
Research Abstracts on Children in Need of Care and Protection

1998 - 2009

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Research Abstracts on Children in Need of Care and Protection, 1998 - 2009

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Foreword

Research on women and children reveals that there are several areas which require the attention of planners and programme implementers. Policy decisions based on research findings are rooted in ground reality, and therefore have the capacity to bring about tangible improvement in the situation, whether it is with regard to nutritional status, health practices, income generation, domestic violence or rights of women and children. Research on social issues in India is being conducted by a plethora of organisations, namely research institutes, government ministries and departments, autonomous organisations, home science colleges, social work departments of universities, medical colleges, international and national voluntary organisations. As research is a vital input for development, planners, administrators and researchers are on the look out for social factors which have the potential to impact the outcomes of various programmes. With this aim in view, the Documentation Centre for Women and Children (DCWC) of the Institute is engaged in the process of collecting and documenting valuable research in the areas of women and children. DCWC collects research findings from many widely scattered sources for the use of researchers. Hence this project was undertaken to bring out compilations of research abstracts on various areas for the benefit of users.

"Research Abstracts on Children in Need of Care and Protection, 1998-2009" has been compiled to present widely scattered research in a compact form, and assist in making encapsulated information and recommendations of research available to planners, programme implementers and researchers. Research studies conducted by various organisations during the period 1998 to 2009 have been summarised on various subjects such as adoption, child abuse/ sexual abuse, armed conflict, children in difficult circumstances, children of prostitutes, slum children, street children, victims of violence and terrorist violence, etc.

It is hoped that this document would be of immense value to all stakeholders working for the survival, development and empowerment of women and children. It would not have been possible to bring out this document without the cooperation of various organisations who have very kindly shared their research studies with NIPCCD. I wish to place on record my appreciation of the efforts put in by the staff of DCWC specially Smt. Meenakshi Sood, Deputy Director, and Dr. Dinesh Paul, Additional Director (TC) and Dr. Sulochana Vasudevan, Joint Director (WD) for overall guidance and support in completion of the project.


(A.K. Gopal)

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Adoption

India, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. (1999).
Procedure for adoption of children in India: a study. *Management in
Government*, 31(1) : 63- 86.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.ADOPTION 3.LEGISLATION.

Abstract : In India, the Ministry of Welfare is responsible for framing rules and guidelines and issuance of instructions to state governments, voluntary agencies and coordinating agencies, as well as scrutinising agencies to promote in-country and inter-country adoptions. There are 58 agencies recognised for in-country adoption and 277 foreign listed agencies for inter-country adoption. During the period 1991-1996, foreign nations adopted 6351 Indian children as compared to 8321 children adopted within the country. The Coordinating Voluntary Adoption Resource Agency (CVARA), formed with the association of eight adoption agencies in Delhi, monitor, provide counselling service, create awareness and promote the concept of adoption among potential adopters. The study described the existing adoption procedure under the Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA), Guardians & Wards Act, 1890 (GAWA) and the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. The state governments and union territory administrations maintain lists of children's homes and monitor the overall functioning of all child welfare agencies engaged in adoption. The study recommended : (I) involvement of voluntary agencies, child welfare agencies and people themselves in the implementation of the National Policy for Children (ii) streamlining the functioning of CARA and making it an autonomous independent body with regional branches (iii) adoption of a uniform adoption law and wide circulation of the revised guidelines of the Ministry of Welfare to all child welfare agencies (iv) a fixed time limit for all the courts to decide cases dealing with adoption (v) organising special workshops for judges where the voluntary coordinating agencies, NGOs, etc. interact with them (vi) bringing about re-orientation in the thinking of people through media (vii) bringing out a procedures booklet to serve as a guide to pre-adoptive parents on in-country adoption procedures.

Manoharan, Arlene. (2002).

A Critique of the Juvenile Justice Act 2000 in the context of the adoption issue. New Delhi : Voluntary Health Association of India. 4 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.ADOPTION 3.JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT.

Abstract : Adoption is dealt with under Section 41 of the Juvenile Justice Act 2000 (JJ Act), which outlines provisions for the social integration and rehabilitation of children coming under the Act. The present study covered positive features of adoption under JJ Act 2000 and limitations of the JJ Act. It was observed that JJ Act empowers the Child Welfare Board (CWB) to give a child in adoption and requires the child's consent before adoption, when the child is able to understand and express his/her consent. JJ Act was silent on the issue of grandchildren. The Act was silent on the question of religion, which implied that persons of any religion can adopt a child of any religion. However, a closer look at the legalities may reveal limitations in this regard. It was revealed that in JJ Act 2000 there was no definition of adoption. There was no clarity as to whether there is a possibility of re-adoption of an adopted child if he/she is once again abandoned or orphaned, or whether the first adoption itself is irrevocable. Inter-country adoptions also came under the purview of the Guardians and Wards Act and hence no placement is possible under the JJ Act 2000. Another limitation was to recognize all children's homes and state government institutions for orphans as adoption agencies. It was recommended that the provisions for adoption under the JJ Act 2000 would need to be challenged. The Act fails to provide the much needed secular, child rights centric, gender just and enabling options that is the need of the hour. The immediate solution would be to push for an enabling legislation such as Special Adoption Act. Though this process would undoubtedly take time, it is not in the interest of children, prospective adoptive parents or genuine adoption agencies to push unresolved adoption issues through back door legislation such as JJ Act 2000. Moreover, this hegemonic approach itself needs to be challenged so that democratic, people oriented processes ultimately take precedence over the hasty political manipulations of those who have drafted and enacted this legislation without adequate basic policy clarity.

NIPCCD, New Delhi. (2008).

Evaluation of scheme of assistance to homes for children (shishu greh) to promote in country adoption. New Delhi : NIPCCD. ~160 p.

Kew Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.ADOPTION 3.SHISHU GREH SCHEME 4.ABANDONED CHILD 5.IN COUNTRY ADOPTION 6.HOMES FOR ABANDONED CHILDREN.

Abstract : Adoption of a child is practiced for centuries in India. From 647 in-country adoptions in 1992 to 1,707 in 2004, there has been an increase in adoptions in a period of 14 years. Thus India is obliged to have laws which permit the adoption of children. In response to certain irregularities coming to light, the Central Adoption Resources Agency (CARA) issued guidelines for in-country adoption in 2004, which provide a common framework for the procedure that needs to be undertaken by adoption homes and institutions for adoption petitions under Guardianship and Wards Act (1860) (GAWA), Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (1956) (HAMA), and Juvenile Justice Act (2006) (JJ Act), and encourage adoption of destitute and orphaned children within the country. In order to encourage voluntary organisations to take on responsibilities for providing care, protection, nurture to children and to find placement for them in families for ensuring their proper growth and development, it has been felt necessary to strengthen the existing scheme for setting up Homes (Shishu Grehs) for children in the age group of 0-6 years in the country, preferably in rural areas. The present study was conducted to evaluate the performance of the grantee Shishu Grehs; ascertain the contribution of various institutions for in-country adoption i.e. CARA recognized placement agencies (Shishu Grehs) supported under this scheme, other state adoption agencies, unregistered orphanages/ homes/ nursing homes, etc; find out the limitations of existing laws; assess the role played by the State Government in promoting adoption through agencies and compare the advantages of State Government; find out the extent to which the prescribed child care standards are being implemented in Shishu Grehs; study the procedures followed in Shishu Grehs; explore the potential of the scheme to promote adoption in districts and states; and assess the appropriateness of stipulations relating to the number of adoptions by implementing agencies under the scheme. Data was collected from 54 organisations, out of which 34 organisations were directly implementing the Shishu Greh Scheme,

7 were CARA recognized adoption agencies and 13 were state recognized adoption agencies. It was found that most of the Shishu Grehs were getting government grants, voluntary help and donations, whereas a higher number of CARA recognized organisations were getting voluntary help and donations. It was found that a fixed amount of Rs. 6 lakh was provided for maintaining a unit of 10 children. Adoption agencies, besides doing adoption work, were also managing a number of activities, like shelter home for children, crèche services, health camps, non formal education, vocational training, etc. About 81% adoptive families had total income ranging between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 20,000 per month. Among these families, 71% prospective parents were staying in nuclear families and 89% prospective adoptive parents were Hindus. Data showed that the wife took initiative for adopting a child; 72% parents preferred to adopt a child with unknown background; 78% parents gave preference to a male child, and in 65% cases adoptive mothers had gynaecological problems. As far as improvement in the scheme was concerned, 26% functionaries wanted their salary to be enhanced, 23% felt that there should be timely release of grants, and procedures for obtaining grants should be simplified. Data showed that in the last 3 years, about 1363 children were received by these 34 organisations implementing the scheme as compared to 1104 children received by CARA recognized adoption agencies and 965 children received by state recognized agencies. Data showed that about 58% parents adopted the child in the age group 0-6 months which meant that most parents were adopting children through recognized agencies and not doing secret adoptions. 71% organisations had full time nurses in the home itself and had sufficient material for reading and writing. As far as supervision and monitoring were concerned, it was found that in 76% cases both physical and financial monitoring was done by District Social Welfare Officers. While implementing the scheme organisations faced problems like difficulty in finding orphans or destitute children. It was recommended that for effective implementation of the scheme, care should be taken regarding formulating of a uniform law for adoption, release of grants should be timely, and there should be no lack of budget for salaries of staff, etc.

Child Abuse/ Child Sexual Abuse

Bureau of Police Research and Development, New Delhi. (2009).

Child abuse : an overview. New Delhi : BPRD. 10 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.CHILD ABUSE 3.CORPORAL PUNSHMENT 4.SEXUAL ABUSE 5.DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE 6.CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE 7.SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

Abstract : Around 40 million children under the age of 14 years are estimated to suffer from abuse and neglect around the world. The prevalence of child abuse is showing an increasing trend in India. India has a large child population and many children are vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and neglect. The present study assessed the inter-connected factors associated with child abuse to develop a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon; evaluated the magnitude and forms of child abuse; aimed to sensitize the public about the serious danger of prevalence of child abuse, especially child sexual abuse in society; assessed the existing legal framework to deal with the problem; and attempted to draw inferences from a national study titled "Study on Child Abuse : India 2007" undertaken by Prayas Institute of Juvenile Justice. The survey was carried out across 13 states and covered a sample size of 12,447 children. It was observed that there were many definitions of child abuse but the originally used definition "Acts or omissions by a care given leading to actual or potential damage to health and development, and exposure to unnecessary suffering to the child" was quite appropriate. It was found that younger children, 5-12 years of age, reported higher level of abuse. Boys, as compared to girls, were equally at risk of abuse, and persons in trust and authority were major abusers. 70% of the abused child respondents never reported the matter to anyone. It was observed that two out of every three children were physically abused. Out of 69% children who were physically abused in 13 sample states, 54.68% were boys. It was found that over 50% children in all the 13 sample states were being subjected to one on the other form of physical abuse, 88.6% were physically abused by parents, 65% school going children reported facing corporal punishment, and 50.2% children worked 7 days a week. 53.22% children reported that they faced one or more forms of sexual abuse, and 21.9% children reported facing severe forms of sexual abuse. Children in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi reported the highest incidence of sexual assault. In 83% cases parents were the abusers and 48.4% girls wished they were boys. The study on

child sexual abuse conducted among 2211 students (847 boys and 1364 girls) from schools in Chennai Corporation zone revealed that 939 children had faced at least one form of sexual abuse at some point of time, and 48% of the boys had been abused. The forms of sexual abuse prevalent were touching children's private parts (603), exhibitionism (384), forcing or tricking children to watch pornography (371), making children touch the offender's private parts (226), made to remove clothes (83), oral sex (131), and sexual intercourse (81). From the above it was concluded that sexual abuse is one of the most fundamental violations of children's rights, and was usually an underlying obstacle to their overall development. It was recommended that the present National Policy on Children, 1974 needed to be revised, and a mechanism created which may include child care and protection at village, block, district and state levels. This mechanism may involve parents, elected representatives of urban and rural local bodies, teachers, anganwadi workers, medical practitioners, police and social workers, and responsible members of the public among others. Media should be used to spread awareness on child rights. School teachers need to be trained to handle misbehaving students through guidance and counselling. Stringent laws should be enacted to completely curb child abuse and sex tourism in the country.

Devi Prasad, B. (2001).

Maternal employment and child abuse. *Indian Journal of Social Work*. 62(3): 328-46.

