RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG STREET CHILDREN IN REHABILITATION CENTERS IN HYDERABAD

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Abstract

Introduction: Any girl or boy who has not achieved maturity, for whom the street has become their normal residence and/or source of income, and who is not properly safeguarded, watched over, or guided by adults, is considered a street child" (UNICEF, 2005).In order to identify the type of street children we are dealing with, how we are handling them, and how best to stop the phenomena from spreading, we must be aware of their traits and actions. Regardless of the number of unique talents, scientific research on street children thoroughly comprehends their behavior and adjustment in rehabilitation facilities. **Methods:** The researcher has adopted a cross-sectional and descriptive research design for the current study. The researcher has selected a cluster sampling technique of probability sampling method for the current study. The total sample size for the current study is 240 [8x30=240] among 240 children, 120 of whom are boys and 120 are girls. The age group of the children between 10-18, male and female, and a minimum of three months of duration of stay in the rehabilitation was included. Children who were not willing to participate in the study were excluded. Various data collection tools were used in the study, such as the sociodemographic data sheet, the social behavior of children scale [Merrel 1992], and the social adjustment scale by Anita and Vendhan. **Results:** The analysis has shown that negative correlation between social and adjustment and disruptive behaviour and anti-social behaviour among children residing in rehabilitation centers in Hyderabad. Emotional and mental adjustment of the children in rehabilitation was found to be poor, and aggressive behaviour, disruptive behaviour, and anti-social behaviour among children were found to be very high. **Conclusion:** Considering current study findings, the importance of developing activities on relationship enhancement and we feeling among the street children so that the helping nature and the responsibility towards society will increase and their disruptive and anti-social behaviour will reduce.

Keywords: Social Adjustment, Social Behaviour, Street Children, Rehabilitation

I: Introduction: Any girl or boy who has not achieved maturity, for whom the street has become their normal residence and/or source of income, and who is not properly safeguarded, watched over, or guided by adults, is considered a street child. (UNICEF, 2009). In 1992, the UN expressed concern over the rise and marginalization of street children in a Resolution on the Plight of Street Children. This led to local and regional rehabilitation programs for street children that offer social development services, including safety, healthcare, counselling, education, vocational training, legal assistance, love, food, clothes, sports, and recreation. (UNCEF, 2012). The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 is concerned with children in two broad categories: those in need of care and protection and those in conflict with the law. Street children may fall within both categories simultaneously, as children who are not provided with care and protection may end up in conflict with the legal system. Children on the street (also known as "home-based" children who return home at night), children of the street (also known as "street-based" children who have little to no family support), and abandoned children (those "children of the street" who have broken all ties with their families and are entirely self-sufficient) are the three groups of children in challenging circumstances that UNICEF 1986 (Dabir and Athale, 2011) has also identified.

1.1 Indian Scenario: The fastest-growing urban population in the world is in the major cities of India: Delhi, which has 21.7 million; Mumbai, 19.7 million; and Kolkata, 15.3 million (Lake, 2012). It is a haven of the largest number of children in the world. Almost every fifth child of the world lives in India. It shelters children aged 10-18, constituting a total of 20 percent of the world population (MWCD, 2012). There are about 4.3 million children in the age group of 0-18 (Crime in India, 2013), 1.6 million are in the age group of 0-6, of which there are about one million males and 0.8 million females. As reported, 2.7 million children are aged 6-18 (UNICEF, 2013). "Children frequently provide a family's income in India due to the country's extreme poverty and lack of government assistance" (Segal, 1999). Therefore, despite a long-standing constitutional basic right that forbids child employment, the number of street children working has alarmingly increased over time. "Although child labour is difficult to document, requiring school attendance is an alternative way of curbing child labour," said Humphries (2003).

Additionally, in order to identify the type of street children we are dealing with, how we are handling them, and how best to stop the phenomena from spreading, we must be aware of their traits and actions. Regardless of the number of unique talents, a scientific research of street children provides a thorough comprehension of their behaviour and adjustment in rehabilitation facilities.

