

The Factors Affecting Street Child life in the Islamic Society: A Case Study of Nandi Pur Town Gujranwala, Punjab, Pakistan

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Abstract

The factors, current socioeconomic situations, protection factors, and the level of awareness of the street children are all discussed in the research "The Factors Affecting Street Child Life among the Community of Nandi Pur Town Gujranwala." The Drop-in Center PAHCHAAN, which works for the welfare of street children, collaborated in the study, which was conducted in Nandi Pur Town and the surrounding area. By using convenience-based non-probability selection, the regions with the largest proportion of street children were chosen as a sample. A questionnaire was employed as a data collecting technique to get information from kids, and the information was gathered in a matter of 28 days. Therefore, it is advised that parents' financial situation be improved through various income support programs, a campaign should be launched to raise awareness of children's rights, in which the media and NGOs should play a significant role, and most importantly, the laws about child protection issues should be rigidly followed.

Keywords: Street Children, Religion, Islamic, Society, Parents, Social Exclusion, factors, consequences, NGOs, Human Rights, Poverty, child labor, unemployment



Introduction

By taking into account kids as Blessings of Allah, all religions including Islam give extraordinary consideration to the youngsters, especially, where kids became meandered, vagrant, or poor. Similarly, since the foundation of UNO, certain responsibilities and steps have been taken to work on the expectation for everyday comforts of the meandered and destitute kids. The idea of youngsters' freedoms can be talked about as:

Children's rights According to Islamic Perspective:

Islam, being a complete code of life tends to all methodologies of life and its concern. It has no conviction for fractional changes and compromises arrangements. To safeguard and foster a person's internal and external personals, Islam ties serious areas of strength between two people male and female via marriage and made it a wellspring of re-creation. To proceed with the course of multiplication, to support the human populace, Allah Almighty announced: "

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَا لَكُمُ الْكَرَّةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَمْدَدْنَاكُمْ بِأَمْوَالٍ وَبَنِينَ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ أَكْثَرَ نَفِيرًا

"Then We gave back to you a return victory over them. And We reinforced you with wealth and sons and made you more numerous in manpower" ¹.

Further, to secure, and deal with the legitimate preparation of the newly conceived infants, He filled the core of the guardians with adoration, friendship, leniency, and parental empathy. Rather, pronounced the kids as decoration of life by uncovering that

الْمَالُ وَالْبَنُونَ زِينَةُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ۗ وَالْبَاقِيَاتُ الصَّالِحَاتُ خَيْرٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ ثَوَابًا وَخَيْرٌ
﴿18:46﴾

Wealth and children are an adornment of the life of the world. But the deeds of lasting righteousness are the best in the sight of your Lord in reward, and far better a source of hope." ².

Likewise, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) pronounced that "he who does not have mercy on our young and does not acknowledge the honor of our grownup does not belong to us".³

Islam is so delicate in regards to the issues of the kids that it prescribes giving a great name to every kid and calling him with a great name to computing in him a feeling of nobility and self-esteem. The Qur'an states:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا يَسْخَرْ قَوْمٌ مِّن قَوْمٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونُوا خَيْرًا مِّنْهُمْ وَلَا نِسَاءٌ مِّن نِّسَاءٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُنَّ خَيْرًا مِّنْهُنَّ ۚ وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَلَا تَنَابَرُوا بِالْألقَابِ ۗ بئسَ الإسمُ الفُسُوقُ بَعْدَ الإِيمَانِ ۗ وَمَن لَّمْ يَتُبْ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ (49:II).

“Believers, let not a group (of men) scoff at another group, it may well be that the latter (at whom they scoff) are better than they; nor let a group of women scoff at another group, it may well be that the latter are better than they. And do not taunt one another, nor revile one another by nicknames”⁴.