Key Words : 1.CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT 2.PHYSICAL ABUSE 3.MATERNAL EMPLOYMENT 4. CHILD LABOUR.

Abstract : The study, comprising a sample of 133 dual earner and 136 single earner couples from Andhra Pradesh, aims at exploring the relationship between mother's employment and violence towards children. Violence was measured using Conflict Tactics Scale(CTS), Marital quality was measured using the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS), and Work Spillover Scale was used for self-report and for spouse report. Data strongly indicated that non-working mothers reported higher rates of violence, while for working parents, work stress and income are found to be indirectly related to child abuse. Mothers are more punitive than fathers, and among mothers, the non-working mother is more punitive as compared to the working mother. Milder forms of violence, such as shouting and swearing at the child are the most common forms of child abuse. Violence rates among the children for the

preceding year are found to be high in forms such as slapping or spanking, hitting the child with something and beating the child. Severe forms of abuse such as burning and using a sharp instrument were reported highest among single earner mother, followed by working mother and dual earner father. In terms of overall violence, boys are at the receiving end. Fathers uniformly reported higher violence rates towards boys than girls. Children in the age groups 3-4 years and 5-9 years were more severely abused compared to other groups, especially from non-working mothers. Results indicate significant incidence of violence in Indian families which warrants the need for appropriate intervention programmes. Family life education programmes, and opportunities for learning alternative non-punitive ways of managing interpersonal conflict are suggested, to help reduce violence in families. Parenting skills especially for young mothers need to be imparted.

Jaya, N. and Narasimhan, Subhadra. (1999).

Violence on children between 10-18 years in varied family contexts.
Coimbatore : Avinashilingam Ins of Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Department of Human Development. 9 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE 2.CHILD ABUSE 3.VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
4.FAMILY VIOLENCE 5.CORPORAL PUNISHMENT 6.DISCIPLINE

Abstract : Violence on children is often part of a pattern of family violence. The family structure that should provide security, safety and cater to the emotional needs for one's better mental health, often in reality, is the most frequent place for violence. The study was conducted on 121 families of a rural area, Pannimadai in Coimbatore to find out the nature; extent and frequency of violence on children's; to know the factors leading to violence on children in varied family contexts, and highlight the reactions of children towards parents who are violent. 100 families were identified out of 121 where violence against children existed. Majority of the children were subjected to violence of mothers due to their poor academic performance, constant fight with siblings, temper tantrums, cheating, going to movies with friends, etc. It was observed that congested housing conditions (55%), poor inter-personal relationship with family and relatives (50%), and presence of unhealthy habits like smoking (31%), alcoholism (17%) and gambling (13%) were the most common stressful situations that lead to violence on children in families regardless of its size. About 27% of the children were subjected to violence 3-5 times per week in large families, and 38%, 0-2 times per week in small families by

fathers. Unemployed fathers (13%) and alcoholic fathers (17%) abused their children by beating with belt, hitting and kicking more often when compared to employed and non-alcoholic fathers. It was found that starving was a common type of corporal punishment given by 25% mothers in large families and 2% mothers in small families. Burning, twisting the arm, bone breaking and strangling were other forms of punishment given to children. The common types of violence among siblings included beating (88%), slapping (78%), kicking (42%), hitting (37%), shoving (20%), throwing objects and biting (18%). It was observed that a strong yearning to have parents who do not treat children violently (29%), wanting to get rid of siblings (26%), a wish to be born in some other loving family (20%), and wanting to get rid of parents (7%) were the statements made by children who experienced violence. It was recommended that strengthening family bonds, providing crisis intervention services, and giving family life education to parents and children is needed to alleviate violence on children.

Kacker, Loveleen et al. (2007).

Study on child abuse : India 2007. New Delhi : India, Ministry of Women and Child Development. 191 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.CHILD ABUSE 3.CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE 4.ABUSE OF CHILDREN 5.CORPORAL PUNISHMENT 6.CHILD LABOUR 7.STREET CHILDREN 8.EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

Abstract : India has a large child population and a large percentage of this population is vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and neglect. The aim of the study was to develop a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon of child abuse, with a view to facilitate the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes meant to effectively curb and control the problem of child abuse in India. The study covered 13 States: Mizoram, Assam, Goa, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala. The study sample was distributed in 3 groups - child respondents (15-18 years of age) targeted 13,000 and completed 12,447, young adults (18-24 years of age) targeted 2600 and completed 2324, and stakeholders, targeted 2600 and completed 2449. Out of the child respondents, 50.9% children were subjected to physical abuse (slapped/ kicked, beaten with a stove/ stick and pushed/ shaken) by their mothers, while 37.6% children were abused by their fathers. Among young adults, 49% respondents faced physical abuse during childhood, and 60.35% reported being

physically abused by parents. Assam, Mizoram, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh reported higher incidence of physical abuse. Over 50% children in 8 states reported corporal punishment, including those states where Government had banned corporal punishment through notification. Among the stakeholders, 35.24% were in favour of scolding or shouting, followed by 11.3% in favour of slapping or beating with a stick, and almost 11% of the respondents felt that locking the child in a room or denying food to a child was a suitable form of punishment. Out of 12,447 child respondents, 21% reported being subjected to severe form of sexual abuse that included sexual assault, making the child fondle and exhibit private body parts and being photographed in the nude, whereas 51% suffered from other forms of sexual abuse (forcible kissing, exposure to pornographic materials, etc.). Among the young adults, out of 2324 respondents, almost 46% reported sexual abuse during their childhood. The overall percentage showed that every second child in the country faced one or more forms of sexual abuse. Assam reported the highest percentage (77.5%) of sexual abuse. Among the child respondents around 48.37% children suffered from one or two forms of emotional abuse, either humiliation or comparison. In young adults higher percentage of males faced emotional abuse. Among the stakeholders, 58.67% favoured awareness and education for the abusers. Out of the total child respondents, around 70.5% girls reported neglect of one form or the other by family members, and about 48.4% of the girls wished they were boys. Among the young adults, 74.9% females reported getting less food than their brothers. The study suggested that the Ministry should take measures such as enacting enabling legislation to establish the National and State Commissions for Protection of Rights of the Child. Also, the Government, civil society and communities need to complement each other and work towards creating a protective environment for children.

Seva Mandir, Udaipur. (2005).

Abuse of children. Udaipur : SM. ~60 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.CHILD ABUSE 3.CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
4.CORPORAL PUNISHMENT 5.BEATING 6.DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOLS 7.RAJASTHAN.

Abstract : Child abuse is both shocking and common place. Child abusers inflict physical, sexual and emotional trauma on defenseless children everyday. The present study was undertaken to find out the incidence of child abuse in schools. The study also reveals the probable reasons for child abuse, and suggests ways that can help

Seva Mandir in preventing occurrence of child abuse. The study was carried out in 3 villages of Kherwara block in Udaipur district. Data was collected using a self designed questionnaire administered to the sample surveyed, unobtrusive observation of children, and visit to schools. A mix of quota and snowball sampling technique was used. Parents of 84% children were satisfied with the level of their performance. The use of a stick to correct the faults of children was considered right by 96% parents, while 20% parents said that they would do nothing to correct the situation. Only 6% parents believed that they should go to the teacher and converse with them. 47% students stated that they became fearful when they thought about their teachers. 40% of the students became very uncomfortable when they thought about their teachers. 93% students confirmed that they felt very happy going to school. When asked which animal would best represent their teacher, 57% of the respondents chose the picture of a black cobra, 14% a black panther, 10% a tiger, and 20% a beautiful horse. Parents can play a major role in determining the degree of abuse a child is subjected to. If the parents continue to believe that physically abusing the child is a necessary part of education, then very little can be done to prevent the incidences of child abuse. There is need to make parents aware of the rights of the child to a life without abuse, and parents should delay their need for personal gratification from the child. Teachers should be aware of alternative means of establishing discipline among students. Parents must be made aware of the need for a healthy atmosphere at home for the complete development of the child. There is also a need to involve the common man in all these efforts.

Tamil Nadu Health Development Forum.

Physical abuse of street and slum children of Kolkata. *Indian Pediatrics*, 38(10) : 1129-43.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.CHILD ABUSE 3.STREET CHILDREN 4.SLUM CHILDREN.

Abstract : The study investigated the extent and type of physical abuse and its associated factors among the street and slum children of Kolkata. 751 children aged 4-15 years from 190 families were enlisted to collect data on age, working status, family size, income, nature and type of physical abuse. Results revealed that 32% of children were part time workers, whereas a majority of them worked on full time basis. Physical abuse was reported among 26.9% of the children. Abusers used belts, cords of ropes, which was also recognized by characteristic skin injuries such as

bruising, ecchymosis, abrasions, lacerations and hematoma. 25% cases of mild internal injury inside the nose and abdomen was observed. In some cases hot metal objects and burnt cigarette butts caused burns in some children. Fractures were detected in 4.5% of the children. The study showed a lower percentage (18.8%) of physical abuse among children 4-5 years of age, but higher and almost equal percentages among children in the age group 6-10 years (39.6%) and 11-15 years (41.6%). The study suggested that the extent and manifestation of physical abuse should be further investigated and a possible follow up should be continued.

Tulir, Centre for the Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse,
Chennai. (2006).

Prevalence and dynamics of child sexual abuse among school going children in
Chennai : research. Chennai : Tulir. 28 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE 3.SCHOOL GOING CHILDREN
4.ABUSED BOYS

Abstract : Child sexual abuse is a well kept secret in India, and in society there is ignorance, denial and silence about the issue. The present study was done with an objective to assess the prevalence and dynamics of child sexual abuse among school going children of 11th Standard in Chennai. 24 schools were taken covering 2211 students, of whom 847 were boys and 1364 were girls. Data was collected from the children using a self-reported anonymous questionnaire. The key indicators used in the study were sex, age, family type, family income, and school type. Results showed that out of a total of 2211 children, 939 (42%) had faced sexual abuse. There was a myth in society that boys were not sexually abused, but data showed that sexual abuse was higher among boys (48%) than girls (39%). Results contradicted various other myths. There was a general perception that sexual abuse was extremely common among poor and illiterate families. But the study found that prevalence of child sexual abuse in upper and middle class was proportionately higher than that in lower and lower middle class. Sexual abuse was found to be higher in joint families (335/413) as compared to nuclear families (589/814). The most prevalent forms of sexual abuse were touching children's private parts, exhibitionism, forcing and/ or tricking children to watch pornography. Prevalence of severe forms of sexual abuse was found to be 21% among boys and 15% among girls. Frequency of abuse was 'do not remember' 43%, once 34%, more than 5 times 7%, and 2-5 times 16%. Those who were abused once were abused mainly by strangers, whereas those who were abused

repeatedly were abused by people whom they were familiar with. The age of 11-15 years was the age of onset of abuse for most girls and boys. The most common tactics used by abusers were force, trickery, blackmail, gifts and intimidation. Out of a total of 939 children who reported to have been abused, only 360 had ever sought help. The study showed that most abused children disclosed the abuse to their friends and then their mothers. It was found that a large number of children wanted information on how to protect themselves against sexual abuse. More importantly, prevention, through the concept of Personal Safety Education empowers every child to exercise the right to be safe all the time, and it strengthens the ability of all those morally and socially responsible for the protection of children, that is the State, parents, other significant stakeholders and the larger community.

Child Soldier/ Armed Conflict

Hoiskar, Astri Halsan. (2001).

Underage and under-five : an enquiry into the use of child soldiers 1994-8.
Childhood, 8(3) : 340-55.

Key Words : 1.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. 2.CHILD SOLDIER. 3.ARMED CONFLICT.

Abstract :The study conducted by International Peace Research Organisation, Oslo identifies the circumstances under which armed forces or groups employ children in armed conflicts. Radda Barnen, Stockholm estimated that there were 3,00,000 child soldiers worldwide in 1998. This study used data collected by Swedish Save the Children Child Soldier Project, and data regarding child labour were collected from World Bank figures. Analysis of data of more than 162 countries during the period 1994-98 revealed that the employment of child soldiers under 15 is closely connected to poverty, and child work is a better and safer alternative to child soldiering. The analysis also suggested that the use of child soldiers is closely connected to repressive and unstable regimes, and children are most likely to participate in prolonged conflicts. As there is little reliable data available, there is need to increase effort to monitor the use of child soldiers and generate reliable data. Although the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour includes child soldiers, efforts need to be made to convince all nations to ratify these conventions and abolish the use of minors as combatants.

Children in Difficult Circumstances

Bajpai, P. K. (1999).