1.2 Statement of the Problem: Street children are an existing and growing social problem in India and it's expected to grow given the rapid rate of urbanization through devolution and its resultant impacts on the contemporary society. Street children continue to face socio-economic challenges in their struggle to participate in the wider community. Moreover, the already tense relationship within the society exacerbates as they are viewed as the major suspects of looting and vandalism. Despite government and NGO interventions towards alleviation of the problem of street children, there is inadequacy of effective rehabilitation strategies that promote street children's social development. There is therefore need to identify challenges of particular groups of street children and design strategies to alleviate their situations (UNICEF, 2011). Therefore, the current study was assessed the street children's social behavior and social adjustment with respect to their level of satisfaction being as a inmate of rehabilitation centre.

1.3 Objectives of the study:

- To study the sociodemographic profile of the street children residing in rehabilitation centres.
- To assess the level of social adjustment among street children and its relationship with social behaviour and social interaction.

II: Review of Literature: *Biney Amissah Araba (2015)* did a study in Accra, Ghana and collected data through case studies. It was found that number of street females were more than males. These children were grouped into two categories by researcher i.e., children born on the street and children who has migrated onto the street. The reasons which impelled children to leave their homes were due to search of money, due to search of money, due to parental divorces, working opportunities, and parental death. The odd activities in which they were involved such as porters, vendors, dishwashers, sex workers and shoe shine boys. *Vasufha M. C. (2017)* studied in Bangalore city on institutions such as APSA in Thippasandra, PARASPARA in Yeshwanthpur, DON BOSCO in Chamarajpet and ACTION AND INDIA in Richmond Town. Samples of 300 respondents were selected by stratified proportional sampling method. Case study, focus group method and questionnaire were used to collect information. There were numerous factors or conditions which impelled street children to resides on street such as poverty, breakdown of homes or families, political unrest, sexual, physical or emotional abuse, domestic violence, lured away by pimps or internet predators, mental health problem, substance abuse, and sexual orientation or gender identity issues. In their day-to-day life they were also suffering from number of complexities like lack of access water, toilet facilities, etc. *Radhakrishna murthy, (2016).* No society can afford to ignore the street children, as they are society's future citizens. They are to be integrated with the mainstream of social development by providing them opportunities to grow in a congenial social environment. But the task of their development is such a difficult and gigantic one that it cannot be left alone with the local government or with a few NGO's only, though they are contributing to this in a significant way. More than this, what is required, perhaps, is the social awareness among the parents and general public towards their responsibilities for the care and upbringing of children in the families and the society with tenderness and affection. In the light of such awareness, only any program of action initiated for the welfare of these street children by any agency or government may pay the dividends fruitfully in preventing, curing, and containing the problem.

III. Methodology: The researcher aimed to study the social behavior and social adjustment among street children residing in a rehabilitation center in Hyderabad. The researcher has adopted a cross-sectional and descriptive research design for the current study.

3.1 Population and Sample: The researcher has selected a Cluster sampling technique of probability sampling method for the current study. The total number of rehabilitation centers across the twin cities is 117; among these, the researcher has divided three major clusters: Hyderabad, Medchal and Malkajgiri; among these clusters, the researcher has chosen 10 rehab centers from each cluster and a total 30 rehabilitation centers were identified from above clusters. From each rehabilitation center [n=30], 4 boys and 4 girls were selected randomly. Hence, the total sample size for the current study is 240 [8x30=240] among 240 children, 120 are boys and 120 are girls.

3.2 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria: The age group of the children between 10-18, male and female and a minimum of three months of duration of stay in the rehabilitation was included. Children who were not willing to participate in the study were excluded.

3.3 Tools of data collection: Various data collection tools were used in the study, such as the sociodemographic data sheet, the social behavior of children scale [Merrel 1992], and the social adjustment scale by Anita and Vendhan.

IV Results and Discussion: The normality test of Shapiro Wilk was applied to the data to assess the normality; the results show that the data was normally distributed. Hence, the parametric tests were used in hypothesis testing, and descriptive statistics were used to assess the frequencies and percentages. The study results are given in the tables, followed by a description under each table.

