

Drug Using Street Children – A Need Assessment Study

Conducted by

Sharan Society For Services to Urban poor

New Delhi

Funded

By

Catholic Relief Services

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Assessment Period - June, July and August 2012

Geographical area of study – Delhi (Jama Masjid, Jahangirpuri, Hanuman Mandir and New Delhi Railway Station)

Study conducted by – Sharan team

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Introduction:

One of the direct outcomes of urbanization is populations from rural areas in India migrating to big cities, mainly in search of employment opportunities. The same unfortunately is happening to children between the ages of 10 to 18, but their reasons for migrating are different. Physical violence, neglect, poverty, ignorance and trafficking are some of the main reasons why a place like Delhi has an increasing number of children on the streets. In damning statistics, a government study has found that a vast majority of street children face sexual abuse in India, which is home to the world's largest number of destitute children. *According to a study conducted by the ministry of women and child development, the overall incidence of physical abuse among street children was 66.8 per cent. Estimates by international agencies put the number of street children in India at 18 million, which is the largest in the world. The study covered 13 states -- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal with a sample size of 12,447 children. Around 55 per cent of the street children reported having undergone sexual abuse, it said. The majority of the street children facing physical abuse are in the age group of 5-12 years. These included children in family environment, those attending schools, those in institutional care and street children. Out of these, 2,317 children (18.6 per cent) were street children. Study conducted by Himanshi Dhawan in 2011 indicated that in Delhi 20% street urchins pick rags. One out of every five street urchins in Delhi is a rag picker. With most adults unwilling to do the work of rummaging through the city's garbage, an overwhelming number of children have been driven to do it. About 15% children are street vendors, while 15% depend on begging for their living. The child rights NGO surveyed 50,923 street children in Delhi. North Delhi had the highest concentration of street children at 10,091. Street children constitute 0.4 per cent of the National Capital's total population.*

The study revealed that one out of every five (20.3%) street children was involved in picking rags. About 15.18% were street vendors, 15% beggars, 12.19% worked in roadside or repair shops, 6.24% in dhabas, or hotels and 1.22% in manufacturing units.

The study — the first of its kind on the census of street children in Delhi — covered all nine districts, and considered three categories of children for their enumeration. The first is street-living children, who have run away from their families and lived alone on streets. The second is street-working children, who spend most of their time on streets, but returned home on a regular basis. The last category is children from street families, who lived on streets with their kin. Social class was a key determinant of leaving a child on streets to work or live because 36% street children were dalits, 17% tribals and 38% belong to other backward classes.

The study found that working street children are most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Employers force these children to work for long hours, without food and any safety equipment and for abysmally low wages since they are not aware of their rights. Worse, studies have shown that they are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse by strangers, adult street dwellers and, at times, even by the police.

Street children are known to be using drugs, alcohol and forced sexual activities, though unofficial evidence tells us that almost all of them did not have a drug using habit before coming to Delhi. This clearly indicates that the situations/ streets have introduced them to this behavior which is crime liked and detrimental to their physical development. Cannabis, alcohol and solvents are normally found to be gateway substances, before most of them graduate to harder drugs like heroin and injecting pharmaceuticals.

Children using drugs are found all over the streets of Delhi, but some of the concentrated locations where these children are found in large numbers are Meena Bazaar outside Jama Masjid, Hanuman Mandir in Connaught Place, Old and New Delhi railway Station, ISBT and Minto Road near Connaught Place. Within a 2 to 3 kms of radius in Meena bazaar there are an estimated 1000 drug using children.

These children, if not provided adequate and timely intervention, will grow up to be hardened criminals and professional drug users. Girls below the age of 18 are being sexually exploited and are forced into sex work and drug use, with no future option but to become commercial sex workers with drug dependence.

Figures and numbers of street based drug using children in Delhi are only estimates, there is an urgent need to map the population and simultaneously conduct site community assessments to study the profile, needs and accordingly design interventions for the children.

Proposed sites for mapping and assessment would be Meena Bazaar, Hanuman Mandir , Old and New Delhi Railway Station, ISBT and Minto Road, with an estimated time up to 60 days .Mapping and assessment tools will be developed by the Sharan team and accordingly implemented in the concerned

areas. The entire exercise was conducted by a team of experienced personnel and supervised under the Management of Sharan.

Conducting a needs assessment and a mapping of the population would provide official evidence of the numbers and profile of the drug using street children to agencies and the Government and also provide Sharan and other NGO's a base to design and plan interventions in the future for children. This process will also help to create and establish advocacy strategies and linkages in the area of health, education and reintegration schemes of the Government, to ensure a long term effect and sustainability of the project.

Rationale :

A large percent of the city's population live in the slums scattered all over the city. After Mumbai, Delhi has the second largest slum Population in India. Nearly 1.8 million people lives in slum areas in capital of India - New Delhi. These people are mostly unemployed or daily wage workers who cannot even afford basic necessities of life. These slums are full of problems and offer a degrading living condition. The child being a vulnerable group is widely affected by this sub-human living environment. Many NGOs who are operating harm reduction services in Delhi experience the confirmed children between 6 to 16 years, using drugs. Though they are in small numbers, but these children have been accessing services from the Sharan drop in center, mainly for wound management and Opioid substitution therapy. No systematic data are assessment was done in these areas. The present study was taken up to address the issues of street children in Delhi with the following aims

Aims and objectives of the study:

This needs assessment study is about the street children situation of Delhi. Delhi is the capital of the India. The purpose of the study is to find out how the street children situation is in Delhi, Children demographics, living status, drug abuse habits and what kind of street children work is done in Delhi, and what kind of policies and practices have been implemented to improve the street children situation in Delhi.