Such long ways as concerned the issues of the kids, the support of the youngsters has been pronounced as the essential commitment of father to safeguard and to keep up with his better half and kids. The Qur'an states:

وَالْوَالِدَاتُ يُرْضِعْنَ أَوْلَادَهُنَّ حَوْلَيْنِ كَامِلَيْنِ لِمَنْ أَرَادَ أَن يُنمَّ الرِّضَاعَةَ ۗ وَعَلَى الْمَوْلُودِ لَهُ رِزْقُهُنَّ وَكِسْوَتُهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ ۗ لَا تُكَلَّفُ نَفْسٌ وَّلَا وُسْعَهَا ۗ لَا تُضَارَّ وَالِدَةٌ بِوَلَدِهَا وَلَا مَوْلُودٌ وَعَلَى الْوَارِثِ مِثْلُ ذَلِكَ ۗ فَإِن أَرَادَا فِصَالًا عَن تَرَاضٍ مِّنْهُمَا وَتَشَاوُرٍ فَلَا جُنَاحَ ۗ عَلَيْهِمَا ۗ وَإِن أَرَدْتُمْ أَن تَسْتَرْضِعُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذَا سَلَّمْتُمْ مَا اتَّيْتُم بِالْمَعْرُوفِ ۗ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ ﴿2:233﴾

“If they (i.e. the fathers) wish that the period of suckling for their children be completed, mothers may suckle their children for two whole years. (In such a case) it is incumbent upon him who has begotten the child to provide them (i.e. divorced women) their sustenance and clothing in a fair manner.”⁵.

On the off chance that where father can't acquire or have no work, then, at that point, the state is mindful to keep up with. ⁶The sidekick Abu Huraira announced that the Apostle of Allah said: " Allah's Apostle said, "Allah said, 'O son of Adam! Spend, and I shall spend on you.'"⁷.

The world's greatest source of joy and adoration, children, may be found everywhere. Every government's economic, social, and technical success relies heavily on the personal growth of its citizens. Children's personalities may be harmed by poor parenting, privation, or uncaring conduct⁸. The term "child rights" refers to the internationally recognized and nationally enacted

standards for children's human rights that are based on human rights law and legislative acts. In the end, they want to safeguard children's integrity and support activities that assure a good standard of living for them.⁹ Include rights to health care, education, a basic standard of living, food, and a place to live on your list. These rights are designed to ensure that children have access to the necessities of life. Street children are minors under the age of 18 who have made the streets (including vacant houses and wasteland) their primary living and working environment due to a lack of proper supervision or protection¹⁰. When an individual's conduct deviates significantly from societal standards and their main source of development support is neither a family nor a family replacement, they are considered street children¹¹. Because of the family's financial instability, many youths just on street are involved in some form of business growth, from asking to selling. They return to their homes after the workday and give back to their families with the money they have earned. Kids who have been deserted by their families are among the orphans. However, the majority of them have fled their families. Because they do not interact with their parents, it is safe to conclude they live just outside of the typical family structure¹². Rather than being caused by a single component, the issue is the result of several elements that interact with each other. So, poverty, unemployment, family disintegration, child abuse and neglect, school dropouts, child labor, peer pressure, and other social and psychological factors related to a child's social environment or personality, such as behavioral disorders or sensation seeking, are all major contributors to the problem¹³. When children are left alone on the streets, they are exposed to a broad variety of dangers that not only hinder their development but also have far-reaching consequences for the rest of their lives¹⁴. Because they cannot afford it or do not have the time, street children do not have access to formal education or vocational training. The upshot is that throughout their lives, they are left uneducated and unemployable, never able to meet their own future needs or raise their level of living¹⁴. Most of their diet consists of inexpensive vegetables or grains, which they consume just once or twice a day.

Thus, these youngsters are not only underweight but their development is often stunted¹⁵. Exhaustion, injuries, exposure to harmful chemicals, and muscle and bone disorders are among the most common ailments for these youngsters. However, in the majority of cases, patients cannot afford or distrust medical professionals or medications. As a result, they are more susceptible to skin and other infections, such as AIDS¹⁶. Due to abuse or neglect, many street children abandon their families and end up living on the streets. However, their destitution might tragically lead to additional abuse via child labor and prostitution exploitation. Even in the most loving surroundings, such trauma may take years to recover from; on the streets, it may never heal¹⁷. Based on their overall look and conduct, these youngsters are not always acceptable in some neighborhoods or communities. Most of the time, the only option to convince them to go is to drive them away or use violence against them. The upshot is that instead of being acknowledged for who they truly are, they are treated as criminals¹⁸. To avoid losing the money they have worked so hard to obtain, street children are often targeted by racketeers. However, they are compelled to do so due to the lack of a suitable storage facility¹⁹. Street children are exposed to a wide range of dangers and worries because of the lack of security and protection they have at their disposal. As a result, they face an unclear and seemingly endless future²⁰.

