	1
51	Shop (barber/Cloth	---	---	---	2	2
52	Pilot	---	---	---	1	1
53	Player	---	---	---		0
54	Mason	---	---	---	1	1
55	Musician	---	---	---	1	1
56	Work at tea Stall /Hotel /shop	---	---	---	7	7
57	Money for sister's Marriage	---	---	1	1	2
58	Mata-Pita Ki seva	---	---	---	1	1
59	Main Sapne nahi dekhta (I do not dream)	---	---	---	1	1
60	Ravan Hatha ka kaam	---	---	---	1	1
61	Own Shop	---	---	---	2	2
	Total	**50**	**50**	**50**	**50**	**200**

*Source field data

Although the respondents gave varied response on their future aspirations, most of them wanted to possess their own house, car, auto etc. The ambitions of their life were closely associated with their family back ground. Some of them wanted to serve for their siblings and parents for bright future. Some of them said that they wanted government job. Many of them wanted to be a doctor, police officer, teacher etc. Some children told that they wanted to be an actor, dancer, guitar player etc. There were few children who were not able to identify their dreams and ambitions but wanted to earn money to live a better life. A large number of them wanted to get married. The table reveals that ultimately they wanted to live a normal life like other people of the society. Few of them hoped to go back home. Some of them said that they wanted to be a Tapori / Bhai.

Table No-33

Public Perception about of Street Children

Perception	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jod.	%	Total	%
Sympathetic	3	6.00%	6	12.00%	4	8.00%	2	4.00%	15	7.50%
Scornful	24	48.00%	29	58.00%	15	30.00%	30	60.00%	98	49.00%
Cruel and brutal	11	22.00%	12	24.00%	18	36.00%	22	44.00%	63	31.50%
Exploiting	19	38.00%	11	22.00%	17	34.00%	11	22.00%	58	29.00%
Abusing	13	26.00%	2	4.00%	3	6.00%	7	14.00%	25	12.50%
Other	1	2.00%	3	6.00%	9	18.00%	8	16.00%	21	10.50%
Total	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	50	100.00%	200	100.00%

More than 90% felt that the general public disliked them, they were seen as Taporis and that they should be forcefully removed from streets, while 7.50% reported that the general public was sympathetic towards them. Research has demonstrated that no amount of intervention programming designed for street children can be successful unless the community is prepared to respect, protect and provide opportunities to street children (Tacon, cited in Schurink & Rip, 1993). This study shows that only less than a quarter of the community is supportive of street children. In focused group discussions, street children said they were treated violently, scorned and subjected to hostility by police and security guards. Most were highly fearful of police & GRP. Street children did not react when they are asked about the rules and regulation made by society. They said that ''समाज से हमें कोई लेना देना नहीं है स्टेशन पर रहने वाले दोस्त ही हमारा समाज है''। Further they said that all people are selfish. They don't have any expectations from the society. More than 90% said that they did not receive

any support after leaving home. The children who were already living t the station supported and taught how to survive on streets.

Table No-34

<u>Social Life of Street Children</u>

| Visiting home	Jaipur	%	Kota	%	Ajmer	%	Jod.	%	Total	%
Once in a month	3	6.00%	7	14.00%	2	4.00%	0	0.00%	8	4.00%
quarterly	9	18.00%	6	12.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	16	8.00%
Once in a year	1	2.00%	3	6.00%	1	2.00%	0	0.00%	5	2.50%
depends on mood	9	18.00%	3	6.00%	1	2.00%	4	8.00%	17	8.50%
depends on money	0	0.00%	1	2.00%	3	6.00%	3	6.00%	7	3.50%
sometimes	7	14.00%	9	18.00%	19	38.00%	12	24.00%	47	23.50%
Regular	10	20.00%	13	26.00%	20	40.00%	27	54.00%	70	35.00%
Never	11	22.00%	8	16.00%	3	6.00%	4	8.00%	26	13.00%
Total	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**50**	**100.00%**	**200**	**100.00%**

*Source field data

35% children were visiting their parents on regular basis. It was found that the children who came from nearby areas were able to visit their parents on regular basis like children from slums especially from Sansi community in Jodhpur, children of residents of Hasanpura under bridge in Jaipur, from kunhadi slum in Kota, Topdada in Ajmer. 13% children were totally disconnected with their families. Rests of the children were in contact with family but not so regular.

The children, who were in contact with their parents, carried a good relationship with their parents. Those who are not in contact with parents, miss their parents but not willing to go back to home. Few of them go to home occasionally. Mostly children leave in groups on the streets. They are

like family. Though sometimes they fight each other but soon sorted out the problems. They help each other in crisis. There is no formal group.

Perception about Institutional care

Street children were asked questions how do they think about shelter homes. More than one third of the respondents expressed disliking for shelter homes. Few of them were escaped from shelter homes. Some of them were restored by NGOs but street life had become their first choice. Mostly children disliked the disciplined life of shelter homes, some of them complained about physical and sexual abuse in homes. ''अगर हमें अनुशासन में रहना होता तो हम क्यों छोड़ते, स्ट्रीट पर हम पूरी तरह आजाद है ना कोई रोकने वाला है ना कोई टोकने वाला'',
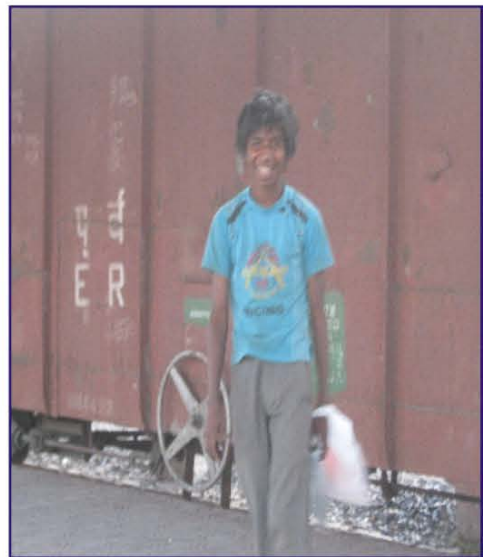
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CHAPTER-V

CHAPTER-V

Policies and Interventions

Legal Framework: Rights, Entitlements and Safeguards

International Framework:

- ❖ In the Middle age children were considered as **"small adults"**

- ❖ In the middle of 19th century, the idea of giving children special attention appeared in France.

- ❖ In 1841, laws started to protect children at their workplace.

- ❖ In 1881, French laws included the right for the children to be educated.

- ❖ At the beginning of the 20th century, children's protection started to be put in place, including protection in the medical, social and judicial fields. This kind of protection started first in France and spread across Europe later on.

- ❖ In 1919, the international community, following the creation of The League of Nations (later to become the UN), started to give some kind of importance to that concept and formed a Committee for Child Protection.

- ❖ The League of Nations adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child on September 16, 1924, which is the first international treaty concerning children's rights. In five chapters it gives specific rights to the children and responsibilities to the adults.

- ❖ World War II and its casualties left thousands of children in dire straits. Consequently, the UN Fund for Urgency for the Children was created in 1947, which became UNICEF and was granted the status of a permanent international organization in 1953. From its inception, UNICEF has been focusing particularly on helping young victims of WW2, taking care mainly of European children. But in 1953, its mandate was enlarged to a truly international scope and its actions expanded to developing countries. UNICEF then put in place several

programs for helping children in their education, health, and their access to water and food.

❖ On December 10, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognized that "motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance."

❖ In 1959 the General Assembly of the UN adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Whereas this document had not been signed by all the countries and its principles had only an indicative value, it paved the way to a Universal Declaration of Children Rights.

❖ In the midst of the Cold War and after hard negotiations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the General Assembly of the UN in New York:

❖ The year 1979 was declared as International Year of the Child by the UN. That year saw a real change of spirit, as Poland made the proposal to create a working group within the Human Rights Commission, which was in charge of writing an international charter.

❖ The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly on November 20, 1989. Its 54 articles describe the economic, social and cultural rights of the children.

❖ The International Charter for Economical, Social and Cultural Rights recognized the right to protection against economical exploitation, the right to be educated and the right to healthcare.

❖ The Charter related to Civil Rights established **the right to have a name and a nationality.**

❖ The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention was adopted on June 17, 1999.

❖ In May 2000, the optional protocol to the International Charter of the Child Rights regarding the participation of children in armed conflicts

was ratified. It came into force in 2002. This document prohibited minors taking part in armed conflicts. As of today, the International Charter of the Child Rights has been signed by 190 countries, even though there are a few reservations concerning certain parts of the document. Only the US and Somalia have signed but not ratified.

(Cited from http://www.humanium.org/en/childrens-rights-history/)

Pre-Independence Era

The early part of the 19th century saw no substantial body of the law relating to the liabilities, treatment of welfare of children. Under the common law principle of equality before the law, everyone was liable to ordinary proceedings in the ordinary courts and hence no special provisions were made for the children (Barooah, 1992).

The common law principle needed radical changes in the light of the social conditions following the industrial revolution. There was an increase in the young offender and children going wayward who needed to be dealt with institutions distinct and separate from ordinary courts.

In India the Apprentice Act was passed in 1850 to provide better treatment to the children between the age of 10 to 18 years. Then Reformatory School Act, 1876 came and it was amended in 1897 that made provisions for special courts which could order 3-7 years detention and training instead of punishment (Barooah, 1992).

The first move to enact a Children's Act came from the Indian Jails Committee (1919-1920) which recommended special treatment for young offenders to reform and rehabilitate them. The Children's Act in various states in the 20s was a sequel to the committee's recommendations.

The Children's Act of Madras came into force in 1920, then in Bengal in 1922, followed by Bombay in 1924. The trend continued and state parties enacted child welfare oriented laws with little variations. The state parties recognised the importance of understanding the situation of a child. Very

few laws relating to children were enacted before independence in the country which were as following:

The Guardian and Wards Act, 1890

In the ancient period, the property of the minor was protected by the State. Before the Act, the laws on this subject were not uniform and were passed mostly by the Bombay, Madras and Bengal presidencies. The act mainly deals with the appointment of the Guardians (Guardian of Minor and Guardian of Property) for both the purposes, and secondly their rights, duties and liabilities.

Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929

Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929, passed on 28 September 1929 in the British India Legislature of India, fixed the age of marriage for girls at 14 years and boys at 18 years which was later amended to 18 for girls and 21 for boys. It is popularly known as the Sarda Act, after its sponsor Harbilas Sarda. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_Marriage_Restraint_**Act)**

The Children (Pledging of labour) Act 1933 (Amended by Act No 3 of 1951 and A.O. 1950)

Under this Act any person employing or making agreement with parents or organizations for child labour will be punished. Parents or guardians who give a pledge or make an agreement for children's services in return for payment or any benefit in return are liable for a fine of Rs. 50. The employer who makes the agreement with parents or guardians for child labour will be fined Rs. 200.

The employment of Children Act, 1938

It prohibits the employment of children less than 15 years in occupation connected with transport passenger, goods or mail by Railways; or connected with the Postal authority. The children below 14 years cannot be employed for Cement Manufacture including packing, Mica cutting, and splitting, soap and shellac manufacturing, wool cleaning, manufacturing of

matches, explosives and fireworks, tanning, workshops connected with carpets, weaving and cloth printing, and dyeing.

Post Independence Era

Constitution of India

The Indian constitution accords rights to children as citizens of the country, and in keeping with their special status, the State has even enacted special laws. The Constitution, promulgated in 1950, encompasses most rights included in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy. Over the years, many individuals and public interest groups have approached the apex court for restitution of fundamental rights, including child rights. The Directive Principles of State Policy articulate social and economic rights that have been declared to be "fundamental in the governance of the country and … the duty of the state to apply … in making laws" (Article 37). The government has the flexibility to undertake appropriate legislative and administrative measures to ensure children's rights; no court can make the government ensure them, as these are essentially directives. These directives have enabled the judiciary to give some landmark judgements promoting children's rights, leading to Constitutional Amendments as is in the case of the 86th Amendment to the Constitution that made Right to Education a fundamental right.

Fundamental rights

Article 14 : ….. shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.

Article 15 : ….. shall not discriminate against any citizen …(3) Nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making special provisions for women & children . (4) Nothing …. shall prevent the state from making special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Article 17 : ….. Untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden.

Article 19 : ….. all citizens shall have the right – (a) to freedom of speech and expression….(c) to form associations or unions. (d) to move freely throughout the territory of India.(e) to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India.

Article 21:…. No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

Article 21 A:…. states that that state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years…

Article 23: traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited .

Article 24 :…. No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948

The act defines child "as a person who has not completed his/her fourteen years of age and Adolescent as a person who has completed 14 years but has not completed 18 years of age. As per the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 the number of hours of work for the adolescent shall be fixed by the medical practitioner as approved by the Government, which shall be decided on consideration of adolescent as an adult or the child. The child should, however, not be allowed to work for more than 4-1/2 hours on any day and the act permits the children above 12 years of age for a maximum 6 hours in a day.

The Factory's Act, 1948

The Act prohibits the employment of children up to the age of 14 years. The Act prohibits the employment of child or an adolescent (those between ages 15-18) unless he/she is certified by an authorised surgeon as to his/her

physical fitness for work. The fitness certificate is valid for an year only. Moreover children are not allowed to work for more than 4-1/2 hours on any day.

Directive Principle of State Policy

Article 39:…(e) …the tender age of children are not abused …and not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength ; (f) that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood…protected against exploitation and gainst moral and material abandonment.

Article 45:….provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

Article 46: shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes ….

Article 47: …raising of the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health

Article 51: the state shall endevor to - ….(c) foster respect for intetnational law and treaty obligations

Article 51 A: ….(k) ….parent or guardian toprovide opportunities for education his child or as the case may be , ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

The Plantation Act, 1951

According to the Act the minimum age of employment is 12 years. Adolescent between ages 15-18 are employed on the same basis as proved under the Factories Act, 1948. The prescribed maximum hours are 40 hours a week.

The Mines Act, 1952 (Amended in 1983)

The Act covers all workers working in mines both underground and on surface. No person below the age of 15 is permitted to work on the surface, and a person must have completed the age of 16 years and in addition to that a fitness certificate given by an authorised surgeon is essential. Even at this age the maximum hours of work allowed are 4-1/2 hours per day. **The Act was further amended in 1983 that made provisions of punishment for violation up to Rs 2000/- fine and imprisonment up to three years.**

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (Amended in 1984)

The Act provides that the employment of children below the age of 15 years with certain exemptions is prohibited. Also persons below 18 years cannot be employed as trimmers and stokers. **The Act was further amended in 1984 that prohibited the employment of the children below 15 years at sea works and any capacity in a training ship, or a ship or in a home trade ship with less than 200 tons gross or where the child is employed at nominal wages and will be in the charge of his or other male relative. Punishment for violation is imprisonment of up to five months and a fine of Rs 50/-.**

Prevention of Vagrancy and Beggary Acts

The state government has enacted anti-beggary Acts in respective states. As per the information available on the website of Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice Empowerment, 20 states and two union territories have anti-beggary laws in the country. The Madras Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 is the oldest and first Anti-begging Act in India. The Act defines a child as a boy who has not completed 16 years of age and a girl who has not completed 18 years of age. According to this Act, beggars found guilty by a court of law were sentenced to a minimum of one year and a maximum of three years in Beggar's Home (certified Homes).

The Children Act, 1960 (Amended in 1978)

The Government of India enacted the Children's Act, 1960 on 26 December 1960 in the 11th year of Republic India. The Act was to provide for the care, protection, maintenance, welfare, training, education and rehabilitation of neglected, delinquent children. The Children's Act, 1960 was amended in 1978 in the 29th year of Republic India to make it more effective and meet the requirements of delinquent and neglected children, allowed flexibility in the use of institutions for the neglect and delinquent children and made available. The arrangements made for after care services, when the children leave the Children Homes and Special Homes for their reintegration and rehabilitation.

Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961

The Act prohibits the employment of children below 15 years of age in any capacity in the motor transport undertakings. Employment of those children who are in the age bracket 15 to 18 is regulated on the same lines as provided under Factories Act, 1948. The maximum hours of work prescribed are six hours.

The Apprentice Act, 1961

The Act prescribes that the children under the age of 14 years would be given training unless he has such standards of education or physical fitness as may be prescribed.

Beedi and Cigar Workers-Conditions of Employment Act, 1966

The minimum age for the employment of children is 14 years for any work in any industrial premises.

Radiation Protection Rules, 1971 framed under Atomic Energy Act, 1972

Children below the age of 18 years are prohibited, except in circumstances when they are permitted by a competent authority to work at places where mean radiation source are utilised.

Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976

The Act banishes all kinds of bondage in the country.

The Shops and Establishment Acts, (State Acts)

The Act prohibits children under twelve in all states (exception Andhra Pradesh where the minimum age is 14 years) to work in shops and commercial establishments in various states, specially between 7 PM and 6 AM, and the maximum hours of work during the day varies form 5-7 hours.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

The employment of Children's Act, 1938 was replaced by the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 which was passed by the Parliament on December 23, 1986. The child labour Act bans the employment of children below 14 years of age in specified occupations and processes which are recognised unsafe harmful to the child workers and regulates the conditions of work for children in employment where they are not prohibited from working. It also lays down the penalties for the employment of children in violation of the provisions of this Act, and other Acts which forbid the employment of children.

The Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000

The Act was passed taking into consideration all the international standards prescribed as per the Convention on the Rights of Child, the standards minimum rules for the administration of Juvenile Justice, 1985 (Beijing Rules), The UN Guidelines for the prevention of Juvenile Delinquency called the Riyadh Guidelines, 1990 and the United Nation Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (1990). This Act repealed the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. The Act defines a child who has not attained the age of 18 years. The Act is called social and reformatory Act that deals with two categories of children:

1. The children in need of care and protection

2. The children in conflict with law

The Act comprehensively deals with child protection issues from state to village level and ensure the participation of children, community, stakeholders, various government departments, NGOs, family etc. The Act makes provisions for Institutional care and Non-Institutional care. The Act is based on the principal **of "The best interest of the Child"** and child friendly approach in Juvenile Justice System. Other than this the Act establishes, statutory bodies, service delivery structures and child protection mechanism for care and protection, treatment, restoration, rehabilitation and reintegration of the children stated in the Act.

The Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005

The above Act of the parliament received the assent of the President on 20th January, 2006. An Act to provide for the constitution of a National Commission and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights and Children's Courts for providing speedy trial of offences against children or of violation of child rights and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto. Under the section of 17 & 18 of the Act, it provides for the constitution of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights with a Chairperson and six members to be appointed by Government. (Available at

http://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/TheGazetteofIndia.pdf)

Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2006

Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2006 - The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 has been repealed and the major provisions of the new Act include:

Age of marriage for boys is 21 and 18 for girls and any marriage of persons below this age is child marriage - illegal, an offence and punishable under law. Every child marriage shall be void if so desired by either the bride or the groom who was a child at the time of the marriage. Any person arranging, party to, solemnizing, participating in a child marriage is also liable to be

punished under the Act, including mass marriages. The penalty for facilitating child marriage is rigorous imprisonment up to two years and/or a fine up to one lakh rupees (Available at http://dwcdkar.gov.in/)

Right to Education Act, 2009

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which represents the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21-A, means that every child has a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.

Article 21-A and the RTE Act came into effect on 1 April 2010. The title of the RTE Act incorporates the words 'free and compulsory'. 'Free education' means that no child, other than a child who has been admitted by his or her parents to a school which is not supported by the appropriate Government, shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses which may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education. 'Compulsory education' casts an obligation on the appropriate Government and local authorities to provide and ensure admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by all children in the 6-14 age groups. With this, India has moved forward to a rights based framework that casts a legal obligation on the Central and State Governments to implement this fundamental child right as enshrined in the Article 21A of the Constitution, in accordance with the provisions of the RTE Act. (http://mhrd.gov.in/rte)

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012

India is the home to the largest child population in the world, with almost 42 per cent of the total population under eighteen years of age. Needless to say, the health and security of the country's children is integral to any vision for its progress and development.

One of the issues marring this vision for the country's future generations is the evil of child sexual abuse. Statistics released by the National Crime Records Bureau reveal that there has been a steady increase in sexual

crimes against children. According to a study conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) in 2007, over half of the children surveyed reported having faced some form of sexual abuse, with their suffering exacerbated by the lack of specific legislation to provide remedies for these crimes. While rape is considered a serious offence under the Indian Penal Code, the law was deficient in recognising and punishing other sexual offences, such as sexual harassment, stalking, and child pornography, for which prosecutors had to rely on imprecise provisions such as "outraging the modesty of a woman". The MWCD, recognising that the problem of child sexual abuse needs to be addressed through less ambiguous and more stringent legal provisions, championed the introduction of a specific law to address this offence. The POCSO Act was therefore formulated in order to effectively address the heinous crimes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 received the President's assent on 19th June 2012 and was notified in the Gazette of India on 20thJune, 2012. The Act is due to come into force shortly, along with the rules being framed under the Act. (http://pib.nic.in/newsite/efeatures.aspx?relid=86150)

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 came into force on 15th January and repealed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2015 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 7th May, 2015; was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 2015 and received Presidential assent on 31st December, 2015.

The JJ Act, 2015 provides for strengthened provisions for both children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. Some of the key provisions include: change in nomenclature from 'juvenile' to 'child' or 'child in conflict with law', across the Act to remove the negative connotation associated with the word "juvenile"; inclusion of several new definitions such as orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children; and petty, serious and

heinous offences committed by children; clarity in powers, function and responsibilities of Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC); clear timelines for inquiry by Juvenile Justice Board (JJB); special provisions for heinous offences committed by children above the age of sixteen year; separate new chapter on Adoption to streamline adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children; inclusion of new offences committed against children; and mandatory registration of Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

Under Section 15, special provisions have been made to tackle child offenders committing heinous offences in the age group of 16-18 years. Separate chapter (VIII) on Adoption provides for detailed provisions relating to adoption and punishments for not complying with the laid down procedures.

Several rehabilitation and social reintegration measures have been provided for children in conflict with law and those in need of care and protection. Under the institutional care, children are provided with various services including education, health, nutrition, de-addiction, treatment of diseases, vocational training, skill development, life skill education, counselling, etc to help them assume a constructive role in the society. The variety of non-institutional options include: sponsorship and foster care including group foster care for placing children in a family environment which is other than child's biological family, which is to be selected, qualified, approved and supervised for providing care to children.

Several new offences committed against children, which are so far not adequately covered under any other law, are included in the Act. These include: sale and procurement of children for any purpose including illegal adoption, corporal punishment in child care institutions, use of child by militant groups, offences against disabled children and, kidnapping and abduction of children.

 All child care institutions, whether run by State Government or by voluntary or non-governmental organisations, which are meant, either wholly or

partially for housing children, regardless of whether they receive grants from the Government, are to be mandatorily registered under the Act within 6 months from the date of commencement of the Act. Stringent penalty is provided in the law in case of non-compliance.

(http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134513)

Prohibition and Regulation of Child Labour Amendment Act, 2016

The act amends the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, which prohibits the employment of children younger than 14 in 83 hazardous occupations and processes. The amendment extends this ban on employment of children under 14 across all sectors, prohibits the employment of adolescents aged 14-18 years in hazardous occupations and introduces more stringent jail term and fines for offenders: a jail term of six months to two years and a fine of Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000.

