

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN OF THE STREET CHILDREN IN COASTAL ANDHRA REGION IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract. In this paper, an attempt has been made to investigate the livelihood pattern of 450 street children from the selected study areas of three municipal corporations in Coastal Andhra region of Andhra Pradesh. The cities covered are Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, and Guntur. The focus of the study as pursued in this paper is on the following aspects. frequency of consumption of food, living pattern, type and means of clothes, awareness of good health habits, habits of drinking alcohol and smoking, chewing tobacco, and inhaling white fluid distiller, health situation, sickness, and the place where treatment was given, health problems, vaccination, cultural factors such as begging experience, find out the some problems of street children in study area, that is An attempt is also made to know the place of begging by the respondent. Out of 450 respondents, 169 (37.6 %) did not respond to this question. Out of 281 (62.4%) who answered this question, majority of the respondents 103 (36.7 %) answered that they are begging at bus station, 101(35.9%) answered that they are begging in railway bogies, another 22(7.8%) revealed that they are begging at traffic signal points.16(5.7%) answered that they are begging on the roads, 11 (3.9%) are begging at market places and the same number in main streets, 8 (2.8%) revealed that they are near educational Institutions 4(1.4%) revealed that they are begging near offices, and 3 (1.1%) revealed that they are begging at homes and outside hotels. Since most of these places are busy centres, these children depend on these places for their livelihood. The main objectives of the present article is livelihood pattern of the street children in coastal Andhra region in Andhra Pradesh

Introduction: In the present day context across the globe, either at a lesser or at a greater degree, visibly or invisibly, admittedly or otherwise, street children exist. The phenomenon of street children is an offshoot of a complex interplay of various socio-economic and cultural factors such as religious, cultural, linguistic and geographical diversity. The large-scale presence of street children is a symptom of social disease. This is an exploratory study of street children in three municipal corporations of coastal Andhra of Andhra Pradesh region in A.P. The cities selected for the study are the municipal corporation areas of Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, and Guntur.

Methodology

Objectives: The main objectives of the present article is

1. To examine the Frequency of Consumption of Food and Living Pattern of the Respondents in study area.
2. To examine the Impairments in the Child and Bad Habits of Street Children.
3. To examine the Reason for Drinking and Using Correcting White Fluid Distillers.
4. To examine the Health Problems of the Respondents.
5. To examine the Place of Begging and Place of Sleeping

Source: the present article is based on the primary data

Selection of the Sample: Selection of the sample is done through a purposive sample at a few places of concentration of the street children in the three cities selected for the study. For the purpose of the research

study, a sample of 150 street children fulfilling the operational definition mentioned above has been selected from each city. The places of concentration selected are seven in each city. These include railway station, bus stand, busy centres, market centres, temples, hotels and parks. Out of total sample of 450 street children, 57 are girl children, the street children are scattered over different places taking a variety of work activities for their livelihood.

Consumption Pattern: An attempt is made to know whether frequency of consuming food by the respondents. Out of 450 respondents, majority of the respondents i.e. 197 (43.8%) answered that they consume food once in a day, another 149 (33.1%) answered that they consume food twice in a day, 65 (14.4%) answered that they consume food once in two days, 22 (4.9%) answered that they consume food three times a day, and the remaining 17 (3.8%) answered that they consume food when they are hungry. An attempt is made to know whether the bathing habit of the respondents. Out of 450 respondents, majority, i.e.153 (34 %) revealed that they take bathing daily once and another 85(18.9 %) answered that they take bath once, in three days. 78 (17.3 %) revealed that they take bath twice a day, and 47 (10.4 %) revealed that they take bath once in two days. Surprisingly, 44 (9.8%) revealed that they take bath weekly once only, and 43 (9.6%) revealed that they take bath occasionally.