Table: 1

Sociodemographic details of the street children

Sl. No.	Demographic Details		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age Range	10-12	54	22.5
		13-15	79	32.9
		16-18	107	44.6
1.	Gender	Boy	120	50.0
		Girl	120	50.0
2.	Education	Up to 5th class	54	22.5
		6th to 10th class	90	37.5
		Intermediate and above	96	40
3.	Family of origin type	Joint family	49	20.4
		Nuclear family	97	40.4
		Migrant family	36	15
		Don't know	58	24.2
4.	Reason for Leaving home	Beaten by parents	113	47.1
		Orphaned	89	37.1
		Missing child	38	15.8

Table one depicts the results of sociodemographic profile of the street children and it includes age range, gender, their level of education, family of origin type and reason for leaving home. The results of age ranges indicate the Majority of the children 44.6% (n=107) belong to the age group of 16-18 years, 32.9% [n=79] of the children belong to the age group of 13-15 and 22.5% [n=54] of the children age group is 10-12. With respect to the gender of the respondents as per the inclusion criteria the researcher has chosen 50% [N=120] of boys and 50% [N=120] of girls. The level of education among children shows that majority of the respondents 40% [n=96] are studying intermediate and 37.5% [n=90] of them are studying 6th -10th standard and 22.5% [n=54] studied up to 5th standard. Type of the family results indicating majority of the children 40.4% [n=97] belongs to nuclear family, 24.2% of them reported that they do not know, 20.4% [n=49] of them belongs to joint family. Remaining 15% [n=36] are belong to migrant family. Reason for leaving home results show that the majority of the children 40.1% [n=113] were left home due to their parents beaten them, 37.1% [n=89] of them are orphans and 15.8% [n=38] of the children are missing children.

S. No	Domains	Good n [%]	Average n [%]	Poor n [%]
	Table 2			
	Social Adjustment of the Children			
1	Social Adjustment	115[47.9]	54[22.5]	71[29.6]
2	Emotional Adjustment	64[26.7]	69[28.7]	107[44.6]
3	Mental Adjustment	52[21.7]	65[27.1]	123[51.2]
4.	Physical Adjustment	40[16.7]	102[42.5]	98[40.8]

Table 2 represents the social adjustment scale, reveals that the majority of the children 47.9% are socially well adjusted, and 44.6% of them are emotionally poor adjusted, 51.2% of them children are mentally poor adjusted, and the majority of the children 42.5% of the children's physical adjustment was average.

S No	Domains	Good/High n [%]	Average n [%]	Poor/Low n [%]
	Table 3			
	Social Behaviour of the Children			
1	Peer relations	46[19.2]	79[32.9]	115[47.9]
2	Self-management	138[57.5]	87[36.2]	15[6.3]
3	Social Competence	59[24.6]	65[27.1]	116[48.3]
4.	Aggressive	107[44.6]	82[34.2]	51[21.2]
5	Disruptive behavior	142[59.2]	53[22.1]	45[18.7]
6	Anti-social behavior	139[57.9]	76[31.7]	25[10.4]

Table 3 shows the results of the social behavior of the children assessed, and the results indicated the majority of the children, 47.9% have poor peer relations. More than half of the children 57.5% are good in self-management; social competence among the children was poor, 48.3% and 44.6% of children's behavior was very aggressive with others, 59.2% of the children have disruptive behavior and 57.9% of the children have anti-social behavior.

Table 4				
Relationship between social adjustment, Disruptive behaviour, and Anti-social Behaviour				
		Social adjustment	Disruptive behavior	Anti-social Behaviour
Social adjustment	Pearson-Correlation	1	-.821[**]	-.795[**]
	Sig.		.000	.000
	N	240	240	240

Table 4 describes the results of correlation between social adjustment and disruptive behaviour, it is indicated that there is a statistically negative correlation found between social adjustment and disruptive behaviour $r\ (240) = -.821^{**}\ (p< .001)$, it is inferred that children having poor level of social adjustment have higher level of disruptive behaviour, Similarly, social adjustment was negatively correlated with anti-social behaviour $r\ (240) = -.795^{**}\ (p< .001)$, it is concluded as children with poor social adjustment have higher level of anti-social behavior .

Conclusion: The results of the street children's social adjustment and behaviour was found the need of emphasizing on enhancing social adjustment and developing appropriate activities in rehabilitation centers with respect to the social adjustment. It should be given utmost priority as social adjustment of the children was negatively correlated with the disruptive behaviour and anti-social behaviour. Considering current study findings, the importance of developing activities on relationship enhancement and we feeling among the street children so that the helping nature and the responsibility towards the society will increase and their disruptive and anti-social behaviour would reduce.

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