Alcoholism and drug addiction in Haryana and Punjab and its impact on women and children. Yamuna Nagar, Haryana : Utthan Institute of Development and Studies. 171 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE 2.CHILDREN OF ADDICTS 3.CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS 4.ALCOHOLISM 5.DRUG ADDICT 6.CHILDREN OF PROBLEM PARENTS 7.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES 8.PUNJAB 9.HARYANA

Abstract : The problem of drug addiction and alcoholism has emerged as one of the serious problems with far reaching social, psychological and economic consequences. This study was carried out through drug de-addiction and counselling centres and selected clusters through purposive sampling method. Data was collected from 11 drug de-addiction and counselling centres, and the wives of selected addicts/ alcoholics were interviewed. It was found that people had full awareness about education and they admitted their child to a good school, but were least bothered whether the child regularly went to school or not. Wine shops in villages were producing and selling country liquor without fear of the Government machinery. 60% of the total male population was in the habit of drinking. The men folk depend on females, not only for doing house work and looking after children, but also working in fields. In 1990-91, the total revenue collected through the sale of liquor was Rs.286.75 crore. Concentration of drug addicts/ alcoholics was more in the age group of 20-40 years, signifying that youth was at risk. 'Bukki' was the most common drug supplemented with smoking in Haryana, while in Punjab opium and alcohol were quite commonly used. 28.03% people started taking drugs as a family tradition. A sizable number of respondents complained that their husbands neither took them out for outings nor did they take any interest in domestic work. 23.56% respondents noticed no difference in the behaviour of husbands when they were alone or when they were with their parents. 33.60% found their husbands to be quarrelsome when they were with their parents, 17.04% of the respondents claimed their husbands to be loving in isolation, but the number again reduced to 13.22% when husband's were with parents. 47.13% addicts took loans to fulfill their drug needs. 64.17% of the respondents

strongly recommended death punishment for drug peddlers as they felt it was only addiction which spoils the life of women. A total ban on alcohol was recommended by 63.38% of the respondents, while 93.79% were against its easy availability, and 35.99% were in favour of rationing alcohol or other drugs. The study recommended that the sale of drugs like *bhang*, *ganja* and alcohol should be legally prohibited. Therefore, the Government should prohibit the use of these drugs universally, which must be supported by a social reform movement. Law enforcement agencies must be vigilant enough to check and prevent the movement of drug peddlers, and the law should be amended to give severe punishment for convicted offenders. The laws relating to women and children, specially dealing with property, inheritance, etc. need to be reviewed in the light of changing socio-economic situation in the country. Drug problem should not be taken as a national problem to be solved on a national scale, but addiction should be considered as a community based problem, therefore community leaders and other people must be involved in the policy formulation and implementation for control of substance abuse.

Smt. Jawahar Devi Birla Institute of Home Science, Calcutta. (1999).

Children in difficult circumstances : abstracts of research studies. Calcutta : SJDBIHS. ~50 p.

Key Words : 1.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES 2.ADOPTIVE PARENT 3.BEHAVIOUR PROBLEM 4.ORPHAN 5.INSTITUTIONALISED GIRL 6.SLUM CHILD 7.CHILDREN OF MENTALLY ILL PARENT 8. HANDICAPPED CHILD 9.MENTAL ILLNESS 10.ADOLESCENT 11.JUVENILE DELINQUENT 12.STREET CHILDREN.

Abstract : The document is a compilation of abstracts of various studies conducted mainly in the field of children in difficult circumstances. The various studies deal with manifold subjects, i.e. adoptive parents, behaviour problems of children, personality traits of institutionalized orphan girls, pre-school children living in slums, children of mentally ill parents, physically handicapped children, mental illness, adolescent girls, juvenile delinquents, runaway children, etc. It was found that mother's love is an important factor which influenced adolescent's institutionalized girl's psychological development. In the matter of parental relationship, it was observed that the father did not play a very important part while the mother did in the lives of girls. The poverty of mother's love had very adverse effect as a result

of which girls tended to be lonely and even neurotic. It was revealed that social maturity and intellectual capacity (in terms of abstract and logical thinking) of orphan girls as compared to non-orphan girls were low, where as neurotic tendency of orphan girls as compared to non-orphan girls was high. Children coming from deprived backgrounds had differential levels of development, and their deprived backgrounds called for special interventions for different categories of children. Good parenting was found to be an important factor contributing to positive outcomes.

Childline/ Helpline

Gupta, Manisha and Menezes, Nicole. (2006).

Childline night and day : 1098. New Delhi : Childline India Foundation.

72 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.CHILDLINE 3.HELPLINE STREET CHILDREN 4.STREET CHILDREN.

Abstract : CHILDLINE is the country's first toll free helpline for street children in distress. In 10 years since it was set up, CHILDLINE received 9.6 million calls and worked with three million children in need of care and protection. An analysis of CHILDLINE calls from June 1996 to March 2006 revealed that 80.3% of all calls were to chat, silent, crank and blank calls which represented the emotional need of a child to connect with a friendly voice, 15.8% calls were for information about child related services, 2% of calls were requests for intervention in severe crisis situations relating to repatriation, resources, medical help, death, sponsorship, restoration of missing children, and 1.7% were requests for emotional support and guidance. CHILDLINE intervened directly in 19.6% of all calls. The highest number of children repatriated by CHILDLINE were from families in crisis situations such as poverty, single parent families, poor landless labourers, families affected by alcoholism, political conflicts and disasters. In most repatriation cases, children were rescued from cities and repatriated back to a district, town or village, and the majority of them were child labourers. The Child NET Data (2003-2005) showed that 39% of all calls received for shelter were from children who had left home, 26.9% from children who had been abandoned by their parents (mostly girls), and 21.9% were from poverty stricken parents seeking shelter for their children. Though, in a majority of the calls recorded, the location of the caller was unspecified, but it was found that 7.3% callers were from slums and chawls and 14.1% were from buildings. Also, 29.7% callers were girls as against 64.3% boy callers, and the girls had limited access to education, which further declined if they had disabilities. In two years there had been a 15% increase in calls seeking rescue from physical abuse, while only 6% callers had sought intervention against sexual abuse.

About 35% of physical abuse cases took place within the family and neighbourhood, and 30% at the workplace. Hence there is need to develop issue-specific interventions to increase the reporting of sexual abuse. In future, CHILDLINE plans to focus on extending 1098 coverage to rural areas to prevent family break ups and economic migration of children and their families; strengthening a gender focus to reach out to girls, setting up services in high endemic areas affected by child labour and child trafficking; developing strategic alliances with people's movements and community based groups working on livelihood and access issues to develop local child rights volunteer bases that will work as community child protection watch dogs; developing specialized, issue based programmes to reach invisible children (political refugees, mentally challenged children, victims of riots, disasters and sexual abuse); and increasing advocacy with the Government to ensure the full implementation of policy, legislation and child-friendly services for children.

Children of Prostitutes

Anandraj, Hannah. (1999).

Development of children of female commercial sex workers in Vijayawada.
Hyderabad : Roda Mistry College of Social Work and Research Centre.
14 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.CHILDREN OF PROSTITUTES 3.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES 4.PROSTITUTION 5.CHILDREN OF SEX WORKER 6.REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN OF PROSTITUTES 7.ANDHRA PRADESH.

Abstract : One of the most horrendous violation of child rights is sexual exploitation. While several categories of children are in the grip of physical and social disadvantages, the children of commercial sex workers fall easy prey to those who surround them and abuse them. They are not only marginalized but receive scant attention of society. This study focused on the physical, psychological and social development of children of female sex workers (FSWs) from ten areas in the city of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The sample consisted of 312 children, born to or raised by a female sex worker who were in the age group 0-45 years. Data was collected through interviews, observation and case study method, and the tools used were interview schedule, standardized psycho-social scales and Segain Form Board to measure the psycho-social development and the development quotient (DQ). Physical development was based on the 'weight for age' criterion from the standardized chart. The independent variables namely age, education, work, vocational aspiration, behaviour problems, family income, closeness to mother, mother's preference for services, peer influence and media watching were measured using both standardized scales and questions. Findings showed that among the different groups of respondents, under each of these independent variables, there was a tremendous need for action, so as to strengthen the development of children. The results of multiple regression analysis to see the patterns of development showed age to be an important correlate of development. Variables such as education, religion, services preferred by mother, and influence of media were found to contribute positively to the development of children. As the contribution of education to development emerged with unequivocal importance, therefore, growth centres were recommended for strengthening and bolstering the development of the target children.

Anandraj, Hannah. (2000).

Children of female sex workers of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - a statistical profile. Hyderabad : Roda Mistry College of Social Work and Research Centre. 4 P.

Kew Words : 1.CHILD WELFARE 2.CHILDREN OF PROSTITUTES 3.DESTITUTE CHILD.

Abstract : The present study focused on the children of female commercial sex workers (FSWs) of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, and brought out their profile as seen through a few select personal, familial and social variables. The study comprised 312 children. It was observed that majority of the children (170) belonged to the 6-12 years age group. The adolescent age group registered a steep decline. It was found that there were more girls in red light areas than boys. This trend was shocking for it indicated that more adolescent girls were bought /brought into these areas. Many of the respondents were educated. Major religions like Hinduism, Islam and Christianity were represented among the respondents. Majority of the children belonged to Hindu religion, only 36 children were working as child labour, and the rest of them were not working. Many children (181) were found to possess only a moderate level of vocational aspirations. Many respondents (151) showed moderate level of behaviour problems. Observation of familial variables revealed that 43.9% children were from small families, 52.9% children had educated members in the family, 46.9% children belonged to families having medium income which was found to be Rs. 1047.60 monthly. Majority of the children were brought up by both parents, and those who were brought up by a substitute mother were very few. Those who had a moderate level of relationship with the mother were almost double the polar groups of those who were distant or closest to the mother. Mothers were mostly ignorant of the types, methods of prevention or treatment of STDs/HIV. With respect to mothers' aspirations for their children, those who had no aspirations ranged highest (135), followed closely by those with high aspirations (117) of making something out of their fledgelings. It was found that more mothers (161) preferred educational facilities while fewer mothers (94) wanted monetary aid. It was observed that a majority of the children belonged to backward castes (243). Those with moderate peer influence (120) were found to be the highest in number, followed closely by those with low or high peer influence. Those who watched movies or TV moderately formed the largest group. It was recommended that education should be imparted to children by the Government and voluntary agencies to enlighten their minds and further their growth opportunities.

Organisation for Applied Socio Economic Systems, New Delhi. (1997).

A Psycho-social study of the children of prostitutes (commercial sex workers) with focus on their rehabilitation. New Delhi : OASES. ~50 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE 2.CHILDREN OF PROSTITUTE 3.PSYCHO-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT 4.REHABILITATION 5.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

Abstract : The present study assessed psycho-social development of children of commercial sex workers from Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Goa with specific focus on their rehabilitation, social, emotional and school adjustment. The sample comprised 90 children of commercial sex workers, 60 mothers who were commercial sex workers, 30 teachers and a control group of 45 children of women who were not engaged in the profession of flesh trade. Data was collected through interviews, and psychological tests to measure and assess social, emotional and educational adjustment. Results revealed that children of commercial sex workers were poorly adjusted with their curricular and co-curricular programmes in schools. About 52.3% children showed poor social adjustment, 57.2% showed poor emotional adjustment and 56.6% had poor educational school adjustment. Children of commercial sex workers showed below average or average intelligence as opposed to children of non-commercial sex worker mothers. However, the two groups of children did not differ much with regard to their personality traits. These children tended to be undisciplined, irregular in school, aggressive and careless. The study recommended that awareness among commercial sex workers and society as a whole should be increased regarding problems faced by these children. Health, nutrition, sanitation and recreational facilities should be improved. Free and compulsory education should be imparted up to higher secondary level. They should be provided vocational training. Mass awareness campaigns for positive attitudinal development, comprehensive rehabilitation programmes, and intensified administrative and legal action with involvement of influential people and voluntary organizations, could prove very constructive in reducing the evil effects of this profession on the children of sex workers.

Children of Women Prisoners

Chattoraj, B.N., et.al. (1998).