1.   **Policy Initiatives**

Children constitute principle assets of any country. Children's development is very important for the overall development of society and the best way to develop national human resources is to take care of children. India has the largest child population in the world. All out efforts are being made by the Government for the development and welfare of children. A number of policy initiatives have been taken for this purpose.

The National Policy for children lays down that the State shall provide adequate services towards children, both before and after birth and during the growing stages for their full physical, mental and social development. The measures suggested include amongst others, a comprehensive health programme, supplementary nutrition for mothers and children, free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14 years, promotion of physical education and recreational activities, special consideration for children of weaker sections including SCs and STs and prevention of exploitation of children, etc.

The Government of India has also adopted the **National Charter for Children,** which has been prepared after obtaining the views/comments and suggestions of the State governments/UT Administrations, concerned Ministries and Departments and experts in the field. The National Charter is a statement of intent embodying the Government's agenda for children. The document emphasizes Government of India's commitment to children's rights to survival, health and nutrition, standard of living, play and leisure, early childhood care, education, protection or the girl child, empowering adolescents, equality, life and liberty, name and nationality, freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, the right to a family and the right to be protected from economic exploitation and all forms of abuse. The document also provides for protection of children in difficult circumstances, children with disabilities, children from marginalized and disadvantaged communities, and child victims. The document while stipulating the duties of the State and the Community towards children also emphasizes the duties of children towards family, society and the Nation. The National Charter for Children was notified in the Gazette of India on 9th February, 2004.

India has also acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to reiterate its commitment to the cause of children. The objective of the Convention is to give every child the right to survival and development in a healthy and congenial environment.

India is also a party to the Millennium Development Goals and the SAARC Conventions on Child Welfare and Combating Trafficking of Women and Children is SAARC Region.

Ministry of Women and Child Development has prepared a **National Plan of Action for Children** 2005 after harmonizing the goals for children set in the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children held in 2002 and the monitorable targets set in the Tenth Five Year Plan and goals for children in related Ministries/ Departments. The Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with concerned Ministries and Departments, States/UT

Governments, non-Governmental organizations and experts. The National Plan of Action includes goals, objectives, strategies and activities for improving nutritional status of children, reducing IMR and MMR, increasing enrolment ratio and reducing dropout rates, universalisation of primary education, increasing coverage for immunization etc.

2.   **Child Welfare Programmes**

Several Ministries and Departments of the government of India are implementing various schemes and programmes for the benefit of children. Some of the Schemes and programmes are as follows:

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is being implemented by MWCD is the world's largest programme aimed at enhancing the health, nutrition and learning opportunities of infants, young children (0-6 years) and their mothers. It is the foremost symbol of India's commitment to its children – India's response to the challenge of providing pre-school education on one hand and breaking the vicious cycle of malnutrition, mortality and morbidity o the other. The Scheme provides an integrated approach for converging basic services through community based workers and helpers. The services are provided at a centre called the 'Anganwadi', which literally means a courtyard play centre, a childcare centre located within the village itself. The packages of services provided are:

1.   Supplementary nutrition,

2.   Immunization,

3.   Health check-up

4.   Referral services,

5.   Pre-school non-formal education and

6.   Nutrition and health education

Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers

The MWCD has launched a new Creche Scheme in January 2006. The Scheme has been named as Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the

Children of working Mothers. These creches have been allocated to the Central Social Welfare Board, Indian Council for Child Welfare and Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh in the ration of 80:11:9. Priority has been given to uncovered districts/areas and tribal areas while extending the scheme to maintain balance regional coverage. An eligibility criterion under the Revised Scheme has also been enhanced from Rs. 1800/- to Rs. 12000/- per month per family.

Nutrition Component of Prime Minister Gramodya Yojana and Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls is being implemented in 51 districts with additional central assistance provided by the Planning commission, directly and indirectly contributing to the promoting nutrition for children. A National Nutrition Mission has also been set up with a view to enable policy direction to concerned Departments of the Government for addressing the problem of malnutrition in a mission mode.

Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH)

RCH programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MHFW), the programme provides effective maternal and child health care, micronutrient interventions for vulnerable groups, reproductive health services for adolescent etc. This program covers:

- Immunization for children for DTP, Polio and Tetanus Toxoid for women

- Vitamin A administration

- Iron and folic Acid for pregnant women.

This programme integrates all family welfare and women and child health services with the explicit objective of providing beneficiaries with 'need based, client centered, demand driven, and high quality integrated RCH services'. The strategy for the RCH programme shifts the policy emphasis from achieving demographic targets to meeting the health needs of women and children.

Pulse Polio Immunization Programme is being implemented by the MHFW that covers all children below five years. It is a massive programme which covers 166 million children in every round of National Immunization Day. The other immunization programmes include Hepatitis B, DPT and other routine immunization. Other notable programmes for child health include, Universal immunization programme, control of deaths due to acute respiratory infections, control of diarrhoeal diseases, provision of essential new-born care to address the issue of the neonates, prophylactic programmes for the prevention and treatment of two micronutrient deficiencies relating to Vitamin A and iron, Anemia control programme, Border District Cluster Strategy and Integrated Management of Neo-natal and childhood illness.

Mid-day Meal Scheme is also one of the important schemes of the Government to aim at universal enrolment and retention of children. Under this programme nutritional snacks are provided to children attending schools.

Integrated Programme for Juvenile Justice

The programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with a view to provide care to the children in difficult circumstances and children in conflict with the law through Government institutions and through NGOs. Some special features of the scheme are as follows:

1) Establishment of a National Advisory Board on Juvenile Justice.

2) Creation of a Juvenile Justice Fund.

3) Training, orientation and sensitization of judicial, administration, police and NGOs responsible for implementation of JJ Act.

4) Institutional care shall be used but only as a last measure by enlarging the range of suitable alternatives.

5) Financial assistance to bring about a qualitative improvement in the existing infrastructure.

6) Expansion of non-institutional services such as sponsorship, foster care, probation etc. as an alternate to institutional care.

Child Helpline - Child line is a 24 hour emergency phone outreach service which can be accessed by children in distress especially children in need of care and protection. It is a programme of the MWCD and Mumbai-based Child line India Foundation. The service assists to protect children by helping to rescue them from abuse and exploitative situations, direct them to shelters, medical services, counseling, and repatriation and rehabilitation services. The service can be accessed by children in difficulty or by adults on their behalf by dialing 1098. Established by the Government of India in 1999, it is presently operational in 83 cities across the country. The main objective of the service is to respond to children in emergency situations and refer them to relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations for long-term follow-up care and rehabilitation. It helps in the networking amongst government and non-government agencies in the area of child welfare and strengthening of support services such as hospitals, police, railways etc. for rehabilitation of children.

The National Rural Health Mission, a scheme of health Ministry seeks to provide effective healthcare to rural population including large population of children throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or raise public spending on health from 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP. It aims to undertake architectural correction of the health system to enable it to effectively handle increased allocations as promised under the National Common Minimum Programme and promote policies that strengthen public health management and service delivery in the country.

Elimination of Child Labour is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour which sanctions projects for rehabilitation of working children and for elimination of child labour. Under the project based Action Plan of the Policy, National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) have been set up in different areas to rehabilitate child labour. A major activity undertaken under the

NCLP is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. 150 Child Labour Projects have so far been sanctioned for rehabilitating children in the most endemic areas and 1.5 lakh children have already been mainstreamed in the special schools. Financial assistance is provided under this scheme to NGOs for setting up of composite centres for working children exclusively in those areas which have not already been covered by the Ministry of Labour & Employment under their schemes, namely, National Child Labour Project and Indo-US Project. At present ministry is assisting 116 projects of 100 children each under this scheme in 14 States/UTs.

Child Budgeting

The Government is also actively considering introducing child budgeting. The key objectives of the endeavor would be to analyze budgetary provisions on social sector, to identify the magnitude of budgetary allocations made by the Central/State Governments on schemes meant for addressing specific needs of children, to examine the trend in child specific expenditure etc., the main agenda for the exercise of child budgeting is to review resource allocations related to children; explore ways to increase budgetary allocations for children; assess budget utilization rates for social sector and child specific programmes, identify blockages and constraints to effective utilization; identify methods for tracking expenditure and monitoring performance to ensure that outlays translate into outcomes for children.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

SSA is Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner, as mandated by 86th amendment to the Constitution of India making fee and compulsory Education to the Children of 6-14 years age group, a Fundamental Right. SSA is being implemented in partnership with State Governments to cover the entire country and address the needs of 192 million children in 1.1 million habitations. The programme seeks to open new

schools in those habitations which do not have schooling facilities and strengthen existing school infrastructure through provision of additional class rooms, toilets, drinking water, maintenance grant and school improvement grants. Existing schools with inadequate teacher strength are provided with additional teachers, while the capacity of existing teachers is being strengthened by extensive training, grants for developing teaching-learning materials and strengthening of the academic support structure at a cluster, block and district level. SSA seeks to provide quality elementary education including life skills. SSA has a special focus on girl's education and children with special needs.

Scheme for the Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection

The scheme is being implemented since January, 2005 with the objective of providing non-formal education, vocational training etc. to the working children to facilitate their entry/re-entry into mainstream education in cases where they have either not attended any learning system or where, for some reason, their education has been discontinued, with a view to prevent their future exploitation (Year review 2013, 2014).

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)

MWCD is implementing this comprehensive Centrally Sponsored Scheme since 2009-10 through the State Government / UT Administrations on predefined cost sharing financial pattern. The objectives of the scheme are to contribute to the improvement in the well being of children in difficult circumstances, as well as reduction of vulnerabilities to situation and actions that leads to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from parents. All the States/UTs have signed the MOU for implementation of ICPS.

Prior to 2009-10, Ministry of Women and Child Development was implementing a plan scheme namely, 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' for the welfare and rehabilitation of street children under which

funds were released directly to NGOs. This scheme has been merged under the ICPS which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme introduced by the Ministry in 2009-10 for implementation through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

ICPS provides preventive, statutory care and rehabilitation services to children who are in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law as defined under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and its amendment Act, 2006 and any other vulnerable child. It provides financial support to State Governments/UT Administrations for running services for children either themselves or through suitable NGOs. These services include (a) Homes of various types for children; (b) Emergency Outreach services through Child line; (c) Open Shelters for children in need of care and protection in Urban and Semi Urban Areas; (d) Family Based Non-Institutional Care through Sponsorship, Foster Care and Adoptions. During the current financial year, 2013-14, Ministry assisted 1210 Homes, 234 Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs) and 172 Open Shelters through State Governments/UT Administrations.

Financial assistance under the scheme is also provided for setting up of statutory bodies under the JJ Act namely, (a) Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards. As reported by State Governments/UT Administrations, 619 CWCs and 608 JJBs have so far been set up across the country. Against the allocated budget of Rs.300.00 Crore for 2013-14, an amount of Rs.129.66 Crore has been sanctioned/ released in the second quarter up to September, 2013. (Year review 2013, 2014)

The **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights** (NCPCR) is an Indian governmental commission, established by an Act of the Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act in December 2005. The Commission began operation an year later in March 2007. The Commission considers that its Mandate is "to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the UN Convention

on the Rights of the Child. As defined by the commission, child includes those up to the age of 18 years.

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent boys (RGSEAB)-Saksham

The MWCD has recently launched a new centrally sponsored scheme for holistic development of boys. The scheme aims at an all round development of adolescent boys to make them self reliant, gender sensitive, aware citizens, when they grow up. In the first phase, the scheme shall cover all adolescent boys 11-18 in 20 selected districts from 8 states benefitting nearly 6 lakhs adolescent boys annually. ICDS will be utilised for the Saksham scheme. (Available at http://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/24-05010215wcdmedia.pdf)

Conclusion

India has passed a number of laws and launched number of schemes post independence till date for the welfare, care and protection of children but still we have a long way to go. Though, the introduction of ICPS and RTE brought the issues of children in difficult circumstances in the limelight, there is still a long way to implement or putting in place a strong safety net and rehabilitation plan for street children. Street children though are in big number but invisible and this invisibility makes them deprived from all rights and entitlements. All the programmes have been designed in such a manner that covers some aspects partially. It concludes that there is a dire need to design programme focusing only on the phenomena of street children and its consequences. Rehabilitation Schemes need to be redesigned keeping in mind the need of a child and his/her family too.

If all the children of the country are to be afforded a safe and secure environment to grow up, there are a lot of issues which need to be addressed adequately as states still need to build a perspective on children issues, implementing district level plans, assessing the need of children district wise, sufficient data and adequate documentation related with

vulnerability of children, quality and adequacy of infrastructure (manpower and homes),   sensitization of stakeholders, concerned department, high profile officials, care takers, service providers, etc. Interdepartmental collaboration amongst the various departments responsible for care and protection and welfare of children is the key to success of all programmes.

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CHAPTER-VI

CHAPTER-VI

Evaluation of Implementation of existing Policies and Schemes in Rajasthan

Introduction

In this chapter an effort has been made to evaluate the implementation of existing policies and schemes, their status, bottlenecks and expected correctional measures for the children. The chapter mainly throws light on schemes related with educational, child protection, and health component of the children's life. The following policies and schemes have been undertaken for the evaluation in context of CRC and Indian constitution, Juvenile Justice Act etc.:

1. State Policy

2. Child Welfare Committees

3. Juvenile Justice Boards

4. CCIs (Institutional and Non-institutional)

5. Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

6. Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) and Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU)

7. Right to Education and Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan

8. Schemes under Social Justice Empowerment Department

9. Railway, GRP and RPF

Existing Policies

Rajasthan state has two child policies one regarding all kind of children and second for the girl child specifically.

State Child Policy

1. The Government of Rajasthan (GoR) is entrusted with the responsibility to provide protection services to all kinds of children and thereby help them to lead a meaningful life by evolving appropriate strategies, programme and institutions for their reintegration into the mainstream society. The GoR launched State Child Policy in the year of 2008 by reviving and reframing the National Policy for Children

1974 by keeping in mind the adversities of Rajasthan State. The policy ascribes a secure safe and reliable environment for every child to grow, develop and survive with dignity and without any discrimination. The following goals were set in the policy:

- Nutrition and food security for children

- Quality education to all children

- Protection from all abuse, neglect and exploitation

- Adequate health care from birth throughout adulthood

- Care and protection for children with effected or affected with HIV/AIDS

- Safe drinking water and sanitation facilities

- Coordination among the stake holders

2. The GoR launched State Girl Child Policy, the first of its kind among all states in the country, in January 2013 in order to reverse the declining child sex ratio and address the gender-based disparities. The policy lays emphasis on equal rights, education, family support, proper nutrition and health care, protection, empowerment and participation without discrimination. The policy makes provisions for the girls (10-18 years) participation in government planning and implementation process.

Bottlenecks of State Policies

- Child Development, Child Protection in not only a task or responsibility of one department, it needs consolidated and collaborative effort to ensure the rights and entitlements and development and protection of a single child. It was observed that coordination and collaboration amongst the various departments makes the implementation of policies weaker.

- Periodical review of policies helps to strengthen future planning and improving present status but lack of periodical review of the policies

makes them stagnant or out of the context social, economical changes are occurring rapidly and the success of any policy or programmes depend on up-gradation and review.

- There is no specific policy in the state for protection of rights of the street children specifically while street children are quite in big number in Rajasthan and they are more vulnerable to exploitation in terms of physical, verbal, mental and social.

Expected Correctional Measures

- There is an urgent need to bring together all the programmes which are addressing the issue of child protection with the newly established "Directorate for Child Rights", as was originally intended at its inception.

- There is vast gape in interdepartmental collaboration during practical functioning of various institutions so there is an urgent need to meet the gapes and to ensure protective environment for children through better coordination among various stakeholders and functionaries.

- As there is no specific Act, Policy or Programme for street children who live in difficult circumstances so it is suggested that government should introduce and implement a specific policy for street children.

Department of Child Rights (DCR)

In 2013, the GoR established a separate directorate called "Department for Child Rights" by consolidating, integrating and strengthening different child protection mechanism and by creating a positive policy environment for children. The establishment of department is historic step of GoR as it was first time in India amongst the all states that a department of children rights have been set up.

This department has entrusted with the responsibility to provide protection services to all kinds of children and thereby help them to lead a meaningful life by evolving appropriate strategies, programs and institutions for their

reintegration into the mainstream society. But unfortunately the department has not been able to discharge its responsibilities yet.

Bottlenecks

1. Lack of understanding towards the mandate, visions and vision of the department among the officials

2. Presently UNICEF is supporting and guiding DCR

3. Lack of coordination

4. Lack of funds

5. Lack of Human Resources

Correctional Measures

1. Appointment of Director/Commissioner who has worked in the field of child welfare

2. Utilization of ICPS fund for the operation of DCR

3. Fresh appointment instead of filling the post on deputation

4. In order to transform the vision-mission of the department into ground reality it is imperative to bring together all government departments and agencies, service providers etc.

5. Need to establish coordination, communication and synergy with State and local agencies, PRIs, civil society organizations working for children in the State and outside, media and most importantly children and their communities for realization of the DCR's vision, mission and mandate.

Child Welfare Committees (CWC)

The Child Welfare Committee is a quasi-judicial body meant to decide the cases of care, protection and rehabilitation of children who need care and protection as defined under section 14 of JJ Act, 2015. Section 29 (1) of the JJ Act empowers the CWC to be the final authority in disposing cases for the

care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of children in need. It envisages various means to provide for their basic necessities and for protection of their rights. CWCs therefore have the sole authority to deal with matters concerning CNCP. As per Section 27 (9) of the JJ Act, the CWCs are to function as a Bench of Magistrates. The powers of the CWC are equivalent to the powers held by a Metropolitan Magistrate or, as the case may be, a Judicial Magistrate of the first class as conferred by the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973 (Act 2 of 1974). CWCs are to use their discretion when addressing the unique circumstances of each child brought before them, so as to ensure that the concerned child receives adequate care, protection and/or rehabilitation.

Bottlenecks in the functioning of CWCs in Rajasthan

Though currently all 33 revenue districts of Rajasthan have constituted CWCs under orders of the State Government but at some places the number of members is not complete because of the non-availability of a suitable person to hold the post or for some other reasons, such as, a member tendering resignation before completion of his/her term. It is almost a decade since the inception of CWCs, but the expectations envisaged in the Act do not seem to have fulfilled in their entirety in the functioning of these institutions. The main reason for CWCs falling short of achieving the desired level of integrated welfare of children in the State is perhaps the lack of sufficient awareness about the objectives of juvenile justice law and the working of its institutional infrastructure, both among community in general and among administrative functionaries in particular.

Bottlenecks

1.   As a corollary and as incidental to such administrative treatment, CWCs are not getting adequate support from the government in respect of physical facilities and human resource for conducting their functions appropriately;

2. There is no clear procedure laid down about the manner in which CWCs can exercise their functions and play their role in reference to their mandate;

3. Due to lack of clear understanding about their magisterial role and powers, CWCs are failing to exercise their functions as Judicial Magistrates of 1st class while dealing with children in need of care and protection, as also with adults who violate child rights.

4. Members of various CWCs are not exposed to the required qualitative training for the discharge of their functions as mandated in law and as provided through government notifications;

5. CWCs are not properly equipped with the knowledge and physical facilities for documentation of cases and related procedures as laid down in the law and rules;

6. They are also unaware of the possibilities of convergence with other concerned authorities to address the needs of children brought before them;

7. It appears that the aspects of procedural supervision and action monitoring of the functioning of CWCs has not been addressed either in the law and or in the rules (2011).

Correctional Measures

❖ The tenure of these committees should be changed from three to five years with the possibility of two consecutive appointments for the members/chairperson so as to provide sufficient time to them to understand their functional obligations and to render effective service to children processed by them.

❖ The State should prescribe and offer some kind of foundation courses for members/chairperson of the CWCs which they should be required to undergo within three months of their appointment as a mandatory condition for continuing to hold the position.

- ❖ The State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) should be tasked to frame a bench-book for CWC with regard to its functioning and procedures;

- ❖ Maximum age-limit for appointment as member/chairperson on the Committee should be prescribed in the Rules. No person should be holding the position beyond the age of 70 (seventy) years.

Juvenile Justice Board (JJB)

Rajasthan government has constituted Juvenile Justice Board in all 33 districts of the state under section 4(1) of Juvenile Justice Act 2015. The JJB comprises of one Magistrate and two social workers as members. The Principal Magistrate is a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class. The two social workers of whom at least one should be a woman. The members are the persons who are well versed with special knowledge or training in child psychology or child welfare or a social worker who has been actively involved in health, education, or welfare activities pertaining to the children for a span of at least seven years.

Bottlenecks

- ❖ In adequate physical facilities and human resources for conducting their functions appropriately;

- ❖ Often JJBs find difficulties on several issues due to no clear procedure laid down about the manner in which JJBs can exercise their functions and play their role in reference to their mandate;

- ❖ Due to lack of clear understanding about their role and powers, member of JJBs are failing to exercise their functions as Judicial Magistrates while dealing with children in conflict with law;

- ❖ Principle Magistrates and Members of various JJBs are not exposed to the required qualitative training for the discharge of their functions as mandated in law;

- ❖ They are also unaware of the possibilities of convergence with other concerned authorities to address the needs of children brought before them especially with CWCs.

Correctional Measures

- ❖ The Juvenile Justice Boards should be provided appropriate and sufficient resource to have an independent infrastructure so that they can perform their functions autonomously and effectively;

- ❖ For the timely disposal of cases of Juvenile in Conflict with Law, there should be independent Judicial Officers and Supporting Staff;

- ❖ There should be a clear cut protocol for the functioning of JJBs so that they can exercise their functions and play their role with reference to their mandate;

- ❖ Juvenile Justice Boards must be supervised and monitored by District Courts;

- ❖ Juvenile Justice Boards must maintain liaison with civil societies working in the field of child care and welfare;

- ❖ State Government should run delinquency prevention programme for children.

Children Courts

The rights and needs of child victims and child witnesses of crime has been a neglected area. Further, the need for a Juvenile Procedure Code that will enable all courts that deal with matters involving children based on juvenile jurisprudence is an urgent requirement.

Section 25 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 provides for speedy trial of offences against children or for violation of child rights stating that "the State Government may, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, by notification, specify at least a court in the State or specify, for each district, a court of Session to be a Children's Court

to try the said offences". The said Section further provides an exception that wherein a Court of Session is already specified as a Special Court or a Special Court is already constituted for such offences under any other law for the time being in force, Section 25 will not apply.

Bottlenecks

- ❖ There is no dedicated children court;

- ❖ No clarity about the procedure;

- ❖ No defined jurisdictions;

- ❖ No special public prosecutor has been appointed.

Correctional Measures

- ❖ The State Government should establish separate and dedicated children courts in every district to deal with matters of crime against children;

- ❖ The Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court must define the jurisdictions of these courts;

- ❖ The State Government must develop child friendly judicial procedures in consultation with NGO's for these children courts;

- ❖ Separate and dedicated special public prosecutor should be appointed with these courts;

- ❖ These courts should, as far as possible be located away from the normal court clusters.

Rajasthan State Commission of Protection for Child Rights (RSCPCR)

The RSCPCR is an independent state level statutory body which was set up in February 2010 by GoR by virtue of power given to it under section 17 of the Commissions of Protection of Child Rights Act (CPCRA), 2005. RSCPCR works to recognize, promote and protect all rights of all children in

the state of Rajasthan. The role, power, function and other modalities of the RSCPCR is enshrined in the Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Rules, 2010.