The data were collected using different methods: interviews, informal conversations, Mapping of the areas, observation and visits. The idea was to get a wide understanding about the phenomenon of drug abuse among street children.

Limitation of the study:

The present assessment is done in four sit of Delhi the sample size was reduced to 73 due to the difficulties in one to one interview of children, background mafia and public area. The structured interview schedule was developed with inputs from all program staff to capture information on demographics, social networks, drug using behavior and their experience of violence, stigma and discrimination. The schedule was pretested in the field before administering. Due to small sample size it may not be representative to larger area and findings may not be generalized to larger areas.

Methodology:

For the present assessment we used a Rapid assessment methodology. Both qualitative and quantitative study methods were adopted to get holistic picture of the study population. In an initial estimation of the population by the research team was done using participatory mapping exercise. It is estimated that about 1500 street children were identified in the Four sites i.e Jama Masjid , Yamunabazar , Hanuman mandir and Jahangirpuri. Using a convenience sampling a total of 73 interviews were conducted by using structured interview schedule. The sample size was reduced due to the difficulties in one to one interview of children, back ground mafia and public area. The structured interview schedule was developed with inputs from all program staff to capture information on demographics, social networks, drug using behavior and their experience of violence, stigma and discrimination. The schedule was pretested in the field before administering. A total of two field investigators and one supervisor were selected, followed by a two days induction training was provided to the investigators on techniques, data collection, followed by a day of field testing. The quantitative data were entered in to excel and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Three Focus group discussion and three in-depth interviews were conducted among the street children and other stake holders using a guide developed by the study team in three area i.e. Jahangirpuri, Hanuman Mandir and Yamunabazar areas. The focused discussions were analyzed using thematic nalysis.

Inclusive criteria for the study:

The sample population was defined to be children living on the streets and using drugs, aged between 6 years to 16 Years and how are staying away from patents and family and are street.

Site mapping and Description of Sites:

The investigators using the transit walks and discussions with local key people in the mapping exercise. The detailed site description was given below.

JamaMasjid:

Most of the street children along with homeless adults live in an open area, below the steps of Jama Masjid. This area is rectangle with broad pavement running along the boundaries. Most of the homeless population stays here in the open along the pavement. They either have their cots, durries or tattered mats to spread. They are also found sleeping, sitting on them during the day. The rectangle has two open dumps on one side and one public urinal at the other end. The time when we conducted our survey the area inside the rectangle was muddy and had parches of water. The route towards the stairs of the monument is paved and has local vendors selling clothes, toys, ties, shoes, bags etc..This is adjacent to the rectangle on one side and a municipality park on the other side. There are children

playing cricket or football, adults playing cards, few men chasing brown sugar at one corner while couple of adults as well children sleeping. At the other end are the two Delhi Government run shelters along with bathrooms, around fifty street children stay there. This park has walls and two gates.

Yamuna Bazaar:

The street children stay under the bridge and across at the petti market. Under the bridge there are numbers of adult as well as children staying with their belongings. This area also has needles scattered all over the place. Adult male injecting drug users sit in groups are seen injecting along with children injectors. On Tuesdays and Saturdays, there are couples of men and women also sitting and make flower garlands. The Petti market is overlooking the railway track and railway bridge there are few shops selling tea, cigarettes and transport company office. Opposite Petti Market is a municipal park, adjacent to the back walls of Old Hanuman Mandir. One may find street children busy picking rags, playing or just lying and sniffing glue or solvent. Municipal Park is also another favorite place, where one finds homeless and street based population.

Jahangirpuri:

There are around 20,000 Jhuggi Basti around the CD Park of Jahangirpuri with approximately 160000 staying in them. The broad road along which these Basties are is one of the biggest rag markets of the city. As one enter this road to go in the Basti, one encounter huge bags of dumps lined up from one end of the road to another. In between these huge bags, one finds a temple and entrance to these Basties. There is also dump littered everywhere, swarmed with flies, mosquitoes, human and animal facets, street dogs. Basties are even dirtier than the road; there are open drainage all over the length and breadth. Houses can be described as shanties, with damp walls, clothes hanging and again circulated with flies, mosquitoes and a strong stench of damp garbage. There are hand pumps for water on the open drainage. On a regular day, there are women and children busy with their routine chores. On the road one finds number of children from the age of 4 onwards busy in Rag market.