A Study on children of women prisoners in Indian jails. Delhi : National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science. ~260 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE 2.CHILDREN OF WOMEN PRISONER 3.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES 4.WOMEN PRISONER

Abstract : The study was conducted during 1998-99 to provide in-depth analysis of the situation in which children of women prisoners lived, and study their socio-economic background, and the programmes available to them in prisons. The study was conducted in two phases. In the first phase, identification data in respect of all the children living with their mothers in jails all over the country, as on 30-06-1997 was collected and analysed. In the second phase, twenty five jails including eight central jails, four women jails, eight district jails and five sub-jails were selected from various states for in-depth analysis. A total of 885 children were found to be living in different jails under unsatisfactory conditions. They lived in crowded barracks with other women prisoners and had to share the same food as was given to their mothers. Except the jail manual, no Act in the country takes care of this category of children. Existing educational programmes and medical facilities were inadequate. The study recommended that minimum facilities should be provided for child delivery and pre-natal and post-natal care, separate food should be provided to each child on a regular basis, separate utensils of suitable size and material, and proper medical care should also be provided. Women prisoners accompanied by children should be kept in a separate barrack. Diversified recreational programmes should be provided. In order to encourage the work culture among women prisoners, creches with qualified staff should be provided. Prison administration needs to be made more sensitive and responsive. Speedy trial of pending cases of women prisoner with children is also recommended. Some fund should specifically be earmarked for the welfare of these children, and it should be ensured that funds earmarked have fully been utilized for this purpose.

Shekar, Sanober, et al. (2002).

Forced separation : children of imprisoned mothers : social work in criminal justice : a field action project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences Prayas. Mumbai : Tata Institute of Social Sciences. 192 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.CHILDREN OF WOMEN PRISONER 3.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES 4.WOMEN PRISONER 5.PRAYAS PROJECT TISS PROJECT.

Abstract : The study was undertaken in jails situated in 2 cities of Maharashtra, to assess the problems faced by children of women prisoners. Data was collected through interviews with women under-trial prisoners, families of women prisoners and their children, government officials, functionaries of child welfare agencies, and researchers and social workers of Prayas. Mothers suffered severe anxiety at being separated from their children and worried about their well being. They were also not informed about rules permitting them to take children below 5 years along with them. All their efforts in jail were directed towards ensuring their children's well-being through visits, messages, contacts. Even in prison, mothers tried to set into motion legal or administrative processes, access existing welfare schemes or facilities, approach senior prison officers to intervene when children faced problems, earned money by working in the kitchen/workshop, built emotional pressure in the women's yard, and requested visitors for assistance. Children had to face both, the loss of a care taker, as well as loss of income. Over time, the family maintained itself at a lower level of economic functioning. Children adapted by curtailing expenses, starting to earn, borrowing, accepting help from acquaintances, and learning to do without - missing meals, dropping out of school, etc. They had no money to buy milk, food, oil or other essentials. Relatives who had moved in as caretakers, or had taken children in with them, found it difficult to manage. They wanted financial assistance to look after children better. Children had to start working, and some became homeless as they were evicted from rented homes. Their health and nutrition status deteriorated, as also personal hygiene. Besides stress, children also became aloof and alienated from mothers. Children left with a weak father, relatives without resources, or by themselves in the care of eldest child, were found to be in more difficult circumstances. Some paternal grandparents wanted to cut the mother out of children's lives. Society stigmatized children, and they exhibited withdrawal symptoms. The best solution to problems of children was that mothers should be released at the earliest, giving bail to mothers, having frequent court hearings, and no delays due to lack of escorts, etc. Government should be responsible for children of prisoners, but the responsibility may be shared by different agencies of the law. Voluntary organizations should also be involved in their welfare.

Riot Affected Children

Subba, T. B. (1996).

Problems of riots affected children of Shillong. Shillong : North Eastern Hill Univ, Department of Anthropology. ~ 125 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE 2.RIOT AFFECTED CHILDREN 3.VIOLENCE 4.NORTH EAST 4.VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN 5.IMPACT OF VIOLENCE 6.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

Abstract : The study investigated the social, economic and psychological consequences of riots on children and to see how such children coped with the post-riot situation in Shillong. The subjects covered were children 6-18 years of age at the time of the riots, and the community studied were Bengali, Khasi and Nepali communities. The first major communal riot in Shillong took place in 1979, followed by riots in 1987, 1989 and in 1992. Most of the Bengali respondent were above 26 years, Khasis between 16-20 years and Nepal respondents were above 31 years at the time of the study. Bengalis occupied the top position while Nepalis occupied the bottom position on the basis of socio-economic status ranking. The study revealed that communal tension and riots resulted in the displacement of families, the loss of homes and property, and feeling of insecurity in the respondents. Community life was thrown out of gear and the impact of the same was noticeable on the psyche of the children. This hampered their overall personality development. The worsening inter-community relationships were reflected in the behaviour of the children, who grew up into psychologically impaired youths, after the riots. In schools and colleges, students tend to form small insular groups and rarely built strong friendships with children of other communities. Riots also badly affected the academic life of children. Many children from poor families were forced to drop their studies, and many lost their sense of discipline and order. Many children became orphans overnight due to the trail of murders and killings. They often grew up with a sense of vengeance towards communities responsible for their parents' death. Case studies were used to illustrate the impact of death, assault witnessed by the children or being stranded which affected them directly or indirectly.

Slum Children

Bose, A.B. (1992).

The Disadvantaged urban child in India. Florence : UNICEF, International Child Development Centre. Italy. 73 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.SLUM CHILD 3.URBAN CHILD.

Abstract : The present study explores the situation of urban children in India. The effect of urbanization, growth of slums, and the nature of urban poverty was revealed. The problems of children in especially difficult circumstances, notably working children, street children, neglected and abandoned children, and children in conflict with law were reviewed. The study found that there were 57-60 million children aged 0-14 years living in India's cities, constituting 36.53% of the total urban population. By 2000 the actual urban child population would probably be about 71 million. The study found that the IMR slightly declined in urban areas following a vacillating trend. Health care in urban areas was available through a network of hospitals, dispensaries, and maternal and child health centres. There were 506,768 hospital beds in urban areas. There were 1 million urban main workers under the age of 15 years. The age specific participation rate of urban main workers 5-14 years of age was reportedly 2.5%. The 43rd Round of NSSO (1987-88) indicated that 2% of urban male workers and 5% of urban female workers were 5-14 years of age, which represents a decline in the percentage of child workers from 1983 findings. Apart from child labour, street children were another group of vulnerable children covered in the study. UNICEF collaborated with Ministry of Welfare to carry out studies on street children at Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Indore, Kanpur and Madras. About 25% working children in Delhi were street children. In Bangalore there were 45,000 street children, of whom 25,000 were homeless. In Calcutta and Bombay the number exceeded 1000,000. Neglected and abandoned children were another vulnerable segment that needed attention. 210 Juvenile Homes have been created throughout India. In 1989-90, Rs.34 million was given to different states as the Central Government share towards grants to voluntary organizations. From 1964 'SOS Children Villages' have provided homely care for orphan children through voluntary effort. They are taking care over 10,000 children throughout India.

Vagrancy, delinquency and crime have become major social problems in urban areas, and a cause for genuine concern. Nationwide figures on juvenile delinquency show that the rate of juvenile crime per 100,000 population was 3.1 during the year 1988. Data also showed that 92% boys and 83% girls who committed cognizable crimes under IPC were between the ages of 12 and 16 years. The extent of recidivism in the case of juveniles arrested under IPC and under local and special laws in 1988 was 11.8%. As child labour in India is a socio-economic problem, the Child Labour Act must be strictly enforced. The problem of street children cannot be dealt with by adopting a policing-cum-custodial institutional approach. The problem can only be tackled by understanding the socio-economic factors which lead to their current state, the street environment in which they live and operate, and the links they have with their families and the community. Despite some improvement in the situation of different categories of disadvantaged urban children resulting from Government and NGO endeavours, more intensified and well coordinated efforts are required to better the health, education and living conditions of children growing up in India's urban centres. Priority needs to be given to contain the growth of slum communities, increase community and family based social service programmes, and intensify the financial and infrastructural support to NGO activities.

More, Chidvilas et al. (2006).

Micro level initiatives by NGOs working for marginalized groups in Pune city.
Pune : Karve Institute of Social Service. 45 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES
3.MIGRANT WORKERS CHILDREN 4.STREET CHILDREN 5.CHILDREN OF SEX WORKERS
6.BRICK KILV WORKERS 7.INCLUSION 8.MARGINALIZED CHILDREN 9.EDUCATION
10.OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN 11.SPONSORSHIP 12.RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

Abstract : At the time of Independence in 1947, India inherited an educational system that was small in size and characterized by acute gender and regional disparities along with structural imbalances. Only 14% of the population was literate and only one child out of three had been enrolled in primary school. The Government of India acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992. Rights enumerated in the UN Convention include the Right to Education as one of the important components of the Right to Development. Extreme poverty and social deprivation keep the children of marginalized communities away from educational opportunities. This study was carried out in Pune and covered 3 marginalized groups

of children, namely children of brick kiln workers, street children and the children of commercial sex workers. Most of the brick kiln workers were marginal farmers who depend on agriculture for a living, but were forced to earn a livelihood elsewhere due to droughts and lack of finance to develop irrigation systems. The study also focused on the children of Rajasthani potters and Kannadiga construction labourers. In Pune, 5,500 sex workers reside in the district in 450 brothels (Apte et al, 2004). Parents agreed that they did not want their children to continue with the same occupation, and that their children need education to have a good job in future. India Sponsorship Committee (ISC) and Eklavya Bal Shikshan and Arogya Nyas (EBSAN) children came to the support classes after attending school, and they played different games, did their homework, got food, went through class notes, etc. Teachers were the main agents who were in direct contact with parents, children and NGO officials, and the ones on whom these NGOs actually relied to contribute to social change. Training sessions of teachers include understanding child psychology. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) schools play a vital role in providing education to a majority of the disadvantaged children. Initiatives are running of a night shelter cum school for children who live on railway platforms and providing basic education for 2 hours a day. Statistics showed that 1.63% of children in the school going age group were still out of school in Pune city. Key lessons that can be learned from the NGOs are convincing parents of the value and importance of education; education should be flexible and child centered; there is need for a uniform qualitative educational system to build the children's confidence and address issues in a loving and patient way to bring about change; NGOs need to cooperate with each other; and funds and other resources should preferably come from within the community. Social and language barriers that keep away the children of these marginalized groups from mainstream education should be removed. The importance and need of teachers and volunteers in giving educational assistance to these children should be recognized.

Street Children

Association for Development, Delhi. (2002).

A Study on the problems of street and working children living at railway station in Delhi. New Delhi : AFD. 9 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN 3.STREET CHILDREN 4.RAILWAY STATIONS 5.PHYSICAL ABUSE 6.SEXUAL HARASSMENT 7.WORKING CONDITIONS 8.CHILD ABUSE 9.CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE 10.DELHI.

Abstract : The study was carried out among street and working children at old Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway stations to identify the reasons for leaving their homes and the problems faced by them in their day-to-day life. A sample of 100 respondents was taken and most of them were in the age group of 8-16 years. Data was collected through questionnaires. It was found that 76% respondents attended school while they were at home, 17% had non-formal education and 7% were illiterate. 39% children belonged to Uttar Pradesh and 26% were from Bihar. Nearly 57% children were living at the railway stations for the last 1-5 years, 11% were there from more than 5 years, and 28% were in Delhi for less than a year. Most of these children were from lower income group, and 33% participants were from families of self-employed persons like vendors, etc. Nearly 47% children mentioned abuse by parents as the main cause for having left their homes, 64% children did not have any contact with their families, and 52% did not want to go back to their families. It was found that 48% children had stayed in a home/government institution at one time or the other and 64% wanted to remain on the streets, because of freedom and employment opportunities. About 36% respondents wished to go to a home, and of them 83% preferred night shelters, and 17% wanted separate and decent accommodation, other than Government institutions and NGO homes. 85% children lived in groups, specially girls, because of security reasons. 60% children were involved in rag picking, 74% earned less than Rs.50, and only 30% had some savings. About 74% children travelled to other places like Bombay during winters to escape the cold, 24% travelled to find work, and 24% did so for fun. Nearly 78% participants mentioned harassment by police, 17% mentioned shelter, and 3% mentioned bullying by senior boys as major problems faced by them regularly. It was reported that 88% children were abused physically, 9% abused

sexually and 3% did not respond out of hesitation. 57% respondents were harassed by Government Railway Police (GRP), and 21% named Railway Protection Force (RPF). 56% children stated that the police demanded or snatched money from them. It was revealed that 67% children smoked cigarettes, 78% respondents used drugs regularly, and of them 48% consumed it daily. Nearly, 53% respondents took drugs for fun and relaxation, and 11% said that their friends urged them to use drugs. It was suggested that there is need for planning and consultation among all the agencies involved in welfare activities, and their plans should incorporate children's views and needs. Government and other organizations should formulate their strategies after considering children's issues, and a proper environment should be built for their overall development. Education should be an essential part of the programme to give them a better standard of life.

