THE PSYCHOSOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE STREET CHILDREN

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Abstract

Aims. The researcher aims to examine the psychosocial problems of street children such as, family patterns, street life collaboration, adverse effects of poor/weak home management, influence of environment, critical role of social values, genetic effects and cultural aspects in Lahore, Pakistan. **Method.** *The interview guide emerged, consists of the 36 questions, which was based on the semi-structured interviews of the street children. This guide was then conducted on the 10 selected students, to collect qualitative research data. To assess the emotional quotient of the street children, Baron Emotional Quotient (EQ) Inventory Youth Version was used in this study.* **Result.** *Findings revealed children with low EQ have low level of resistance and adaptability level. Qualitative results found some major themes on the basis of qualitative analysis, such as; On street child, social life cycle of human, nonstandard behavior, rebelliousness, destruction, family structure, family change, socialization, thought and emotive developments and Withdrawals.* **Conclusion.** *Moreover, results concluded that these factors lead children to become street children. In addition, findings showed that the children face demoralizing surroundings at home and streets, which leads them towards destruction, rebelliousness and deleterious personality.*

Keywords: Psychosocial Problems, Street Children, Qualitative Study, Pakistan

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1. Introduction

The purpose of the present study was to examine the psychosocial problems of street children such as, family patterns, street life collaboration, adverse effects of poor/weak home management, influence of environment, critical role of social values, genetic effects and cultural aspects in Lahore, Pakistan. It's a very stimulating area at today's Pakistani community. The researcher wants to articulate about a responsibility which only few Pakistanis would not find escape from. Nevertheless, it is likewise true and agreeable that the future of Pakistani children, and the future of this country, is being visible daily in its different hot spots such as the shopping centers, at its street traffic signals and different railway stations, some shrines, and at various tuck shops. Though, despite the coverage that this issue receives through media, but still somewhere between 1.3 and 1.6 elevation children are suspected to be on the streets of Pakistan's major cities. These children, whom regularly have been on the edge of turmoil, having no contact with their families, form one of the most disharmoniously spread sections of society and are neglected of serious rights such as right to use to housing, schooling and mental/healthcare.

In addition, it's been observed widely that the basic rights of street children are not already being shattered; they are vastly uncovered to the risk of being pinched and involved into offensive situations including schedules of the child doing labor, physical manipulation, drug abuse and helplessness to sexual manipulation, transferring and disorganized arrest and detention (Collins et al., 2009). These street children repeatedly several times involve in petty crime are unsurprising; many of these children are also opted into more systemized and regularized procedures of criminal activity which may be including membership into criminal and radical gangs.

Thus, the researcher wants that action be taken in a numerous ways; such as promoting at large scale, the human rights of all children, including those on the street; collective finances/jobs for the social segment, mainly educating and putting all essential efforts to take back street children to school keep on trying\monitoring throughout the specific stages for their families and the children themselves; assuring that health services are within the reach to these children on the street who are in horrible state of basic needs through Govt social funding.

Precisely a percentage of 71 of the inmates, are attending basic primary school education in the Pakistan. This indicates that roughly 23 billion inmates stand rundown and away from education facilities. The deficiency of education creates the hindrances and hurdles; without education, none is able to find work and must have appropriate salary. The 46% of the Pakistan, residents' \citizens are older than 21, and at a hazard level. Low economic class, poverty, physical and mental abuse, ignorance, depression, anxiety, inattention, and household hitches are the primary aspects that provoke children to adopt street life, which could be even more dangerous in return. Nevertheless, once they are out on the roads, on their individual basis, they find very little support, protection, empathy, safety, shelter and encounter hazards; threats then obtain excesses, groups of street people that are sometimes lethal too.

Significance of Study

Problem resolving is the primarily the key role of the researches. Street children's issues are felt nonstop by people in that research and may be giving hands in submission of the solutions to such tangled issues, finding beneficial for them at large. Researcher wants that the psychosocial aspects to be evaluated at a larger scale and point out important steps needed to modify the same to achieve certain broad goals, which may bring light in the hopeless life of the street children. Our all the social problems could be paying some certain social behaviors. Thus, by adapting the appropriate behaviors in same in the right directions, the street children's issues may be addressed positively.