An attempt is made to know whether number of persons taking head bath. Out of 450 respondents, majority, i.e. 227 (50.2 %) revealed that they take head bath occasionally, 118 (26.2%) revealed that they

take head bath weekly once. 48 (10.7 %) revealed that they take head bath daily, 35 (7.8 %) are taking head bath once in three days, and the remaining 22 (4.9%) take head bath once in two days. An attempt is made to know the habit of washing clothes by the respondents. Out of the 450 respondents, majority, i.e. 121 (26.9 %) revealed that they wash clothes

weekly once, 100 (22.2%) revealed that they wash clothes daily once, 89 (19.8%) reported that they wash their clothes occasionally. 58 (12.9%) revealed that they wash their clothes once in three days and 51 (11.3 %) answered that they wash clothes once in two days. Surprisingly 15 (3.4%) answered that they do not wash clothes.

Sl.No	Impairment	Number	Percent	Valid Percent
1	Deaf	5	1.1	10.4
2	Physically handicapped	11	2.4	22.9
3	Both deaf and dumb	4	0.9	8.3
4	Partially blind	19	4.2	39.6
5	Totally blind	9	2	18.8
	Total	48	10.7	100
6	Not responded	402	89.3	
	Grand Total	450	100	

Source: Computed

An attempt is made to know whether the child is suffering from any impairment. Out of 450 children, a majority i.e. 402 (89.3%) are not having impairment, and the other 48 (10.7%) are having impairment. 40 (64.7%) respondents got impairment by birth, and 8 (35.3%) respondents got impairment

by accidents . The table 3 shows the type of impairment among the impaired respondents. Out of 48 respondents, majority, i.e. 19 (39.6 %) are partially blind, 11 (22.9%) are dumb, disabled, and another 9 (18.8 %) are totally blind, 5 (10.4%) are deaf, and 4 (8.3%) are both deaf and dumb.

Sl.No	Response	Number (Alcohol)	Percent	Number (Smoking)	Percent
1	Yes	293	65.1	287	63.8
2	No	157	34.9	163	36.2
	Total	450	100	450	100

Source: Primary data

An attempt is made to know whether these children have the habit of taking alcohol. Out of 450 respondents, majority of the respondents i.e. 293 (65.1%) revealed that they have the habit of taking alcohol and the remaining 157 (34.6%) revealed that they do not have the habit of taking alcohol. he table

53 shows the smoking habit of the children. Out of 450 respondents, a majority i.e. 287 (63.8%) answered that they have the habit of smoking and the remaining 163 (36.2%) do not have the habit of smoking.

Sl.No	Response	Chewing Tobacco	White Fluid distiller
1	Yes	275 (62.1)62.1*	226(50.2)51*
2	No	168(37.3)37.9*	217(48.2)49*
	Total	443(98.4) 100*	443(98.4)100*
3	Not responded	7(1.6)	7(1.6)
	Grand Total	450(100)	450(100)

Source: Primary data, Note: Figures given in parentheses indicate percentage to column total. Figures with * indicate valid percentage.

The table 3 shows the habit of chewing tobacco products by the respondents. Out of 450 respondents, 7(1.6 %) did not answer this question. Out of 443 (98.4%) who answered this question, a majority i.e. 275 (62.1%) answered positively, and another 168 (37.9%) answered negatively. the table 54 shows the habit of using White Fluid. Out of 450 respondents, 7

(1.6 %) did not answer this question. Out of 443 (75.3 %) who answered this question, a majority i.e. 226 (51%) answered positively, and another 217 (49%) answered negatively. Out of 226 respondents, a majority i.e. 122 (54%) use daily, 60 (26.5%) use weekly, and 44 (19.5%) use occasionally.

Sl.No	Response	Syrups	Sleeping Tablets	Prostitution
1	Yes	17(3.8)6.9*	12(2.7)4.7*	34(7.6)12.2*
2	No	229(50.9)93.1*	242(53.8)95.3*	244(54.2)87.8*
	Total	246(54.7)100*	254(56.4)100*	278(61.8)100*
3	Not responded	204(45.3)	196(43.6)	172(38.2)
	Grand Total	450(100)	450(100)	450(100)

Source: Primary data, Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage. Figures with * indicate valid percentage.

It is observed that some of the children are habituated to cough syrups for sedation. Out of 246 respondents, majority of the respondents i.e. 229 (93.1) are not habituated to cough syrups and 17(6.9%) are habituated to cough syrups. Table 4 shows that the habit of use of the sleeping tablets of the respondents. Out of 254 respondents, majority of the respondents i.e. 242 (95.3%) answered negatively and 12 (4.7%) answered positively. Table 7.55 shows the involvement of respondents in prostitution. Out of 278 respondents, majority of the respondents i.e. 244 (87.8%) answered negatively, and 34 (12.2%) answered positively.

a substitute to drinking, and the remaining 14(6.2%) to avoid hunger.