CINI ASHA - UNESCO. (2000).

Impact of education in improving the quality of life of disadvantaged urban children in Calcutta : a case study. Calcutta : the author. 31 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN 4.EDUCATION STREET CHILDREN 5.OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN 6.NON FORMAL EDUCATION 7.SLUM CHILDREN 8.URBAN POOR 9.IMPACT OF EDUCATION.

Abstract : This case study provided an analysis of the UNESCO supported project "Improving the Quality of Life of Urban Disadvantaged Children Through Education and Social Mobilisation" started by CINI-ASHA in Calcutta. The project provided a useful analysis of the conditions of life of street and working children, depicted the difficulties faced by these children, and also suggested some innovative strategies to improve their access to education. CINI-ASHA started its work with three specific groups : street children (600), working children (2000) and children of sex workers (80). The objectives were to provide basic needs, protection and to ensure their all round growth and development. CINI-ASHA started some programmes like Drop-In-Centre; Night Shelter; Half Way House; Sick Bay; HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme; Preparatory Centre. For child labour, Preparatory and Coaching Centre and for children of sex workers Evening Centre were started to provide education, counselling and recreation. To monitor and evaluate the project, CINI-ASHA developed a special Education Monitoring Cell to evaluate the work of teachers and the progress of students. The project further suggested introduction of programmes like Balwadis, ICDS and counselling for parents of preschool children.

For school going children it suggested improvements in the educational system, to provide basic amenities in schools, to promote group activities and to provide school uniforms, stationery, etc. The project also suggested that adult literacy programmes must be initiated, and counselling regarding health, vocational training and savings, etc. must be provided. Mothers could be empowered and made less dependent on their children. Strong networking among NGOs, government departments, police, and schools is also necessary to deal with the problem of street children.

Delhi Child Rights Club, New Delhi. (2004).

How safe and child friendly is Delhi for children ?. Delhi : DCRC. 34p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.CHILD FRIENDLY CITY 4.CHILD SAFETY 5.VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN 6.HEALTH SERVICES 7.PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN 8.EDUCATION STREET CHILDREN 9.STREET CHILDREN DELHI 10.CHILD PROTECTION DELHI 11. DELHI.

Abstract : The study was carried out in 2003 to know the opinion of children about how safe and child friendly Delhi, the Capital of India, is. A sample of 1200 children below 18 years of age was taken. Average age of children was 13.5 years. Data was collected through questionnaires, interviews, workshops and group discussions. It was found that 90% children did not get medical treatment, 40% went to Government hospitals, and 10% visited Government mobile clinics, where they had to undergo many difficulties. It was suggested that doctors from big hospitals should conduct health checkups in slums and the number of doctors should be increased. 83% children said that their area was not cleaned by MCD/NDMC. 70% children collected water from taps, 25% depended on hand pumps and 5% bought water. Among slum children, 35% respondents used 'Sulabh Sauchalaya' (toilets), 55% used open places and 10% used MCD/NDMC toilets. Nearly 70% children were not satisfied with the electricity supply. In schools also, 80% children did not have drinking water facilities, and toilets were unhygienic. 70% children said that there were no facilities for recreation and play in schools, and 75% felt that proper library facilities were lacking. It was suggested that more schools should be established with sufficient number of teachers, and schools should provide sufficient educational and play materials. 70% children got time for playing in parks and playgrounds, but these places were not sufficient. Data revealed that 60% children faced economic exploitation, 80% sexual harassment, 90% physical torture, and 100% faced mental exploitation. All children believed that they were being exploited one way or

another. Children were subjected to violence in schools for not doing homework, wearing unclean clothes, etc.; and at work place, employers and their children, senior servants, etc. abused children. Nearly 70% children were not free from the drug habit, because alcohol, cigarettes, beedi, tobacco, glue and drugs were easily available. It was suggested that drugs should be kept away from children, and those who sold drugs should be punished. 90% children said that their parents did not consult them regarding their education. Mohalla committees of children should be formed and opportunities should be given to children to participate in the decision-making process. The Government should interact with children's collectives before finalising policies and programmes related to children. Non-Government organisations should influence Government and try to incorporate their opinions into Government's policies and programmes made for children.

Ganesan, Arvind. (1996).

Police abuse and killings of street children in India. New York : Human Rights Watch. ~60 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.POLICE ATROCITY ON STREET CHILDREN 3.STREET CHILDREN 4.CHILD ABUSE 5.POLICE ABUSE 6.EXPLOITATION OF STREET CHILDREN.

Abstract : Human Rights Watch conducted this study in February, March, December 1995 and January 1996 in Bangalore, Bombay, Delhi and Madras. It documented the police abuse of street children and deaths of children in police custody. Human Rights Watch interviewed more than 100 street children, representatives of NGO, social workers, human rights activists and lawyers. Of the 100 children interviewed, 60 complained of police abuse. All children interviewed were boys as the access to girls was limited, and all of them reported fear of the police. Human Rights Watch recorded 22 detailed testimonies of street children and 2 testimonies of social workers who had been abused by the police. A total of 41 cases were presented in the report. The report consist of first hand information, written statements taken by lawyers from street children, documents written by police officials concerning police abuse, case files prepared by India's National Human Rights Commission, press reports, reports by local human rights organizations and United Nations, studies of UNICEF on street children, and reports by local NGOs. It also gave details of the custodial death of 15 children from 1990 to 1994 and the death of 1 child in a remand home in 1996. Out of 284 children who had been

institutionalized, 78.5% (223) reported treatment by staff in remand homes as 'Bad' and 66.9% (190) reported that the provision of basic necessities were 'Bad'. Police guidelines recommend that 17 steps are to be followed during normal investigation, while in the normal course of shortcut investigation, the police followed only 8 steps, and resorted to third degree methods to make the victim confess to the crime. The report also discussed the Juvenile Justice Act of India. It was concluded that detention, ill treatment, and torture of street children by police in India has reached epidemic proportions. Despite widespread recognition of the problem, little has been done to address it. Victims are generally poor and members of low caste groups or minorities, and have no family members to intercede on their behalf. Government should implement all the reforms of National Police Commission. An independent agency should be set-up that is accessible to street children and that can promptly and thoroughly investigate their complaints. The existing law should be amended to ensure that mandatory medical examination is done, and implementation of law does not result in criminalizing children, below the legal age, who are forced to work.

Ghosh, Kum Kum. (2001).

On the threshold : the journey begins. New Delhi : Save the Children (UK).
110 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.CHILD ABUSE 4.CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE 5.EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN 6.CHILD TRAFFICKING 7.CINI ASHA PROJECT 8.HOMELESS CHILDREN 9.SAVE THE CHILDREN PROGRAMME 10.FOREIGN FUNDING 11.COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

Abstract : This study, both exploratory and action oriented, was conducted in 6 slum areas of Calcutta and 2 red light areas, namely Rambagan and Sethbagan. A sample of 327 households having children in the age group 6-16 years were selected for ascertaining the situation of victims; 155 households from Sealdah station, red light areas, slums, commercial places and observation homes for juvenile delinquents were selected to determine multi-factorial causes of child abuse; 50 individuals from different groups of society were selected to understand societal perceptions on child abuse; and 9 children from Sealdah platform and 31 from Rambagan red light area were selected to document attitudinal and behavioural changes resulting from specific inputs to abused and high-risk children. Data was collected through interviews, focus group discussions and participant observation. It was found that the incidence of children abused at their work place was higher in households with

higher income and higher education levels. Children worked 6-11 hours outside their homes besides doing their household chores. Children in the red light area received better care than those in slums, but were easy targets for being befriended by liquor/drug peddlers and criminal gangs. Children living in Muslim dominated slums had a lesser degree of parental care and nutrition. Runaway children had poor interpersonal relationship with either of their parents than those living with their families and a majority of them were subjected to aggressive, domineering or indifferent treatment. Low economic status and illiteracy was also found to be a contributory factor. Awareness on child abuse was limited to child labour, neglect and exploitation through commercial vices. Physical and emotional abuse was not considered as other forms of abuse. High income group felt that the incidence of abuse, especially substance abuse, was more prevalent in low income families, while the latter viewed employers and businessman of higher income brackets as the main perpetrators of child abuse. With respect to impact of abuse, the low income group identified family disturbances, increase in rate of crime, and threat to social harmony as the after effect of child abuse, while high income/skilled group showed least concern for the after-effects of child abuse. Information collected was used for developing a psycho-social profile of the selected children, for planning specific interventions for each child, and for assessing the nature and extent of change in children during the course of the programme.

Gupta, Reeti. (2000).

Social support on the railway station experience of street children.
New Delhi : Lady Irwin College, Deptt. of Child Development. 47 p.

*Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.RAILWAY STATION
4.RAILWAY PLATFORM 5.SOCIAL SUPPORT 6.SUPPORT MEASURE.*

Abstract : This study was conducted to examine street children's perception about the support systems in their environment. The sample consisted of 30 boys in the age group of 8-12 years living at New Delhi Railway Station. Data was collected in the form of descriptive information through interview schedules for boys and social workers at the NGO and also using picture cards. It was found that the boys had been on the railway station any time from three days to three years. The study showed that these boys sought help primarily in times of difficulty. They approached the police, the social workers and their friends to cope with their problems, to seek advice, to play and spend their time. It was found that new

children relied on the police for help in difficult situations whereas older children had faith on the social worker or their friends. With the passage of time and their experiences at the Railway station, they realize that policemen harassed them and were not a reliable source of help. The social workers were found to be an unbiased source of help, reliable, non-exploitative and wise persons. Friends were a consistent source of help regarding financial and emotional matters. They considered peers significantly important for relaxation and sharing their experiences. The study recommended that there was a need for bringing about attitudinal changes regarding negative perceptions of the people towards street children. It also emphasized the need to provide educational-cum-vocational training to these children. Street children must be given due coverage in welfare programmes and should not be considered only a section of the child labourers population.

Joshi, Harish, Visaria, Leela and Bhat, Rajesh. (2006).

Children without childhood. Ahmedabad : Ahmedabad Study Action Group.
63 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.AHMEDABAD 4.PROBLEMS OF STREET CHILDREN 5.GUJARAT.

Abstract : Street Children is a global urban phenomenon and their number is increasing. Among them, the children who have runaway from their homes and are struggling for survival on their own, and those who have no families are the most vulnerable. This study was conducted in response to a need expressed at a large GO-NGO meeting in Ahmedabad to discuss child rights. This study endeavours to bring to light some details of the lives of these vulnerable street children so that those working with them get clues to devise their strategies for operation. The study was conducted at the main Kalupur Railway Station and under the nearby Sarangpur bridge. 153 street children were interviewed to find out the reasons for leaving home, place of stay, duration of stay, occupations followed, earning and expenditure, harassment, treatment of sickness, willingness to study and feelings about being away from homes and family members. For the in depth study 34 street children were interviewed. NGO officials, hotel owners where street children went for meals, owners of food stalls at Kalupur Railway Station, and traders who were contact with these children cast insight on this issue. Out of 153 street children, three were girls (2%) and these were also not on the street but interviewed at the Observation