The term "street kid" refers to any girl or boy who has made the street his or her home and/or source of income, and who is not sufficiently safeguarded, supervised, or directed by people who are accountable for him or her²¹. The issue of homeless children affects people all around the globe. There is hardly a nation or city in the world that is safe from it. It is believed that between 100 and 140 million youngsters are living and working on the streets of the globe, according to UN research. There are at least 40 million street children living in Latin America, 25 to 30 million in Asia, and more than 10 million in Africa, according to the United Nations²².

More than a third of the nation's homeless youngsters live on the streets. If they are lucky, they will be able to support themselves and/or the family they

have abandoned. Another 40% are homeless and have to labor on the streets, but at least they have a place to call home²³. SPARC estimates that almost 70,000 children are living on the streets of Pakistan on their own. Whereas in Karachi, there are around 25,000 youngsters, in Lahore, 7,000, 10,000 in Faisalabad, 5,000 in Peshawar, 2,500 in Quetta, and 3,000 in Rawalpindi²⁴.

According to UNICEF, these young people are between the ages of 3 and 18 and do not attend either primary or secondary school, or any reintegration facility. The vast majority of street children are males, between 71% and 97%, although this does not rule out the existence of females, who constitute between 3% and 30% of the community (UNESCO). At work, there was a lot of exploitation. More than three-quarters of those polled earned less than the minimum wage, and half of those polled earned less than half the minimum wage²⁵. Rather, family violence, physical and emotional abuse, peer pressure, and substance misuse were revealed to be more significant predictors of youngsters ending up on the street, according to SPARC. According to statistics, 56% of street children were victims of domestic violence, 22% had abusive parents, and 12% had parents who were addicted to drugs²⁶.

It is estimated that children who live on the street begin working as early as the age of 4 to beg or search for food in garbage dumps or industrial waste sites, working 12-15 hours a day for 75 rupees (US.25) a day, enough money to buy a meal if they are lucky. Prostitution, theft, and smuggling are the primary means of surviving for the vast majority of people in the developing world, which puts them at risk of catching STDs like HIV/AIDS and other health issues including TB, jaundice, and liver or kidney illnesses²⁷.

According to WHO research, 61% of the streetwalkers were victims of sexual abuse as children. Seven of the 13 prostituted girls who were questioned said they had been sexually assaulted while they were between the ages of 11 and 15. Kid sex abuse is linked to a child's involvement in child prostitution. They are also in danger of being victims of child sex trafficking or pornography because they have been active in prostitution. There are an estimated 15-30 million children who have been forced to spend their days

on the streets of large cities in search of work, and many of them are enticed or persuaded into prostitution as a result of their poverty. According to a survey by the Pakistan Society, roughly 45 percent of street children are engaged in crime, 49 percent are at high risk of HIV and AIDS, and a big number of them use inexpensive easily accessible glues to deal with their feelings of hunger, loneliness, and fear.

UNODC claims that up to 90% of street children use psychoactive drugs, including pharmaceuticals, alcohol, cigarettes, heroin, cannabis, and widely accessible industrial goods such as shoe or cobblers' glue and paint thinner. As the strong vapors from these readily accessible and inexpensive inhalants enter the child's brain, they suppress emotions of hunger, coldness, and loneliness. They can escape reality via the use of solvent-based drugs. As a result of these side effects, people may experience hallucinations, fluid buildup in the lungs (pulmonary edema), renal failure, permanent brain damage, and even unexpected death²⁸.