Health Aspects: experience of sickness during the last one year. Out of 436 respondents, majority, i.e. 238 (54.6%) said 'no', and another 198 (45.4 %) said 'yes.' The persons who attended the respondent when they fell sick. Out of 227 (50.4%) respondents who answered this question, a majority, i.e.183 (80.6%) answered that they were treated by the doctor, 27 (11.9%) were treated by a Nurse (ANM), and the remaining 17 (7.5%) were attended by compounder. An attempt is made to know the place of treatment by the respondents. Out of 243 respondents, a big majority, i.e. 186 (76.5%) had taken treatment from Government hospital, and the remaining 31 (12.8%) had approached private hospital, 16 (6.6%) had approached exerciser (Mantragadu), and 10 (4.1%) had approached RMP.

An attempt is made to know whether the respondents are suffering with anaemia. Out of 450 respondents, 312 (69.3%) are suffering from anaemia, and the remaining 138 (30.7%) have 'no' anaemia. Similarly out of 450 respondents, majority, i.e. 325 (72.2%) answered as 'yes' for the question on general weakness, and the remaining 125 (27.8%) answered as 'no.' An attempt is made to know whether the respondents suffering with cough and cold. Out of 450 respondents, majority, i.e. 352 (78.2%) answered 'no,' and the remaining 98 (21.8%) answered 'yes.' The above table shows details of the respondents suffering with itching. Out of the respondents, majority of them i.e. 359 (79.8%) answered 'no' for itching and 91 (20.2%) answered as 'yes.'

An attempt is made to know whether the

Sl.No	Drinking	Number	Percent
1	For sedation	106	23.6
2	To forget problems	68	15.1
3	To avoid hungry	14	3.1
4	Low cost drug	38	8.4
	Total	226	50.2
5	Not responded	224	49.8
	Grand Total	450	100

Source: Primary data

The table 5 shows reasons for drinking and using correcting white fluid distillers by the respondents. Out of 450 respondents, 224 (49.8%) did not answer this question. Out of 226 (50.2%) who answered this question, majority, i.e. 106 (46.9%) take it for sedation, 68 (30.1%) to forget problems, 38 (16.8%) as

respondents suffering with skin allergies. Out of 450 respondents, a majority, i.e. 331 (73.6%) answered 'no', and 119 (26.4%) answered yes for suffering with skin allergies. An attempt is made to know whether the respondents wounds which can be observed on the respondents. Out of the 450 respondents, a majority, i.e. 327 (72.9%) have no wounds, and 123(27.3%) have wounds. And an attempt is made to know whether the respondents looking malnourished. Out of the 450 respondents, a majority, i.e. 295 (65.6%) are malnourished, and the remaining 155(35.4%) are not.

Place of Sleeping, Place of Begging and Vaccination: An attempt is also made to know the respondents who were vaccinated. Out of 440 (97.8%) who answered, majority 201(45.7 %)

answered positively, and the remaining 133 (30.2%) answered negatively and 106 (24.1%) answered as undecided. An attempt is made to know whether the respondents are suffering from any disease at the time of survey. Out of 438 (97.3%) who answered this question, a majority, i.e. 320 (73.1%) answered negatively, and another 104 (23.7%) answered positively, while 14(3.2%) answered as undecided. An analysis of the table 63 shows the details of whether respondent is suffering from any type of skin disease. Out of 450 respondents, majority, i.e. 354 (78.7%) revealed that they are not suffering with any skin disease, and the remaining 93 (20.7%) answered that they are suffering with skin disease, 3(0.7%) answered as undecided.