Home for Girls situated in Odhav where they were kept. More than 50% of the street children were 15 to 17 years or older, children aged 8-10 years were about 8%, and the rest were between 11-14 years. Nearly 33% of the children were literate and 58% had received some primary education ranging between Classes 1-7. Nearly 10% had studied beyond Class 7. As nearly 66% of the street children had some schooling, re-entry into the school system and resumption of their education could be done with the help of 'bridge courses', and connecting them with the National Open School System to help in their rehabilitation. However, children's lack of will, attractiveness of street life and sense of independence, fear of formal schools and punishment meted to children by teachers, language barriers, paper work, delays/ hurdles, absence of good bridge courses, and most importantly, the main stream school system's insensitivity to the special needs of such children were hurdles. Most of the children could communicate in Hindi and Gujarati languages. Only 5 of the 34 children interviewed in-depth were unable to write in any language. 40% children were from Gujarat, and the rest were from Uttar Pradesh (13%), Bihar (12%), Madhya Pradesh (7%), Maharashtra and Rajasthan (13%). 14% came from Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and West Bengal, and also Nepal from where three children came. About 16% of the children had come with their relatives or friends, but could not specify whom they met first after coming to Ahmedabad. To survive street children (SC) undertook a variety of occupations - bottle picking (22.9%), cleaning train compartments and begging (5.9%), plying pedal rickshaws (10.5%), helping as cooks (9.2%), selling items (8.5%), working at tea/ snack stalls (9.8%), rag picking (12.4%), and other occupations (14.4%). On an average SC worked 7.7 hours a day; younger children spent 7.5 hours a day working, and older children spent 7.8 hours a day. 45% SC had stayed in Ahmedabad for more than 2 years, 26 children had been there for less than a month, and of them 8 had not yet found any gainful work. SC woke up early in the morning, 12.4% children between 3 and 4 a.m., 34.6% children between 5 and 6 a.m., 26.8% at 7 a.m., and 26.1% had no fixed time. SC spent their money on food (78.4%), *gutkha*/ smoking (55.6%), cinema (17.0%), gambling (14.4%), drugs (13.1%), and other things (20.9%). Children who saved money were bottle picking (Rs. 32/ day), rag picking (Rs. 22/ day), pedal rickshaw pullers (Rs.48/ day), helping cooks (Rs. 54/ day), selling items (Rs.64/ day), working at tea/ snack stalls (Rs.25/ day), cleaning train compartment (Rs.51/ day) and in other occupations (Rs. 50/ day). Among the reasons for leaving home were harassment by family members (38.6%), being orphans (15.7%), for earning (13.7%), fight with friend/ teacher/ family (7.8%), did not want to study (8.5%), family disintegration

(3.3%), other reasons (12.4%). When SC fell sick they generally went to a medical store for self medication (27.5%), Government hospital (23.5%), private clinic (13.7%), NGO centre at station (13.7%), and 33 (21.6%) children had never fallen sick after leaving home. 85% of the children were addicted to drugs. The most essential services required by street children were night shelter (61.8%), clothes (38.2%), medical treatment (26.5%), toilet and bathroom (23.5%), education (20.6%), food (11.8%) regular employment (5.9%), financial assistance (2.9%) and other services (20.6%). SC should be rehabilitated by Government and NGOs. For legislation to be effective, measures encompassing education, employment and income generation, and child welfare must accompany it. The phenomenon of street children cannot be eliminated in a short spell of time. The focus also has to be on improving the living conditions of SC and protecting them from exploitation for which well coordinated and committed efforts are required.

Maran, A. Arul. (1997).

The Unheard cry : survey on street children of Coimbatore City.
Coimbatore : Don Bosco Anbu Illan,. 96 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE 2. STREET CHILDREN.

Abstract : The problem of street children is a world wide social reality. Both, the Government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have initiated programmes for the welfare and rehabilitation of street children. But the needs and the problems of street children usually differ from one place to another. Hence, this study has been undertaken to enumerate the street children in Coimbatore city; find out their needs and problems; and suggest future course of action for their welfare and non-governmental organizations to take necessary action to brighter up the lives of thousands of children in the city. The survey was undertaken in all 72 wards. Any boy or girl below the age of 19 years who was found loitering, working or sleeping on the street was interviewed. The enumeration of street children showed that there were about 17,000 children on the streets of Coimbatore in the age group of 6 to 19 years. A majority of them were boys, Hindus (84%), and most of them were educated. Most of them had been on the streets for 1 to 3 years, and poverty was the reason for their being on the streets. 57% street children were from urban areas and 43% were from rural areas. The fathers and mothers of 61%

street children were illiterate, and only 11% children said that both of them were educated, most of them only upto 5th standard. A vast majority of the fathers of street children were alcoholics (69%). It was found that 73% of the street children were forced to come to the street because of various family problems and not due to any fault of their own, i.e disintegration of the family, etc. Many children aged 11-15 years left home due to alcoholic parents. 54% of the street children were picking rags/ cups/ plastic glasses, while 15% were begging for a living. 72% of the urban children did not want to go back to school, but 36% rural children wanted to go back to school. It was found that 55% of the street children slept on the roadside, 22% slept at home, 8% slept in public places like parks and under bridges, while the remaining 15% slept at their work place. About 41% of the street children were affected by ordinary sicknesses, 10% suffered from serious illness like TB, and the others were healthy. 17% of the street children expected technical training from NGOs, 13% wanted only monetary help, and 10% wanted shelter from NGOs. The other expectations of street children were medical help (5%), counselling (8%), recreation (1%) employment (1%) and education (7%), and 1% did not have any expectations. Street children desired that they should be respected as human beings and accorded their due rights. More than monetary help children expect love and understanding from society which has alienated them. More shelter homes should be started, specially for girls; technical training and employment opportunities should be provided; and efforts should be made to re-integrate the child in the family.

OASES, Organization for Applied Socio-Economic Systems, New Delhi. (1999).
Evaluation of welfare programmes for street children in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. New Delhi : OASES. ~80 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.PROGRAMMES FOR STREET CHILDREN 4.WELFARE PROGRAMMES FOR STREET CHILDREN 5.DELHI 6.UTTAR PRADESH.

Abstract : Children roaming the streets are a common sight in India and such children live in an environment of poverty, unhealthy conditions, ignorant about personal hygiene and nutrition, and are vulnerable to many infections/ diseases and nutritional deficiency. The present study assessed the functioning of various projects as part of the IPSC (Integrated Programme for Street Children) being run by select non-governmental organizations for welfare of street children, including

children who were either orphans or abandoned by their parents; and to assess their present status. Information was supplied by 3 organisations from Delhi and 4 from Uttar Pradesh, and a sample of 400 children were selected, 200 children each from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. A majority of children (61.8%) were in the age group of 11-15 years, only 5.5% children were in the age group 16-20 years, and the remaining 42.8% were between 6-10 years. Majority of children (49%) had studied up to Standard III, 39.7% children had studied up to Standard VI, and 11% were illiterates. Around 61% children were staying with their parents on the roadside. 53.8% children got information about the shelter/ daycare centre from the NGO/ social worker. 38% children had been staying at the shelter/ day care centre for more than 3 years, while rest had been there for less than one year. 28% children reported that they had facilities of bathrooms, separate bedding and space to sleep, and around 80% children mentioned that they were given food and drinking water, first aid and medical help, books to read, toys and indoor game facilities. Nearly 53% children had access to television, 72.9% children mentioned that they had counsellors/ social workers to talk to, and 43.8% said that NGOs had organized interesting activities, gatherings and sessions. Majority of children (54.5%) mentioned that they were given only one meal per day, and 20.5% got two meals. Around 44% children went to formal schools. Nearly 81.3% children mentioned that they did not face any problem in day-care centres/ shelters. Only 18.3% children reported that they had heard about 1098 and the rest were not aware of any helpline/ Childline. Of the 7 organisations, only two organizations in Delhi had Childline and shelter programmes, and no organization in Uttar Pradesh had these programmes. About 75.8% children had undergone vocational training such as tailoring, weaving, candle making, envelope making, etc., while 23.8% had not been trained. All the organizations reported that they never expelled any child from the shelter/ daycare centres. All the project organisers said that the funds arrived late, which put them to hardship. Poor infrastructure, overcrowding, shortage of staff, and poor quality of water and sanitation were other traits of the shelters/ daycare centres. Concerted efforts have to be made to check children joining the ranks of street children. This calls for proper implementation of poverty alleviation programmes, women's empowerment, and effective implementation of schemes providing affordable health and education facilities to all.

Pagare, Deepti et al. (2004).

Sexual abuse of street children brought to an observation home. New Delhi : Maulana Azad Medical College, Dept. of Community Medicine. 6 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE 3.SEXUAL ABUSE BOYS 4.ABUSE IN INSTITUTIONS 5.INSTITUTIONAL CARE 6.STREET CHILDREN 7.EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN 8.OBSERVATION HOMES 9.DELHI.

Abstract : WHO estimates that globally 8% boys and 25% girls below age 18 suffer sexual abuse of some kind every year. Sexual abuse of children in India occurs across all socio-economic classes and is widespread among boys and girls, both in rural and urban areas. Perpetrators of sexual abuse find their victims in wide ranging situations, and homeless boys, living in an unprotected environment on streets, make easy prey for sexual abuse. The study was conducted at an Observation Home for Boys in Delhi where non-delinquent male juveniles aged 6-18 years are temporarily detained. All the boys admitted for the first time to the Observation Home between May to October 2002 were included. The boys were requested to undergo examination in a separate room by the Medical Officer, based on the Guidelines of American Medical Association (AMA, 1985) for Primary Care Physicians for diagnosis of suspected sexual abuse. All the boys were assured confidentiality and none was forced to undergo physical examination against his will. A total of 202 boys were willing for clinical examination, but the final sample consisted of 189 boys. Among the 178 subjects living away from families, 62.9% had left home between 6 to 10 years of age. Overall, 38.1% boys reported sexual abuse, with use of force ranging from 4.8% to 23.8%. Over 15% boys reported penetrative sexual abuse. The maximum proportion of abuse was reported in the age group of 8-10 years (42.9%). The mean age at abuse was reported as 9.13 ± 2.4 years. Most children (93.2%) reported the incident to be within 2-3 weeks of leaving home. All boys reported single episode of sexual abuse except four. The maximum proportion of incidents occurred during late evening or at night (59.2%). 22.2% cases occurred during the day. Most children (76.2%) were abused at railway stations, about 4% were abused at the work place, and 1.4% at some other Observation Home. Among the 72 abused children, 44 (61.1%) had some physical sign of abuse while 29 (40.2%) showed behavioural signs of sexual abuse. 18 boys had signs suggestive of sexually transmitted diseases, and this also increased their vulnerability to HIV infection. The problem of sexual abuse among inmates of Observation Homes is grave and requires urgent remedial action. The period of detention at Observation Homes may be utilized for identification of the victims and their proper medical, social and

psychological rehabilitation to prevent further abuse. Concerned authorities should take appropriate action and make efforts to create safe living conditions for all children, including street children.

Pathak, S.N. (1998).

Socio-economic background of street children : a study in Uttar Pradesh.
Lucknow : B.L. Centre for Development Research and Action. ~100 p.

Key Words: 1.DESTITUTE 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS 4.PARENT ATTITUDE 5.WELFARE SERVICES 6.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

Abstract : This study was undertaken with the objectives of identifying street children and their families, to study the attitude of parents towards the needs of their children, to evaluate the welfare services provided by NGOs and government organisations, and suggest remedial measures for better implementation of welfare programmes. The sample comprised 75 slum dweller families from Lucknow and Hardoi having a monthly income of Rs. 800 or less, with working children below 14 years of age. The study discussed the socio-economic profile of selected households, factors associated with the incidence of street children, institutionalized children and non-institutionalized children to assess the status of these children. Findings revealed that majority of householders were illiterate and were engaged in rickshaw pulling, garbage collection and begging. Majority of the children were not going to school due to poor economic conditions and being occupied with gainful employment such as rag picking, shoe polishing, begging, etc. They did not have access to civic facilities and basic amenities. Migration, environmental degradation, economic stagnation and urbanization were the major factors responsible for their becoming street children. Institutionalized children received refreshment, health services and vocational training. In spite of the fact that a large proportion of the non-institutionalized children were aware of rehabilitation and welfare programmes, they could not avail the benefits. The study recommended adopting a multi-pronged approach to facilitate the proper personality development of street children; arranging informal elementary education and suitable vocational training to street children, and providing financial assistance to the families of street children. Shelters should be made for those children who do not stay with their families. More rehabilitation centres should be established through local NGOs/VOs to provide training and education to street children. These

institutions, NGOs/VOs, should be provided funds so that they are able to provide the required facilities to street children.

Prayas, New Delhi. (2007).

Children on the wheels : issues of child protection and the situational assessment exercise of the railway children in New Delhi Railway Station : a Prayas Sathi joint report. New Delhi : Prayas. 23 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.RAILWAY PLATFORM 4.RAILWAY STATION 5.CHILDREN IN NEED 6.EXPLOITATION CHILDREN 7.STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN 8.PLATFORM CHILDREN 9.NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION 10.DELHI.