The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, Administrative Mechanisms and activities in the state, no matter whether managed by government or non-government organizations, are in conformity with the Child Rights perspective as proclaimed in the constitution of India and the UNCRC, 1989 to which India is a signatory. For the Commission, all the rights of children are of equal importance and they are mutually reinforcing and interdependent. The mandate of the Commission is to ensure that children lead a life with dignity and their voices are heard with utmost sincerity and priority at every level.

Bottlenecks

- ❖ No fulltime members;

- ❖ Lack of experienced administrative office;

- ❖ No Independent office;

- ❖ No defined and time framed disposal of cases;

- ❖ Political Appointments.

Correctional Measures

- ❖ The Rajasthan State commission for Protection of Child Rights Rules, 2010 should be reframed on the lines of NCPCR Rules, 2006 & 2014 and SCPCR of other states;

- ❖ There is a need for transparent procedure of selection and appointment of chairperson and members;

- ❖ There should be full time chairperson and members;

- ❖ RSCPCR should get all the required experienced administrative and support staff to carry out its mandated functions properly and effectively;

- ❖ RSCPCR must develop its linkages with civil society and various departments involved in the implementation of laws and programmes related to children in the state;

Child Care (Institutional and non-Institutional)

(A) Institutional Care

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 makes provisions for institutional facilities and maintenance of existing institutional facilities for both children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection. There are zillions of urban marginalized children are in need of day care services, there are many others who require residential care for a temporary period for one or more reasons. These include children without parental care; run away children, migrant children, street children etc. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 empowers the State Governments to recognize reputed and competent voluntary organizations, which cater to the needs of such children. The State Government provides financial assistance to set up and administer Shelter Homes for such children.

In the state Children Homes, Observation Homes have been established in all the 33 districts. There are 43 Government run homes in the state at district level. There are 121 certified homes run by NGOs in the state. There are 37 special adoption agencies. These Shelter Homes offer day and night shelter facilities to the children in need of support services for a temporary period, while efforts are made to rehabilitate them. In order to facilitate and expedite the setting up of Shelter Homes in every district or group of districts, the ICPS scheme provides financial support to the State Governments.

Status of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Kota:

1. There are three government run homes in Jaipur and 37 are being run by NGOs

2. There are three government run homes in Ajmer and three homes are being run by NGOs

3. There are three government run homes in Jodhpur and seven homes are being run by NGOs

4. There are three government run homes in Kota and 10 are registered in JJ Act of which five are functional

Bottlenecks and Correctional Measures

❖ Service Providers and functionaries of various agencies should be trained in discharging their operational duties and responsibilities in the perspective of the larger goal of the rehabilitation of stranded children.

❖ Qualitative and Participatory training to various service providers by the DCR, specialised course content and training module should be developed.

❖ **State run welfare schemes for children** should be integrated with the activities of institutions created under the JJ Act.

❖ **Timely financial assessment and timely disbursement of funds at district level, DCR should monitor the district level fund releasing system.**

❖ **Filling of sanctioned posts in the Government CCIs**

(B)   Non- Institutional Care

Every child has the right to family care. This provision is found in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 ("CRC") and UN Guidelines for Alternative Care 2009. The provisions and guidelines have been envisaged

in Juvenile Justice Act 2015. The CRC is convinced that family is the fundamental unit of the society. The natural environment for the growth and well-being of all the members of family; particularly children should be the ideal. For this purpose, necessary protection and assistance should be extended to the families; so that it can assume its responsibility within the community. The CRC also recognizes that the full and harmonious development of a child's personality can be made possible in a family environment in an ambience of happiness and understanding. It is, therefore; worthwhile for a State Party to the CRC to consider how far these high ideals can be realized & implemented in the case of children without parental care.

Currently, following programmes are being run for the promotion of non institutional care component:-

- ❖ Adoption

- ❖ Foster Care

- ❖ Kinship Care and Sponsorship (Palanhar Yojana)

- ❖ After Care (CM Hunar Vikas Yojana)

Bottlenecks and Correctional Measures

- ❖ Awareness about all these non-institutional care programmes is not as per the requirement. There is a need for massive awareness about these programmes to achieve their mandate effectively.

- ❖ There should a mechanism in place for the identification of children for such programme.

- ❖ There should be clear guidelines for all concerned stakeholders about their roles, responsibilities and inter-departmental coordination.

- ❖ Civil Society should be actively involved in non institutional programmes to promote all to monitor their impact.

Special Juvenile Police Unit and Anti Human Trafficking Units

Countless children across the state are deprived from their rights and they are neglected by the law and institutions. The children who are homeless, runaway from home as a violence or negligence of their parents are at special risk. As the police is the first contact person, the first recipient of the children or form a frontline in Child Protection mechanism. This makes their role very critical as this experience of system lasts long on the child. The JJ Act, 2015 makes provisions for setting up of Special Juvenile Police Unit in every police district of India with a human approach through sensitization and special training on child rights issues. The section 107of the JJ Act 2015, states that this SJPU exclusively shall deal with Juvenile in conflict with law and Children in Need of Care and Protection. The unit functions under the Superintendent of Police. At the police station level, one police man of the rank of SI/ASI is designated as Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPO). The SJPU works as a watch dog for providing legal protection against all kind of cruelty, abuse and exploitations of children and substantiates the saying that the "police is a watchdog but not a blood bound".

❖ In compliance of the Act, the Rajasthan Government has constituted the Special Juvenile Police Unit in each district and one officer has been designated as CWPO at each Police Station. The sensitization and capacity building training programmes are being conducted by the various departments and civil societies for these child welfare officers to meet out the objectives of the formation of SJPU under JJ Act.

Correctional Measures

❖ Need to appoint a separate cadre for the work of CWPOs with its members having an aptitude for understanding children issues.

❖ There is need of establishment of functional office of SJPU in all SP/DCP office with one full time police personnel under the supervision of Crime Assistant (Nodal officer of SJPU).

❖ There is need of involvement of NGO's who are working in the area of child rights to provide necessary support and regular handholding to SJPU and CWPOs. This will also be helpful in creating child friendly police stations.

❖ Anti Human Trafficking Units should be empowered through capacity building workshops.

❖ AHTU should work closely with active NGO's to address the issues of Child Trafficking.

Child line

At present Child line is operational in 20 districts of the state including Jaipur, Jodhpur, Tonk,Ajmer, Sawai Madhopur, Jaisalmer, Udaipur, Kota , Alwar, Bikaner, Bharatpur, Dungarpur, Barmer and Bhilwara. (Schemes)

Implementation Status of ICPS

The Government of Rajasthan has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Central Government on 6th January 2010 according to which the provisions laid down in the same will be binding on both the parties. The Central and the State Government will jointly share the expenditure for various components in the ratio laid down in the implementation plan which is as follows:

1. 90:10 for all components with non-governmental organization participation.

2. 75:25 for all components in the state except Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and NGO run projects

3. 35:65 for the JJBs and CWCs.

The MWCD sanctioned Rs. 3493.09 lacs under ICPS in the year 2013-14 for implementing the scheme for strengthening the child protection mechanisms in the State. The State Government sanctioned Rs. 1200.00 lacs in the year 2014-15 and Rs 2500.00 lacs in the year 2014-2015. The Government has initiated the process of setting up the institutional mechanisms and services according to the objectives and guidelines of ICPS. As of now JJB has been sanctioned and constituted in all 33 districts, while the CWC has been sanctioned and constituted in all 33 districts of Rajasthan. Children's homes and shelter homes are functioning through Government and Non Government Organization to meet the institutional care needs of children in need of care and protection. For children in conflict with law observation homes are functioning in all 33 districts of Rajasthan, while 13 special homes are operational. In addition to these, 20 open-shelters have been sanctioned to address shelter needs of children. The Child line service is functioning in 14 districts of Rajasthan. 37 specialized adoption agencies (33 Government running SAA and 4 NGO Running SAA) are operational in the State to promote adoption in the State. In order to promote other non-institutional rehabilitation options, such as foster care, the Department has formulated guidelines. Other institutions such as State Child Protection Society (SCPS), District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) and have been constituted.

State Child Protection committees has been formed in the year 2011, Village level committee has been formed in the year 2012, with the aim of ensuring the participation of community and Gram Panchayat to focus on best interest of children in need of care and protection under ICPS to prevent violation of child rights and their overall development (physical, mental, social). This committee monitors the various programmes and schemes, ensure the quality of services and provide recommendations

Block level Child protection committees have been formed to provide safety network to the children in need of care and protection and enhance the accessibility of services to the children. This committee monitors the child related issues and schemes in proximity.

Bottlenecks

The ICPCS has merely been a financial tool to implement the Juvenile Justice Act. The ICPC itself doesn't inscribe any child development activities to curb the problems of children and children's family.

The implementation status of ICPS is not so remarkable in Rajasthan, though it was initiated with proclamation since 2013 with exaggerated promises but didn't bring any praiseworthy changes in the situation of street children or children in need of care and protection. It is fact that infrastructure has been developed in the past few years but operational part poses so many questions. Rajasthan government is ambiguous about the implementation of ICPS. In 2013-14, ICPS departments were separately established in each district to implement the ICPS scheme all over Rajasthan equally but again in 2015, the situation was quo status. Government has merged the entire ICPS department in Social Justice Empowerment Department (SJED) again. The SJE department's focus is on Social Security Schemes and child protection becomes secondary for this department in such conditions full-fledged implementation of the ICPS scheme remains an issue.

Under this scheme, there is a provision for setting up of 'Open Shelters' for children in need of care and protection, including the street children, in urban and semi-urban areas. The programmes and activities of these Open Shelters inter alia include age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, bridge education, linkages to the National Open School Programme (NOSP), health care, counselling etc. But till the year of 2015, only 20 open shelter homes have been registered in the state.

ICPS makes provisions for the mapping of the children in need of care and protection and services available to children in difficult circumstance but the matter of the fact is that no initiative has taken by the DCPUs in the their respective districts.

While working with children, constitutive understanding of child psychology and cadre of Human resources in counselling and child psychology are prerequisite. The ICPS makes the provisions for human resource development for strengthening counselling service but government couldn't create a resource group of cadre of the experts.

Palanhar Scheme

Rajasthan's State Social Welfare department commenced this scheme to provide family atmosphere to growing orphans who are living in state-run orphanages. According to the scheme, interested families, issueless couples or relatives of orphaned children are encouraged to take the responsibility of raising these children and they would get an honorarium in return. Since the experiment of keeping orphans in state-run orphanages has not proved very successful, the social welfare department decided to introduce the new scheme in the year 2005.

Under this schemes an incentive of 500/- per children up to five years and 1000/- month to the school going children up to 18 to the person who takes care of these children in absence of their parents. Preference is given to relatives and acquaintances.[1] No family would be allowed to take more than two children but care would be taken to see to it that siblings are not separated. The scheme covers the following children:

1. Orphans

2. Children of widows, single parents and abandoned mothers

3. Children of divorced women, separated women

4. The children of the parent who are HIV/AIDS and leprosy effected

5. The children of the parents who have got death sentences and life imprisonment etc.

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[1] http://fostercareindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Palanhar-Yojana-June-2014-Foster-Care-India-2.pdf retrieved on 16 Feb 2016

The widows and the women (nata) has been exempted, more than one child (maximum 3) can be benefitted under this scheme.

Bottlenecks & Correctional Measures

Initially the accessibility was the issue when the scheme was launched; lack of awareness, number of formalities and manual application was impediment in the implementation of the scheme. But state government dedicatedly strived for the implementation and made effort for easy reach and accessibility. Now the applicants can apply online through e-mitra in their respective areas.

Chief Minister Hunar Vikas Yojana

The novel scheme "Mukhya Mantri Hunar Vikas Yojana" was started in 2011-12 for higher education /skill building programme to beneficiaries of Palanhar Yojana and children staying in Institutional Home (Government and Non Government Institutions). Under which the State is providing skill development programmes for the children between 17 to 21 years of age. It is to help and prepare these young adults to sustain themselves during the transition from institutional to independent life. The objective of this scheme is to enable such young adults to adapt themselves to society and to encourage them to move away from institution based life. This scheme is an important and final stage in the continuum of care, as it ensures smooth rehabilitation and reintegration of a child in need of care and protection/conflict with law as she/he steps into adulthood. This is especially required if a child has gone through a long period of institutionalization, which is likely to result in lack of social adjustment. Under this scheme, vocational and skill building programme are provided through Rajasthan Mission on Livelihood (RMoL) and also provide financial assistance for higher education to applicable young child. **(Schemes)**

Bottlenecks and Correctional Measures

❖ The scheme is only for the children who are living in the institutions run or aided by government. The scheme should be made accessible to the children between 17 to 21 years age group.

Schemes of Social Justice Empowerment Department

Residential School for Children of Beggars & Prostitutes

A school has been established at (Mandana), Kota for the children of families engaged in begging and prostitution so that their children do not follow the occupation of their parents with a view to provide education to children of beggars and families engaged in other undesired occupations. An amount of Rs. 390.48 lacs has been sanctioned for constructing building for this residential school.

Lack of publicity and dissemination of the information by the SJED to the various department and key functionaries who are working for children makes the scheme inaccessible.

Scheme for Rehabilitation of Beggars/ Destitute

The word beggar or beggary is not mentioned in any of the lists of the Constitution. However, as per entry-9 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, Relief of the disable and unemployable is a State subject. As per entry-15 of the Concurrent List," Vagrancy" is a concurrent subject. As information available, at present, 20 States and 2 UTs have either enacted their own Anti Beggary Legislation or adopted the legislation enacted by other States. Despite the fact that many States/ UTs have enacted laws relating to beggary, however, the provisions of these of these legislations differ across the Sates and their status of implementation including the measures taken for rehabilitation of beggars, are also not uniform.

A draft Scheme for Protection, Care, and Rehabilitation of Destitute is under consideration. (YEAR END REVIEW-2014 Department of Social Justice & Empowerment)

Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan

Schemes under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan

Large number of children in urban areas are without adult supervisions (street children, orphans, homeless children); some are working in vulnerable professions like rag picking ; children accompany parents who have insecure jobs are themselves working in the factories, tea shops, bus stops, railway stations (such children would not have a permanent home or address making enumeration difficult). Such children are exposed to difficult circumstances (crime, substance abuse, violence) and often unable to adjust to the regular routine and discipline necessary for schooling. There are number of children between the ages of six to fourteen who are deprived from education and not enrolled in the school due to socio economic reasons. This includes rag pickers, beggars, working children on tea stall, children engaged in domestic work, the children working on stations and bus stops.

There is a provision to operate stay homes for these types of children. GoI has rectified the stay homes in following district of Rajasthan:

1. Ajmer
2. Bikaner
3. Bharatpur
4. Jaipur
5. Jodhpur
6. Kota
7. Udaipur

As suggested in the SSA frame-work following programmes have been outlined for the children in difficult circumstance.

Urban Slum Programme by SSA

Education of Migrating Children

1. Seasonal hostels / residential camps to retain children in the schools during the period of migration;

2. Work-site schools at the location where migrant families are engaged in work;

3. Peripatetic educational volunteer who can move with the migrating families to take care of children's education;

4. Strategies for tracking of children through migration cards / other records to enable continuity in their education before, during and after the migration.

Special Training & Special Training Centres

Non Residential Bridge Course (NRBCs)

NRBCs for dropped out and never enrolled children, child labours, children engaged in domestic chores, street children, adolescent girls, children of sex workers, and children studying in non-recognized Madarsa have been designed under SSA. Short duration NRBCs of 2-6 months duration have been designed to cater younger children of 7-9 years who can be mainstreamed to regular schools in a shorter period. Long term NRBCs help in mainstreaming of older children in the 9+ age group.

Residential Bridge Course (RBCs)

RBCs also called Residential Camps have been designed for older children, child labourers also include children engaged in household chores, adolescent girls, deprived urban children and children living on streets especially in large cities that have run away from their families or do not have either or both parents and /or do not have a shelter.

Bottlenecks

To ensure the primary education and right to compulsory education of the each and every children specifically out of children, neglected and street children, the SSA has provisions but as these programmes have been prescribed are not reaching the children in need. There are following bottlenecks:

1. In comparison of the number of out of school children, less activities have been planned or being executed

2. Districts focuses only on Statistics

3. Poor identification of OoSS

4. There are professional social workers has not been appointed who can approach the community that's why the community approach of this campaign is very weak.

5. It is merely a government schemes and could not become a "Public Campaign"

Schemes and efforts by allied Department (Railway, RPF & GRP)

In the state, number of children are living at railway stations, for them railway station is their home; their life begins at railway station and in majority of the cases it ends at the same place. They live in adverse conditions, since they are deprived of nutritious food they have no other options but to resort to the left over and unhygienic food, in order to survive.

These children are in such dire straits that they do not have even a proper piece of clothing on their body and moreover they are prone to mishaps the reason being that they board the trains in anticipation of some monitory and help in kind from the passengers and in the bargain sometimes fall onto the tracks while a lighting from the speeding train.

In such conditions these children become the onus of Railway department, GRP and RPF. The Child Rights activists are making untiring efforts to make

the department aware about the welfare of these children. The NCPCR has issued guidelines for railway and Ministry of Railway has issued Standard Operating Procedure for the protection of these children.

1. Child Protection committee at all major stations of Indian railways

2. Children' Protection/Assistance centre at main or identified railway stations

3. Training and sensitization programme on child rights and child protection for railway employees

4. JJ Act should be meaningfully incorporated in the syllabus of initial /refresher course of RPF and GRP training centers

5. Child Welfare Police Officer at GRP and RPF stations should be appointed

But regarding above mentioned SOP and guidelines, in the state the situation has not risen up. Railway Department shows its inability to deal with as the railway is most revenue generating department and their focus is only to earn profit for the government.

All these three departments are the most important part of child protection mechanism and first contact point for the street children but apathetic attitude of railway is the major concern

At GRP and RPF they don't have any designated CWPO, knowledge base about child rights is very poor, lack of training and sensitization programme reflected in poor implementation. Most of the children reported that attitude and behaviour of GRP and RPF is brutal and they are ill treated by these cops.

Jaipur Railway Department has taken some initiative like they permitted Mobile Van clinic for street children in station premises, RPF conducted meetings, and Child Assistance Booth is being operated with the help of NGOs. It has been observed that implementation of JJ Act and care and

protection mainly depends on the officer's interest and attitude. Few officers have done remarkable job but other could not be able to carry same spirit.

Conclusion

Despite of diversified measures implemented in the state of Rajasthan such as implementation of JJ Act, State Child Policy, Right to education, Right to Protection etc., the outcome has not fructified to the extent it should have been. The gaps have been whimsical due to the shortcomings like:

1. Improper planning
2. Lack of visioning
3. Paucity of funds
4. Inadequate of Human Resource
5. Poor service delivery mechanism
6. Political Impedances
7. Political willpower
8. Natural disasters and so on so forth

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CHAPTER-VII

CHAPTER-VII

Role of Government and NGOs/Civil Societies

Introduction

They have been left to roam and sleep in the harsh conditions of weather as if they are not a part of the society. They are considered as unwanted. Cry over lack of funds, resources to deal with street children is merely an excuse. Government and NGOs, and community can join the hand to rehabilitate these children. First of all we will have to accept them as other normal child by understanding the root cause of their problems.

Although there is sympathetically consideration by the society, NGO's and Government towards these children but it has also been observed that if negative response has been delivered by the NGOs and Society can create a bad impact on the personalities of these kinds of children

The role of Government and NGOs in supporting street children in addressing the problem of street children is crucial. This is because programs for street children cannot be based entirely on governmental funds (UNICEF, 1986). Mobilization of non-governmental human and fiscal resources is an essential condition for the success of these programs, and an appropriate place must be found for these organizations to function effectively (WHO, 1993). One of the problems that most NGOs face is lack of transparency and accountability. NGOs must ensure organizational accountability and be transparent with regard to their interests, objectives, procedures and funding (UNDP, 2000). According to the UNICEF (2000), it is necessary for NGOs to work simultaneously by combining preventive measures and rehabilitations. Preventive measures should include development of social services for families with children, early diagnosis of social problems in the family, support such families in finding lawful, permanent, sufficiently well paid jobs, a greater role for schools in the early diagnosis of children's social problems, improvement of opportunities for spending free time and the development of children friendly urban and rural environment. Children are sensitive; they need friendly atmosphere, and if we are friendly to them then this will change their attitude towards positive

aspect and will show a great change in their aggressive behaviour as they only need love, support and comfort.

Role of Government

1.   Effective implementation of Child policy and Schemes

Government should focus its efforts on identifying children "at risk" of abuse and offering voluntary services and support to their families, before coercive intervention. But unfortunately state has failed in shouldering up the responsibility of protection of children's rights. Children in difficult circumstances are the responsibility of the state government. But it has been observed that government's effort is not focused on children's issues. Policies are formed, laws are enacted but the implementation of these policies and laws remain an issue of criticism.

2.   Child Participation

Governments are obliged to recognize the full spectrum of human rights for all children and consider children in legislative policy decisions. While many States are beginning to listen seriously to children's voices on many important issues, the process of change is still in its earliest stages. Children have right to express their opinions and to have their views taken seriously and given due weight. But children also have a responsibility to respect the rights of other, especially those of their parents.

3.   Family Support

The most obvious arena in which state intervention plays a critical role is the protection of children from abuse or neglect. Perhaps the most basic role of government is to protect the weak from the brutal force of the powerful.   In the new age of children's rights, we believe that children have a right to be safe and secure in their own homes and government has an obligation to assure their safety. Every government must establish a system for receiving reports of child abuse and neglect and for intervening to stop it. But the systems for child protection must respect the child's need for family

relationships and avoid destroying the family in order to save the child. Here again, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".   Poverty, drug abuse, and family violence have created this huge group of needy children, many of whom live most of their childhood in state care.

The convention specifically refers to the family as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well being of its members, particularly children, Under the convention, state are obliged to respect parent's primary responsibility for providing care and guidance for their children and to support parents in this regard, providing material assistance and support program. States are also obliged to prevent children from being separated from their families unless the separation is necessary for the child' best interest.

4.   Fulfilling obligations: putting principals into practice

Under the convention and Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, State Parties have an obligation to amend and create laws and policies fully implement the convention. As a result, the convention has inspired a process of national legal implementation and social change in all regions of the world. Local and national government have amended laws to take into consideration the best interest of the child and adopted social policies that promote realization of children' rights. Individuals, including children, and communities have actively voiced their views and called for change.

5.   Child Budgeting

Child Budgeting represents an important policy analytical tool that can help us to take stock of our development investment for children, and identify glaring gaps in resources investment. Sufficient resourcing of our often progressive policy frameworks is a first step to making real our constitutional and national policy commitments. India is poorly compared to other countries in allocation of resources for health and education. As a proportion of gross domestic product, these investments are particularly low, and increases are not commensurate with the overall increases in national productivity and

income. Under investment in health and education, child protection will only serve to widen income gaps and perpetuate inequality, both of which will impede national efforts to meet important development targets.

6.   Poverty eradication and livelihood programs

Family is an important institutions and primary school of life. The future of a child's depends on his/her family background. The study has confirmed that impoverished state of the family is forcing the children to leave their homes. Government should focus on eradicating poverty and providing employment or livelihood option to the families so that after restoration children could be able to stay in their families.