More than half of street children who are also drug users die before they are 23, according to a representative for the Edhi Foundation. He said that 145 heroin addicts' deaths had been found on the streets in the previous six months. About 40% were children²⁹. Depressive disorders are particularly widespread among street children, according to the KABPS research for street children, and when asked about the prevalence of violence against street children, 66% of them admitted to self-harm while 26% denied it and 8% did not respond. 85% of street children have cut or stabbed themselves with blades or knives, while 15% have burned themselves³⁰.

It is difficult for street children to maintain a healthy sense of self-esteem because of the historical assaults on their emotional worth, unfriendly current reactions, and unfavorable public assessments of incorrigibility³¹. He argues that In other words, it is hardly a walk in the park to be homeless. It is chaotic and disruptive, and nothing — not even the next meal — is assured. Children's minds may be distorted by this irregular lifestyle, which can cause them to lose track of time, distance, and how long they have been wandering

³²That is why according to UNICEF the only option to get out of this scenario is for the government to step up their efforts to safeguard children who have been abused and exploited. This includes making laws and policies that hold perpetrators of crimes against children responsible; addressing damaging attitudes, behaviors, or traditions; and empowering kids with knowledge and life skills so they may better defend themselves³³.

Methodology

Non-probability convenience sampling was used to choose fifty percent of these forty-five positions. All of the information tells were questioned at each chosen location to get information about their daily lives and the influence of the protective variables on those individuals. The study relied on both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. For the objective of acquiring data through quantitative methods, an interviewer approach was used. When doing the descriptive study, studies have relied on observations. Because it can be used by both educated and uneducated interviewees and provides first-hand knowledge via face-to-face meetings, an interview session looked to be the most suitable tool for the job. A total of 128 participants from the twenty-two sites were surveyed by two and three members of the research group for data gathering. An interview lasted 40 to 45 minutes, and the researchers were out in the field for an average of 6 to 7 hours. Data collection lasted 28 days, with each group member interviewing 25 respondents. Analysis of the tables was done both quantitatively and concretely. While percentage and average were calculated in data analysis, narrative analysis was created in the descriptive statistic.

Result and Discussion

Table I

Gender, Age, Religion, Family background, and Family system of the participant

Variables	f	%
Gender		
Male	128	100

Female	0	0
Age		
Up to 9 y	1	0.8
10y – 12y	33	25.8
13y – 15y	56	43.8
16y – 18y	38	29.7
Religion		
Islam	117	91.4
Christianity	11	8.6
Family Background		
Urban	64	50
Rural	64	50
Family System		
Nuclear	104	81.3
Extended	9	7.0
Joint	15	11.7
Classes	f	%
1 – 3	76	59.4
4 – 6	41	32.0
7 – 9	7	5.5
10 – 12	4	3.1

According to the data in the table above, all 128 participants in the research who consented to be interviewed were a man. No female respondents were located in the study population, whether they were employed or homeless. The table shows the ages of the survey participants: 0.8% (1) were under the age of nine, 25.8% (33) were between the ages of ten and twelve, 43.8% (56) were between the ages of thirteen and fifteen, and 29.7% (38) were between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. It was determined, however, that the median age of responders was 14 years old. According to the data in this table, the majority of participants (91.4%) identified as Muslims, while 8.6% (11)

identified as Christians. Table 1 shows that a similar number of participants (64) in both the rural and urban categories reported having been born in a rural region. Out of several 128 participants, the following breakdown was found: 81.3% (104) came from nuclear families, 7.0% (9) from large families, and 11.7% (15) from joint families. The data shown above reveals that 59.4% (76) of participants have a birth order of 1-3, 32.0% (41) have a birth order of 4-6, 5.5.0% (7) have a birth order of 7-9, and 3.11.0% (4) have a birth order of 10-12.