Abstract : A large number of platform, street and working children use railway platforms for their survival. Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre recognized the need for carrying out an intervention study at the railway platform. Therefore a survey was conducted by a joint team of volunteers and coordinators with the cooperation of Northern Railways, Railway Protection Force, Infosys Foundation, Saga Charitable Trust and Railway Children (UK). The study assessed the number of children who leave home; where they come from; the problems faced by them when they actually land up on New Delhi Railway Platform; and recommend child protection strategies which could be undertaken in partnership. The study involved professional researchers, porters, higher level authorities and groups of street and working children. During the study period, it was observed that approximately 150 children came to the railway station on a daily basis. 795 children were selected for interview. The children working on platforms were between 6-18 years. Among them 1% were around 6 years old, 12% were between 8-11 years old, 50% were between 12-15 years, and 37% were between 16-18 years. 42.27% children had been staying on the platform for between 1 day to 2 months, 28.18% children had been staying at the platform for between 3 months to 13 years. Children who had been staying on the platform for more than 1 year were very much addicted to living on the platforms and they were not willing to go back home. About 24.66% children had a single parent, 7.16% children were orphans, 5.91% children did not know whether their parents were alive or not. Most of these children's parents were very poor and daily wage earners. About 13% children were found begging on the platforms, 8% children swept the platforms, 32% children worked in the shops/ kiosks/ *dhabas*, railway luggage office, etc, 10% children were rag pickers and 37% children were not doing any work but were just idlers. 52% children were happy staying on the platform,

6% were angry, and 27% children felt scared/ fearful staying on the platform. 15% children were confused as to whether they were happy or fearful. 46.03% children were addicted to consuming drugs, solutions, alcohol, smoking, etc. 47.93% of the children were not addicted to any substance. Information about 6.04% children could not exactly be ascertained. Daily earnings of the children were between Rs. 50-300. 26.66% children earned between Rs. 50-100 per day; 58.49% children earned between Rs. 100-200 rupees / day; and 14.85% children earned between Rs. 200-300 per day. The usual working hours of these children were between 5-12 hours a day. 26.67% children worked between 5-7 hours; 61.38% children worked between 7-10 hours; and 11.95% children worked 10-12 hours a day. The main reason for children to run away from home were fights with their parents/ siblings, etc., for education, for repaying a loan, for freedom, due to abject poverty, etc. 11.95% spent most of their money on cigarettes or alcohol, 47.79% gambled, and 16.35% children spent their money on movies, traveling, etc. 23.90% children spent their income on their home. It was recommended that there is a definite need for NGOs like Prayas, Sathi, Government departments and other concerned NGOs to be available constantly on railway stations with a variety of child protection services. NGOs should concentrate more on providing direct support to these children and make them understand that their life is more comfortable and safe at their home rather than on the platform. A special centre for drug de-addiction and counselling should be established. There should be good shelter home facilities for these children. There is a definite need to create a database of children who are placed at homes and missing children, and develop child tracking system with the cooperation of Police and National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Sharada, D. (2000).

Knowledge and attitudes of street children on family life education.
Perspectives in Social Work, 15(1) : 33-38.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE
4.FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Abstract : Street children are a growing phenomenon of modern times, especially in the urban areas of developing countries which are faced with the process of rapid and unplanned urbanization. A well integrated family life education (FLE) programme specially designed to suit the needs of street children may bring desired changes and prepare them for their future. The study assessed the knowledge, attitude and need for family life education of 100 street children, rehabilitated in centres run by a

local NGO (PASS). The independent variables studied were family size, family type, family literacy index, family income, birth order and age. FLE knowledge package covered concept of family; functions, roles and relationships; responsibilities and rights; life cycle; family size; health, nutrition and psychosocial needs; puberty and changes in body; management of family resources; mate selection; pregnancy and child birth; family planning; care of children and parenting and family welfare services. Results indicated that majority of the boys (53.85%) had run away from their families, 29.23% boys and 77.14% girls were destitutes, and 16.92% boys and 22.86% girls were deserted by their families. The age of boys and girls approximately ranged between 13-15 years and majority of them were from low income families living below the poverty line. The family literacy index of majority of the children was low between 5-10. Fathers of most of the respondents were daily wagers, followed by government and private sector employees and self employed. The mean family life education (FLE) knowledge scores of boys (103.06) and girls (115.03) indicated that the girls had slightly higher scores than the boys, while boys had higher positive attitudes than girls, and they varied more in their attitudes towards family life education than girls. FLE knowledge of street children was associated with family size and income. The findings also revealed that family life education had an impact on the respondents, which may help them to develop positive attitudes towards family life.

Shweta. (1999).

A Study on the family environment, economic status and psychological hurdles faced by selected street children (10-15 years). Tamil Nadu : Avinashilingam Ins for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore. 56 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.ECONOMIC STATUS 4.STREET CHILDREN BIHAR 5.ROLE OF NGO 6.WELFARE SCHEME 7.PROBLEM OF STREET CHILDREN

Abstract : A study on the family environment, economic status and psychological hurdles faced by selected street children (10-15 years) was undertaken in Patna. One hundred street children comprising 75 boys and 25 girls in the age group of 10 to 15 year were selected by random sampling method from commercial zones, railway platforms and Ren Basera. Interview method was used to elicit information from respondents. It was revealed that 69% of the street children were from families

where both the parents lived together. 93% of the fathers and 99% of mothers of the street children were illiterate. 87% were below poverty line. Twelve per cent came from step parent family and 16% belonged to single parent family. Three per cent had no parents. Majority of street children were from unhealthy family environment. Seventy three per cent of children families had frequent quarrels and heated arguments. Majority of the children were subjected to verbal, physical violence and abuse. Poverty (70%) alcoholism and family violence (38%), broken home (33%), neglect of parents (23%) and conflict with parents (21%) were the most commonly mentioned reasons by the children for leaving home. Ninety three per cent of street children were working in various un-organised and informal sectors. The major forms of exploitation stated by both the boys and girls were over work (48%), inadequate wages (47%), no rest between work (45%), use of abusive language (44%), and excessive scolding (26%). It was recommended that extensive plan of action should be formulated by voluntary organisations, Ministry of Welfare and all the social institutions.

Subhasis Ray. (2008).

Integrated programme for street children : an evaluation. New Delhi: NIPCCD. 189 p.

Key Words: 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.STREET CHILDREN 3.INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR STREET CHILDREN 4.STREET CHILDREN PROGRAMME 5.PROGRAMMES STREET CHILDREN 6.PROBLEMS OF STREET CHILDREN 7.PROBLEMS OF FUNCTIONARIES.

Abstract : Street children are often subjected to harassment and eviction in India. The main objective of the present study was to identify the types of children that are covered under different projects run under the Street Children Scheme; the extent to which facilities are being provided to them, as envisaged in the scheme; the main occupations children are engaged in; the nature and extent of nutrition and food, health and shelter facilities given to them. About 50% of the 61 voluntary organizations (VOs) were studied. From each VO two centres (eg. 24 hour Drop-in Shelter and/ or Contact Point/ Club) were selected. From each centre 7 street children belonging to 3 different age groups (<8 years, between 8-14 years, >14 years) were selected. In all 762 schedules were administered. Other respondents were Chief Functionary (61), Supervisory Functionary (59), Opinion Leaders (61), Employers (175), and Government Functionaries (20). About 117 Centre Observation Schedules were also filled in, bringing the total responses to 1433. Study was initiated in June 2006 in 26 States/ UTs of India. VOs were selected

proportionately from all States/ UTs. 4.4% VOs were established with the objectives of working in the area of counselling, rehabilitation, job placements, etc. 41% voluntary organizations were working in the area of education, more particularly non-formal education. In 12 states a majority of the organizations were working for welfare of the underprivileged sections of society. 51% VOs were working with women. 11% organizations were working with youth and adolescents. 15% organizations were also working with the aged population, whereas, 13% organizations were working with mentally challenged persons. 8 organizations (13.11%) were working with working children, 4 organizations (6.56%) were working with destitute children, 3 organizations (4.92%) were working with children of sex workers, and as many organizations were working with orphan children. It was found that most of the centres (73.58%) fell in the category of Contact Points/ Clubs/ Day Care Centres. About 19% employers mentioned that they provided shelter to the children working with them. 41.71% employers mentioned they provided free medical aid to children, 57% employers provided other amenities such as shoes (30.86%), free clothing (20.57%), meals (5.71%), festival gifts (3.43%), and umbrellas (0.57%). More than 70% employers allowed children to take leave on medical grounds. However, about 43% employers did not allow the children any weekly holiday. 50% employers either encouraged the children to go to school or taught them at their own level. Amazingly, majority of the respondents reported that they extended entertainment facility to the children such as radio (38.29%), television (38.86%), indoor games (13.71%), magic shows (12%), movies (5.71%), and outside trips (1.14%). 72.82% children mentioned that lack of proper shelter was one of the major problems they encountered in life. 20.17% children aged 8-14 years and 22.80% children above 14 years of age mentioned that starvation was the major problem they faced in life. Police harassment (16.71% and 12.95% respectively); rape (0.58% and 0.52% respectively); sexual exploitation (3.17% and 3.63% respectively); commercial exploitation (12.39% and 9.33% respectively); a grave injury/ disability/ disease (20.75% and 20.21% respectively); substance abuse (3.75% and 7.77% respectively); drug peddling or smuggling (1.73% and 4.66% respectively), and other problems (8.07% and 16.58% respectively) were the traumas faced by children aged 8-14 years and above 14 years. Information was also gathered regarding the aspirations of beneficiaries. The most overwhelming response in this regard was to 'earn lots of money' (33.33% in below 8 years, 43.80% in 8-14 years, and 49.22% in above 14 years age group). The second highest response was to 'teach at a school' (28.38% below 8 years, 21.90% 8-14 years, 23.32% above 14 years). 85% Opinion Leaders confirmed their help and support to the Centres. They also motivated the community to cooperate with the Centre Staff (69.23%), participate in

programmes/ activities of the Centre (69.23%), identified and enrolled children (61.54%), solved problem/ difficulties faced by the Centre (46.15%), helped in enrolling children in formal schools (42.30%), helped in ensuring cleanliness of the Centre and surroundings (36.54%), and provided financial and material help (23.08%). There were other activities/ work they would like to carry out. It was recommended that the ratio of Centre to Project Coordinator should not be more than 5:1 to facilitate close and regular supervision of the Centres. The size of the room/ space where the Centres are being run should be commensurate with the number of children attending. Periodic awareness generation campaigns should be launched. Provision of vocational training to children would enable them to earn a living with the skills learnt.

UNESCO, New Delhi. (2001).

Education for street and working children in India. New Delhi : UNESCO.
232 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.STREET CHILDREN EDUCATION 3.VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION STREET CHILDREN 4.STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN 5.SCHOOL DROPOUT 6.OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN 7.SUCCESS STORY 8.BEST PRACTICE.

Abstract : The study assessed and evaluated the programme of education for children in difficult circumstances, with special reference to street and working children in India. The objectives of the study were to examine the initiatives of the Government, international and voluntary sectors for eradication, rehabilitation and education of street and working children; examine the quality of teaching - learning material, teaching aids and teaching methods; measure the level of skills learnt by the enrolled students; and identify teaching - learning material packages which can be further improved. The study, conducted in 2000, was based on field surveys of 45 NGOs, and was conducted in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Varanasi, Allahabad, Bhubaneswar, Ferozabad, Mirzapur, Shikohabad and Sivakasi. Data was also collected through informal group discussions and personal observations. Street children were categorized into children on the street and children of the street, and further classified into two groups, namely roofless and roofless rootless. The Institute of Socio-Economic Change, Bangalore reported that 35 per cent of children dropped out in the first two years of schooling. The number of out - of - school children in Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Bangalore was estimated to be 12.92%. The state of Andhra Pradesh (9.98%) had the highest incidence of child labour and Punjab (3.04%)

recorded the lowest proportion of child labour. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched two programmes for children, namely 'Child Help Line Services' and 'Government - NGO - Corporate Sector Participation in Children's Homes'. Children need protection from abuse in the cities. Preventive measures required were support to families in poverty, creating broad - based awareness among parents and society, addressing the factors underlying family disintegration, providing employment for adults, and support in times of crisis, strong childcare programmes, relevant schooling, psychological support to children, and efforts to address the roots of domestic violence to keep families intact. It was found that there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of out - of - school children from 50 to 30 % during 1991 to 1995-96. The findings indicate that the enrolment of children in school helps in curtailing child labour. It was observed that the reasons for not sending children to school included lack of awareness, poverty and expensive schooling. It was found that there were 2.5 million out - of - school children surveyed and a majority of them were 'on the street' category of children (68%). 'Of - the - street' category of children usually succumb to drug abuse, alcoholism, sexual assaults and are convicted for petty thefts. These children are unaware of the existence of several agencies providing support to them. The majority of NGOs surveyed did provide non-formal education (NFE) to these children but only 25% of these NGOs provided day/night shelters, healthcare, clothing and vocational skills. More boys were enrolled in NFE centres run by NGOs but girls were adequately enrolled in a number of government funded NFE schools. 75% of the enrolled children in NFE schools were from 'on- the - street' category and the remaining 25% were from 'of - the - street' category. Only 27% of the enrolled children were working and their earnings were meager, thus the general belief that children are not enrolled in schools because of their earnings, is not supported by the results of this study. There was need to appoint qualified teachers with relevant training skills, bring uniformity in the course structure and improve the curriculum. There is a need to further develop the teaching - learning materials developed by some NGOs. Government should recognize elementary education as a fundamental right and take steps to eliminate child labour. A nodal agency should be formed to converge various activities for these children. Government, local authority, civil society and NGOs should work together. The ultimate goal should be mainstreaming of all children in the formal education system. UNESCO should strengthen national efforts to provide education for all by 2015 A.D. Government of India must increase the budget allocation for elementary education. Accountability of NGOs and regular monitoring of activities must be an integral component of Government funded educational programmes.