Role of NGOs

Number of NGOs are working across the country for street children while their approaches and ideology vary, all of them have health and nutrition components, non-formal education, vocational training, recreational facilities and some have counselling and livelihood schemes.

A big challenges is faced when NGOs and activities ideology clashes. In Rajasthan few NGOs believe that family is a best place for a children, some believe that they should be kept in institutional care, and some of them support the ideology that children have right to chose their life whether it is street/station or home. There is a lack of comprehensive rehabilitation programme for street children in Rajasthan. Though JJ act focuses and emphasises the restoration of these children but the poor implementation of this act has been a challenge.

NGOs are working in isolation, there is a dire need of collective effort hence NGOs should come forward collectively to share their experiences and planning for comprehensive rehabilitation plan.

Networking

Like minded organization's collective actions can change the scenario. Local NGO usually operate programs with limited funding and depend on public

and /or private sources. There is a struggle to reach a balance "between management requirements of their local programmes and the need to attract fund by becoming well-known nationally, or even internationally (Blanc, 1994:385)

1.   As a service provider

Homelessness is a challenging situation for street children that make them vulnerable to all type of exploitation. Almost it is regarded that they do not want to go back to home but during the study it was observed that many of them can be restored with their families with proper counselling and guidance. Even who are not willing to go back also can be reintegrate with their families but they need extra attention, psychological counselling, behavioural training in shelter homes. But unfortunately our institutional care does not fulfil the criteria and standards mentioned in JJ Act. NGOs as a service provider make a difference because it has been observed that at some places NGOs are doing tremendous and remarkable job.

2.   Advocacy

It is a fact that there are number of gaps in systems, which deteriorate the child protection mechanism and discourage NGOs. Numbers of schemes, numbers of laws are made for the welfare of the children but they are not being executed by the government and concerned department. Everyone wants to works superficially but there is a need to work on root cause. Collective effort required to advocate the issues related with children. In some cases, NGOs become spokespersons or ombudsmen for the poor and attempt to influence government policies and programmes on their behalf. This may be done through a variety of means ranging from demonstration and pilot projects to participation in public forums and the formulation of government policy and plans, to publicizing research results and case studies. Thus NGOs play significant roles from advocacy for the poor to implementers of government programmes; from agitators and critics to partners and advisors; from sponsors of pilot projects to mediators.

3.   Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

Innovative activities need to be carefully documented and shared - effective participatory monitoring would permit the sharing of results with the people themselves as well as with the government.

4.   As a Pressure Group

NGOs can play a significant role as a pressure group to influence policy through political means, without seeking political office itself.

5.   The role in providing support in restoration, reintegration and rehabilitation

Shelters run by NGOs have been known places which governmental organizations and citizens of a country refer to when street children are rescued from abusive environments. The shelters have also provided necessary care for the children to rehabilitate their physical and mental health and well being before the restoration process begins. NGOs provide the opportunities to reintegrate these children with the society and family.

Role of Civil Societies

In every setting, civil societies provide care and support to the community members, particularly the poorest, most marginalised and most vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. They often prioritize the educational needs of vulnerable children and assist with shelter and access to needed services including medical and legal support. They provide counselling and spiritual guidance and speak out on behalf of those who are powerless to advocate for themselves. They can be powerful allies in protecting the most vulnerable children:

1.   Civil Societies can interpret child protection principal in a language that is meaningful and appropriate to their communities, thus raising greater awareness of key child protection issues.

2.   They can speak out against all forms of violence against children, including sexual abuse of girls and boys, in their communities and beyond.

3.   They can develop and implement codes of conduct regarding appropriate interaction with children within their places, organizations, institutions (including schools and orphanages) and community associations, including reporting and response mechanism for child abuse.

4.   Civil society can play an important role in promoting education and training on all forms of violence and good practices in child protection for families, teachers and other in the community.

5.   Civil societies can influence to campaigns addressing child protection issues and advocate for favourable changes in policy and legislation to strengthen legal and monitoring system to better protect children. They can also facilitate or assist in community monitoring mechanism.

6.   Civil societies can mobilize communities to take actions to protect children and assess their needs, such as:

   1)   Ensuring safety, family-based care for vulnerable children, including separated or unaccompanied children.

   2)   Improving access to needed social services, including child-sensitive counselling

   3)   Facilitating child care for parent seeking support

   4)   Organizing safe spaces and empower for children to play and learn.

   5)   Providing material, spiritual and emotional support to families who are struggling in the face of adversity

6) Linking parents/caregivers with cash-for-work or other livelihood support schemes to ensure adequate financial resources available to household to care for children

7. Advocating for formal and non-formal education and prevention of child labour

NGOs working in Rajasthan

1. Manav Kalyan Sansthan (MKS), Jodhpur

MKS is a non-profit organization. It was established by dedicated professional who were working in different child focused organization earlier. A street child is thrust area of the organization. According to the organization survey there are more than 500 street children in Jodhpur city who are deprived from basic amenities and child rights and their situation is pathetic and inhumane. Presently the organization is addressing the issues off child protection, support to street children, orphans and vulnerable children, multi sector income generation program, HIV/AIDS, gender/women's rights. The main objective of the organization is to bring up orphaned and needy children and youth by finding ways and means of meeting their spiritual, physical and social needs and reaching out to all the children an build their confidence and to be independent nation. The end result is to raise reliable, responsible, resourceful and productive through providing and facilitating the education, instruction, training and equipping with skills to the children, besides, preaching gospel and spiritual based training. (Rajasthan NGOs)

2. Jeewandhara Sansthan, Jodhpur

Jeewandhara Sansthan is working for street and misguided youth and neglected parents for last fifteen years.

3. Gram Vikas Seva Sansthan, Jodhpur

(GVSS) is Non Profitable, Non Political & Non - Government Organization. The idea, to build a caste and classless society and

having exploitation free social structure, was initially conceived by the notable social services in the rural area of **Shri M.L. Choudhary**. GVSS is registered under the Rajasthan State Societies Act, 1958. The vision of the organization is to build an exploitation free social structure based on equilibrium. Organization is working since 15 years in rural and urban areas of Jodhpur, Pali, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Barmer & Nagaur districts. It benefited 187783 deprived persons with coverage of 262 villages of 11 panchayat Samitis. Organization is working with the downtrodden, with special emphasis on women and children. The strategy is designed to make them aware of their rights and put light on various available opportunities so as to change their life for better. The organization is implementing various program Self Help Group, Skill Up gradation, Women Child Development Program, Education Programm, Creche Programmed,Health Programmed, Targeted intervention Project, Urban RCH Centre,HIV/AIDS Programmed, Eradication Child Labor,Youth Programmed, Domestic Violence Programmed, Female Foeticide Programmed etc.

4.   I-India, Jaipur

Since 1993, i-india, an ngo (non profit) based in Jaipur, India, has been working for the welfare and educational needs of street children. These children have fallen through society's cracks. In Jaipur, where i-india works, the problem is chronic. Street children are forced to do work including rag-picking, begging, prostitution and domestic labour. i-india offers the children the opportunity to work in a different way through the production of jewellery and handicrafts while providing a safe environment amongst teachers, staff and volunteers.

I-india began as the vision of two people, a Sociology professor, and a local teacher, Prabhakar and Abha Goswami, both passionate about the rights of street children. It began with voluntary teaching in the slums. Every year i-india an NGO in Jaipur, India- improves the lives of

approx. 4000 street children in Jaipur and around India, through its programmes including homes, vocational and academic teaching, street schools, medical care, and sanitation.

Many street children come to the centre through the phone support service, Child Line, or through outreach staff at railway stations. Once a child has been housed in one of i-india's homes, trained staff and teachers assist them with their emotional and academic education.

i-india is implementing following programme for street children:

1. Child Line

2. Child Inn, Boys Home

3. Ganga, Girls Homes

4. Temporary Homes

5. Ladli Vocational Centres

6. School on Wheels

7. Integrated Streets Schools

8. Shower Bus

9. Ambulance

10. AIDS Awareness

11. Child Rights

12. Breastfeeding Promotion & other

13. Annapurna-Kitchen Project

14. Jhag Children's Village

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5. Prarambh Foundation, Jaipur

Prarambh Foundation is a registered development organization working towards ensuring education for children in the age group of 3-14 years. The organization primarily works with children in vulnerable situations, as unprivileged and slum & street children.

The major focus of work of the organization is on education and children. In order to enrol and retain the children at school other vulnerabilities need to be addressed, which keep them away from school. Prarambh interventions with children has been concentrated on child labour, girls education, reducing dropout rates, etc. the organization has also established networks with government departments, other NGO's to address the issues of children. Prarambh Foundation is currently working in Jaipur, Udaipur and Dungarpur districts of Rajasthan

6. TAABAR, Jaipur & Kota

A modest beginning in the year 2006 with an informal idea to help the needy children, with the help of some like-minded friends undertook a station project to address immediate needs of railway children having focus on health counselling. Formally, it came into existence in 2007 as a TAABAR Society. It started with five children and presently TAABAR is taking care of 5000 children per month those who living in difficult circumstances both direct and indirect through various programmes and projects. TAABAR is working on the model of restoration, reintegration and rehabilitation of the children. TAABAR has restored, reintegrated more than 3000 children across the country. Presently TAABAR is working in Jaipur and Kota districts of Rajasthan and running two temporary shelter and one children home. Apart from

this TAABAR actively putting effort for advocacy of child rights and implementation of standards of care and protection, Juvenile Justice Act and various issues related with children. TAABAR is working for strengthening Government Children homes and observations home in Jaipur and Kota. The organization is providing trainings to the various stakeholders and key functionaries on child protection issues.

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CHAPTER-VIII

CHAPTER-VIII

Summary, Conclusions, Findings, & Recommendations

Summary, Conclusions, Finding, & Recommendation

The study was set out to expose reality of street children in four major cities of Rajasthan i.e. Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota & Jodhpur from sociological point of view. Throughout the study it was found that street children are at risk and vulnerable to all types of exploitations. In recent years, hardly any anthropological and sociological research has not been done in Rajasthan. The study depicts a picture of the magnitude of the problem of street children in Rajasthan. One of the **central objective** of this research was to reveal the faces and voices of street children and analyze their various back grounds, relations to the streets and their perceptions of their situation to give relevant insight into various reasons why children are in the streets, the activities in which the children engage and how they generate income and the consequences that the children from their working/living/being in the streets.

The study has identified the reasons for homelessness, drug addiction, abuse and torture, means of survival, social life and societal perception towards street children. The study argues that the problem of street children is dependent on their situation and not on their status. In fact, each child has a personal history with the street that cannot be generalized. Because of this, the care of street children must to be effective, hinge on the different situations on the streets, in other words, on the many child profiles. It is important to analyze the relationship a child has with street. The study has identified that family and social back ground are the most responsible factor for the phenomena of street children. Also the study assumes that street children are primarily phenomena of the metropolitan cities and railway stations are main transit points for their survival and living. But the Municipal corporations and railway do not have the information about the magnitude and dimensions of the problem of street children and basic services such as health, recreation etc. are not sensitized with a view to adapt them for facilitating access for the street children.

Discussions

Hypothesis 1: Poor socioeconomic conditions are forcing the children to leave their homes

Poverty presents a chronic stress and negative impact on upbringing of the children and over all structure of the family. The present study concludes and establishes a relation among variables like social category of the respondents, types of family, source of livelihood, types of house, location of houses, drug addiction among the family members. If we look at social categories of the children, mostly children belong to schedule castes i.e. 45%, Schedule Tribes around 10%, other backward classes 30%. Thus a major share 85% of total sample is from historically disposed classes who have a long back history of oppression and suppression by elite group. They have faced an era of persecution related with their caste and creed. Still after 70 years of independence the situation is not risen up. They do not have adequate, proper means of livelihood hence they leave their origin and come to the city in search of employment but in big cities and they end up in slums. As defined by census a slum is "residential areas where dwellings are unfit for human habitation" because they are dilapidated, cramped, poorly ventilated, unclean, or "any combination of these factors which are detrimental to the safety and health" (Shrinivasan, 2013). When these slums are not fit for habitation for adults how can we imagine that children will grow in positive manner in such environment. In particular, lack of basic services (water supply, solid waste management, and street lighting), civil works (parks and playgrounds, slum improvement and construction of primary schools) and prevention of food adulteration have a direct implication on the growth and development of children. There are number of problems which are related with urban slums like health, education, nutrition, child protection, child-friendly environment which over all affects growth and development of children. Further most of the children were living in joint families but there was no source of livelihood mainly they adopted begging, daily wages for feeding their children. Unemployment, job insecurity, uncertain income are the factor which making poor more poor. 83% children were coming from

urban slum areas. 64% children were coming from those families that didn't have any permanent place for living. 92% children belonged to labor class, lower class and lower middle class. Parents were not able to fulfill basics needs of their children due to poor economical status and living conditions. Besides this, poor economic status causes so many problems in family like tension, domestic violence, and negligence, drug abuse and alcoholism, which directly affect the upbringing of the children. Finally, these adverse situations force them to leave their homes and these little urchins move out from homes without considering the consequences and risks of the real world. Poverty has emerged as a major impediment on the way of education of these children as study found that 63 % children never attended school due to economic factors and around 73% children drop out from school due to the same factor. Poverty and child maltreatment, especially child neglect, domestic violence and drug abuse/alcoholism, are intricately intertwined. One of the studies often cited as evidence of the link between poverty and maltreatments is the third National Incidences Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (Sedlak & Broadhurst, 1996)

But for poverty, as Professor Guggenheim observed, this family may not have experience child protective services intervention. If the family had not been poor, they would not have been living in "unsafe and unsanitary motel roll" and the mother would have been able to afford adequate child care (Guggenheim, 2007)

The research support the correlation between poverty and homelessness of children but there is yet no clear national policy and systems to intervening on behalf of families in ways that preserve the family unit while resolving safety issues compromised by poverty. Scattered across the country, however, are creative and courageous child welfare leaders, activities, legislator, advocates, and parents who raising voices for developing innovative policy, system reform, and practice strategies which promise to lead the way to national child welfare reform.

Hypothesis 2: Substance use is the main tool to combat the loneliness and worst situation of the streets for these children.

Data received through the interviews indicated that almost 84% respondents of the total sample consumed various substances or drugs on habitual basis, whereas 16% did not refer to use at the time when interviews were conducted.

Majorly the following substances/drugs are being used by the children:

1. Gutkha Chewing

2. Whitener sniffing

3. Alcohol

4. Smoking

5. Cannabis

6. Marijuana

7. Smack

A majority of the respondents at least use one of these seven types of substance/drugs to fulfill different their desire. The field findings exposed that there are many substances/drugs used by the respondents. Most of them told that "it depends on their financial circumstances and functions of drugs like Marijuana which increase their appetite, in order to bear the harshness of the weather they consume alcohol which leads them to slumber and whitener kills their appetite.

They stated that when they are hungry and are a penniless, they sniff whitener as it kills their appetite. On being asked how they arrange whitener without money? They said that "we borrow a drop of whitener solution from older children or friend for a paltry amount of Rs 5. Sometimes the situation worsens and they are not in a position food by any means then they resort to this trick. Additionally they said that at times that they had money but no hunger. In such conditions, they consume marijuana to increase their appetite so that they could put that money to use as they do not vaults to keep their money safely. The children without roofs said they were

apprehensive about winters since that they did not have any bedding and cozy space to save them from the winter. In order to overcome the situation they piled on to alcohol that makes them to bear the chilling winter, rough summer and brutal society. Besides this the most popular functions for using the substances were as follows:

1.   For relaxation

2.   Intoxication

3.   Stay awake at night

4.   Alleviate swing in moods

5.   Kill the time and accompany friends

Hypothesis 3: Urban slum is the origin of the problem of street children.

In order to compare different characteristics between street children and the urban poor in general, three factors has been employed. These factors has been understood in context of poor and vulnerable conditions of street children in which they manage to live.

1.   Class of family

The study expose that around 61% children came from labour class, 29.% followed by middle class 9% and lower middle class at 1%. Social problems are related with the economical background. The lower class families are not able to provide basic amenities to their children, at the early age these children get involved in economical activities for survival and ultimately end up on the streets. The labour class are those who enter in big cities in search of employment.

2.   Location of houses

This labor class so called urban poor lives in very poor quality housing known as slums where people do not have access to one or all of these services: drinking water, sanitation and electricity. Nevertheless – for

example in India- some slums are legally accepted and recognized by the government, and provided with these services (Loughhead et al., 2001).

The study exposed that 83% children were residing in slum areas. It could be argued that poor conditions of slums and impoverished state of the family force them to leave their homes.

3.   Types of houses

Slum dwellers are involved in the informal sector as a source of generating income which is in many ways not enough to live a decent life. The study exposed that these labour class do not have proper and adequate living place in slum areas; around 30% children do not possess more than a shanty in the name of living place, 31 % children live in kachha houses where child friendly environment is missing for their positive growth and development. They are unprotected and vulnerable to various types of exploitation in such living conditions. It is argued that overall in slum areas living conditions are not acceptable for the children and ultimately they end up on streets.

Hypothesis 4: Children's human rights are not protected at home as well as on streets.

It is regarded that home is a safe place for children but study found that poor parenting, poor living conditions makes them vulnerable to exploitation at home as well on streets. In the root cause poverty affects the overall upbringing of the children. Due to lack of parenting skill lack of employment, alcohol, substance use, job insecurity, illness parents are not able to give a child friendly environment to their children. They are abused by parents verbally, physically that force them to leave their homes. When they escape from the exploitative environment of home and join street life they find themselves in a vicious circle of exploitation. They are abused by everyone like employer, police, GRP, RPF, society. As the study revealed that 100% family members of respondent were substance/Alcohol user. Physical toruter and verbal abuse by parents and siblings were common practices. Around

90% children reported that they are abused by their vendors, Police, senior children and employers on street. The study explored the types of abuses and perpetrator in families as well. It is a fact that most of the street children left their home due to family problems that includes physical torture, verbal abuse and sexual abuse. The study found that verbal abuse is more common in all the districts. Using abusive words by parents and siblings is a common practice in lower class, labour class even in the middle class family. Physical torture is also commonly practices with children by the parents and siblings to teach them discipline or lesson over their mistakes.

Around 65% children accepted that they have been abused after leaving home sexually, physically, verbally and mentally. However 16 % children said that they didn't experience any type of abuse on streets. 19% children seemed reluctant so they were not forced to give answer. But it is crystal clear from the data that streets are not safe for them but they are forced to live on street due to earlier mentioned reasons.

"POLICE ABUSE AND KILLINGS OF STREET CHILDREN IN INDIA" a study conducted by Human Rights Watch Asia in 1995 found that sixty out of 100 children complained of police abuse in the form of detentions, beatings, extortion, or verbal abuse. All the children interviewed reported a fear of the police. Of the sixty street children who reported police abuse, Human Rights Watch recorded twenty-two detailed testimonies.

In addition to abuse by vendor, Police, GRP/RPF, employers, Senior street children and men physically assault younger children for their personal benefits and abuse them by getting done their personal tasks. 23% children reported abuse and torture by employers and almost 19% children reported that older children are also a great risk for them. Younger children have to pay commission to the older children. Older children get collected empty bottles and get filled with normal tap water and get sold it from younger children. They gave some money to younger children and rest of the money is kept by the older children. The children reported beating, kicking, verbally abusing and other kind of physical abuse by senior children.

The abuse is usually accompanied by theft whereby younger children are obliged to hand over whatever coveted meager possession or money they have. Equally important, however, is the significance of these actions in creating control and establishing a hierarchical order on the street. Groups of street children are generally self-organized by age group with a leader. Each group is part of a larger group that is controlled by a neighborhood leader. Through intimidation, threats, and physical and sexual abuse, these leaders exact loyalty and exert control over younger street children. In most instances, the police, GRP and RPF fail to protect younger street children from abuse by older street boys and men as these children do not exist for them.

Project Coordinator of TAABAR shared that every second child is a victim of sexual abuse or physical abuse who come to us for shelter. They reported such two cases to CWC in which local person were involved.

Results (Chapter-wise)

Chapter - One

1. To understand the phenomena of street children first chapter deals with back ground of the problem, meaning and definition, category, characteristics, factors, problems and concerned issues of street children. The phenomenon of street children was documented as far back as 1848. Haratio Alger, Kipling, Victor Hugo, Funke, Sherlock Homes, Fagin had written about the miseries of street children or abandoned children. Since the beginning the street children are perceived as pest, thieves and parasites for the society.

2. After studying the earlier literature it was found that the street children are primarily phenomena of the metropolitan cities. Whatever the sources of their entry in cities, street children end up in the urban areas. The causes of homelessness are varied, but are often related to domestic, economic, or social disruption.

3.   There is no consensus on any one definition of street children which is accepted worldwide. With the aim of understanding the nature of the problem, definition given buy UNICEF has been used in this study. Street children lack security, protection, and hope and continue to face a deep rooted negative stigma about homelessness. And more than anything else, they lack love and face a number of problems on streets such as shelter and food, health problems, occupational hazards, abuse and sexual exploitation.

4.   The hidden and isolated nature of street children makes accurate statistics difficult to gather; however the WHO and UNICEF in mid 90s estimated there are approximately 100 million street children worldwide with that number growing constantly.

5.   Though there is no concrete data on the exact number of street children in India but it is estimated that India has the largest population of street children in the world. At least eighteen million children live or work on the streets of urban India.

6.   Though it is very hard to estimate the number of street children in Rajasthan due to non availability of systematic & demographic statistic regarding street children; **However according to UNICEF statistic there are 3.5 million street children.** Kota, Ajmer, Jodhpur districts are home to a large number of street children.

Chapter - Two

1.   Chapter two is an attempt to understand the critical and phenomenal nature of the street children through reviewing the available literature. Reference books, workshop and conferences reports were reviewed and eye opening observations made to make the research authentic and relevant. The review of literature helped in developing an in-depth understanding and acquires the knowledge from across the globe.

2.   A number of studies have been conducted various individuals, researcher, and academicians, research institutions concerning the

problem worldwide but not so much in India specially in reference of Rajasthan. However the work has been done in Rajasthan but it is insufficient, region and project specific and limited.

3. Internationally and nationally research work covers various aspects of the life of street children like few showed the interest to find out their daily life, few worked on drug and inhalant use among the street children some of them explored the plight of their human rights, some focused on Sexual practices and HIV/AIDS, some of them studied psycho-social aspect of street children, some of them explored socio-legal aspects of street children. The chapter reaches on following findings after reviewing the research work in reference of street children:

   ➢ Life on the streets is directly link to poverty as their caregivers/parents were unemployed.

   ➢ A majority of street children are on streets due to family problems or mistreatment that is result of impoverished state of the family and bad parenting.

   ➢ Various studies revealed that the majority of the children on streets are single orphan or double orphan but the present study finds that majority of children in Rajasthan who are on streets are having both biological parents.

   ➢ After a number of international instruments to safeguard the rights of children like UN Convention, Universal declaration of Human rights, the international covenant of civil and political rights etc., we are failing to protect the human rights of these children due to poor implementation of these international provisions.

   ➢ Drug abuse among this population is rampant phenomena not only in India but also in other part of the world. The present study deeply explored the drug use pattern in family as well as among the street children and found that the various types of drugs,

inhalants, alcohol are most commonly used by their family members.

> The street children face many difficulties and obstacles in daily life, these children suffer the brutality at the hands of the Police, venders, and private civilians and hatred by society.

