



Status of Education of Street Children of India: A Study

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Abstract

A street child very commonly sighted in most parts of the underdeveloped and developing countries, an irrevocable facet of the world's 'out of school' youth. Irrespective of not having resources for mutual action the NGOs establish suitable policies. Educational Systems are passive, but have the opportunity of an additional overall answer. The attachment of these children within education is consequently studied in the light of NGO involvement. The study was exploratory and needed some methodological inflexibility in terms of respondents and analysis. This study makes use of both, qualitative and quantitative methods, to analyse statistics by primary and secondary data means. This study is based on a primary survey was showed on the particular districts of Delhi.

Keywords: Street children, NGO, exploratory, education

Introduction

The definition is generally a prerequisite of discussions of underprivileged groups, however it is argued that 'street children' are more usefully viewed inside a hierarchy of road use which consists of all children. Urban entropy is utilised as a conceptual framework relevant to previous and current contexts, which proposes social coherence as an educational objective. A non-excluding school is pro pounded, which has the probability of helping children irrespective of their degree of street use.

A street child is a very frequent presence in most parts of the growing world, they were stated to be those "for whom the street (in the extensive sensation of the word, inclusive of unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has emerge as a humdrum home and/ or source of livelihood (Sarah, 2007). They are additionally inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by way of accountable adults and, therefore, they land up on the streets. According to the UNICEF record of 2010, street children are classified into two i.e. children on the road, and children off the road. Children on the street are those who earn their livelihood from street things to do like selling and begging. They have their families; they return domestic in the night-time and have parental support. Whereas children off the street are these who are homeless and wander around the streets. They sleep in the streets of city vicinity slums. They stay on their personal and do now not have family or guardian support unlike children on the streets (UNICEF, 2012). It has been discovered that there are two motives for being street children, i.e., proper and perceived. The real one is a phenomenon where children depart domestic and land up in the street, as street children.

The perceived one relates to thinking, reflecting, and analysing why the children left domestic in the first area and ended up on the street. It used to be determined, that juvenile, delinquency was once frequent, among the perceived ones, and monetary elements had been related directly to the appropriate reason. There can be sociological motives for a child to finish up on the street like negligence from parents, poverty, bodily and sexual

abuse from relatives/neighbours and repressive domestic environment, too uneven parental expectations from children in terms of their performance in the classroom, and in assessments which the children locate hard to fulfil, are driven to desperation and consequently figure out to leave home. It seems into the Indian context, the negligence of dad and mom plays an important role.

In the context of quite a number of African countries, It had been understood that they are badly affected by means of AIDS and different inside problems. Similarly, Botswana is ranked 2nd in world phrases of AIDS infection rate. As the statistics reveals, in 2005 the quantity of children being orphaned by AIDS contamination used to be about 12500, after which more than a few efforts had been made which showed positive results (UNICEF, SWC, 2012). This is one of the primary causes contributing to a growing number of street children as youngsters lose their mother and father at an early age. They are ill-treated and exploited in a variety of ways and additionally go through from a number fitness problems in the future. Against this backdrop, it was once determined necessary to habits a learn about on the fame of street children which will be undertaken in the existing research.

Objective

To access the educational status of street children in India.

Data and Methodology

As the present study is the comparative study of the educational status of India, both primary and secondary data have been used to come up with the findings of the study. A primary survey was carried out on the selected districts from North, East, North-West, and South districts of the NCT of Delhi. The sample size of the survey can be viewed in the following table. Around 400 respondents from the age group of 8-18 years including both male and female children were taken to form the sample size. Based on the necessities of study, innumerable questions associated to street children, their education, daily activity and their occupation/employment had been asked. Some of the NGO's were additionally consulted for the same. The children had been additionally requested about government initiatives for promoting right to free and compulsory education via RTE, 2009.

The secondary data had been one-of-a-kind from different sources such as government and newspaper reports. Efforts were additionally made to reach out to different organizations and NGOs working in the identical field. Other secondary sources of data accessible from Delhi Shelter Board, Delhi government websites and different many more sources had been used. Along with the primary survey, numerous secondary data and review had been referred for analysing the conclusion of the study. Numerous state and central government reviews were referred to for the study and data pertaining to street children and matters associated to them. Reports from UN, UNICEF and other international organizations and NGOs were also referred to India.

The study was exploratory and needed methodological inflexibility in terms of respondents and analysis. Both qualitative and quantitative techniques had been used for the analysis of the data gathered through both primary and secondary means. MS Office and many other computer-aided tools had been used for analysing and presenting the outcomes of the findings.

Table 1. Respondents in Delhi

Area	Male/Female	Respondents (8-18 Years)
North	44/36	80
East	40/24	64
North West	56/44	100
South	76/44	120
Total	216/148	364

Indian Context

As per UNICEF statistics of 1994, In India, a projected 12 million street children had been found in the streets. In addition to this, the Indian High Commission projected about 350000 street children crossways specific metro cities like Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and about 1,50,000 in Delhi. As per the review of NGOs (India), the given below information are available for reference for street children across India.