Researcher also wants to move progressively in the awareness to follow the established policy to deal with social matters is one of the supports of this research. Low socio-economic factors, illiteracy, disturb family relations, child labor, drug addiction, etc. are concerns related to the street children's and to deal with these matters suitable procedure is requirement of the time. This research is also offering the same. The community researches pay to societal development modes. This research also develops scientific temper. By the help of the encouragement and novelty there may be established as a basic and applied fresh knowledge which may be go on the advance levels. All of these may add up progression of humanity. Information has a significant key role and that major key is driven and powerfully brought out by this research.

This research also acts as a tool for social sector planning, tentative estimates and to resume control over the issue. Each and every productive action needs to be planned by the stake holders so that their outcome may be forecasted and the differences between actual to the desirable outcome predicted needs to be measured. This research may pave the way for the social welfare extents. Psychosocial research is mostly a way of emphasizing what is upright for the society. By the statement of what is and what is not good for the low-cost running business, for the trades' skills, for the students of institutes, for the stock marketplaces and many other areas thus the social research helps to contribute to the society.

2. Method
2.1 Research Design
Qualitative research design used in present study. This design helps the researcher to explore the different factors who are helping to complete the research purpose. The aim of the present study was to examine the psychosocial problems of street children such as, family patterns, street life collaboration, adverse effects of poor/weak home management, influence of environment, critical role of social values, genetic effects and cultural aspects in Lahore, Pakistan. Therefore, the research design of the current research was qualitative research design.
2.2 Sample
The target population of the research included street children in Lahore, Pakistan.
2.3 Sample Size and Sampling Strategy
Purposive sampling technique was utilized to recruit sample. The sample of current research was 30 street children. This was done by researcher on the basis of G-Power analysis.

2.4 Assessment Measures
Research instruments utilized in the current study are:
2.4.1 Demographic Questionnaire.
Demographic sheet was established by the investigator to gather demographic data about the members. The detail comprised material about, age, gender, family system, and financial wealth of family, residence, socioeconomic status and family background etc.
2.4.2 The Bar-On Emotional Quotient Inventory
Youth Version (Bar-On EQ-i: YV) measures emotional intelligence, including the ability to understand feelings, empathize with others, and adapt to new and changing environments and contexts. This is the short form of this assessment. This scale has 40 items and used 4-point Likert scale. Cronbach's alpha reliability of BEQI was (α=.92).
2.4.3 Semi-Structure Interview
A semi-structured interview is a data collection method that relies on asking questions within a predetermined thematic framework. The present study used semi-structured interview guide with thirty-six questions with street children to collect data.

3. Results
IPA is an approach (Smith, 2004), which require full absorption of the researcher to interpret objectively the data. After selecting the interviews, the street children were given freedom to express their views as a group. Then they were interviews separately, which was actually needed. Then researcher started writing these adapted experiences of the street children. The next step was to taken to write themes which are coming steadily, as part of the in the initial notes. Ten superordinate themes developed from interpretative phenomenological analysis are presented along with the subthemes. The aim of the researcher is to sort clear about the psychosocial aspects of the street children.

Superordinate theme 1-Psychological Issues
Superordinate theme 2 -Social factors
Superordinate theme 3-Role of family
Superordinate theme 4–Economic conditions
Superordinate theme 5-Abuse

Table 3.1	
Superordinate theme 1- Psychological Issues	
Major themes	**Sub themes**
Self-perception and self-esteem street children	Parental up bringing styles, authoritative parenting.
Abuse and neglect	Rejection
Attitude, forcefulness and vulnerability	Lack of acceptance by family
Need of approval, affection and care	Restlessness
Helplessness and negative thoughts	Dominant attitude of siblings, parents or extended family
Blaming and labelling	Verbal abuse

Table 3.2	
Superordinate theme 2 - Social factors	
Major Themes	**Sub themes**
Migration and isolation	Dislocation of the family
Freedom and conducive environment	Home circumstances Willingness to run away from home
Low middle class	Anxious child