4. Bal Baishali the author of Drug, sex, HIV and street children in India highlighted the problem of non-tobacco substance use and sexual abuse along with HIV/STIs, among street children. She described some factors like age, lack of contact with family; orphan children, night stay at public space etc. are associated with substance use and sexual abuses. According to author one percent HIV sero-prevelance in street children is a matter of concern and needs immediate attention and intervention to check a potential epidemic in India.

5. Nancy Leihg Teirney in her book "Robbed Humanity" attributes the indifferences shown by the general population and negligence of government towards the plight of the growing number of street children.

6. N.K. Bohra and Mohanti deeply studied the impact of urbanization on street children's and their problems. They described family meileu in detail and examined various aspects wich are responsible for the phenomena of the street children and found that large family size, migration, illiteracy among the parents are contributing factor in growing number of street children. He also found that minorities, SC, ST getting affected by the process of urbanization and that is the matter of highest concern.

7. Ms Rashmi in her "Street Children: a socio-psychological study" examined the street children from the socio-psychological point of view and found that psychological cusses like cruelty by parents, impact of domestic violence, abuse by parents, negligence of parents affected child psyche. The present study reveals the similar findings

that around 80% children reported physical abuse by parents and sibling, 45% children reported that they are abused verbally by their parents that hurt their dignity and create anger, tension, and rebelliousness. Few of them reported that they were sexually abused by their siblings and relatives at home.

8. JOHN HALT in his book "escape from childhood) advocates the rights of the children like an adult and discover new family relationship not based on parental control. In reference of street children he strongly put his thought with clarity that children are running from home because they consider childhood as a prison, they find it unfit and miserable for them.

Scientifically and biologically has been proved that children are emotionally, mentally and physically immature and have different, unique exposure to environment. They are vulnerable to risk and hazards. Due to their dynamic developmental physiology children are often subjected to higher exposure of exploitation and abuse. Children are politically powerless; they are defenseless. With no political understanding of their own they must rely on adults to protect them from abuse and exploitations. It is adult's responsibility to identify hazards and conditions that impair children's ability to grow and mature safely in a healthy and friendly environment. It is a bitter fact that millions of children are becoming homeless due to various reasons across the globe. But at the same time if we look at the number of children who are living with parents is much higher than those who are homeless. Various studied confirmed that there is a little percentage of the children who leave their home only for fun and freedom. By considering the fact it can be said that children cannot be treated like adults or children are not little adults. Their needs are age specific. The present study discard the logic that children should be given right like adults to chose their life independently. Legally and constitutionally children have given all the rights prescribed for adults but children need care and protection, guidance and safe environment to exercise their rights in positive manner. They are not cognitively mature to exercise their rights independently if they are given rights to live life as per

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their own, all the children would like to leave their homes because it is human nature or tendency that he/she never like discipline and control. All the children will become rebellious, role of parents and guardian, importance of family will be diminished. We all know that elder also misuse their rights; in such conditions how we can expect from children that they will not misuse their rights. In ancient time, there was a chaos in absence law mechanism. To control the human being's basic instinct laws were made to provide security to others and weaker sections.

The present study argues that instead of advocating rights for children as an adult we should work on the root causes of homelessness. Researchers conducted on street children proves that all children are not leaving homes only those children are leaving whose family conditions is financially poor, who have some family problems etc. Those children are leaving home whose parents are not capable to take care of them. Hence we researchers and academicians should focus on the root causes of phenomena of street children. The present study supports the logic as following:

1. When street children were asked about the reason of leaving home, 80% told that they left their home due to family factors, economic factors, bad parenting etc.

2. When they were asked who do they like most in their family? They replied that they like most their parents

3. When they were asked do they like living on streets, they replied who like this disgusting life but there is no other option. Everyone likes home, wants to live with parents and siblings but poverty forced us to live on streets.

4. Thus it is proved that living on street is a compulsion for the majority of children. All the children dreamt about a quality life with respect and dignity. We need to reform our family institutions, educational institutions, policy and laws to prevent the phenomena of street children. Child participation should be ensured in policy making and

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planning schemes for children. There is a dire need to create child friendly environment in family, community, society so that these little ones may grow up in a healthy manner in a safe and secure environment , they could enjoy their rights and entitlements. There is a need to create employment opportunity, job security, protecting traditional occupations to eliminate the poverty and strengthening family.

5. Accessibility towards government schemes should be ensure by the governments and concerned departments and it should also be ensured that actually need should get benefitted from these schemes

6. We need to strengthen safety net and child protection mechanism to save and protect the future of the nation. Restoration, rehabilitation and reintegration strongly should in reintegrate in every scheme.

TAABAR is a not for profit organization that is working in Kota and Jaipur for street children. More than 3000 children have been rehabilitated by the organization of which 80% has been restored to their families. The project coordinator told that 80% children are living with their parents. Though it was a challenge to make sustain the restoration and reintegration of the children in family but the counseling of parents, continue follow up and guidance make them capable to take care of their children. So the problem lies in our system, surroundings not in children. Children are always children and they need care and protection in every circumstance. They cannot be left alone to enjoy their rights. We have to educate children, Community, stakeholders about the rights of children so that they could guide the children in effective manner.

We need to change approach working with children, need to focus on prevention rather than control.

Reviewing the various research work, articles, journals it was found that the following reasons and factors are responsible for homelessness of the children.

1. Industrialization and urbanization are the responsible factor for the phenomena of street children

2. Psychological Problems

3. Impoverished state of the family/ poor financial status

4. Unemployment of caregiver/parents

5. Mishandling or abuse by parents

6. Negligence of parents

7. Unpleasant family atmosphere

8. Lack of Education (illiteracy)

9. Low moral values

10. Drug addiction and alcohol

11. Domestic violence

12. Lack of interest in studies

The authors and academicians focused on eliminating poverty, strengthening family, educating parents and community, service providers and stakeholders, parenting program, training, and skill development programs by adopting need based approach at three levels:

1. Individual Level (street children)
2. Community level
3. Beyond community (policy level)

Chapter -Three

The third chapter introduces the methodology used for the study and how it has guided data collection and analysis process. It explains the research objective and a suitable methodology to achieve the objectives. An operational definition has been taken (by UNICEF) to identify the street children and to locate their area of operation. The chapter is a detailed account of the problems in Rajasthan and reveals the fact that are responsible for the increasing phenomenon of street children in Rajasthan:

1. Rajasthan is the largest state of India with rapid development leading towards metro status.

2. The population of Rajasthan has shown speedy increase and makes it 8th most populous state of India

3. According to census 2011, Rajasthan has got 8th rnk among the 10 states of Indi with high population growth rate

4. As per the census of 2011; the share of the population of children (below 18 years) in Rajasthan is 43 % of the total population

5. Rajasthan has several manifestation of violation of child rights. Irregular income, poverty, family migration, social marginalization and deprivation, low social awareness and scant attention added with feeble commitment from the state to handle the issues effectively have resulted in high incidences of child exploitation, rampant child abuse, increasing inward and outward child labor trafficking, migration and child sexual violence .

6. Migration is a big challenge for Rajasthan. There are districts like Jaipur, Ajmer , Kota and Bhilwara, Jodhpur where the percentage share of migrant settling in urban areas with context to the total migrant is comparatively higher. Mainly three types of migration take place in Rajasthan i.e Nomadic, Local and transhumant migration.

7. Selling and buying children by pastoral community is a common practices in Rajasthan

8. The problem of street children is largely urban phenomenon- most street children appear concentrated in Jaipur, Kota, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Bharatpur and Bikaner. These cities are divisional head quarters and well connected with trading and bus.

9. The actual number of street children in Rajasthan is not very well known. This mainly includes a large population of varied nature living in slums, pavements, Bus & Railway stations etc.

10. Urban poverty and slums is one of the most critical. Jaipur city is the state capital of Rajasthan. Jaipur city has 3,073,350 population with 17% of total urban population of Rajasthan. The only million plus city of Rajasthan, Jaipur has the distinction of having the largest population of Rajasthan, 10 percent of the population is below the poverty line.

11. The city's slum population, when compared to Rajasthan's entire population shows that 22.47 dwellers reside in Rajasthan

12. The census 2011 reveals that in 2011 total 4,530 families were living on footpath or without any roof cover in Jaipur.

13. Ajmer is the fifth largest city in Indian state of Rajasthan. The total population of below 18 years in Ajmer is approximate 8,60,000

14. The population of Ajmer city according census 2011 is 542,580 position Ajmer in top 100 cities of India and 5th in Rajasthan. Total no of 110, 675 people (census 2011) resides in slums in Ajmer.

15. As of the report of census 2011, Jodhpur is the second highest populated district of Rajasthan after Jaipur district

16. Kota is the third most populous city of Rajasthan after Jaipur and Jodhpur and 46th most populous city of India.

17. All the above facts reveal that Rajasthan is going to face a challenge of growing phenomenon of street children as the urbanization process slurping the innocent child hood.

Chapter - Four

Chapter four examines the life of street children in context of various back ground and explored the untold facts about street life. The empirical findings are as following:

Background information of Street Children

1. To analyze the age factor, three bracket of age group 6-10 years, 11-15 years and 16-18 years were determined and it was found that major share of street children are in between 11-15 age bracket i.e 61% of total sample. Jaipur and Jodhpur has higher concentration of this age group respectively 72% and 66%. The age group 16-18 years comprises 23% of total sample and with 22% Kota district is afore in all districts. The child between 6-10 years constitutes 15.50 % of total sample. Puberty starts from 11 years and children pass through the various hormonal changes and face adjustmental problem in family as well as outside. They become more demanding and experimenting. This is a crucial age and demands extra care and attention that is not possible in those families where it is difficult to arrange a square of meal.

2. Majority of street children were follower of Hindu religion with 94% of total sample and follower of Muslim religion shares 6% of total sample. Muslims are minorities in India and shares 14-15 % of total population. Viewed from this perspective, the number of Muslim children is a matter of grave concern. If concrete steps are not taken, the number of Muslim children will be higher in for coming years.

3.   Surprisingly 45% children belong to Schedule Caste and 10.50 % from schedule tribes. The children from general category shares 9.50% and OBC share 30 % of total sample. 5% children were not able to tell their caste and category as at early age they got separated from their families. SC, ST and OBC are the categories that have been given reservation in all spheres of life (Education, Job etc) to

bring forward them and reintegrate into mainstream society. Despite of reservation still these schedule castes are lagging behind and their children are leaving on streets. The data concludes that the rights and entitlements are not accessible to them or cast discrimination is still prevalent in the society that pushes them behind.

4.   The physical status of the children in all districts was found normal but from health point of view 14% were found sick that needed immediate treatment. Anemia and weakness and malnutrition were clearly visible in all children.

Family Background Information

5.   Majority of children came from joint family i.e. 57 % of total sample, 35% from single family and 7% from broken families. Family is an important institutions and first school for everyone and mother is a first teacher. The joint families are mostly migrated. They migrate in groups with their relatives and live at one place in ghettoes. The study reveals that Kota district has highest number of the children who came from broken family following Ajmer and Jodhpur. They live in joint family but they don't have jobs or earning sources so each and every person go out to earn money in their own ways including children. By the evening they earn enough to feed their stomach for the same day. Next dawn the struggle starts again.

6.   Around 85.50% children had their biological parents, 10% children lost their parents and only 1.50 % had adopted parents. Around 72 % out of 85.50 % children's biological parents both were alive and living together. Almost 5% children told that their biological parents both were alive but not living together. They had separated. 11% children's father was alive but they had lost their mother. Around 9% children's lost their father and only had mother. 2% children told that their mother went to another person by following Nata Tradition. 1% children told that their father was alive but living separately with second wife. The data reveals that urbanization and migration

process has weekend the family institutions and the definition of emotional bonds have been changed in present scenario. Due to impoverished state and addiction parents use their children as a source of income. When a child earns money, there is no one to ask him from where he brought the money rather he is encouraged and parents fulfill their needs through their children. Children have to face the brunt of Nata Tradition in Rajasthan. Numbers of children are living in child care institutions due to this customary practice.

7. Out of total sample 60.50 % children belonged to lower class means the people who are not having any job or subsistence to do that includes such community which moves one place to another place and mainly depends on begging and other odd source of income. Around 29.50% children belonged to labour class which means the people who are employed on daily wage and earn less than 3000/- per month. Surprisingly 8.50% children came from middle class family means the people who earn 5000-10000/- per month and engaged in some kind of petty business like grocery shop, kiosk and government job as fourth class or private job. The data concludes that extreme poverty and impoverished state of the family is mostly responsible for their homelessness. And also the impoverished state forces them to seek their own means of survival.

8. Total 83% children came from urban areas. The situation is almost the same in all districts. More than 70% children are coming from urban slum areas in all districts. As already has been discussed that the four districts are at fore front in population growth, population density, rapid urbanization, and number of slums. The data proves that urbanization is most responsible factor for the phenomena of street children in Rajasthan and its districts.

9. The statistics of all the districts confirms that living condition of the enumerators was worst. 74% street children's parental house was nothing more than shanty or katchha house in Kota district, 66% in

Ajmer, 48% in Jaipur and 42% in Jodhpur. These children were deprived of basic amenities in slum areas. It is proved that major share of sample population was living in dilapidated conditions.

Drug & Substance Use by Family Members

10. 94% family members of street children were substance and drug users. Mostly the male members are addicted of various types of substances /drugs and alcohol. Total 62% children stated that their father was substance user and around 28% parents were found as addicted of some kind of substances. Around 3% mothers were addicted. Besides this their relatives, siblings were also addicted that shared around 7% of total sample. Ajmer district showed highest male substance user i.e. around 83% followed by 70% in Kota, 64% in Jaipur. Surprisingly the data revealed that both parents were found addicted in Jaipur with 28%. That is the matter of grave concern. Poverty and drug abuse are interchangeably used words. Poverty may indulge one in drugs and substance use or drugs may end up in poverty.

11. Smoking, tobacco, Cannabis, Marijuana and Alcohol were commonly used by the parents of the street children. Consumption of alcohol was very high in all the districts that causes of domestic violence and domestic violence causes of homelessness of children. The most saddening by product of substance use is the neglect, abuse and maltreatment of children whose parents are addicted to drugs.

12. There is no absolute source of obtaining food among the street children. Children gave multiple responses. Mostly they eat at home, sometimes they buy, and they eat left over thrown by passengers, sometimes they steal food from pantry cars, sometime they scavenge dustbins, sometimes eat at temples and religious places. They eat whatever the source doesn't matter for them. There are no fixed timings for having food whatever they felt hungry had food. It may be twice in a day or thrice in a day, mostly depends on availability.

Recreational Activities

13. The respondents rated gossiping with friends as a number one pass time activity, secondly they rated watching films and thirdly playing cards, fun and picnic, taking drugs/substance with friends. They also like watching TV at restaurants, adult movies to spend their leisure time.

Drug and Substance Abuse among Street Children

14. 84% children of total sample consumed various types of substances and drugs that is alarming sign that our children are in great danger and vulnerable to various types of exploitation due to drug and substance use. Various types of substance and drugs are used by these children. 75% children of total sample were addicted of chewing Gutkha along with other substances. Around 50% children were sniffing whitener and around 42 % were consuming alcohol along with most commonly used drugs such as cannabis, marijuana, smack etc. 36% children were chain smoker. Whitener sniffing was most common addiction in all districts respectively 68% in Jaipur, 52% in Kota, 26% in Ajmer and 52% in Jodhpur.

15. Drugs and substances is a coping mechanism of stress, it gives them strength to bear all the hardship on the streets, besides this give them pleasure, already children have confirmed that taking substances, sniffing whitener and solvents, consuming alcohol is their favorite pass time activity, it works as medium of entertainment for these children.

16. Around 18% of total users were using drugs/substance less than one year. This category includes those children who were in the age group of 6-10 years or recently left home as already it has been discussed they there were around 15.50% children were in the age bracket of 6-10 years. 67 % were using up to five years. There were around 11% children who had been using substance/drugs for 10 years. They

were so addicted or dependent on substance and drugs that around 21% children taking upto 10 times in a day and around 23 % children were taking more than 20 times in a day this includes all types of substance drugs which were available to them.

17.	Cannabis, Tobacco/ Gutkha, Alcohol are such types of substances which develops physical dependency and psychological dependency which result into many types of disorders also it badly affects social, economic status and mental health. It is essential to develop a thorough understanding of the impact of substance abuse on mental and physical health outcomes and to identify new treatment approaches for substance use disorders (SUDs).

Health Care, Disease and Treatment

18.	Poor health is major concern of street children. It was found that around 51% children out of total sample were having health ailments related to their general health like weakness, T.B., Pneumonia, cough and fever, Jaundice , skin diseases, piles, stones etc. Of which only 35% children seek medical help and around 65% children were found careless regarding their general health.

19.	There were 93 children out of 200 children who were bitten by animals at least once. Almost half of the sample population had experienced the animal bite on streets or nearby surroundings. They were majorly bitten by dogs (76%), monkeys, rats, scorpions, snakes and pigs. They never had vaccine. **They just applied chili powder and oil over the wound.**

Educational Status of Street Children

20.	It is very unfortunate that despite free and compulsory primary education, 52% children never went school, 48% were drop out before primary, and 25% didn't complete their upper primary education. Only 2% children reached secondary level but left before

completing secondary education. Major share of drop out children studied in government school.

21. Reasons for not attending school and drop out were examined separately. Poverty or impoverished state of the family was most significant reason behind not attending and drop out the school of children. Another major factor was lack of interest in studies due to this around 24% child never went school and 19% left school before universal primary free and compulsory education. The children who are not interested in studies are matter of grave concern because pressure and compulsion for studies force them to leave home thus willy-nilly with these children increase the number of runaway children on streets. There is a dire need to seek alternate educational options for the children who are not interested in studies. Besides this, migration, negligence of parents, non availability of school, child labour, and sudden demise of parents and rigid atmosphere of the school were prominent reasons for not attending and drop out school.

Means of Survival on Streets

22. It was evident in the responses of the street children that they adopt a range of survival means, both legal and illegal to confront the challenges of street life. Across the globe, the situation of street children is miserable. They are dependent on malicious work to feed them, to keep alive themselves and their family members. Even they get involved in prostitution and criminal and immoral activities. In Rajasthan the scenario is not much different from others. There was no absolute means of survival. The children told that they do any type of work which in exchange gives them money. They gave multiple responses that reveals that they stuggle a lot to survive on streets. The prominent means of survival on streets were rag picking (39%) for older children and those who were living on footpaths or nearby slum areas, begging at stations, public places, bus stop, cleaning train coaches and begging constitute the major share of total population

i.e. 71%, vending water bottles 15%. Around 17% children were involved in pick pocketing, drug paddling, stealing and grabbing the good or luggage of passengers. 13% children answered that they also did work at restaurants and railway vendors and 13 % used to sell goods on traffic signals. 10% children told that shoe polishing was also a medium of survival for them. 6% children adopted zipper repairing work and 8% children told "जो भी काम मिल जाये या जिसमें पैसे मिले वो काम हम कर लेते हैं" | Respectively rag picking occupation highly opted by street children in Jodhpur ,Jaipur and Kota; except Jodhpur, begging in train coaches and stations was highly opted in Jaipur, Kota and Ajmer; children in Kota and Ajmer were highly involved in grabbing, stealing, pick pocketing, drug paddling .

Income, Expenditure and Savings

23.   The daily income of the street children was found quite different and unequal 44% children earned 50-100 Rs per day, 27% children earned Rs100-150 Rs in a day, 14% children were able to earn Rs 150-200 Rs per day and 12 % children were those who were hardly above to earn up to 50 Rs (small and younger children and untrained) and some of them were earning above 200 Rs (older and trained children by hook and crook managed to earn sufficient amount). The street children reported that they had to face competition on streets that affects their daily income. Increasing number of street children, rescue operation by NGOs, and street children free railway station drive by Railway, GRP and RPF affected their livelihood.

24.   The research conducted in Dhaka, Mali, Lusaka revealed that street children primarily spent their money on clothing, food, few of them sent money to their families but in Rajasthan the expenditure trend varied from other countries. The respondents spent their money mainly on drug addiction. It has been observed that their main source of food is left over food, thrown by passenger and pantry cars, no

matter it is worth to eat or not. They do not like to spend money over food. They get their food from dustbins. They bought clothes occasionally on the occasion of any festival like Diwali. Some of them occasionally sent money or gave to their parents whenever they visited their native place or family. Very few children saved their earnings. In Jodhpur, the nature of saving was found highest while in Jaipur it was the lowest. The 66 out of 200 children saved money. The saving nature was found among those children who were having regular contacts with their parents and were local residents. Mostly they belonged to Sansi Community, Kalbeliya (Snake Charmer) and migrated families. Mostly children. Only 11 children saved their money to their employer only two mentioned that they were depositing in post office. Mostly children reported that they didn't have place to keep safe money so they used to spend whatever they earned otherwise older children or their own mates stole their money. Few of them told that there were few children who deposited their money to the vendors and employers but mostly they arrogated their deposited money. In the study street children were found to have minimum booty and belongings with them. Mostly they owned filthy and torn shirt/pant/shorts (which were not sufficient to cover their body) and a broom, dirty cloth to wipe the floor of train coaches.

Social Bondage (Family, Friends and Groups)

25.   About 51 % children of the total sample having regular contacts (part of street families/slum dwellers) with their parents. These children are mainly those who come from nearby towns and slums, they are called floating population or children of street families. Trend shows that number of such street children were highest in Ajmer and Jodhpur. **Jaipur and Kota had highest number of children who were having irregular contacts with their parents. Jaipur and Kota are well connected with metros so these railway terminals are home for many children. 23% children were totally disconnected of which** almost 9 % were orphans 9 % were deserted themselves and

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5% were abandoned by their own parents. ***The findings reveals that there are very few children who leave home by their own but major share is a victim of circumstances so the study discard the ideology that street children should have rights to be on streets. They can be reintegrated with main stream society with proper planning, rehabilitation schemes to lead a better, qualitative and dignified life.***

Factors of Homelessness

26. There were different sets of factor that prompt the children to leave homes. These factors can be grouped into categories like economic factors such as poverty, migration, a low standard of living, family factors such as violence and conflict in the family, abusive step parents, loss of parents, negligence: social factors like peer pressure, attraction of city; psychological factors such as fun loving nature, anger, need more attention; Educational factors such as lack of interest in educational activities, poor quality of education, corporal punishment etc. The above table shows that impoverished state is most significant factor that led 73% children to leave home. Family factors are the second most significant factor as per the data presented in the above table. Children left their home due to abused and negligence by parents, alcoholic father, abuse by relatives, domestic violence, conflict among siblings, remarriage of parents, and demise of parents.

Length of Duration on Streets

27. The above table reveals that 20% children had been living on streets for more than Five and almost 20% were going to complete two years of street life. If we look at district wise data we find that Kota has highest concentration of children who were living on streets more than five years followed by Jodhpur. It can be seen that Kota again has highest number of children who are living on street below six months followed by Jaipur (24%). Majorly these children came from slum

areas and migrants families who temporarily lived at the station. Around 18% children were fresh; they just spent less than six months on streets.12% children were on streets for around two years and 11% children were experiencing street life for less than one year.