Table 2

Living setup, Nature of Relationship, Monthly Family Income, Duration of the street life, Causes of the street life, and Facilities of the participant

Living Set Up	F	%
Together	108	84.4
Separated	20	15.6
Nature of Relationship		
Loving & Caring	33	30.5
Dominating (by One)	30	27.8
Conflicting	35	32.4
Abusing	10	9.3
Monthly Family Income		
Up to Rs.4000	7	5.5
Rs.4001 – Rs.8000	32	25.0
Rs.8001 – Rs.12000	56	43.8
Rs.12001 – Rs.16000	23	18.0
Above Rs.16000	10	7.8
Duration of the Street Life		
Up to 1y	48	37.5
2y – 3y	43	33.6
4y – 5y	17	13.3
6y – 7y	6	4.7
8y – 9y	9	7.0

Above 9y	5	3.9
Causes Street Children		
To Support Your Family	56	43.8
Peer Group Influence	10	7.8
Strict Attitude of Parents	17	13.3
Abuse	7	5.5
(Physical/Sexual/Neglect)	1	0.8
Step Parents	22	17.2
To Avoid Schooling	12	9.4
To Become Independent	3	2.3
Facilities		
Meals	76	16.3
Electricity	98	21.0
Water Supply	110	23.5
Kitchen	62	13.3
Bathing & Washing	103	22.0
No Facility	18	3.9

In this table, we can see that the majority of participants (84.4%) have their parents living in the same household with them, while 15.6% (20) have separated or divorced parents. The preceding data show that the parent of 27.8% (30) of participants have a loving and caring connection, whereas the parents of 32.4% (35) of participants have a domineering and abusive marriage. Likewise, the grandparents of 30.5% (33) participants had a stronger relationship, while the parents of 9.3% (10 respondents) had an abusive one. Out of a total of 128 households, 43.8% (86 families) had monthly incomes between Rs.9000 and Rs.12000, as shown in the table below. Twenty-five percent of households (32) and eighteen percent (23) respectively had monthly incomes between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 8,000 and Rs. 13,000 and Rs. 16,000. A total of 7.5% (or 7) of households had monthly incomes of up to Rs.4000, while 7.8% (or 10 families) had monthly incomes of Rs.16000 or more. Nonetheless, participants' monthly household income

averaged Rs.9908. Based on the data provided above, 37.5 percent (48 people) of the sample had been homeless for less than a year, 33.6 percent (43 people) for two to three years, and 13.5 percent (17 people) for five years or more. While 7.0% (9) of total exposure a length of 8-9 years or more, 4.7% (6) reported 6-7 years, and 3.9% (5) reported more than 9 years. It was discovered, however, that the average time spent by respondents living on the streets was three years. The reasons for participants' homelessness are detailed in the table above; analysis reveals that 43.8% (56) of survey participants left home owing to poverty, 7.8% (10) left home as a result of peer pressure, 13.3% (17) proffered strict outlook of mom and dad as the reasons for leaving home, 5.5% (7) left home because of abuse, 0.8% (1) left home due to adoptive parents, and 17.2% (22) left home due to financial hardship. Out of a total of 467 multiple-choice responses, 16.3% (76) indicated that they had access to meals at home, 21.0% (98) indicated that they had access to electricity at home, 23.5% (110) indicated that they had access to a water supply at home, 13.3% (62) indicated that they had access to a kitchen at home, and 22.0% (103) indicated that they had access to a bathroom or laundry room. Despite this, 3.9% of respondents (18 out of 66) said they have no such amenities in their own homes.

Table 4

Nature of Working, Strategies to cope with the problem, Source of Getting Clothes, Type of Education that are Getting, causes of becoming Addict, Leisure Time Activities of the participant

Variables	F	%
Nature of Working		
Regular Basis	108	84.4
Off & On	20	15.6
Strategies to cope problem		
Change Place	7	8.6
Bribe Police/Elder Boys	1	1.2
Do Nothing	73	90.2

Source of Getting Clothes		
Parents	64	45.7
Employer	22	15.7
Purchase 2nd Hand	48	34.3
Beg/Get in Alms	6	4.3
Type of Education that are Getting		
Formal Education	2	15.4
Informal Education	5	38.4
Religious Education	5	38.4
Vocational Training	1	7.8
Causes of becoming Addict		
Through Family Members	11	11.3
Through Employer	13	13.4
Through Friends	51	52.6
Through Co-workers	20	20.6
For Forgetting Worries	2	2.0
Leisure Time Activities		
Playing Games	16	7.0
Watching T.V.	83	36.2
Sitting with Children	77	33.6
Wandering	35	15.3
Doing Nothing	18	8.0