Table 3.3
Superordinate theme 3- Role of family

Major Themes	Sub themes
Quality time	Ignorance of habits developed
Non availability of hygiene products	Confused behavior of the child
Death of mother	Irresponsible behavior
Priority to elder sibling on younger child	Ignored, rejection feelings

Table 3.4
Superordinate theme 4- Economic Conditions

Major Themes	Sub themes
Fathers' illness	Threatening environment
Elder brothers' addiction	Frequent losses and doubts for child
Indebt	Budgeting issues, burden on child to borrow money or work
Frequent Hospitalization	Expenditure Bills costs and fears
The subjective experiences of domestic work	Financial crisis

Table 3.5
Superordinate theme 5- Abuse

Major Themes	Sub themes
Physical Abuse	Hurt Emotional Child
Sexual Harassment	Insecurity Fear
Neglect of Mother	Helplessness
Domestic Work	Emotional Physical Abuse Harassment

4. Discussion

The present study revealed important themes through IPA analysis such as, child rearing style, parental relations, its impact, parental dealing with children, neglect to their basic needs, wishes, right of freedom, forced labor or involving in begging, harsh behavior of elder sibling or from any member of the extended family and relatives etc. These are also contributing factors for a child to leave home, stay on street and finding their own place. Thinking patterns are very important but they are being neglected by their parents. When individual differences are ignored and typical submissive behavior is demanded from the child, it forces child to be a rebel. Then these rebels don't find any place at home, feelings of isolation, hatred, rejection, hurts them. Impulsivity generates rebels, which is not acceptable in our society so far. Previous literature also supported the findings of present study.

As per research study of Idrees and Manzoor (2012) focused a study in Gujranwala to assess the family and cultural factors that touch street children. They took 10 to 18 years old street children, whom spent some time on streets. The research concluded that low socioeconomic status, educational background, child labor issues, marital relations and family disputes plays vital role. These findings related with the current research as individual differences, role of family,

migrations, extended family role, financial issues, forced labor and self-esteem issues are the high lights of current results. The research findings of Ranal and Chaudhary (2012) which indicates that domestic conflicts produce social inequalities also relates to the current finding of this research, which indicates the important role of family in social recognition.

In addition, Iqbal (2018) research study primarily focused on personality issues, role of emotions, role of peers and street life of children. That result relates with the current research as individual factors, role of the immediate group, submissive attitude, personality traits are the highlights. Another study was conducted by Rizwan and Najam (2014) examines phenomena of psychological exploitation by parents in childhood and its after effects on mental health, relates very closely with the current research results, as parental neglect and its consequences are obvious. Their normal growth patterns also effect badly, effecting their personality and physical growth. This sad aspect come across by the street children, which separates them from the majority public, while at the same time labeling them as social tribulations.

Conclusion

This study concluded from the research that the parents neglect individual differences, creativity, ambitiousness, resilience and freedom of expression. That is the contributing factor that for their recognition, self-esteem, wishful filament, show of power, autonomy leads them to select their own paths and move accordingly. Their own wishes are not accepted by their parents and it's a painful state for them. Although they are emotionally low but still their passions need to be managed and understood in a better parenting style. Parents of low socioeconomic status usually like traditional family set ups, in which the children are supposed to be submissive and act without questioning. Thus, out of four or five siblings, one different child from each family feels chocked, fed up from their home environment and decide to run away. Resultantly, the street life seems a dream place of freedom for them. No knowing the difficulties, traumas, and tragedies along with threat which might happen on streets to them.

We can make a move in a large number of routes: upholding for the privileges of all youngsters, including those in the city; expanding spending plans for the social part, basically instruction and putting every single fundamental push to convey road kids to class bolster through particular projects for their families and the kids themselves; guaranteeing that wellbeing administrations are available to these kids in the city who are in desperate need of social help; embracing a tyke and giving it an adoring home, on an individual level. By deliberately endeavoring to disregard our aloof trance when we see these countenances in the form of street children in the city, we can have any kind of empathetic effect.

Acknowledgement

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