Living & Sleeping Places on Streets

28.   The result shows that children use multiple places of living like 48% children reported that they didn't have any fixed place to live or sleep. They spotted place like under fly over, railway station, bus stop, and hospital, train coaches etc. 28% responded that they lived and slept at their homes mostly but simultaneously they used to sleep at other places due to their mobility. Majority of the children 28 % responded that permanently they slept and lived at railway platforms because all the livelihood operations were done from the railway stations via trains. The number of such children was found highest in Kota district followed by Jaipur and Ajmer. 13% children were living in shelter homes who recently rescued by the NGOs in Jaipur and Kota districts. Around 4% children slept and lived in rented house sharing with friends. Around 3% children shared that they used condemned building as a living or sleeping place.

Criminal Back Ground

29.   Only 5 children reported that they were apprehended by Police, GRP and RPF for petty crime like theft pick pocketing and robbing. They committed crime after leaving home. Only one child admitted that he was sent observation home as he was booked by RPF under sec.147 of Railway Act. Rest of the children revealed that they were beaten and detained by police and GRP then they were left.

Torture and Abuse of Street Children

30.   The study explored the types of abuses and perpetrator in families as well. It is a fact that most of the street children left their home due to family problems that includes physical torture, verbal abuse and

sexual abuse. The study found that verbal abuse is more common in all the districts. Using abusive words by parents and siblings is a common practice in lower class, labour class even in the middle class family. Physical torture is also commonly practices with children by the parents and siblings to teach them discipline or lesson over their mistakes. The respondent reported sexual abuse in Ajmer, Jaipur and Jodhpur by parents, siblings and other (relatives). Children Suffered from the Combination of Alcohol Abuse and Domestic Violence in the Home

31. Street children are vulnerable to exploitation at home as well on streets too. They reported multiple perpetrator of abusing them on streets altogether. The study reveals that the vendors were most dangerous for the street children as almost 90 % children accepted that mostly they are physically, verbally and mentally, sexually abused by vendors. 71 % children also told that Police/GRP/RPF is not sensitive for them. They are regarded nuisance by Police/GRP/RPF. They are beaten and physically verbally tortured by Police man. 23% children reported abuse and torture by employers and almost 19% children reported that older children were also a great risk for them.

32. As we all know that SJPU, RPF, GRP & SM are the first recipients of children in the JJ System. This makes their role very critical as the experience of the system will last long on the child. Ironically the role of these recipients has been subject of criticism due to their apathetic attitude and behavior whenever they are linked with these children. The study complements that cruelty and brutality was highly in Jaipur (72%), followed by Ajmer (70%). In totality the RPF, POLICE and GRP was found insensitive towards these children. Though few children stated that sometime GRP, RPF, Police are sympathetic while few children stated that they experienced all type of officials, sometimes they were cruel, sometime sympathetic so it can be said that the it depends on official to official. According to the data, 57% children accepted that GRP and RPF had been exploiting in terms of

extorting money, getting done odd jobs, expelling them from station etc. 32 % children out of total also told that GRP/RPF and Police was cruel and brutal for them in terms of locking them up, detaining in police station, booking false charges, beating etc. Almost 27% reported that they are verbally abused by these departments. They are called with the following titles like Tapori (vagabond or rowdy), bhagoda (runaway), kantak (thorn or troublesome), solushanbaaj (as they sniff solvent), They are also identified with their disability like लूला (armless), बहरा (deaf), by physical adjective like लम्बू (taller), chhotu (short heighted).

Sexual Practices, Knowledge about STIs/HIV/AIDS

33. The street children live a mobile and transitory life style and are vulnerable to inadequate nutrition, physical injuries, and substance use and health problems including reproductive and sexual health problems. Sexual and reproductive health /HIV/AIDS/STIs are closely link to the substance use and personal hygiene. The study has already confirmed that 84% of total sample consume various types of substance and drugs. Out of total sample, 167 respondents accepted that they are having some unusual problems in their genitalia. When they were probed to enquire about the type of complaints it was found that almost 33 % were suffering from itching and burning in urination.28% were having blisters on genital areas and almost 5 % were having pus on genital areas. 28 % couldn't mention exactly what type of problem they were having. Nevertheless, they didn't care about this and didn't seek any medical advice or treatment due to fear and shame. Apart from this, they told that in Government Hospitals, ***"We are not listened carefully so we can't imagine going to government hospital for this type of illness and private treatment is so expensive that is beyond our capacity."*** Homeless children are at risk of getting many diseases, including sexually transmitted infections (STI). The study explored that 64% children were sexually active. The median age at first sexual activity was 13 years among

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the street children. Out of 200 children, 47 children got physically intimated once, 42 children had sex two to five times and 41 children had sex more than five times.

The study-examined knowledge regarding the HIV/AIDS and STIs and found that around 74% respondent of total sample were not aware about HIV/AIDS while 16 % were aware about HIV/AIDS but not about STIs. They had just heard about the name of HIV/AIDS but didn't know how it spread and what the symptoms of the HIV/AIDS are. When they were asked about the knowledge and practice about the condom, 59% respondent of total sample said that they knew about condom but never used. They shared that during the gossiping it was came to know that condom lessen the pleasure. In addition use of alcohol and substance make them senseless. It was found that 45.50% street children received the information about condom from their friends, 37% from television, 10% from advertisement and adult movie, 11.83 % from porn /adult movies.

Immediate Needs of Street Children

34.   Street children showed different perceptions of immediate needs. Larger number of children wanted employment or job as their immediate need or capital to start petty business. Some of them also wanted to study along with job. Few children wanted food. Some of them wanted to live life with respect and dignity. Some children expressed that they wanted to go in shelter home so that they could be able to live a better life.

Clothing, Appearance, Personal Hygiene

35.   Out of 200 children, 60% children were appeared dirty, wearing undersized clothes with unkempt hair. 48% children were wearing dirty and tattered clothes that were not covering their body parts. Along with this appearance, 42% children were under the influence of substance use (whitener, solvent, marijuana etc.). 5% children were found half naked only in pajamas. 13% children were found neat and

clean with ok clothing. 5% children were under the influence of Alcohol in day time. Only the appearance of 10% children was found normal with so-so clothing.

Aspirations

36. The street children gave varied response on their future aspirations, most of them wanted to possess their own house, car, auto etc. The ambitions of their life were closely associated with their family back ground. Some of them wanted to serve for their siblings and parents for bright future. Some of them said that they wanted government job. Many of them wanted to be a doctor, police officer, teacher etc. Some children told that they wanted to be an actor, dancer, guitar player etc. There were few children who were not able to identify their dreams and ambitions but wanted to earn money to live a better life. A large number of them wanted to get married. The table reveals that ultimately they wanted to live a normal life like other people of the society. Few of them hoped to go back home. Some of them said that they wanted to be a Tapori / Bhai.

Perception of Public about Street Children

37. More than 90% felt that the general public disliked them, they were seen as Taporis and that they should be forcefully removed from streets, while 7.50% reported that the general public was sympathetic towards them.

38. **Perception of Street Children about Child Care Institutions**

   Street children were asked questions how do they think about shelter homes. More than one third of the respondents expressed disliking for shelter homes. Few of them were escaped from shelter homes. Some of them were restored by NGOs but street life had become their first choice. Mostly children disliked the disciplined life of shelter homes, some of them complained about physical and sexual abuse in homes.

Chapter - Five

39.   There are number of legal instrument at both national and international level. India has showed his concern by signing the international convention for the care and protection of the children. In context of application of international laws, government has enacted various laws in past two decades but the poor implementation of the laws has been a great challenges and matter of criticism for government. State government also failed to implement the various programs and schemes for the welfare of children. The fundamental rights given in constitutions are violated and there is no monitoring and supervision mechanism.

Chapter - Six

40.   Rajasthan state has its own child policies one regarding all kind of children and second for especially for girl child. But the lack of coordination and collaboration among the various departments made the implementation for policies weaker. The policies have been limited to papers only. Government has failed to develop a periodical review and monitoring mechanism to evaluate the progress and implementation of the polices. Increasing number of street children is a matter of grave concern but no solidarity efforts has been taken especially for care and protection of street children. There is not specific policy in the state for protection for rights of the street children specifically while street children are quite in big number in Rajasthan and they are more vulnerable to exploitation. After 15 years of the enactment of Juvenile Justice Act, the implementation was not satisfactory in the state. Government Child Care Institutions failed to take care of these children due to poor quality of services, poor infrastructure, lack of training and sensitization among the care takers. The concerned departments failed to address the problem of street children and collaborating and providing facilities to the non-governmental organizations. Integrated Child Protection Scheme

(ICPS), the flagship scheme of central government it's crying for implementation in the state after 7 years of launching. There is no clarity and guidelines to implement the schemes. The monopoly of state government in implementing the scheme is visible in poor quality service delivery system.

Though State government has taken initiatives but functional and operational challenges are affecting implementation. Besides this, lack of political will and beaurocracy, rad-tapism are impediments in the way of implementation of various initiatives, schemes and programs.

Rajasthan has established Department of Child Rights separately but there are number of gapes in functioning of DCR. Child Welfare Committees are not empowered to take up the challenges due to lack of resources, infrastructure, and clear guideline to exercise the powers. State Commission of protection for child rights (RSCPCR) is facing number of problems in terms of operational and functional areas. There is a logway to go for state government. State Government needs to evaluate the policies and implementation of laws and programs in present scenario.

Conclusions

The phenomenon of street children is global concern that required collective effort for mapping of this invisible population and there is a dire need of a unanimous definition by redefining existing definitions to address the issue of problem. Children are future of the nation but according to the present scenario the future of the nation is bleak. But the present scenario of the street children and categories of disadvantaged, abandoned, destitute of street living, playing and working children in the cities of Rajasthan has posed and intense threat to humanity and child rights. **The state government of Rajasthan needs to take urgent steps to curve the phenomena of street children in Rajasthan.**

The present study has brought forth so many interesting, agonizing, and tear jerking vista regarding the impact of street life on the life and living of children. Being a signatory United Nation of Convention on Rights of Children (UNCRC), the findings has overviewed in reference of basic rights of children mainly in terms of Right to Survival, Right to Development, and Right to Participation and Right to Protection. It is mandate and obligation for states to preserve the rights of children and providing care and protection to children in difficult circumstances. Though the states have enacted many laws and welfare schemes in compliances of the UNCRC but have failed to address the issues of children and implementing the laws and schemes.

Family values and structures are loosening their prime objectives to rear and nurture the children; parents are failing to restrain their children in their families due to Economic, Family, Social, Religious, and Cultural and Moral factors. Family milieu has been damaged that forced to leave the children their homes. The findings has already distilled the fact that physical, verbal abuse is more common practice in families and substance or drug abuse aggravates the abuse of children. It has been observed that numbers of children on street are increasing as compare to off street children. Children of urban slum dwellers, homeless families and Migrants are posing major challenge for the development of the nation and state.

It is well known fact that widespread poverty have lead many children to live in difficult circumstances but rapid Urbanization process and Transportation means (mainly Rail Network) have also magnified the problem. Urban areas are threatening Children's wellbeing, Communities and Governments so **category of the children of Slum Dwellers can be added because these children neither living on streets nor abandoned by their parents.** Stretch of rail network has made it easier to reach in urban areas and migration of people towards the cities but ultimately they end up as street children to make their existence in cruel world. Railway Stations and trains are their home and means of survival or workplace. Despite of releasing standard operating procures guidelines for a street/railway child there is no proper system to receive these children at stations. Railway Department and allied departments (GRP, RPF, and Police) has remained indifferent to address the issue of street children.

The innocent and tender childhood is entangled with terrific and aggregated predicaments and problems of street life, they are adopting endangered and chaotic disgraceful, non-acceptable livelihood to survive on the streets. There are so many risks are associates with search for basic amenities like food, drinking water, shelter, bathing, squatting (use of toilets) etc. impose fear of multidimensional sufferings and pain (hunger, unnatural death, accidents, malnutrition, diseases, insecurity etc) among the street children.

Education or Schooling is a grave concern of the urban children in terms of access, equity and quality that is linked with poverty, migration and our education system. The new millennium has witnessed the onset of landmark law such as RTE Act. The act such as earmarked 25% seats for underprivileged children particularly for slum children but the study reveals the devastating picture of education among the street children or slum children because the street children mainly come from slum and urban areas that has been established by the study findings.

On the other hand the street children have to face multifarious problems spawned by economic deficiency, lack of social and family support, illiteracy,

deprivation, torture, abuse (sexual, physical, mental, verbal). Street children face abuse in families as well as on streets. They are abuse by their family members that end them on streets. Unfortunately they are abused on streets by multiple perpetrators such as vendors, employers, older street children, GRP, RPF, and Police etc. The street children live below normal life standards on streets, they eat unhealthy and thrown away food that make them malnourished and prone to many diseases, they sleep and live at railway station, under bridge where there is no protection from weather's harshness. Even they didn't have blanket or safe place in winters and rainy season to protect them. They use parcel's wrapping cloth and sacks thrown by railway parcel department as a blanket. They do not avail health facilities due to financial deficiency or carelessness or apathetic attitude of government health facility providers. Due to sleeping and living at unprotected places, the incidences of animal bites and abuse are very high among street children. They use deplorable means such as begging, rag picking, shoe polishing, cleaning train coaches and begging etc. to survive on streets, prone to be a trap in criminal activities, used for immoral and illegal activities by society, their means of recreational and entertainment are not as normal as of other mainstream children, substance and drug abuse is their coping mechanism bearing the cruelty and brutality of life. They are older than their original age by their bitter experiences and appearance. In the name of ownership they just possess torn and tattered clothes, broom, tools (often stolen).

The study provides a platform for the discussion over a critical issue of the sexual health of the street children. The findings have brought forth the facts that street children need to be regarded as a high-risk group for acquiring HIV. Street urchins are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and STIs due to being sexually active in the mean age of 13 years that need urgent intervention for care and protection. Substance abuse half backed knowledge on HIV/AIDs and STIs, misconceptions and false assumptions regarding protected sex makes them vulnerable. As per the findings of the study their life style on streets is symptomatic to continuous challenges, threats and struggles.

Employment, capital to start up, food and shelter emerged as their urgent and immediate need. Their ambitions and dreams are limited to fulfill their basic needs. The stakeholders, community, society needs to change the perception about street children.

They were talented and courageous, entrepreneur but misguided. They needed guidance, extra attention, special care and protection unfortunately they couldn't get and ended up on the streets.

Recommendations

1. Mapping of the Street Children

They are called invisible population, because in census they are not counted. Before making and implementation of policies, programs, mapping of these children must be initiate and the census should include information about the runway and missing children of the families. Consortium for street children is putting effort for the mapping of worlds' street children; government should join hand with such type of expert organization.

2. Child Friendly Policies and Programs

Unfortunately the policies and programs are made by the people who are out of the context of childhood. It is very difficult to understand the present scenario of the children without their participation. Their voice should be heard while making policies, laws and programs for them. The role of as a active listener and speaker must be enlarged instead of making them passive listener and voiceless population.

3. The Legal Framework regarding institutional care should be revised and efforts must be ensuring child rights and quality in institutional care. Monitoring mechanism must be Quality and facility to institutional care and number of institutional care, drug addiction center, rehab centers, counseling centers

4. Awareness and Sensitization

Lack of sensitization and awareness persist at all level among the stakeholders regarding the issues of the street children. State government and NGOs should take up the programs for sensitizing and generating awareness at all level. Main streaming program and acceptance of must increase so that the street children could be rehabilitated and reintegrated.

Public awareness campaign through the government agency should be geared up so as to change people's attitudes and mind sets toward street children. Street children should not be perceived as criminal or potential criminals but rather as victims of family disharmony and social and economic disintegration.

5. **Strengthening Child Protection Mechanism and Safety Net at all Levels**

The child protection mechanism in Rajasthan that has been placed at all levels National, State, District, Block and Gram Panchayat level has to be effective and strengthen for that good cooperation with NGO and the local community should be developed. This will help to identify those children who are in need of immediate care and protection. It will work as preventive means for the street children.

6. **Coping Strategy & Family Strengthening Program**

There is also a need to think of the good and effective social work intervention to reestablish a good coping strategy for the street children. It was found that street children are labeled or stigmatized as unwanted and Taporis. Societal attitude tend to be negative towards the street children so the social works intervention should be designed to counter the stigma at society level and individual level. Social work intervention plan should focus to work with families of street children and dialogue between street children and their families should be created.

7. **Support to NGOs**

The NGOs employ various strategies in rehabilitating street children. These involve conducting interviews, medical screening and check up, counseling and behavior change activities. Nevertheless some of very useful strategies such as family tracing, family reunification, follow up program and day out programs are hardly met as these requires large amount of funds to be implemented. Further there is very minimal support from the government in all processes pertaining

to street children rehabilitation. Moreover whatever fund is provided by the government is not disbursed timely to the NGOs that creates challenges in implementing the standards of institutional care. Funds need to be disbursed timely and should be increased.

8. **Monitoring of Government Departments , Programs and Policies**

A mechanism to monitor the government officials' efficiency, implementation of programs and policies should adhere to ensure welfare, wellbeing, social security, social justice to the children in need of difficult circumstances.

9. **Family Counseling Centers**

Dis-functionality of the family, declining the traditional structure of the family, tensions, stress of unemployment, alcoholism etc are the problems which needs right guidance and counseling centers will be helpful to curve the family problem. Counseling and support center should be establish at all level from district to Panchayat.

10. **Sensitization of Stakeholders or Allied System – Police, GRP, Railway and RPF**

Stations and railway junctions are transit point and home for street children. Railway department, GRP and RPF are first contact person and key person at railway stations. Though Ministry of Railway has issued standard operating procedure for railway, GRP and RPF but the standard operating procedure merely has become a document. Railway has not yet shown interest for the implementation of this SOP. Apathetic attitude of GRP and RPF makes them deserted and victim of exploitation and torture.

Railway department, GRP and RPF needs awareness, technical knowledge of child rights and qualitative training program along with sensitization. A pressure group should be formed to implement the SOP.

11. **Functioning of Allied Structures Within JJ Act & ICPS**

Many salutary provisions which have been made in the JJ Act and the Model Rules such as District/ City Advisory Boards (D/CABs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), State/ District/ City Inspection Committees, and State Juvenile Police Units (SJPUs) have either not been constituted or are defunct in a vast majority of districts. The respective State Governments should be pulled up for this failure to comply with the law and should be given a legal directive to constitute the required bodies within their jurisdiction with immediate effect.

12. **Ensure a wide range of appropriate Child Referral Sources**

The categories of current child referral sources are limited. The need to expand the network of child referral stakeholders to include other Government departments, the JJB, public spirited persons, schools etc. through improved and active networking is evident from the available data. It is important that children too have access to information about the CWC in their district and how they can approach it. This can be accomplished by putting up informational posters about child rights and JJ system in schools, playgrounds etc, CWC visits to schools; awareness about JJ system through IEC and Street plays in communities in collaboration with NGOs, radio and television programmes etc.

13. **Provide High-Quality Specialised Trainings and Workshops**

The functionaries in the JJ System have rarely had any prior exposure to the entire Juvenile Justice System which is vast and complex. **Periodic trainings** that provide updates on different legislations and alternative child care options are lacking. Some specific areas of the trainings are –

▪ For CWC, JJB, and SJPU; it is important to understand the application of law, more from the perspective of principles of JJ Act, than on provisions. As it is said that JJ Act is less explored law, a lot

could be practiced by elaborating terms like 'Best Interest of Child', application related to Child Labour, missing children, trafficking etc.

- Elaboration on roles of different functionaries, mutually as well as, joint training programs will highlight the convergence points within the JJ system.

- Counselors and Supervisors could be trained on certain aspect of JJS and focus should be on providing skills related to clinical psychology, forensic counseling and associated tools that can help them to undertake practical solution to their operational problems. Counselors are either need to be more skilled or specialized skills need to be sought for working within the homes.

14. Research

Further studies should be made to identify and evaluate the intuitional capacity of local bodies, public/private that can help out with re-integration of these children into the society

15. Education

Given that most of the children were either non-school going or drop out, the interventions of support program should concentrate mainly in the primary school. Special efforts should be made to kep these children in school where not only do they run less risk of getting into trouble, but also stand to benefit by their personal intellectual development that open up better horizons for them in the future.

16. Health Programs for Street Children

Street educators and Junior Health workers can help street children to protect them from vulnerable diseases and health cards should issued these children so that they could avail government health facility. Health facility providers like Doctors, compounders, nurses should be sensitize towards street children or any children who is in need of care and protection

17. **Vocational Training & Rehabilitation**

   To live a life with respect and dignity they should be provide financial support in terms of loan and employment opportunities. Some respectable job opportunities and vocational training program should be planned because poverty and impoverished state of the family brings them on streets. This will help them to raise their family standard collectively.

18. **Constant Monitoring** of the application of the UN Convention to the Rights of the child has to be carried out to ensure safety measures for children at risk, including street children.

19. **Effective Implementation of Government Scheme**

   State Government has initiated Palanhar Yojna, Sponsorship program and foster care but there is a long way to go. These programs are at initial phase and needs a lot of work to do on implementation aspects.

20. **Poverty Elimination Program**

   Unemployment, Job security, skill training should be integrated to eradicate the poverty of the families of street children. The current system and schemes focuses only on children. They are picked from streets, rescued by police, railway and GRP, RPF and sent to the shelter homes by Child Welfare Committee. By following the principal of restoration of JJ Act they are restored with their families but actual problem of the family remains the same and the children come again on streets. Hence GoI, GoR should plan to help and support to their families.

21. **Interdepartmental Collaboration and Linkages and Networking**
   All institutions and organizations potentially concerned by the street children phenomenon must develop linkages and work in networks to facilitate referral of services. Building bridges between child support

organization and the health services, railway department, department of child rights are specially important

22. Urban Governance

Urban schemes need to ensure that a sufficient budget is allocated for children. There is also a need to replicate child-friendly programmes through child participation in the governance process, build their capacities, redesign long-term development plans through a child lens and prioritizing budgeting and expenditure on issues identified by or which are important for children.

23. Respect, Dignity & Integrity

Last but not the least, street children are valuable members of society. They are resourceful, extraordinary talented, daring, and determined people who must given a chance. Their choices and stories should be listened to and learnt from. Families, community and the government need to recognize that the children are full of imagination, desires and hopes and that they must be involved in decisions that affect their lives. More should be found out about their problems and prospects and how best they can be helped.

ANNEXURE

1. Case Study

2. List of Caste and Social Category

3. List of Residence of Respondents

4. List of Interview Locations

5. Bibliography

6. Research Paper

7. Interview Schedule

Case Study

Case Study - 1

MANOJ had a horrendous background which was quite shocking. He hailed from Ratlam. He was 16 years old when he was interviewed. Manoj lost his mother when he was 5 years old. He lived with his grandmother and uncle. His father was behind the bars. He had three sisters and two brothers. He narrated his tragic story which in turn was told by his grandmother while he was too young, when all these miseries happened. His elder sister eloped with a Harijan boy and got married to him. When her parents lodged FIR, his sister labeled allegations against his father for molestation. Following which he was sent to police custody. Manoj's fathers used blame his mother for everything. Mother got depressed and died by way of self immolation. One of his uncles died due to the consumption of alcohol and his aunty eloped with another person. Another uncle was mentally sick and finally left his home and was missing since then. His youngest uncle was unmarried and lived with Manoj's grandmother. He had three paternal aunties. One of them had died and two lived in Nagda. His younger sister lived with his aunty. One of his brothers was missing since his mother's death. One of his elder brother lived at Kota station. He used to sell water bottles at Kota station. He was alcoholic and used to beat Manoj and fled after stealing.