Results show that 84.4% (108) of participants had consistent employment and 15.6% (20) had irregular employment. Ninety-two percent (73) of participants did nothing to deal with issues at their homes, while 8.6 percent (7) said they moved because of them and 1.2 percent (1) claimed he pays police or older males. Responses varied, but over half (45.7%; 64) said they acquired their clothing from their parents, while nearly a sixth (15.7%; 22) said they got their clothing from their workplace. When compared to the 34.3% (48) who suggested acquiring them via secondhand means and the

4.3% (6) who suggested doing it by begging or alms, acquiring a copy through these methods received far fewer votes. The following data illustrates the many types of training that participants were pursuing at the time of the survey. It showed that 15.4% of participants were enrolled in college, 38.4% were learning informally or religiously, and 5.2% were receiving formal instruction in a trade. In the above table, 11.3% (11) of participants said they learned to take drugs from a family member, 13.4% (13) said they did so because of their job, 52.6% (51) said they did so because of their friends, and 20.6% (20) said they did so because of their coworkers. However, participants provided a wide range of answers when asked how they spend their free time. Seven percent of those surveyed (16) said they play video games, thirty-six percent (83), watch television, thirty-three percent (77) said they hang out with other kids their age, fifteen percent (35), wandered, and eight percent (18) said they did nothing.

Table 5

The attitude of People, Reasons for still being on the Street, Rights, Street Life Experiences, and Suggestions to Other Street Children of the participants

Variables	F	%
Attitude of People		
Affectionate	35	27.3
Insulting/Hateful	58	45.3
Violent	31	24.2
Sexually Abusing	4	3.1
Reasons for Still being on the Street		
To Support My Family	27	43.0
To become Independent	13	20.6
To Pay Back Family	2	3.2
	15	23.8
	6	9.5

Loan		
Strict Attitude of Parents		
Rights		
Right of Fulfillment of Basic Needs	15	25
Right of Education	18	30
Right of Protection	9	15
Right of Affection	18	30
Street Life Experiences		
Physical Abuse	9	7.0
Sexual Abuse	11	8.6
Kidnapping	4	3.1
Cheating	3	2.3
Theft	5	3.9
Accident	5	3.9
None	91	71.1
Classes		
Take Interest in Studies	8	6.3
Do not Leave Your Home	11	8.6
Do not Get Involved in Negative Activities	17	13.3
Go Back to Your Home	78	60.9
No Suggestion		

45.3% (58) of participants here said they felt the wider populace looked down on them or had a negative opinion of them. About a quarter of those

polled (31) stated that the general public has a hostile attitude forward them, while about three percent (4 people) said that the general public has a sexually abusive attitude forward them. However, 27 percent (35 people) said that the general public has an affiliative outlook toward them. Participants provided a wide range of answers when asked why they were now living on the streets. Forty-three percent (27) of those surveyed claimed it was because they needed to provide for their households; twenty-six percent (13) said they wanted to strike out on their own; three-point two percent (2) said they had to repay a family loan, and twenty-three-point eight percent (15) and nine-point five percent (6) said they did so for other reasons. There were 60 various answers in this table, with 25% (15) indicating that core brand about their freedom to have basic needs met, 30% (18) indicating that they knew about one's right to have schooling, and 30% (18) indicating that they knew about their right to be loved and cared for, and only 15% (9) indicating that they knew about their rights to safety. A total of 7% (n=9) of participants suffered physical abuse, 8.6% (11) suffered sex assault, 3.1% (n=4) were abducted, 2.3% (n=3) were defrauded, 3.9% (n=5) were victims of theft, and 3.9% (n=5) were involved in accidents, as shown in the table above. However, 71.1% of respondents (91 people) flat-out refused to talk about their time spent on the streets. The data presented in the table above demonstrates that 6.3 percent of respondents (8 people) said kids should pay more attention in class, 10.9 percent of respondents (14 people) said kids should not hang out with the wrong crowd, 13.1 percent of participants (17 people) said kids should go home, and 60.9 percent of participants (78 people) did not wish to offer any advice to other homeless kids.