Hanuman mandir:

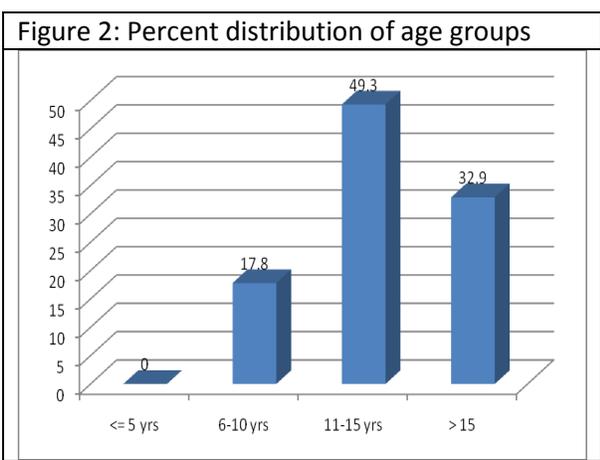
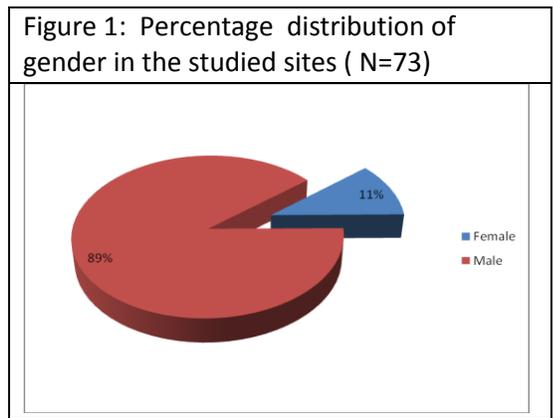
Hanuman Mandir-is one of the oldest hotspots for street children, homeless adults, and families, drug using children on street, drug users, and peddlers. There are around 100-150 street children around the Temple-some of them are found attending classes at Salaam Balak center at the basement, along with homeless adults. The number increases during the night. Across the road one encounters few groups of homeless "families" comprising of men, women and children; either selling toys, books ect at the traffic signal. Almost all members of family take one or more drugs; especially children who take solvents. Then one finds drug using street children in the age group of 8-16years in the lanes behind Mohan Singh Market, Central Park, Indian Oil Buiding, Scindia House, in the bye lanes of Inner Circle of Connaught Place, Madras Hotel and Super Bazaar. They are often seen sniffing glue, solvents, smoking bidis, chewing gutkas. In almost all subways one finds street teenager chasing brown sugar.

Observations and Findings:

In the present study 73 interviews were conducted the results were discussed below.

Demographic observations:

In the four sites 89% are male child and only 11 % are female (Figure 1). The mean age is 14 Years \pm 0.35 and it ranges from 6 yrs to 18 yrs in the studies sites . Above 49 % of the children are in the age group of 11-15 years of age, near about 32.9% are above 15 years and 17.8 % are between 6-10 Years . (Figure 2)



Living status:

In all the three sites majority of children are homeless they stays on pavements/ under bridges this accounts for 57.5%. About 32.9 stay in shelter/ care home and rehabilitation centres and about 8.2 % stay with family. Only 1.4% stay with other street children (Figure 3) . In the studied four sites about 44% of children are currently staying with other street children on pavements and bridges. 23.3 % are staying with parents and family. 17.8 % are staying along with uncles and aunties. (figure 4).

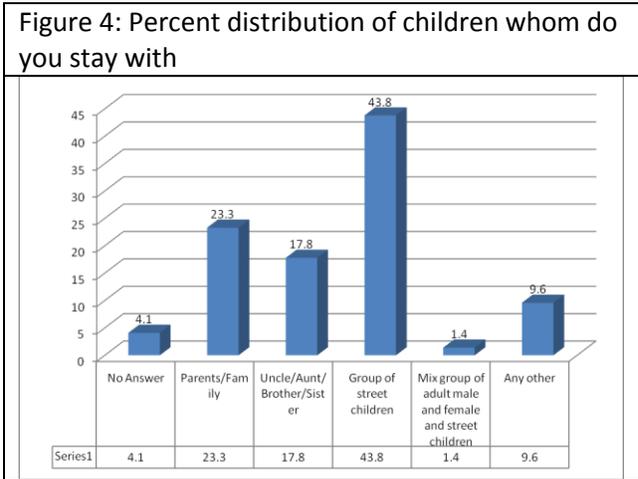
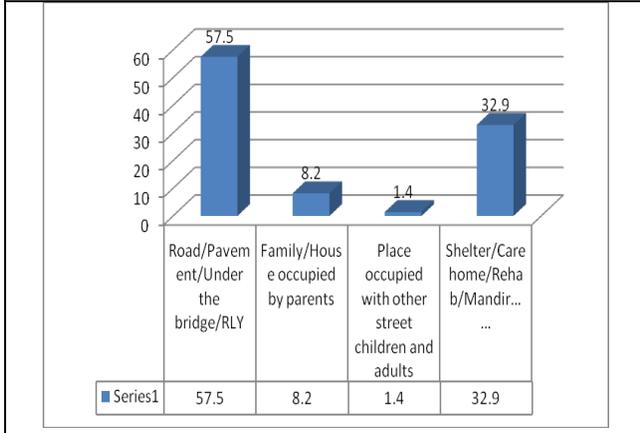


Figure 3: Percent distribution of population where they live



When asked about the reasons from runaway. 24.5 % of them expressed they ran away because of foster fathers harassment and beaten up. About 6.1% of the children are run away because of step mother harassment, come with someone and no love by family members each. (figure 7)

Migration:

In the present assessment it was noted that more than 67% of children in the studied sites expressed they ran away from home (figure 5). About 73% of the children are migrated from other states and only 23% are migrated with in Delhi. 29 % of the children are migrated from neighbor state of UP. Second largest states from which children are migrated are from Bihar and Maharashtra 11% each (figure 6).