- It is estimated that 140 million children global are orphans. (UNICEF)
- Globally, 168 million who were working children, accounting for nearly 11% of children (ILO)
- 124 million children and adolescents were dropout from educational institution (UNESCO).
- There are 62.8 million children globally suffer from acute malnourishment (World Bank)

Table 2: Key facts about child population in India

Some of the Key Statistics for India	
Population	
India	1.252 bn (2013)
Children <18 years (thousands)	434782.1
Children <5 years (thousands)	120580.9
Living on <\$1.25/day (%)	32.7
Orphans (thousands)	3500
HIV/AIDS infected (thousands)	2100
Some key Indicators:	
Child labour (%) + 2002-2012*, Total	11.8
Child marriage (%) 2002-2012*, Married by 15	18.2
Child marriage (%) 2002-2012*, Married by 18	47.4
Underweight (%) 2008-2012*, Moderate and Severe	42.5
It is estimated that 140 million children worldwide are orphans. (UNICEF)	
Worldwide, there are 168 million who are working children, accounting for almost 11 per cent of children (ILO)	
124 million children and adolescents are out of school (UNESCO).	
There are 62.8 million children worldwide who suffer from acute malnutrition (World Bank)	

Source: NGO, I-India (http://www.i-indiaonline.com/sc_crisis_stats.htm)

Level of Education Attained

During the survey of street children in a number components of Delhi, it used to be observed that the degree of educational attainment was once very low amongst the street children. About 45% of the respondents were illiterate, which could be due to the fact that their parents were also illiterate.

Apart from that, about 45% had attended schools up to primary level and had to drop out due to poverty, larger size of the family and low level of awareness about the importance and relevance of education.

It was interesting that about 10% had attended schooling until secondary level. They opted out as some of them failed in class 8th, some due to dying of dad and mom and some had been no longer interested in studies.

Awareness of various government Schemes

During the survey, the respondents had been asked a question associated to awareness about a number of government schemes. It was a matter of surprise that 70% of the respondents said that they were not aware of any such initiative from the government.

This was surely a lack of awareness and ignorance on their part. Whereas 05% were aware and 25% were not aware of any such policies from the government like midday meals. The level of awareness was very poor among the children.

Difficulties & Limitations in Making Education Available to Street Children

As discussed in the earlier parts, the majority of street children belong to a family with a poor backgrounds. They end up in the street being orphans, deserting home due to a repressive environment obtaining therein or due to physical and sexual abuse of relatives and neighbors, or being the bread earner of a family. In this case, maintaining physique and soul collectively will become their priority and now not education. Apart from this, some different factors accountable for the low level of education among street children in India be as under:

- The high fee of education: With each and every passing day, schooling is turning into extra and greater pricey no longer only in the developed world but also in developing nations like India. The majority of the parents of street children live in abject poverty. Priority is given to imparting meals for the family as education is too highly-priced and beyond the reach of most children. The family being stricken by poverty is also not aware of the positive and negative implications of a smaller family and invariably prefers to have more children who also become liabilities unless they are pushed involuntarily to work. The wages earned by using these children are regularly a pittance thinking about the harsh, onerous and hazardous nature of work.
- Instead of letting children remain at domestic because there is a lack of capability to send them to school, dad and mom decide to have them work as unskilled labourers to help aid the household thru the incremental earnings they earn. Some parents can only afford basic education which means that children will be forced to look for work beyond the primary stage since they cannot pursue their education further.
- Unaware parents: Ignorant and illiterate mother and father have no concept about the government schemes and schooling coverage together with the Mid-Day Meal programme. But due to a lack of awareness, parents don't send them to school but send them to the streets to earn members for the family.
- Prevalence of illiteracy: Illiterate parents and the environment where the children work, live and grow also keeps them unaware of the importance of education and its chances of improving their status in future.
- Limited schools: In countries like India where the population is large and the ratio of school to population is very low; the possibility of a child from a very low-income group attending the school is low. Schools are generally located far from human settlements, which means that the cost of travel will add up further to educational expenses (tuition fees, textbooks, uniforms, etc.).
- High living cost: The living cost in urban areas is increasing day by day. Families living below the poverty line can hardly afford to maintain a biological existence. The cost of living itself, which is susceptible to a number of other market factors, is constantly on the increase and the low income of parents and other earning members is hardly adequate even for their biological survival.
- Weak laws to protect: The legal guidelines are now not intact in locations to promote education. Where the legal guidelines are intact, implementation fails on the ground. So as a whole, the cycle continues. The cycle of street children suggests the purpose and outcomes of street children.

Role of Government

- Promote good, well-meaning, diligent, and conscientious agencies and individuals to take up education through plays and NGOs.
- Supplementary nutrition and regular health check-ups to prepare them to join regular mainstream schools.
- National Policy on Child Labour, 1987.
- Initiatives for preventing and prohibiting children from being employed in hazardous activities.
- As poverty is the main cause of child labour and educational deprivation, governments taking up various efforts to provide employment and promote other opportunities to eradicate poverty (MGNREGA) additionally make get right of entry to retention and participation in free and compulsory schooling a reality.

Conclusion

After this study, it was determined that the educational status of street children in India is not in a good condition. Over the decades the numbers have been increasing in relation to both children on and off the streets. There are numerous whys and wherefores for the increasing number of street children across the world. The foremost reason for any such incredibly undesirable social economic phenomenon could be the developing inequality between the rich and poor.

Over a period of time, the rich are becoming richer, and the poor are becoming poorer. Other reasons could be poverty and deprivation as also social exclusion which not only debar the street children from their basic rights like education and a happy childhood but also affects their future prospects.

A child born in a poor family high on the poverty index becomes more vulnerable to ending up on the streets without proper education and future employment opportunities. It was also observed that ignorant parents could cause some of their children to end up on the streets. Apart from their physical and financial ability to send their children to school, if parents are illiterate, they do not know the value of education.

So, in this case, a child without any formal education is not skilled labour and he/she ends up falling into the wrong trap or working as non-skilled labour, which will continue the cycle for the next generation to come. It is high time the researchers and policymakers come collectively and join hands in bringing attention amongst street children and their families to put an quit to their plight, promote schooling among them, and promote better lives for all.

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