He came to Kota station with his brother at a young age and got addicted to street life. Soon he started sniffing Whitener, consuming Opium, Marijuana, Alcohol and chewing Gutkha. He got addicted to various types of substance and drugs. He resorted begging in train coaches as a means of survival. He told that he was sexually abused by older street children at the station. He revealed he had to fulfill sexual needs of older street children that in exchange for a vial of whitener.

He told that TAABAR's team restored him two times and admitted him in children home ultimately. But every time he escaped from children home. At

home, his grandmother used to torture him by digging about his past. His uncle used to beat him and kept him away from school. For a long time he didn't come at Kota station with an apprehension of NGO's field workers. He came back to Kota station where the TAABAR team pestering him to give up street life but he did not budge. He got addicted of drugs that were affecting his health. He used to take one vial of whitener in a day along with other drugs. He used to earn 100/- per day and spent the same on addiction.

Case Study - 2

KRISHNA was a lovely boy. He was seven years old. Krishna was brought up on the street since he belonged to street family. His biological father died and his mother married a Muslim man who was physically disabled. He used to live and beg on streets. After marriage his mother also assisted her husband in begging. They used to move from one station to another station for their livelihood. Krishna had been to many stations like Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur city. Krishna was addicted to alcohol. He told that his parents used to give him alcohol to protect him from cold. he was also sexually abused by many people. He revealed that at Gangapur City Station there was a hooligan who used to abuse street children. Both his parents were alcoholic and were in an inebriated state during the day time also.

Case Study - 3

INSAF used to work in a hotel because his father had taken a loan of Rs. 10,000 from the owner of the hotel. The child had scars on both his palms as he used to wash utensils at the hotel. The child ran off from the hotel and started since living in the different bogies of the trains which were standing in the yard.

Case Study - 4

NAEEM was a runaway child who hailed from Silampur Delhi and belonged to a lower middle class family. His father had his own business and they lived in a joint family. One day Naeem stole 40 rupees from his grandfather's pocket to play online games but abstained from going home with the fear of corporal punishment. He went to the railway station and boarded the train to Agra. After having he lived there for few months and after that he went to Kanpur by train. Naeem told that he lived at all the platform and earned his livelihood by collecting plastic bottles and rag picking. He also told that he stole food items from the pantry of Rajdhani, or Shatabdi trains.

Case Study - 5

RAM SINGH was 13 years old and hailed from Gandhi Dham, Gujrat. His father used to do welding job. His mother was a house wife. He had two younger brothers and a sister. He was found at Kota Junction in a miserable state. He was addicted to whitener solution. He told that prior to this he had left his home and had been restored by other organizations in Lucknow & Kanpur. On being asked as to why he left his home he drew a perfect blank. He lived at the station for more than a year and was bullied by the older boys to obey them.

Case Study - 6

RAJU was a very young runaway child. He came in contact with a person who started conversing with him in a very congenial manner. He asked Raju to accompany him and Raju willingly accepted the same. The person took him to a deserted place and sexually abused him. Raju somehow got rid himself from his clutches and reached Delhi where he started working at a tea stall. Here also life was not a bed of roses for him where he had to toil for sixteen hours in a day, incessantly. One day he was beaten up so badly for having broken a cup that he couldn't even walk. There was a regular visitor to the tea

stall who used to come and chat with Raju as chance could have it the person came on the day Raju was beaten up and Raju went away with the person in context. This person also played truants by being evasive and Raju was not given a square meal in a day. He got addicted to drugs and was coerced to begging to earn his livelihood.

Case Study - 7

HARISH is 12 years old hailed from district Darbhanga (Bihar). He had younger sister and elder brother. His younger sister studied in 3rd class and brother was a child labour who worked at a restaurant. His father worked as ticket collector to a private bus company and mother was a housewife. Harish was studying in 3rd class when he left his home.

He told us that his grandmother once scolded him when he reached home late night. He felt insulted and left home. By train, he reached Kolkatta then Boxer then Mughal Sarai. Thus he stayed at various stations. He sold papers at Mughal Saria Station for a month. When Police initiated child labour rescue drive, he left Mughal Sarai and reached Kota station. Soon he got friends at Kota Station who trained him in begging in train coaches and sniffing whitener. He was restored many times but he didn't stay at home. Now street was his home.

Case Study - 8

MURLI hailed from Andhra Pradesh. He left his home because his parents scolded him and due to anger he left his home. He walked from his village and came to Kurnool Railway Station. Unknowingly, he reached Mumbai Station. Murli did not know to speak Hindi, even he was not able to understand Hindi and other languages. For few days he lived at Mumbai Railway Station until he had money.

When money was finished he realized that he should go back to home. So he took the train to go back to home but on the train he was asleep. When he

awaked he found himself at Kota Junction. He was in trouble because he couldn't talk to anyone due to language barrier. He became restless and started to wander here and there at the station. He was referred to a nearest shelter home.

Case Study - 9

SUDEEP was a 13 years old boy who hailed from Mujaffarpur, Bihar. He lost his mother in early childhood. He had an elder sister. He told that his father was having an affair with his aunty and got married with her. His mother could not bear this and got mad. After some time she died with this grief.

Both sister and brother were beaten and maltreated by their aunty. She used to make false complaint to their father. The father used to beat them on her complaints without knowing the fact. Sudeep's father didn't love them. He loved Sudeep's step brother and sisters. When Sudeep was eight years old and his sister was 10 years old they ran away from home and reached grandparents (maternal) home. They stayed there for a year but after death of their grandparents' they were forced to leave home by their aunty (maternal). So they were on the road. When they were trying to reach back to their home, police caught them and his sister was sent to an organization in Haridwar and he was sent to another home. But Sudeep ran away from home and since then he had been continue running away. During this period he was restored many times with family but it went in vain. He visited many organizations and cities. He lived with sages and went Nepal with them. He shared that he was tortured by police and elder street boys. He also told that he was sexually abused on the street. Due to extreme torture and abuse he developed some behavioral problems in his personality.

Case Study -10

JITENDRA a 17 year old boy hailed from a small town in Uttar Pradesh. He ran away from his home when he was 10 years old. He had to bear the wrath

of his step mother and his father as well which induced him to leave home because of the depression. He boarded on the train towards Delhi and stayed at the Delhi station for a long time. Initially he begged for money then he started rag picking. He became an addict to various types of drugs. For him train has become home. He commutes one place to another and is enjoying his life.

Case Study - 11

JESHAN who was 13 years old boy was from Agra. He was not interested in studying so he started working in a furniture shop. He has lost his parents and was being take care by his brother. His sister in law chided him. One day he was sexually abused by a woman in the neighborhood and this continued for a long time. When his brother came to know about this, he rebuked and beat him up black and blue without knowing the actual fact. The repercussion of this was that he left his home and reached Delhi and has been travelling in trains, since then. He followed the suit of the older street children who taught him the customs of the street life and coping with the stress of the same. Albeit he was restored to his home addiction of substance and drugs brought him to the station.

Case Study -12

SHANKAR belonged to Kota district. As he was in a bad company he resorted to stealing of money from his house. He used to spend his time with his friends at the aero drum circle and station. When he came across older street children, they instigated him to try drugs, whitener, and alcohol. This became customary for him. Now he lives at the station. The efforts made by his relatives to take him back to his house did not fructify home but no vain.

Note : *Name has been change to maintain confidentiality.*

List of Social Categories

Ajmer			Jaipur		
Caste	**No**	**Status**	**Caste**	**No**	**Status**
Bajaniya Nat	1	SC	**Ansari**	1	OBC
Banjara	1	OBC	Baaoari	2	SC
Bhaat	1	OBC	Baagdi/Bagri	4	SC
Bhopa	4	ST	Brahmin	1	General
Chamar	2	SC	Das	2	OBC
Don't Know	7		Dhakad	1	OBC
Koli	2	SC	Don't know	7	
Malav	1	OBC	Harijan	8	SC
Meena	1	ST	Jaat	1	OBC
Mochi	2	SC	Jaatav/Shami	4	SC
Nyaria	1	OBC	Kasai	1	OBC
Nayak	1	ST	Mali	3	OBC
Rawat	2	OBC	Nagji	2	SC
Sansi	22	SC	Pathan	3	OBC
Yadav	2	OBC	Rajput	1	General
Total	**50**		Shaikh	2	General
			Vishwkarma	1	OBC
			Julaha	2	OBC
			Bhotia	1	ST
			Banjara	2	OBC
			Bediya	1	ST
			Total	**50**	

Resource :-

- Tribal.nic.in/content/list%20of%20sheduled%20tribesin%India.asps available at Ministry of tribal affairs GoI
- socialjustice.nic.in/pdf/scorderrajasthan.pdf available at Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/of List_of_Muslim_Other_Backward_ Classes_ Communities

Jodhpur			Kota		
Caste Jodhpur	No	Status	Caste Kota	No	Category
Don't Know	2				
Bagri/Bagdi	1	SC	Baori	3	SC
Banjara	1	OBC	Bairwa	3	SC
Bheel	4	ST	Bheel	6	ST
Bhopa	2	OBC	Bhopa	1	OBC
Brahmin	1	General	Brahmin	1	General
Chamar	4	SC	Chamar	1	SC
Harijan	1	SC	Chauhan	1	General
Kandera	5	OBC	Don't Know	3	
Lohar	4	OBC	Harijan	1	SC
Rawat	1	OBC	Jaatav	1	SC
Sapera	1	SC	Koli/Mahavar	3	SC
Sansi	19	SC	Kumhar	1	OBC
Teli	4	OBC	Kurmi patel	4	OBC
Total	**50**		Lodha	1	OBC
			Lohar	1	OBC
			Mali	5	OBC
			Meena	1	ST
			meghwal	1	SC
			Nath	2	OBC
			Nayak	2	ST
			Pandit	1	General
			Pathan	2	General
			Raigar	1	SC
			Sharma	1	General
			Teli	1	OBC
			Yaadav	2	OBC
			Total	**50**	

Resource :-

- Tribal.nic.in/content/list%20of%20sheduled%20tribesin%India.asps available at Ministry of tribal affairs GoI
- socialjustice.nic.in/pdf/scorderrajasthan.pdf available at Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/of List_of_Muslim_Other_Backward_ Classes_ Communities

Current Residence of Respondents

Current Residence Jodhpur		Current residence Kota	
Car Parking Railway Station	8	Bapu Colony Kota	3
5 Batti Sansi Mohalla	7	DCM Circle	1
Railway Station Auto Stand	3	Footpath Vigyan Nagar	2
Badasiya Fatak	2	Keshorai Patan	2
Ghanta ghar Market	2	Bijoliya	1
Mandor Garden	4	Kunhadi Meena Basti	5
Musafir Khana	2	Gobariya Bawdi	1
Nai sadak	2	Nayapura Bus statnd	1
Near Clock Room	2	No Place	3
Suchna kendra	6	Railway Station	20
Railway Station	6	Poonam Colony	1
Sansi basti	2	Rangpur Road	1
Sardar Market	4	S.Madhopur Station	1
Total	**50**	Sanjay Nagar	1
		TAABAR	5
		Under Fly over station	1
		Uria Basti	1
		Total	**50**

Current Residence Jaipur		Current Residence	
Badodiya Basti	1	Shiv ganj	2
Chaar Darwaza footpath	5	5 batti bhagwanganj	1
Chandi ki Taksal	2	Ajmer Dargah	1
Foons Ka Bangla	3	car Parking Railway Station Shiv mandir	8
Hasanpura puliya	7	Near Dargah Footpath	7
Jalebi Chauk	3	Pahadganj	3
Janta Bazaar	1	Plate form No 1	14
Jhuggi jhonpsi	5	Plate form No 2	2
Malviya Nagar	1	Plater form No 3	1
Near Subhashchuak Thana	1	Plate form No 4	5
No place for living	3	Plate form No 5	1
Railway Station	10	Railway station	2
Rain Basera Station	1	Sansi Basti	3
TAABAR	7	**Total**	50
Total	**50**		

Annexure

List of Interview Locations

Interview Location Jaipur

Janta Market	4
Hasan Pura Puliya	5
Railway Station	25
TAABAR	7
Janta Market	6
Nagji ka Mohalla	3
	50

Interview Location Ajmer

Ana Sagar Jheel	12
Car Parking Station	2
Dargah Bazaar	2
Madaar Gate	2
Platform No 1	14
Platform No 4	3
Platform No 3	1
Railway Station	7
Sansi Basti	6
Subhash Ganj	1
	50

Interview Location, Kota

Aerodrum Circle	4
Khedli Fatak Chauraha	3
Platform No 1	2
Platform No 2	11
Railway Station	19
Under Railway Fly over	1
Railway Station Parking	1
TAABAR	9
	50

Location of interview, Jodhpur

Car Parking Railway Station	8
5 Batti Sansi Mohalla	8
Auto Stand Railway Station	3
Badasiya Fatak	2
Ghantaghar Market	2
Mandor Garden	4
Musafir Khana	1
Nai Sadak	1
Suchna Kendr footpath	6
Railway Station	6
Sansi Basti	3
Near Clock House	2
Sardar Market	4
	50

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Knowledge and Sexual Practices Among The Street Children in Kota City

Across the developing world, children living on urban streets are a byproduct of economic deprivation, urbanization, and industrialization. Rajasthan is the largest and most populous state of India. Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Kota, Bikaner, Bharatpur, Udaipur, and Jaisalmer are major cities of Rajasthan. All these cities are growing rapidly due to rapid industrialization and tourism. All these cities are becoming the home of millions of street children and migrants. Kota is the largest and most developing city of Rajasthan and home to street children. The survey was conducted in the month of March 2013 among 50 respondents, ages 6-18, as a part of Ph.D. Programme that aspires to explore the reality of street life in four major cities of Rajasthan i.e. Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer & Kota city. The present research paper is focus on exploring the facts about their knowledge about HIV/ AIDS, STIs and sexual practices among the street children in Kota city. The respondents were selected randomly and they were interviewed at major contact points of the city. Interview questionnaire, Focused Group Discussion, Field Visits and in depth, interviews were used as tools for primary data collection. The research paper found that street children are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and STIs due to unsafe sexual practices and unawareness.

SHAHINA PARVEEN

Introduction :

They are unwanted, unloved, and uncared. They are in torn clothes, naked, half-dressed. They are untidy, unkempt, unwashed, and half-buttoned, with uncombed hair. They do not have permanent shelter. They sleep on footpath, railway platform, bus terminals, under bridge, pavements near shops and malls, under construction buildings, condemned buildings, and train bogies, and the places that can be protect them from the harshness of weather. They arrange their food by begging on platforms, circles, restaurants, train coaches or searching bins for food. In addition, leftovers, throwaway food by pantry cars satisfy their hunger. They earn money by begging in train coaches cleaning compartments with their shirts and brooms, selling chain, paper soaps, water bottles, cigarettes, tobacco & gutkha, cleaning floors, rag picking, washing dishes, boot polishing etc. They use psychoactive substances, including medicines, alcohol, cigarettes, heroin, cannabis, marijuana, and readily available industrial products such as shoe glue, solution, and whitener etc. to numb the pain and deal with the hardships associated with street life.

As night progresses, these children are seen gambling, smoking, sniffing solvents, taking up with locals or tourists for a night of "big money," taking on odd jobs to get some money to ease their grumbling stomachs or to take home to starving family members (Childhope, 1993).

The above portrayel is very common in each and every city. Earlier it was common in metro cities but now it has become a common seen in cities that are well connected with rail and rapidly growing. Worldwide they are addressed with different names like stroller in South Africa; they are known as 'bui doi' (the dust of life) in Vietnam (Noble, 1994); stroller in Cape Town; In Brazil, the word "Moleque" is used to refer to these children which means bastard (Rosenberg & Andrade, 1999: 115); chokrra, a derogatory term, meaning both 'to pick' and a 'kitchen' or 'odd-job' boy in Kenya (Johnson, 1939, cited in Davies, 2008: 314); the word 'sewas' (plural for the word 'sousa'), the small insects that destroy grains and crops is used in Egypt (2003: 8-9); Lalor adds that slang words used by the police for street children include "the plague" or "dirty faces" in Columbia, "vermin" in Ethiopia and "mosquitoes" in Cameroon (1999: 765); word like Malundi and "omalalapayipi" means those who sleep in the pipes are used in Johannesburg (South Africa); in India, they are known as "Sadak Chap" means "without root or roof" or 'carrying the stamp of the street'(Patel, 1990: 10), or "Tapori" means vagabond or rowdy or "Bhagoda" means runaway.

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In English, of course, the term 'street child' has been a successful marketing tool touching the sensitivities of the Western donors "for whom the term… represents both the violation of the sanctity of childhood and the need for moral reform" (Nieuwenhuys, 2001: 551; see Hecht, 1998: 113).

There are many definitions of street children, but the definition introduced by Inter-NGO Programmes (cited in UNCHS, 2000. p.73) covers important dimensions:

"Any girl or boy…for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwelling, wasteland, etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood; and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults". This definition was formulated by Inter-NGOs in Switzerland in 1983.

In this definition, the term "street children" is used to refer to the children who work and/or sleep on the streets. Such children may or may not necessarily be adequately supervised or directed by responsible adults and include the two co-existing categories referred to by UNICEF as those "on the street and those "of the street"(Agnelli, op.cit.,p.34).

There are many factors that are responsible for the phenomenon of street children. The first is the economic stress and poor conditions that families face due to industrialization and urbanization. The second cause is changes in the traditional family structure, breakdown of the family. Street children live and work amidst trash, animals, and open sewers. Not only are they exposed and susceptible to disease, they are also vulnerable to exploitation and incurable disease like HIV/AIDS due to unsafe sexual practices.

Methodology :

Data for the study came from three main sources: a questionnaire survey, Focus Group Discussions and in depth interviews. The survey was conducted at the locations of Kota city. Contacts points were decided through field work and visits, help and assistance was taken from the NGOs working for street children in Kota city. Kota Railway station, Dakaniya Railway Station, Bus terminal and main circles of the city were selected as contact points to collect the data. To ensure an adequate representation of the street children the study targeted a sample of 50 male children aged 6 to 18 years. Two interviewers were assigned to interview the respondents. In addition, the field worker of TAABAR Society worked closely and helped to locate and contact the children. A random sampling technique was used to represent universe.

Two Focus Group Discussions were conducted with the respondents. In Addition, some stakeholders like vendors, coolies etc. were also interviewed to collect qualitative data. A few problems were encountered, as it was very difficult to assemble the children for Focus Group Discussion. If they were assembled then it was difficult to talk to them due to their 24 drunken states due to drug, alcohol, and substance use. Apart from this, they were reluctant to give answers regarding sensitive issues like sexual practices etc.

Street Children in Kota City :

Kota is a well-known city on the map of India. The city is the fourth largest city of Rajasthan State and most populous city of India. Earlier it was known as an "industrial city" but now it has been phrased as an "Educational City. Rapid urbanization and migrated populations is the salient features of this city. Every Year millions of highly ambitious students across the country enter in Kota city for Science and Maths coaching. This comprises of students of the age group of 12 to 18 years. This has created a multi cultural environment and fusion of cultures in Kota City. The coaching institutions and inflow of the students from across the country is the base of economy of Kota at present. Moreover, rail connectivity from all metro cities makes it more approachable to everyone especially for children. Every day a number of children including street children, runaway, missing, neglected, and beggars step down at Kota Platform.

The train feeds hundreds of children every day. These children travel from train to train to earn their livelihood. They have their own system to avoid quarrels and fights regarding earnings. Older boys direct the younger boys and teach tactics of begging in the train caches and take commission whatever they earn from morning to dawn. They divide the train coaches among themselves and if someone breaks the rules, a huge fight takes place among them.

The little urchin migrates from Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur, Gangapur city, Keshorai Patan. They earn money from morning to dawn and go back to their perches or homes in the evening. Girls also travel train-to-train from these stations. They use different methods to lure people to give alms like singing, little and weak siblings in their lap, stunts, disguising themselves, in the name of different God & Goddesses. Street children who are abandoned and don't have connections with family live permanently at the station. If a new child comes at the station, he becomes the member of their group soon. When Government Railway Police (GRP) & Railway Protection Force (RPF) take an action, against these children, they disappear for some time but soon they are back on track.

These children get support from goon and crooks who provide them shelter with vicious intentions. When these children are trapped, the goon and crooks start exploiting these children to fulfill their own vicious interests. Begging is the main occupation but as the children grow people don't feel pity on older children so there is slump in begging occupation as their age grow. Due to growing age, some of the street children start selling goods like paper soap, water bottles etc., but some of them starts bossing around the little street urchins. They take commissions on the income, which younger children earn by begging, or they force to do some petty crimes like stealing passenger's luggage or asset, snatching, stealing railway assets like iron and other goods, pick pocketing etc.

Outcomes :

The study brought some fascinating and astonishing

facts about the target group. Street world has its own sub-culture, professionalism, mannerism, support system etc. "Didi the first requirement of our street life or our profession is our untidy, unkempt, naked, look. The more the child is untidy, the more he would earn as people get emotional and feel pity so there is no place of bathing, cleaning and hygiene in our life. The respondent answered when they were asked about health and hygiene. They told "If we look neat and clean and tidy who will give us alms, who will mercy on us?" Ironically, this if the professional dress code…

These children live in adverse conditions and get into the contact of many persons. There are slums nearby in each and every junction. The people live in shanties mostly depend on begging and petty crimes. The women and girls are equally involved. The slum girls mainly feed their families by begging or prostitution. The study explored about their relationships with peer group and others. It was found that 40 % children had friendship with opposite sex on streets. This includes mainly street and slum girls who are engaged in begging or prostitution who resides near around the railway station area and physical intimacy is the common thing between street boys and girls.

Homeless children are at risk of getting many diseases, including sexually transmitted infections (STI). The study explored that 90% children were sexually active. The median age at first sexual activity was 13 years among the street children. At early age, they had experienced or experimented sexual activity on streets by masturbating. Initially they started it with beggar and slum girls in exchange of some food, gutkha and other substance like alcohol, whitener etc. This is cheapest entertainment for the boys because they didn't pay money for this as the respondent told. The study revealed that sometime they abuse mentally disturbed girls who are lost, missing sometimes. The respondent reported that they go to commercial sex workers for change. Bundi district is stronghold for commercial sex. The group of these children goes to Indergarh and hires a sex worker, spends a night over there and return to the station. In addition, the study found that these children are abused by older children and especially by eunuchs who begs in the train. Eunuchs take these children on tour for a month or two; they take care of them, give them nutritious food, in exchange use them to fulfill their sexual urge.

The study-examined knowledge regarding the HIV/AIDS and STIs and found that 80% respondent were not aware about HIV/AIDS while 20% were aware about HIV/AIDS but not about STIs. They had just heard about the name of HIV/AIDS but didn't know how it spread and what are the symptoms of the HIV/AIDS. They main source of information about HIV/AIDS was from friends and television.

When they were asked about the knowledge and practice about the condom, 72% said that they knew about condom but never used. They said that knew from friends that condom gives less pleasure. In addition, due to the use of alcohol and substance, they are not in such condition that they could use condom. It was found that 30% street children knew about condom from friends, 34% friends and television, 10% from only television, 36% from porn movies.