Figure 5: Percent distribution of children who said ran away from home

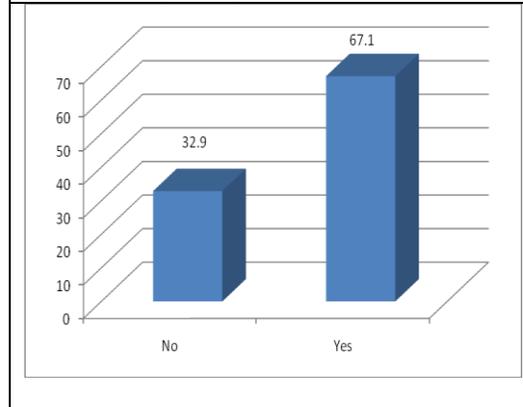


Figure 6: Percent distribution of children migration

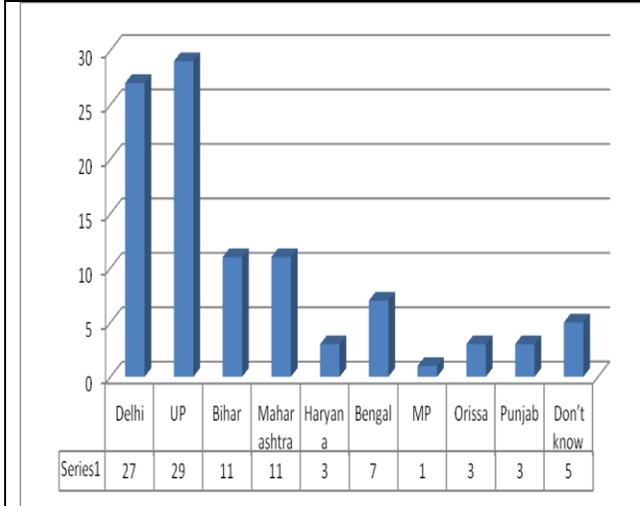
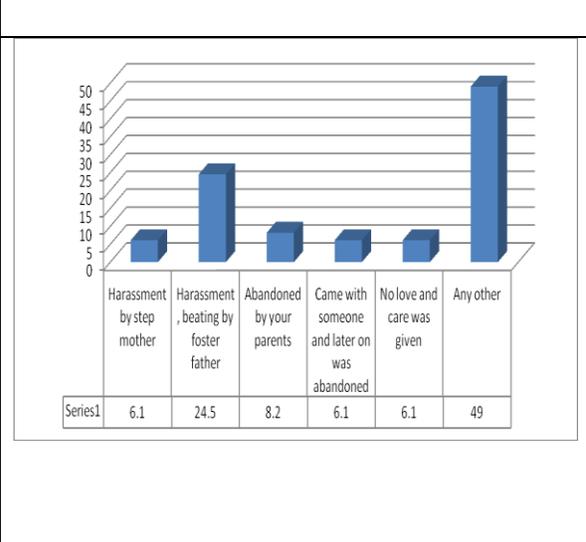


Figure 7: Reasons for running away from home



Livelihood/ food:

37% of children get their food from multiple sources and 25 % get food from gurudwara and 19 % get their food from NGOs (figure 8) .

Education:

When asked about the education status 49.3% children are uneducated they can't read and write. 46.6% can read and write and 4.1 % can't read and write. (figure 9). About 49.3% of never been to school and 31.5% of the children studied up to 5th standards and 19.2 % studied up to 6 to 8 standards. (figure 10)

Figure 8: Where do you get your food

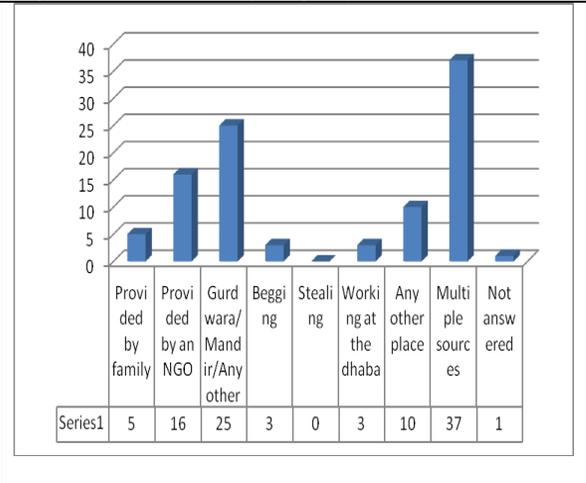


Figure 10: Percent distribution of children ever been to school

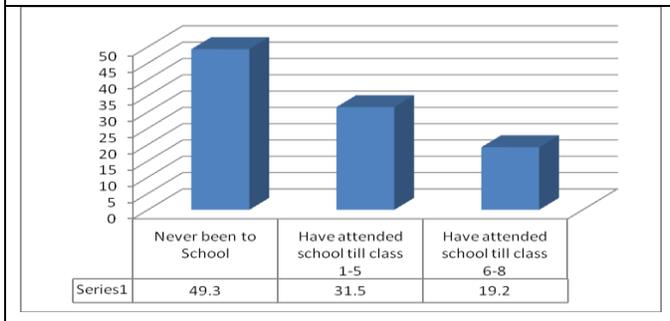
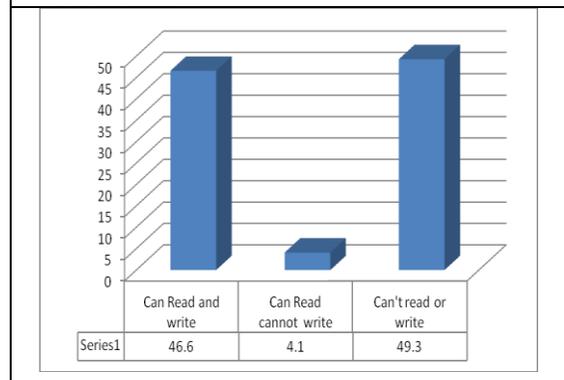