Conclusion

It was determined in the Islamic society i.e., Pakistan, via the study's analysis that many of the participants were living on the streets not because they wanted to, but because they needed the money, wanted to avoid going to school or wanted to get away from the physical, psychological, or emotional abuse they were subjected to at home. Most of them were under the age of

14, making them vulnerable to exploitation and cruelty and unable to safeguard themselves. While all participants were employed, the circumstances under which they toiled were highly predatory, with many working 9-12 hours per day, seven days per week for pay that ranged from 1 to 100 rupees. This suggests that while the participants were putting in a lot of time at their jobs, their pay was not commensurate with the amount of effort they put in. Moreover, they had to deal with the boss's hostile demeanor and abuse, disagreements with or abuse from coworkers, and a reduction in compensation. They were living an extremely strenuous existence, with little opportunity for relaxation.

In addition to the poor quality of their living environment, they also lacked access to basic amenities, as in Quran Parents are responsible to fulfill for all basic needs. Most people noted issues with temperature extremes, poor bedding, lack of sleep, feeling unsafe, and being abused as causes for their dissatisfaction with their home. They were eating twice a day, and both of those meals comprised of low-cost foods. While they ate daal, vegetables, rice, and roti on a near-daily basis, they seldom consumed meat, milk, fruit, or eggs. They looked unhealthy and undeveloped because of their poor diet, which lacked essential nutrients.

They did not care if they smelled and looked filthy since they were only sometimes showering, cleaning their mouths, cleaning their clothing, and getting their hair trimmed. Their drug abuse has only made matters worse. Substance abuse was shown to be widespread among respondents, who allocated a disproportionate amount of their income toward satisfying their habit. More than 80% of respondents said they had become sick while living on the streets, with the most common illnesses being the flu, stomachache, chest pain, an eye infection, and a cut or scrape. This was mostly attributable to their lack of hygiene and drug use.

Then, they had to take the society's anger and hostility. The percent of people said that their boss, colleagues, acquaintances, older boys, and unknown persons were the sources of their physical, sexual, or psychological

abuse. It was clear that this horrible circumstance had a devastating effect on them since they were terrified and lacked confidence, and they avoided making eye contact or initiating conversation with others.

The vast majority of those who responded also said they were not students at present. They had either not gone to school or had stopped going because they could not afford it, were not interested in what they were learning, or experienced hostility from their instructors. This lack of literacy has devastating consequences for their daily lives. They had no idea what was right or wrong, what their rights were, or what the future held for them. But things would have been quite different had they had had a proper education since they would have known able to distinguish between right and wrong, speak out against the oppression and humiliation they were subjected to, and rise in the social hierarchy. In other words, they were living as if they were nothing more than bugs on the ground, easily squashed by the weight of human feet.

Recommendation

Making and enforcing mass-level policies like raising adult salaries, expanding access to revenue programs, enhancing work prospects in remote regions, and simplifying access to social safety nets may help families with children in need. All this may help families become less reliant on their children's earnings and encourage them to enroll their children in school instead of letting them roam the streets. Children who are neglected, abused, or living in an uncomfortable home environment are more likely to end up on the streets, hence it is important to provide family counseling services to raise parental awareness of their responsibilities. A nationwide effort to educate the public about children's rights is needed to protect them from abuse and neglect. The media and NGOs should take the lead in this effort. Children who have found themselves on the streets should be offered counseling to help them understand their rights and the challenges they will face. Such children need to have access to specialized educational and occupational training programs so that they, too, may get the knowledge and experience they need to succeed

in adulthood. The government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should ensure that homeless children have access to housing, food, clothes, medical care, and other necessities. Reuniting these kids with their families should be a top priority, thus more and more facilities should be set up to do just that. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that support kids living on the streets need to promote themselves more so that kids would know who they are and will feel comfortable approaching them for assistance. To safeguard these youngsters from the potentially devastating consequences of drug and substance use, strict measures must be established to limit their access to such substances. The government and non-government sectors should make significant efforts to end all types of exploitation and neglect of children, with the police playing a key role in this. The most crucial is the stringent enforcement of laws concerning children's rights and welfare, including that concerning child work and the preservation of children's rights.

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