The study also examined about their sexual health and found that 40% children experienced the complaint of itching in genital and burning in urination, 12% had eruption and pus on genitals, 20% had itching in genital and burning in urination along with eruption and pus, 18% only had eruption on genitals, 10% had several problems. Nevertheless, they didn't care about this and didn't seek any medical advice or treatment due to fear and shame. Apart from this, they told that in Government Hospitals, "We are not listened carefully so we can't imagine going to government hospital for this type of illness and private treatment is so expensive that is beyond our capacity."

Conclusion :

(1) The research paper provides a platform for the discussion over a critical issue of the sexual health of the street children. The research paper revealed that the street urchins are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and STIs and need care and protection.

(2) Poor knowledge level on HIV including misconceptions and false assumptions about use of condom, and risky sexual behavior among street teenagers were the major findings of the study.

(3) Substance and drug abuse impede efforts on HIV prevention among street children. Various forms of drug use results in physical, psychiatric, and social problems in street children.

(4) Hormonal changes in adolescent age make them vulnerable to sexual exploitation and sexual diseases.

(5) Sources of information about HIV/AIDS used by street children include half-baked knowledge provided by their friends and peer group, television, and porn movies. The study finds that these children are provided platform to watch porn movies by some venders or crooks.

(6) Street children need to be regarded as a high-risk group for acquiring HIV. The potential benefit of providing homeless youth with night-shelters should be explored more since this could be an opportunity to integrate risk-reduction programmes that take into account all problematic behaviors such as risky sexual behaviour and drug use.

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Conceptual Meaning and Definition of Street Children : Worldwide

There are an estimated 100 million children living in the streets in the world today. The Children living on the streets are especially vulnerable to victimization, exploitation, and the abuse of their civil and economic rights. International indifference to the problem has led to continual neglect and abuse of these children. The term street children have many definitions in different settings. Perhaps demonstrating the fact that street children are not a homogeneous group and that the particular circumstance dictates who should be included in the definition. This article reviews the meaning and definition given by national-international sociologist, researchers, and organizations working for the street children. This article presents a collection of national and international work at one place that will be helpful to develop a better understanding towards the term of street children. <u>Keywords</u> : *Street children, Juvenile Justice (care & Protection) Act, 2000, UNICEF, USAID, INTER-NGO.*

SHAHINA PARVEEN

Meaning & Definition of The Street Children :

There are two main definitions of street children that are recognized internationally.

The UNICEF Definition : UNICEF has defined and segregated 'street children' into three categories:

(i) Street Living Children : children who have run away from their families and live alone on the streets.

(ii) Street Working Children : children, who spend most of their time on the streets, fending for themselves, but returning home on a regular basis.

(iii) Children from Street Families : children who live on the streets with their families.

The INTER-NGO Definition :

There is another definition for 'street children' given by Inter-NGOs which states that a street child is any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood, for whom the street (in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become her or his habitual abode and/or sources of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults.

Besides above mentioned definitions, the article explores the various opinions, definition that are studied globally to understand the term "street children". Following are the definitions or descriptions of street children, predominantly from Investigators across the globe:

Street children ; homeless youngsters who roam the streets by day and sleep in culverts, empty buildings and vacant lots at night (Drake, 1989)

Street children comprise a group of poorly socialized children, failing to develop commitments and attachments within society (Cemane, 1990)

In the widest sense a street child is one who has made the street his real home…those who have abandoned (or have been abandoned by) their families, schools and immediate communities before they are sixteen years of age and have drifted into a nomadic street life (Gebers, 1990)

A street child… is any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become her or his habitual abode and or source of livelihood and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults (Swart, 1988).

The term "street child" refers ,more specifically to children of the streets. These children come from homes where there is violence, overcrowding, drug and alcohol abuse or from communities divided by political forces into war zones. Many have been abused and hope to find a better life in the city (Bernstein & Gray, 1991)

…throwaways and runaways children whom families and communities have failed (Richer, 1988)

A byproduct of a community that has been exposed to industrialization and urbanization without the support of a from social service infra-structure (Loening, 1988 inberbstein & Gray, 1991).

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"Strollers" is the name used by street children to describe themselves in Cape Town (South Africa). They are mainly "colored" or of mixed racial descent. "Manual" and "omalalapayipi" are Zulu words meaning "those of the street" or those who sleep in the (storm water) pipes." These terms are used by Johannesburg (SA) street children (mainly of African racial descent) to describe themselves (Ritcher, 1989)

We say we are the Malundi, the ones that sleep by the street, nut it's better not to sleep by the streets, because when it's cold the people throw cold water on you and you don't have other clothes to put on. Sometimes we say we are the malapipe, because we sleep in the big pipes where they make the buildings. Pines' (1986) definition refers to the self description of a child in South Africa.

"A stroller is someone who doesn't sleep by his house- he sleeps in the street. He doesn't eat by his house-he eats by the bins. A stroller is someone who thinks he is free, to do what his mind says. It's a nice name for us," according to a street child in Cape Town, South Africa (Swart, 1988)

USAID has divided Street Children into Four Categories :

A 'Child of the Streets' : Children who have no home but the streets, and no family support. They move from place to place, living in shelters and abandoned buildings.

A 'Child on the street' : Children who visit their families regularly and might even return every night to sleep at home, but spends most days and some nights on the street because of poverty, overcrowding, sexual or physical abuse at home.

Part of a Street Family : These children live on sidewalks or city squares with the rest of their families. They may be displaced due to poverty, wars, or natural disasters. The families often live a nomadic life, carrying their possessions with them. Children in this case often work on the streets with other members of their families.

In Institutionalized Care : Children in this situation come from a situation of homelessness and are at risk of returning to a life on the street.

Completely abandoned and neglected children, having severed all ties with a biological family, these children are entirely on their own, for material and psychological survival. Children found on the street are subsumed under the broad category of children who are "in need of care and protection" or similarly "at risk".

In India, The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 currently dealing with certain categories of children in vulnerable conditions has a classification termed 'children in need of care and protection.' Street Children, as referred to in this report, fall within this category. The exact definition from the Act is as follows- A 'child in need of care and protection' means a child:

(i) Who is found without any home or settled place or abode and without any ostensible means of subsistence?

(ii) Who is found begging, or who is either a street child or a working child,

(iii) Who resides with a person(whether a guardian of the child or not) and such a person-

(a) has threatened to kill or injure the child and there is a reasonable likelihood of the child in question being killed, abused or neglected by that person,

(b) has killed, abused or neglected some other child or children and there is a reasonable likelihood of the child in question being killed, abused or neglected by that person,

(iii) Who is mentally or physically challenged or ill children or children suffering from terminal diseases or incurable diseases having no one to support or look after

(iv) Who has a parent or guardian and such parent or guardian is unfit or incapacitated to exercise control over the child,

(v) Who does not have parent and no one is willing to take care of or whose parents have abandoned [or surrendered] him or who is missing and run away child whose parents cannot be found after reasonable injury

(vi) Who is being or is likely to be grossly abused, tortured or exploited for the purpose of sexual abuse or illegal acts

(vii) Who is found vulnerable and is likely to be inducted into drug abuse or trafficking,

(viii) Who is being or is likely to be inducted into drug abuse or trafficking,

(ix) Who is being or is likely to be abused for unconscionable gains,

(x) Who is victim of any armed conflict, civil commotion, or natural calamity,

The most common definition of street children used today is "boys and girls for whom 'the street' (including unoccupied dwelling, wasteland, etc.) has become their home and/or source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised by responsible adults," as defined by the United Nations (cited in Volpi, 2002).

Street children is a very broad term that has been used to describe children and youth whose lives and work are closely associated with the street. However, their conditions and needs are not always homogeneous. Efforts were made to further categorize street children in the late 1980s. UNICEF recommended making a distinction between children of the streets who live and work on the street without family support, and children on the streets who are compelled to work on the street mainly for the survival of their families but who return home to their families most nights. A further distinction has occasionally been made between abandoned children who have been deserted by their families or have left home completely, and thus are without any family ties, and other children of the streets who still maintain some contacts with their families, no matter how weak and sporadic these may be (Blanc, 1994). However, the aforementioned categories still do not adequately reflect the realities of all children and youth who are living and/or working on the street.

"Biggar" argues that many youth are in fact "a blend" between these two categories as they "spend some nights

sleeping on the street and return home after a few days, weeks or even months" (1999).

Although there is a variety of definitions or descriptions of the street child phenomenon, they have the following in common: these children are trying to escape an anti-child culture or have fled unbearable circumstances at home or in their immediate environment. They feel they can no longer trust themselves to be in the hands of society. For this reason they have undertaken to manage their lives and futures on their own and retain total control of their lives. They are vulnerable to exploitation. Most of them have left chaotic family environments that involved violence, abuse, alcoholism, and alienation.

In nut shell, street children means "those children who are without family or whose family ties are so weak that they are only infrequently to be found at home. Those children who have been abandoned, work and live on the streets, have no permanent home and stray in public places, earn a living on the street. Those who live without family support; who frequent the streets either to beg or to earn a living; who belong to household headed by women and lack attention and care; tend to be victimized by criminals to commit crimes. In reality, the condition of any street children cannot be understood apart from such factors as their individual characteristics; living conditions; life choices and backgrounds; families.

Future of nation lies in children but the growing population of the street children needs an immediate attention worldwide and needs a collective effort to protect the future of the nation.

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INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Street Children "Tale of Homelessness" : Scenario, Status and Strategy

(A Sociological Study of Street Children in Four Major Cities of Rajasthan – Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur & Kota)

Date : ....   District : ....

Interview Location : ....   Time : ....

Name of Interviewer : ....

1. GENERAL INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS

1) Name ....   2) Age ....

3) Religion ....   4) Caste..

5) Category : ST/SC/OBC/General/ not Known

6) Physical condition of the respondent .

    (a) Normal   (b) Sick

    (c) Handicapped   (d) Visually disable

    (e) Hearing disability/ Mentally retarteded   (h) Other (please specify)   ( )

7) Native Place

    (a) Village ....

    (b) Colony/Slum ....

    (c) Block ....

    (d) District ....

    (e) State .... Country ....

    (g) Don't Know ....

8) Present Address

....

....

....

....

2. FAMILY BACK GROUND INFORMATION

9) Which type of family do you have ?

    (a) Joint   (b) Nuclear

    (c) Broken   (d) Other (please specify)   ( )

10) Which type of parents do you have ?

    (a)   Biological   (b)   Step Father

    (c)   Step Mother   (d)   Adopted

    (e)   No-response   (   )

11) What is the status of their conjugal relationship at present ?

(a) Both alive and living together

(b) Both alive but not living together

(c) Only father alive

(d) Only mother alive

(e) Mother alive but went to live with another man (under Natapratha)

(f) Father alive but live with another women

(g) None alive   (   )

12) Domestic/Family composition of Repsondents

S. No	Name	Relation with respondent	age	Marital Status	Siblings bioglical/ Cousins	Education	Occupation	Monthly income	Any serious disease/ disbaility	Criminal Record

13) What is the class of your family ?

    (a)   Labour class   (b)   Lower class

    (c)   Lower-Middle Class   (d)   Middle class

    (e)   Other (Please specify)   (   )

14) What is the location of your residence ?

    (a)   Rural   (c)   Urban Slum

    (g)   Other (Please specify)   (   )

15) Which type of house do you have?

    (a)   Shanty   (b)   Kachcha house

    (c)   Pakka house   (d)   Semi-Pakka house

    (e)   Rentel   (f)   Owned

    (g)   Other (Please specify)   (   )

3. USE OF SUBSTANCE/DRUGS AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS

16) Do your family members use substances/drugs ?

    (a)   Yes   (b)   No   (   )

17) If yes then tick appropriate.

    (a)   Father- Smoking/Tobacco/ Canabbis/ Marijuana/Alcohol/Other(Please specify)

    (b)   Mother-Smoking/Tobacco/ Canabbis/ Marijuana/Alcohol/Other(Please specify)

    (c)   Other Member- Smoking/Tobacco/ Canabbis/ Marijuana/Alcohol/

            Other (Please specify)   (   )

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF STREET CHILDREN

18) In which category, respondent belongs ?

    (a)   Street Living Children   (b)   Children from street and slum families

    (c)   Street working Children   (d)   Other (Please Sepcify)   (   )

19) How you are in contact with family ?

    (a)   Regular contacts   (b)   Irregular Contacts

    (c)   Disconnected   (d)   Other (Please specify)

20) How long you have been on streets?

    1)   Less than six months

    2)   6-12 months

    3)   1 to 2 years

    4)   2 to 3 years

    5)   3 to 4 years

    6)   4 to 5 years

    7)   More than 5 years

    8)   No Response   (   )

21) What factors pushed you on streets ?

    1)   Abused & Negligence by parents

    2)   Remarriage of parents

    3)   Abused by relative

    4)   Impoverished state of the family

    5)   In search of employment

    6)   Separation of parents

    7)   Demise of parents

    8)   Criminal behaviour of parents

    9)   Not interested in study

    10)   Did not like discipline at home

    11)   Abused by brother/sister

12) Alcoholic father

13) Domestic violence

14) Only for fun & enjoying freedom

15) Abused by step parents

16) Peer group influence

17) Any other reason (please specify)   (   )

22) Which type of place for living or sleeping do you have at present ?

(a) Home

(b) Railway Station /Platform

(c) Rented house sharing with friends

(d) Bus Stand

(e) Temporary Shelter home

(f) Others (Please specify)   (   )

5.   EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

23) What is your level of education ?

a. Never attended school/Illiterate

b. Informmal Edcuation (can read and write but never attended school)

c. Up to Primary education (1 to 5 grade)

d. Upto Upper primary Education (6 to 8 grade)

e. Upto Secondary Education

f. No Response

24) What factors were responsible for not attending school ?

(a) Poverty

(b) Migrant labour

(c) Negligence of parents

(d) Lack of interest in study

(e) Non availability of school

(f) Others (Please specify)

25) What factors were responsible for discontinuing Education ?

(a) Failed in last examination

(b) Lack of interest in study

(c) Rigid atmosphere of school

(d) Sudden Demises of Parents

(e) Impoverished state of the family

(f) To earn and support the family

(g) Influence of Peer group

(h) Others (please specify)

26) Type of school where you studied ?

    (a)   Government School

    (b)   Private School

    (c)   Others (please specify)

27) Did you receive any type of vocational training ?

    (a)   Yes   (b)   No

    (c)   If yes what type of training you receive ?   (   )

6. **FOOD & NUTRITION**

28) What type of food do you usually have ?

    (a)   Non-vegetarian   (b)   Vegetarian   (c)   Both   (   )

29) How many times do you eat in a day ?

    (a)   One time   (b)   twice in a day

    (c)   More than three times   (d)   Depends on availability of money & food   (   )

30) How do you obtain food ?

    (a)   Buying

    (b)   Eat leftovers from restaurants

    (c)   Leftover from pantry cars /thrown by passenger

    (d)   Scavenging bins

    (e)   Eat at home

    (f)   Eat at drop in centre

    (g)   Eat at Temple/religious place

    (h)   By all above mentioned sources/whatever available   (   )

7. **SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES ON THE STREET**

31) What is major source of livelihood on streets ?

    (a)   Begging at railway station/Bus stand/other public places

    (b)   Cleaning train coaches and begging

    (c)   Selling goods on traffic signals

    (d)   Repairing zipper of bags

    (e)   Shoe polish /mending

    (f)   Rag Picking

    (g)   Work on Restaurant or Dhabas

    (h)   Pick pocketing

    (i)   Drug peddling

    (j)   Grabbing/Stealing goods

    (k)   Selling water bottles

    (l)   All above mentioned techniques

8. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

32) What is your daily income ?

   (a) Up to Rs 50 per day

   (b) Rs 50-100 per day

   (c) Rs 100-150 per day

   (d) Rs 150-200 per day

   (e) More than Rs 200

   (f) Can't say

33) Reasons affecting your income

   ----

34) How do you spend your income?

Items	Expenses (Yearly)
Food	
Cloth	
Health	
Hygiene	
Drug/substance use	
Meeting family expenses	
Saving/Banking	
Rentals/loan payment	
Any other expenses like commission to elder street children etc	
Others (Please specify)	

9. NATURE OF SAVING AMONG STREET CHILDREN

35) Do you save your money ?

   (a) Yes   (b) No

36) If yes then how do you use your savings ?
   a) Send Home
   b) Clothing
   c) No-Response

37) If No then why yo don't save money ?
   ----

38) Where do you save money?
   a) With employers
   b) With friends
   c) Bank/Post Office
   d) Others (please Specify)

10. HEALTH AILMENTS AND TREATMENT

39) Did you ever have any health ailments ?
   (a) Yes   (b) No   (   )

40) If yes then provide detail.
   ----

41) Do you seriously get treatment ?
   (a) Yes   (b) No   (   )

42) If Yes then Where do you go to seek medical help ?
   (a) PHC/CHC
   (b) Private Doctor
   (c) Government general hospital
   (d) Self medication
   (e) Exorcising/incantation/sorcery
   (f) Don't bother
   (g) No Response

43) If No then why do you not seek medical help ?
   1) Due to lack of money
   2) Expensive treatment
   3) Ill treatment or negligence by the medical professional in govt hospitals
   4) Others

44) Did you ever have any animal bite ?
   (a) Yes   (b) No   (   )

45) If Yes, which animal
   ----

11.   LEISURE OR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

46)   What is your favourite leisure or recreational activity ? Please rank the following:

   (a)   Wathing Film

   (b)   Gossiping with friends

   (c)   T.V. Watching at resturatnts

   (d)   Using drugs/substance

   (e)   Playing Card

   (f)   Gambling

   (g)   Fun & Picnic

   (h)   Watching adult movies

   (i)   None of the above

12.   SOCIAL ATTACHMENTS

47)   How is your relationship with parents ?

   (a)   Harmonious

   (b)   Not well

   (c)   OK

   (d)   Can't say

48)   How frequently you meet your parents ?

   (a)   Once in a month

   (b)   Twice in a month

   (c)   Bi-monthly

   (d)   Once in six months

   (e)   Depends on mood

   (f)   Depends on money

   (g)   Sometimes

   (h)   Regular

   (i)   Never

49)   Whom you like most in your family ?

   (a)   Mother

   (b)   Father

   (c)   Parents

   (d)   Elder Brother

   (e)   Elder sister

   (f)   Younger Brother

   (g)   Younger sister

   (h)   Other

50) How is your relation with other boys/Friends ?

    (a)   Harmonious

    (b)   Not well

    (c)   OK

    (d)   Can't say

51) Do you have taken membership of any group ?

    (a)   Yes   (b)   No   (   )

52) If yes then which type of group's membership ?

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53) what position you have in this group ?

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14. SUBSTANCE AND DRUGS ABUSE AMONG STREET CHILDREN

54) Do you use any type of drug/substance ?

    (a)   Yes   (b)   No   (   )

55) If yes then tick apporpiate (multiple):

    (a)   Alcohol

    (b)   Cannabies

    (c)   Marijuana

    (d)   Whitener

    (e)   Smoking

    (f)   Smack

    (g)   Gutkha

    (h)   Others (Please specify)

56) How long yo have been using drugs ?

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57) How many times do you use drugs ?

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15. HIV/AIDS/STIs KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES

58) Do you know about HIV/AIDS/STIs ?

    (a)   Yes   (b)   No   (   )

59) Did you have any following complaints ?

    (a)   Itching and Burning in Urination

    (b)   Blisters on genital areas

    (c)   Pus on genital areas

    (d)   Other

60) Have you ever had sex ?

(a)   Yes   (b)   No   ( )

61) If yes then when, where and how many times ?

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62) Do you know about condom ?

(a)   Yes   (b)   No   ( )

63) If yes then please mention the sources of information :

(a)   Through Friends

(b)   Through T.V.

(c)   Through Adult Movies

(d)   Through Advertisement

(e)   Through doctor or Health worker

(f)   Through and social worker

(g)   Through Street Play or Awareness programme

(h)   Other (Please specify)

16.   ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

64) Did you face any type of abuse at home ?

(a)   Yes   (b)   No   ( )

65) If yes the types of abuse met at home by family members ?

(a)   Verbal abuse-   (1) Parents   (2) Siblings   (3) Others

(b)   Physical abuse-   (1) Parents   (2) Siblings   (3) Others

(c)   Sexual abuse-   (1) Parents   (2) Siblings   (3) Others

66) Have you ever tortured or physically abused after leaving home ?

(a)   Yes   (b)   No   ( )

67) If yes then by whom you were abused and tortured?

(a)   Gang leaders (older children)

(b)   Vendors

(c)   Police –GRP/RPF/Railway Employee/Coolies

(d)   Employer

(e)   Other (Please specify)

17.   PROTECTION

68)   Who scares you most on the street? Rate your preferences :
   (a)   Police
   (b)   RPF
   (c)   GRP
   (d)   Vendors
   (e)   Elder Boys
   (f)   Porters
   (g)   People
   (h)   Organization/NGO
   (i)   Child Line

18.   SUPPORT SYSTEM

69)   Where help is sought in crisis ?
   (a)   Centres/Shelter Home
   (b)   NGO Worker
   (c)   Family Members
   (d)   Friends
   (e)   Elderly people
   (f)   Gang leaders
   (g)   Other

19.   PERCEPTION ABOUT CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS (CCI)

70)   Would you like to stay in shelter homes ?
   (a)   Yes   (b)   No   (   )

71)   If yes then why ?
   ----

72)   If no then why ?
   ----

20.   PERCEPTION ABOUT GRP[1] & RPF

73)   What do you feel about the attitude of GRP & RPF[2] towards children like you ?
   (a)   Sympathetic
   (b)   Cruel & Brutal
   (c)   Exploiting
   (d)   Abusing
   (e)   Depends on officer/employer
   (f)   Other (Please specify)

21.   PERCEPTION ABOUT SOCIETY

74)   What do you feel about the attitude of society towards children like you ?
   (a)   Sympathetic
   (b)   Positive
   (c)   Scornful
   (d)   Cruel and brutal
   (e)   Exploiting
   (f)   Abusing
   (g)   Other

75)   What do you think about rules and regulation made by society ?
   (a)   You accept and respect
   (b)   Discard social values
   (c)   Sometimes accept, sometimes not
   (d)   No reaction

22.   EXPECTATION FROM SOCIETY

76)   What is your expectations from society ?

   ----

23.   IMMEDIATE NEED AND ASPIRATIONS

77)   What is your urgent need ? Please give preferences ?
   a.   Getting back to school
   b.   Education

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[1] Government Railway Police
[2] Railway Proection Force

c.   Capital to start business

d.   Employment

e.   Accommodation/Home

f.   Food

g.   Medical treatment

h.   Self Respect and dignity

i.   Taken to an home/orphanage

j.   Not stated

78)   What is your dreams/future plans/aspirations ?

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24.   APPEARANCE OF RESPONDENTS WHILE INTERVIEWING

79)   Mental status of respondent while interview:
- (a)   In rouble
- (b)   Worried
- (c)   Traumatic
- (d)   Scared/freighted
- (e)   Normal

80)   Appearance of the respondent while interview:
- (a)   Wearing dirty cloth but ok
- (b)   Wearing dirty and tattered cloth
- (c)   Half naked
- (d)   Neat & Clean
- (e)   unkempt hair
- (f)   under the influence of substance use
- (g)   drunk
- (h)   Normal
- (i)   Other

81)   Suggestion and comments of Interviewer:

Signature