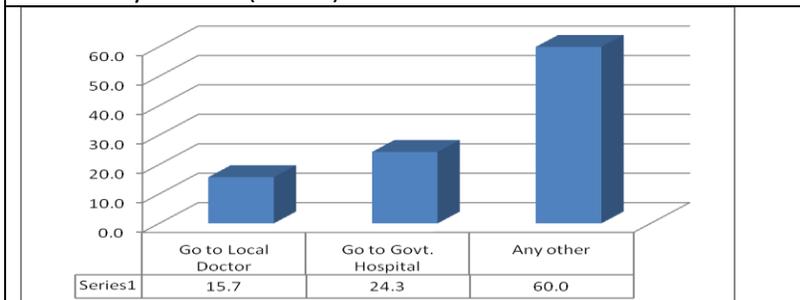
Figure 9: Percentage of children who can read and write



Health:

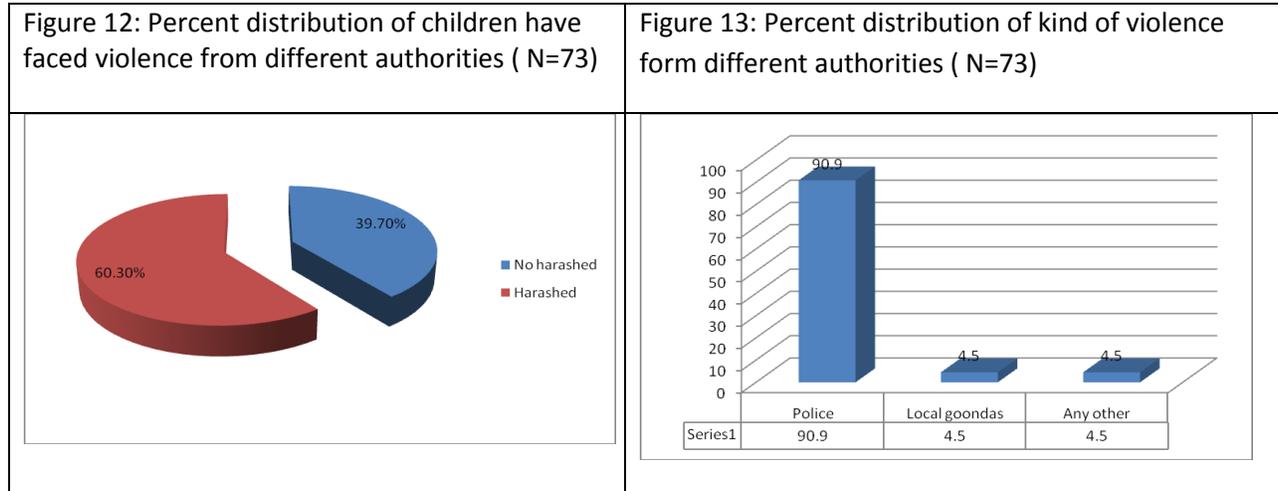
In the assessment about 96% of children expressed they had fallen sick in recent period. 60% of children expressed they use other services for treatment like NGOs, pharmacy ect, . 24 % utilize government services .

Figure 11: Percent distribution of children facilities they utilized when they are sick (N= 73)



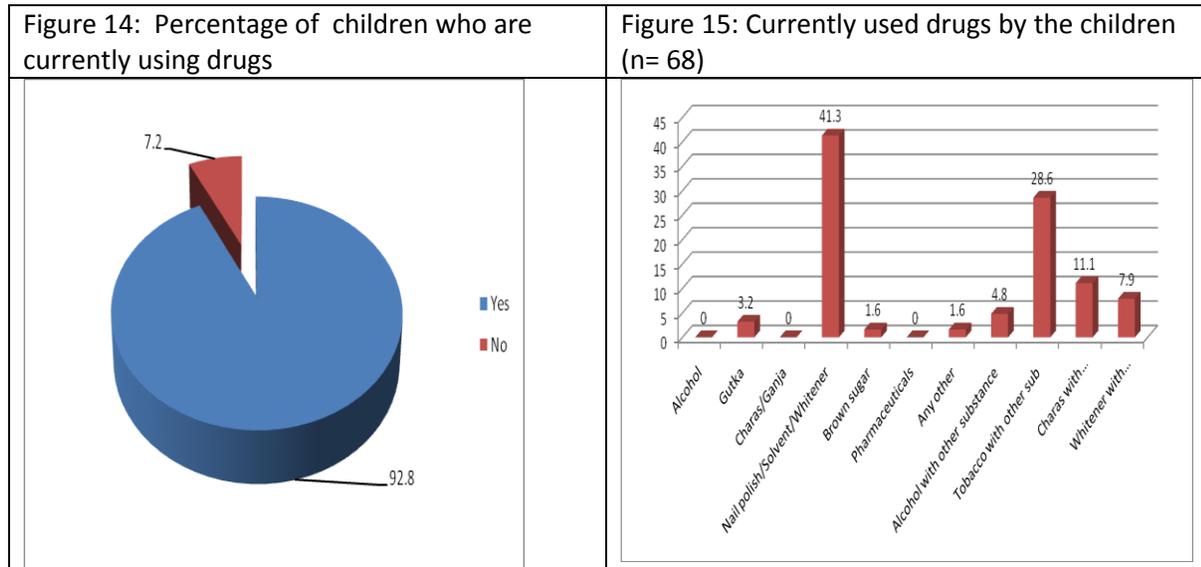
Violence/ harassment faced:

Near about 40 % of children expressed they faced harassment by different agencies. Among those who said they experienced harassment near about 91% face harassment by police and 4.5 % from local goondas and 4.5 % from other agencies. 40 % expressed they had been to jail in the past.

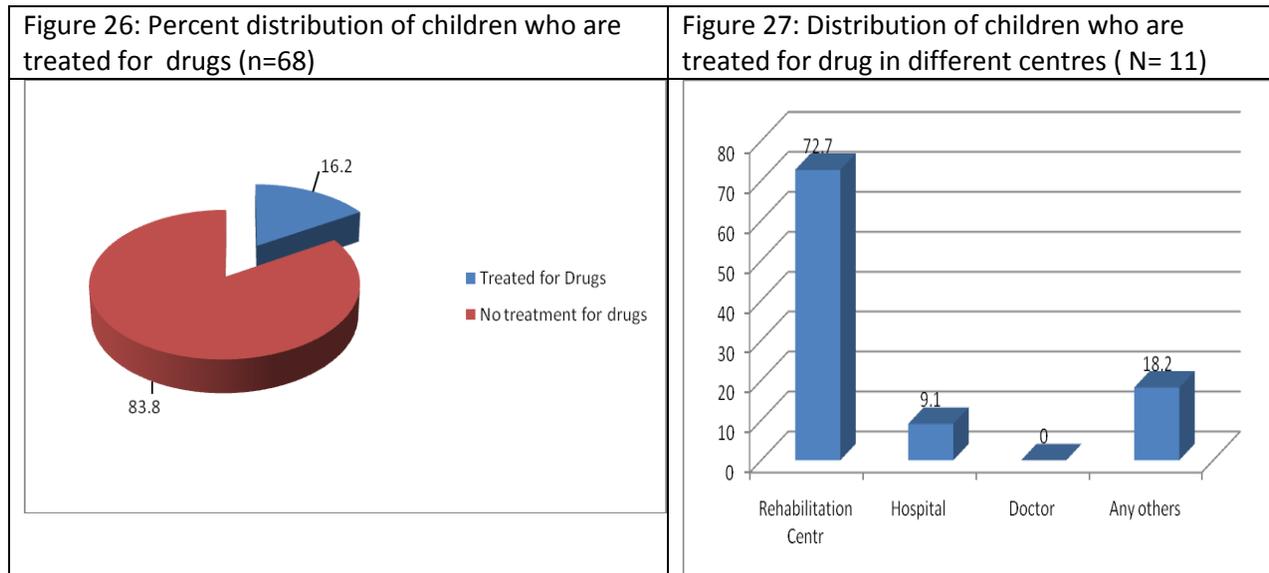


Sub stance abuse/ drug use :

When asked about the drug use / substances abuse. Near about 93 % expressed they are currently use drug . The sub stances abused are 41.3 % of children use nail polish/ whitener/solvent, near about 29 % use tobacco with other substances , . 11 % of children use Charas. Brown sugar use only 1.6% .



16 % of children expressed they were treated for drug / sub stance abuse in the earlier. 72.7 % under gone treatment in rehabilitation centre.



Focus Group Discussion :

1) Place of FGD – Hanuman Mandir in Connaught Place

Number of participants –

Girls - 15 Boys - 12 Total children participated in FGD – 27

Age group – All the children were below 17 years, majority between 9 to 11 years

Drug history – From the 27 children participating in the FGD, 25 were reported to have used solvents at least once, while the boys reported use of Bidis and Gutkas, the girls were known to use only solvents. 20 children out of the 27 children reported use of solvents, Bldis and Gutka on a regular basis.

Living Status – All the 27 children live in pavements or slums, some even stay on the premises of Hanuman Mandir. Every Tuesday children come to the Mandir from places as far as Aligarh and Meerut.

Daily Meals – 8 out of the 27 children informed that they got their afternoon meals at Salaam balak. Girls were known to go to the Mandir for their meals.

Education – 10 out of the 27 children study at the Salam Balak Trust School, while 15 children claimed that they were enrolled with Government schools, but don't necessary go to school regularly.

Police Harassment – Children sleeping on pavements reported that they were constantly, disturbed, woken up and harassed in the night.

Focus group discussion 2

Place of Focus Group Discussion – Petti Market, Yamuna Bazaar

Total number of children – 30

Living Status – Except 1 or 2, out of the 30 children, all of them have run away from home.

Haridwar, Shahdara, Kolkotta and Gorukhpur are some of the areas, the children have come from. Seven children do not remember where they came from. Most of these kids sleep in parks, around railway lines, under bridges etc. Some children prefer to be part of a group in the night, while others informed that they slept wherever they could in the night.