Terrorist Violence/ Victims of Violence

Dabla, Bashir Ahmed. (1999).

Impact of conflict situation on women and children in Kashmir : report of the research project. Srinagar : Kashmir Univ., Department of Sociology. 90 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.TERRORIST VIOLENCE 3.CHILD VICTIM OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE 4.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES 5.WOMEN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES 6.CHILD VICTIM 7.ARMED CONFLICT 8.JAMMU AND KASHMIR 9.WOMEN AND CHILDREN 10.IMPACT OF VIOLENCE 11.VIOLENCE AND WOMEN.

Abstract : Study was conducted in 6 districts of Kashmir valley that suffered severely due to militancy, namely Baramulla, Srinagar, Kupwara, Pulwama, Anantnag and Budgam. The objectives of the study were to understand the prevailing conditions of life of widows and orphans after the death of their husbands and fathers, respectively; to know the nature and amount of support provided to them; to make an assessment of their well-being and future prospects with regard to health, education, personality development, income and gender; and also to provide a platform for the Government and non-government organizations for formulation of policy and programme implementation. The sample of the study comprised 300 widows and 300 orphans, who were all Muslim. The relevant information was collected through questionnaire and interview methods. It was found that 12.67% respondents had to shift to a new and unusual place of residence; while 57.66% returned to their parental place; 53.66% opted for living separately; and 18% preferred to stay with their in-law's family after the death of their husbands. Those who had to shift, cited specific reasons like relocation by their fathers or brothers, due to conflict with in-laws, harassment at the hands of in-laws, poverty of the family, burning of their houses, and remarriage of some widows. 13.33% women respondents had to go out of their homes to earn a living, while 86.33% were already working or were helped by either relatives, NGOs or neighbours, and earned an amount ranging from Rs.600/- to Rs.4000/- per month. Major source of financial support to the widows were relatives and individuals 33%, Government Organizations

33.66%, Non-Governmental Organizations 7.33%, others 1.33%, while 24.66% did not receive any support. After the death of their husband, parental families supported 56.67% women respondents, while their ex-husband's families supported 41.33% respondents. This support included financial help, clothing, shelter, school fees, food items and moral support. Remarriage of widows took place in 8.66% cases, while 91.33% widows did not go for remarriage. 89% of the women respondents decided not to marry in future, because of social security of their child/ children and due to their advanced age. Women in general developed three sets of problems - (i) emotional stress, denial of inheritance rights, sexual harassment and social undesirability; (ii) mismanagement of home affairs, losing control over children, and inferiority complex; (iii) loneliness, physical insecurity, over-burden of domestic and other works, and compulsion for remarriage. The survey revealed that 84.66% child respondents lived with their mothers, 4% with their uncle, 9% with mothers' father, and 2% with their father's father. These children faced problems like economic hardships, psychological setback, denial of love and affection, and apathy by relatives and friends. Total dropouts among child respondents were 57% during 1989-1999; 27% at primary level, 48% at middle level, and 25% at the matric and above level. Children who were not going to school were engaged in domestic work (3.65%), handicrafts (37.80%), automobile workshops (3.65%), non-governmental service (3.65%), and business houses (3.65%). These child workers felt that they got lesser wages and were exploited regularly. Child respondents got support from both non-governmental sources and governmental sources. They were mainly concerned about their career in future. Orphan children wanted money to take care of day-to-day expenses, formal education, cost of establishing a business, construction of their house, and others. It was recommended that there should be effective participation of all, especially NGOs in the purposeful and effective implementation of Government programmes and schemes. The future financial support system must not be individual oriented but must be institutionalised and must be made transparent. All financial and non-financial support extended by national and international agencies/organizations should be put together to make the programme more solid and effective, and also to save wastage of funds. Education, especially at the elementary stage, must be made compulsory for the orphans. Higher education expenses of meritorious and competent children should be borne by the Government. A check should be put on exploitation of child labour by fixing the wages and monitoring payments. Support systems must ensure fulfillment of basic needs of the families of widows and orphans without any discrimination.

Jong, Kaz de et al. (2006)

Kashmir : violence and health : a quantitative assessment on violence, the psychosocial and general health status of the Kashmiri population. Amsterdam, Netherlands : Medicines Sans Frontieres. 30 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.TERRORIST VIOLENCE 3.TERRORIST VIOLENCE VICTIMS 4.VICTIMS OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE 5.WOMEN AND CHILDREN 6.CHILD VICTIM 7.KASHMIR.
PICK UP FROM CHILD WELFARE

Abstract : The Kashmiri population living in India has been both witness to and victims of violence, involving a number of groups with different aims over the past few decades. The study focused on assessing psychosocial and general health status, as well as psychosocial coping mechanism of the Indian Kashmiri population. The survey was undertaken in two rural districts, namely Bedgam (Beerwah medical block) and Kupwara (Kralpora medical block) during mid 2005. Data showed that almost half of the respondents (48.1%) mentioned that they felt safe only occasionally or never, and they had to suffer crackdowns, frisking by security forces, round-up raids, damage to property, burning of houses, mistreatment, humiliation and threats. It was found that nearly one in ten people (9.4%) lost one or more members of their nuclear family because of violence. Violence or threat of physical violence seemed to have a significant effect on mental health. Just under half of those interviewed reported that they were unhappy to the extent that a substantial number of people admitted to having thoughts about ending their life (33.9%). A substantial number of people reported their physical health as being bad (22.7%) or very bad (7.1%) in the 30 days prior to the survey. Around 63.9% respondents reported that they visited clinics frequently, and some (15.3%) had visited doctors even four or more times in the past 30 days. Nearly half (49%) of those interviewed reported being able to carry out their usual activities for four or more days. Almost 11.6% interviewees mentioned that they had been victims of sexual violence since 1989. People dealt with stress by isolating themselves (22.3%) or becoming aggressive (16%). Among children the major effect of the violence reported was fear (24.6%). School related problems also scored high, such as being unable to attend school (15.5%). The study suggested there is urgent need of community based mental health services all over Kashmir. Also, health authorities should implement their stated policies, and prioritize the immediate implementation of community based psychiatric and counselling services in Kashmir.

Madhosh, A G, et al. (1999).

The Present turmoil and plight of children in Kashmir. Srinagar : Kashmir Univ, Faculty of Education. 61 p.

Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE 2.TERRORISM AFFECTED CHILDREN 3.TERRORIST VIOLENCE 4.VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN 5.CHILD VICTIM OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE 6.CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES; 7.IMPACT OF VIOLENCE

Abstract :: The study was conducted in Kashmir, covering 2000 people from four categories - child victims; parents and teachers; physicians; psychiatrists and other authorities connected with health and intellectuals, politicians, militants and security personnel to assess the damage done to the education of children during crisis; present empirical data on the educational achievements of victimized children; and to present data on the health hazards children undergo during crisis. It was observed that by December 1995, 550 educational institutions (including technical colleges and vocational centres) were burnt down and security personnel were living in many school buildings. The children who remained back in the disturbed Kashmir valley showed declining pass percentage compared to pre-turmoil educational statistics. It was found that a phase of temporary displacement did not interfere with the educational achievements of migrant children. Results revealed that strife in the violence torn valley liquidated the educational system, tore the age old socio-cultural fabric, and stress had a telling effect on the biophysical, psychological and social health of children. Intestinal complaints of diarrhoea and dysentery among children recorded an increase, and the number of children registered and admitted to hospitals also increased manifold in the last six years. None of the children aged 6-14 year fell victim to dehydration caused by fear psychosis and depression. Children also experienced frequent psychic disorders ranging from minor neurotic troubles to major psychotic ailments. In 1990, 1762 cases of psychological problems i.e sadness, despair, dejection, despondency, weeping, disturbances in sleep, etc. were treated, which rose to 17,584 cases in 1994, while the average number of new patients treated per day rose from six in 1990 to 59 in 1994. Fear of life being ended anytime created carelessness among youth, and children identified with aggression. Boys in school threatened school managements to get their demands met. More than 50,000 families were rendered homeless and were unable to protect their children. According to an official estimate, 10,000 Kashmiri families migrated to other places

and were still wandering from one place to another. Children suffered mainly due to frequent crackdowns and strikes (*hartal*), burning of education buildings and occupation of school buildings. It is recommended that children should have a peaceful environment to pursue their educational activities. It was also suggested that educational institutions should be repaired and reconstructed, and training should be imparted to science and math teachers through the correspondence/ distance mode by the Education Department of Kashmir University. Educated unemployed youth need to be assisted through employment schemes. A strong social support systems is needed so that normal development can continue.

Victims of Domestic Violence

Sengupta, Shampa. (2001).

Effects on children who witnessed abuse of their mothers. Kolkata :
Jadavpur Univ., School of Women's Studies. 31 p.

*Key Words : 1.DESTITUTE CHILD 2.DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 3.VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN
4.FAMILY VIOLENCE 5.IMPACT ON CHILDREN 6.WIFE ABUSE 7.VICTIM OF VIOLENCE
8.CHILD VICTIM 9.CHILD ABUSE.*

Abstract : The children who witness violence on their mothers in the family are affected in various ways. Often they remain neglected and hence are called 'victims of domestic violence'. In Indian society, very few services are available for women who face violence within their family as patriarchy accepts this violence as normal. This study documented the effects of violence on children/ adolescents who witnessed abuse of their mothers by their fathers; and compared the differences, if any, of the effects on boys and girls keeping in mind the fact that a girl is brought up to consider marriage to be the only goal of her life. Data was collected from professionals from different fields whose clients had experience domestic violence and their children. 250 mothers from Kolkata were selected for the study. Findings revealed that the use of violence towards children as a method of teaching discipline is still supported by a majority of adults in India. About 21% of the students undergo physical/ emotional abuse at their homes, and 26% admit witnessing the abuse of their mothers. Another very important aspect that came out of this study is how continuing abuse affects women's relationship with their children. Many women do their utmost to protect their children from abuse, and from the knowledge of the violence they are experiencing. The mother's silence makes it more difficult for the child to voice his/her experiences and feelings. A number of women expressed that all the pleasures and expectations they had from life depended on their children. It is normal for them to abuse their children if they fail to live up to the high standard of expectations these women have set up. These children often rationalize why their mothers behave in such a way. Though there are laws that try to protect the rights of children, is quite a difficult proposition to implement them. India is signatory to

both Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) and CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women). However, while handling cases practically, sometimes children's rights and women's rights are in conflict. Women who have been abused are often unable to prevent the abuse of their daughters. The study recommends that women need a safe environment to express their conflicts without this being defined as 'risk' to their children. It also recommends that the blame for any negative impact on the mother - child relationship lies solely with the perpetrator of violence. The harsh reality of domestic violence is that it affects a woman's ability to care. The impact continual physical attacks, verbal degradation, emotional torture and social isolation can have upon a woman's life should never be underestimated or minimized. Women in such situations will try very hard to hold a family together and to maintain stability. Being 'caught in the middle' of domestic violence can have adverse effects on a child. Every child's experience of this conflict is different and every child utilizes different coping mechanisms to deal with the situation. Such coping mechanisms are unique to each child and determine how a child will react to domestic violence.