Sl.No	Place of Sleeping	Number	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Under the shadows of the trees	32	7.1	7.2
2	Foot Path	41	9.1	16.4
3	Inns	31	6.9	23.4
4	Railway Station	150	33.3	57.1
5	Bus Shelter	127	28.2	85.6
6	Parks	13	2.9	88.5
7	Before closed shops	22	4.9	93.5
8	Open places	3	0.7	94.2
9	Temples	15	3.3	97.5
10	House	16	3.5	100
	Total	450	100	

Source: Primary data

An attempt is made to know where the respondents sleep. Out of 450 respondents, majority, i.e. 150 (33.3%) sleep in railway stations, another 127 (28.2%) sleep in bus stations, 41(9.1%) sleep at foot paths. 32 (7.1 %) sleep under the shadows of trees, 31 (6.9%)

sleep in inns, 22 (4.9%) sleep in front of closed shops, 15 (3.3%) sleep in temples, and 3 (0.7%) sleep in open place. There is every need to provide shelter to these children by the government.

Sl. No	Place of Begging	Number	Percent	Valid Percent
1	Roads	16	3.6	5.7
2	At hotels	11	2.4	3.9
3	Bus station	103	22.9	36.7
4	Railway station / bogies	101	22.4	35.9
5	Markets Places	22	4.9	7.8
6	Traffic Signal points	2	0.4	0.7
7	Near educational institutions	8	1.8	2.8
8	Near offices	4	0.9	1.4
9	Main streets	11	2.4	3.9
10	Homes	3	0.7	1.1
	Total	281	62.4	100
11	Not Applicable/ Not responded	169	37.6	
	Grand Total	450	100	

Source: Primary data

An attempt is also made to know the place of begging

by the respondent. Out of 450 respondents, 169 (37.6

%) did not respond to this question. Out of 281 (62.4%) who answered this question, majority of the respondents 103 (36.7 %) answered that they are begging at bus station, 101(35.9%) answered that they are begging in railway bogies, another 22(7.8%) revealed that they are begging at traffic signal points.16(5.7%) answered that they are begging on the roads, 11 (3.9%) are begging at market places and the same number in main streets, 8 (2.8%) revealed that they are near educational Institutions 4(1.4%) revealed that they are begging near offices, and 3 (1.1%) revealed that they are begging at homes and outside hotels. Since most of these places are busy centres, these children depend on these places for their livelihood.

An attempt is made to know where the respondents items begged by the respondents. Out of 276 (61.3%) respondents who answered this question, 190 (68.8%) answered that they beg food and money, another 80 (29%) answered that they beg money, and 6 (2.2%) answered that they beg food. Out of the 59 respondents majority, i.e. 39 (66%) are facing harassment from parents, and 13(22%) are facing harassment from the person who gave them shelter, 4 (6.8%) are facing harassment from friends, and 3 (5%) are facing harassment from relatives,

An attempt is made to know the number of dependents on the respondent's income. Out of 450 respondents, majority, i.e. 373 (82.9%) did not answer this question. Out of 77 (17.1%) who answered this question, majority i.e. 40(51.9%) revealed that there are two dependents on their income and another 12 (25.0 %) revealed that there is one dependent on their income, 12(15.6%) revealed that there are three dependents on their income, and 6 (7.8%) revealed that there are four dependents on their income. The average number of dependents on the respondent's income is 2.

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Conclusion: Rehabilitation and reintegration of the street children are very important, and this leads the child to live in the main stream of the society. To achieve this goal, a holistic approach is essential and this approach should invariably involve family, educational institutions, government agencies, and NGOs keeping in view that each child is unique in general, and street children in particular.

Suggestions:

1. There are many NGOs to address street children's problems but most of them are increasingly isolated. Government and NGOs should work together more effectively to give street children the services and attention needed to reconnect them with their families, and their communities, and develop the right attitude and skills among them by creation a conducive environment through NGOs.
2. Protection and care are necessary. Governments are required to do everything possible to protect street children from abuse and negligence.
3. Child prostitution is a widespread problem that is not adequately addressed in our society. It should be addressed immediately.
4. There are so many rights to which street children can have access. These include protection from abuse, provision of shelter, basic economic conditions and supportive family environment, participation in school, family and community. Awareness programmes must be conducted in different centres for street children, which may guide their life in the right direction
5. There is need for intervention from government and NGOs to tackle the problems such as sexual abuse, physical illness or dangerous work.
6. Street children need formal education, improved family relationships, and employment in the formal sector.

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