Drug Use – All the 30 children accepted that they used solvents, while some (Five) mentioned using Smack, Cannabis and Injecting Pharmaceuticals. Three to Four children even showed signs of needle pricks on their arms. 10 to 12 children informed that male adult Injecting drug users helped them to inject sometimes. 16 to 20 children admitted that drug use was due to the peer pressure and the environment they lived in.

Food – All the children got food from the leftovers from Moti Mahal hotel in Darya Ganj; otherwise they would beg. All except one pick rags, sell garbage, push carts and even work at marriage parties, where they earned Rs. 10 to 40 on an average. Three of them also talked about small thefts and pick pockets and two/ three talked about sleeping without food sometimes or drinking water and sleeping.

Health Services – Seven to Eight kids mentioned that when they got sick, they seek treatment from the visiting Doctor at the Gurudwara Sis ganj, Chandni Chowk, while 6 to 7 kids said that there were no hospitals nearby and even when they visited a Government hospital, no one would talk or attend to them.

One kid had been hit by a vehicle, he could do nothing except wash his wounds. Around 4 to 5 kids had dressing on different parts of their bodies or had open wounds.

Police Behavior – Around 20 to 22 kids complained that the local Police officer beat them, whenever they came in contact with them and stops them from sleeping on the pavements. 8 to 9 children mentioned that they had been caught while using drugs.

Education – Most children could write just their names, but couldn't read and write. They said that they had no access to any form of education.

Future Aspirations – when asked if they saw any hope for themselves in the future – One kid responded that he wanted to be a Pilot, most wanted to be rag pickers. Around 10 to 12 merely smiled and refused to comment. Interestingly 24 to 25 kids wanted to give up using drugs.

Focus group discussion 3:

Place of Focused Group Discussions – Jahangirpuri

Total number of Children – 16

Living Status – All the children lived in a slum with their parents. Each family had at least 7 to 8 members living in small dingy rooms. This session was done on one of the terrace. The area had nothing but open drainage, littered with plastic, rotten vegetables, dump, human and animal feces. Swarmed with flies and stench, it was almost inhuman to sit and spend time with people.

Age – All the 16 children were boys, aged between 5 to 16 years.

Education - All the children claimed to be enrolled with nearby School, but could only write their names and couldn't read and write otherwise. Majority of the kids said that they liked to bunk from School, to be with a group of other children and use drugs.

Drug Use – All the children admitted to using solvents, which was very easily available in nearby pharmacies. 3 out of the 16 children spoken, shared that they had tried Brown Sugar and 2 had tried Beer and Country Liquor. 7 children said they had tried Cannabis.

Law enforcement and Children – Most kids said that they had been beaten by Police, when caught sniffing solvents. # from the group (all aged 8 years) had been to jail for being charged with use of drugs.

Food and Medicine – Most children said that they get to eat at home and often seek treatment from Babu Jagjiwan ram Hospital in Jahangirpuri.

Family - Most Mothers worked as maids in nearby colonies and Fathers as daily laborers', while the children rag picked and sold garbage to earn money for solvents. The children shared that they easily earned up to Rs. 30 to buy solvents, which would last them for at least two days. In the middle of the session, 4 to 5 Mothers pleaded with the field Investigators to take their children for treatment. All of them said that they had no control over their children's behavior and drug using habit. In response all the children complained that they were brutally beaten up by their parents for drug use.

Aspirations – When asked where they would like to see themselves in the future, 10 kids merely nodded, saying that they knew nothing. One child said that he wanted to be a garbage shop owner, while the rest said they wanted to continue as rag pickers, for the rest of their lives.

Observations and learning's : The entire process of collecting children in one place and conducting FGD's was extremely tough, as they were found to be easily distracted and very impatient. Supplies of coke/pepsi, chips and biscuits, worked well in getting them to stay put for sessions. They interrupted the flow of information very often and wanted to talk more than listen to the field Investigators. Lots of times abusive street language was used, but a lot of legs pulling with each other and cracking jokes at

each other .Each time the topic of drug use was mentioned, their expressions were different and serious.

Almost all the children admitted that they found rag picking very interesting, as it gave them a feeling of freedom and a regular source of income, mainly to procure drugs. Few kids also said that another advantage of rag picking was that they did not have to declare their daily income to their parents and that made buying drugs easy for them.

Summary of In-depth Interview with different stake holders:

The stake holders were asked about the situation of street children, their rights, bodies responsible for them and issues related to the overall scenario. Between all the stakeholders, the most common responses were summarized below.

1. There was no official head count of kids on the streets, the last survey done by Save The Child during CWG, but that got a lot of criticism. According to HAQ there are around 50,000 children on the streets of Delhi, living on pavements, parks, under bridges. Almost all the kids encounter all kinds of abuses – physical, emotional. Financial and sexual. They are abused by older children on the streets, policemen, community leaders and even their parents.
2. There are child welfare committees in each State which fall under the Department of Women and Child Welfare, meant to look into child related issues. On the functioning of these bodies, the Sharan team was informed that some of them were dysfunctional. They have Counselors and Welfare officers, who on an average are meant to contact and address issues for 20 to 30 children a day. They are supposed to make case studies, counseling, and follow up – but lack of implementation leaves the children without services.
3. There is a child help line in each district run by Delhi Police and some NGO's. The budget allocated is bare minimum compared to the number of kids who require services. The outcome of this is ineffective services.
4. The response of Delhi Police is mixed. They are more than often involved in work that makes them get in touch with population more than the CWC.
5. There are many departments involved in restoration of a child – Police, Child Line, CWC's, NGO's, but there is very poor or nonexistent linkages between inter and intra department communication.
6. There are many homes and shelters, but only a few are registered, so they do not come under CWC, which makes monitoring very difficult. Shelter home Superintendants are often found absent from the premises and this has led to complete mis management of the homes.
7. The few Children who are treated for drug use are found to be going back to the streets and using drugs again.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

The study fulfilled the objective of needs assessment of drug abuse in street children in Delhi. In provisional estimates of the mapping found 1500 children in the four sites were found to be surviving on the streets of Delhi. The findings of this study also provide empirical evidence with regard to the following facts on Drug using street children.

1. **Demography:** In all the four sites majority of them are male children (89%) and only 11 % are female. The mean age is 14 Years ranges from 6 yrs to 16 yrs in the studies sites.
2. **Education status:** 53.4% children are illiterate. Of the remainder of approximately half the sample, 46.6% can read and write. The study finding, supported by the group discussion, indicates that majority of the children are enrolled in school but are not dropped out or currently not attending the school. Most of them emphasized they had no access to any form of education.
3. **Living status:** The studied four site indicates that majority of children are homeless i.e they stay on pavements/ under bridges this accounts for 57.5%. Some even stay on the premises of a mandir. Other children stay with other elderly people on the streets. Quite some percentage of children are staying with families of their own or with other family members (8.2%). Majority of the children ran away from home (67%). About 73% of the children have migrated from other states and only 23% are migrated with in Delhi. Most of the children ran away from home because of foster fathers harassment and beaten up (24.5 %). 37% of children get their food from multiple sources and 25 % get food form gurudwara and 19 % get their food from NGOs. Some child get food from Salam balak. Some get by selling rag. Some child get it from left over from hotels and beg.
4. **Health status :** In the assessment about 96% of children expressed they had fallen sick in recent period. 60% of children expressed they use other services for treatment like NGOS, pharmacy ect,. 24 % utilize government services. Children are seeking treatment from gurudwara . Some children expressed that they are seen in government hospitals and were discriminated (not seen and attended by staff)
5. **Violence/ harassment :** About 40 % of children expressed they faced harassment by different agencies. Among those who said they experienced harassment near bout 91% face harassment by police and 4.5 % from local gonads and 4.5 % from other agencies. 40 % expressed they had been to jail in the past. Group discussion with children found the children are harassed by police when they sleep on pavements in nights. Most of the children complained local police had beaten them and were caught when using drugs.
6. **Sub stance abuse/ drug use :** In the present assessment sites most of the children are currently using drug/ solvents. 93 % expressed they are currently use drug . 41.3 % of children use nail polish/ whitener/solvent, near about 29 % use tobacco with other substances , . 11 % of children use Charas. Brown sugar use only 1.6%. Some children are using charas/ canabies. The finding indicates that nine out of every ten children are influenced by substance use. This indicates they substance abuse in this population is alarming and a serious issue to be addressed immediately.

The above findings are also in line with other findings done in Delhi streets and other parts of the country.

Recommendations:

In view of the present needs assessment findings and the earlier studies conducted in different states of India. This study makes some recommendations and policy interventions that would ensure the rights of street children as citizens of India. There is an urgent need to address the substance abuse among these children. Creating awareness about government and NGO schemes/programmes for street children.

Ensuring access to basic necessities. Street children need to be provided essential entitlements such as safe shelters, food, clothing, education, safe drinking water, and sanitation with the help of grassroots organisations, so that the benefits reach the end beneficiaries.

Most street children are among the poorest of the poor who have migrated to urban centres as a survival strategy. Children should be facilitated in getting identity proof, which the government accepts as an entitlement document, and enables them to get admitted in schools. It is essential to increase the number of shelters, not only night but also day shelters for street children. It is essential for the government and NGOs to pay more attention to girls and women on the street.

Many street children get involved in drugs, sex work, and other activities and are prone to abuse. There is a need for focused interventions for these children in terms of detox and rehabilitation. The government should ensure that appropriate services with doctors, counselors, and social workers are provided to these children.

Annexure 1:

Stakeholders contacted and interviewed for In-depth Interview :

1. Mr. Aitar Singh – Constable, Hanuman Mandir, Police Station
2. Mr. Manish Tanti, Medical social worker, Salam Balak trust
3. Mr. Raj Kumar – Head Constable, Kashmere Gate, Police Station
4. Mr. Om Prakash – Sub inspector, Kashmere gate, Police Station
5. Mr. Sudhir kumar – Constable Delhi Police, New Delhi Railway Station
6. Ms. Shabana – Health Care Worker, Shelter, Jama Masjid
7. Mr. Moinuddin – Social Worker, Salam Balak Trust, ND railway Station

Annexure 2:

Article 39 {Certain principles of policy to be followed by the State}

The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing -

- a. that the citizen, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood;
- b. that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good;
- c. that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;
- d. that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women;
- e. that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength;
- f. that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.
- g. **Article 24.** No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
- h. The State shall endeavor to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years .
- i.

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